



# The Cathedral Connection



22 December 2024  
Vol. 13 Issue 46  
Fourth Sunday of Advent

## Mighty God; Wee Babe

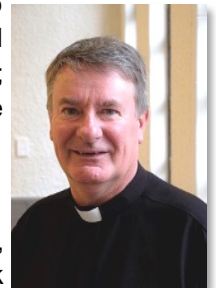
So small, so vulnerable. Born as all the poor were born, in a cave, with animals beneath the living area. The warmth of the animals heating the home. Delivered in the midst of animals as birth was 'unclean' and the manger the only place for a newly born. The coming of this little one was the same as for all little ones of lowly rank coming into the world. Yet a star shone, and angels sang, and the simple shepherds were first to recognise something new had arrived. They, in the silence of the night could hear the heavens rejoice. The powerful were listening to other sounds, their own music, with fear-filled echoes. Those who placed themselves on the heights, seemed unable to open themselves to the glory of God in the highest, present in meek Bethlehem.

This night we hold the Christ Child in our hands. Mary and Joseph are there beside the manger, and they invite you forward. Invite you to gently lift baby Jesus from the crib. Place your hand behind his wee neck to support his head, and with your other hand supporting his lower back, swathed in linen cloths, cradle him close to your heart. His heart beating with your heart. Your eyes gazing upon his newborn face. Those tiny ears, flushed cheeks, button nose, and little mouth and chin. Then in the dimness of the cave your eyes see his eyes slightly open. And you are beheld by the one who brought you to life, the very Word of God, spoken at the dawn of Creation, begotten not made, light from light, true God from true God. In your arms, he embraces you while held in your embrace.

So small, so vulnerable. This is the God who created all, who powerfully brought everything from nothing. Who continues to bring light from darkness, life from death. This almighty ever living God remains vulnerable and small before your response to love, God's love.

Mary said, Yes! Joseph said, Yes! Unknowing of the future yet trusting in the promises of God spoken to them. In the Scriptures, in the Sacraments, in our Church teaching, in lived experience we too have heard the promises made of old which are renewed this night. "I am with you, Emmanuel!" "You are not alone; your name is on the palm of my hand!" Yes, your name is there, on the palm of the wee hand of the newborn babe whom you are holding close.

Hold him close, he will be with you always.



With prayers,  
patrick

## Readings for the Week

### Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> - Fourth Sunday of Advent

Micah 5:1-4; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45

**Monday 23<sup>rd</sup>** - Malachi 3:1-4,23-24; Luke 1:57-66

**Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup>** - 2 Samuel 7:1-5,8-12,14,16; Luke 1:67-79

**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup>** - Isaiah 52:7-10; Hebrews 1:1-6; John 1:1-18

**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup>** - Acts 6:8-10.7:54-59; Matthew 10:17-22

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup>** - 1 John 1:1-4; John 20:2-8

**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup>** - 1 John 1:5-2:2; Matthew 2:13-18

### Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> - The Holy Family

1 Samuel 1:20-22,24-28; 1 John 3:1-2,21-24; Luke 2:41-52



*'After receiving the annunciation of the angel, Mary does not stay at home, thinking over what has happened and considering the problems and pitfalls, which were certainly not lacking, with the culture of that age... She did not understand.... On the contrary, she first thinks of someone in need; instead of being absorbed in her own problems, she thinks about someone in need, she thinks about Elizabeth, her relative, who was advanced in years and with child, something strange and miraculous. Mary sets out with generosity, without letting herself be daunted by the discomforts of the journey, responding to an inner impulse that called her to be close and to help.'*

Pope Francis, [Angelus](#), 19 December 2021.

## OUR MISSION & VISION

**To joyfully share God's love. To be a missionary people united in the hearts of Jesus and Mary**

Sacred Heart Cathedral Parish is a partner in the Wellington Central Pastoral Area with St Mary of the Angels (CBD), and the Catholic Parish of Ōtari (Wilton and Karori).



**METROPOLITAN CATHEDRAL OF THE SACRED HEART**  
TE AHUREWA O TE NGĀKAU TAPU

## Message from the Parish Team

It is with joy that we give thanks for the life and love of all here in the Cathedral Parish. We give thanks for being here again on Hill Street, our home. The light, the colours, the space, the warmth. Our home has a fresh aroma, while being filled with the memories of many years, filled with the aroha of the generations who came before and gathered as we do now. This has been a year to remember. Thank you to you all. The doors of our Cathedral Church could never have opened again without you, each and every one. It is a privilege to serve alongside you the One who calls us forward into 2025. May the Christ-Child's blessings pour down upon you and your families!



## PARISH ACTIVITIES 2025 RESUMPTION DETAILS

**Adoration** - Resumes **13 February 2025**, Thursdays 7.00am to 7.00pm in the Cathedral

**Divine Mercy** - Resumes **2 February 2025**, Sundays 6pm to 6.30pm in the Cathedral

**Prayer Group** - Resumes **3 February 2025**, 1st and 3rd Mondays of the Month 7.00pm to 8.30pm in Connolly Hall

**Rosary** - Resumes **27 January 2025**, Mondays (except Public Holidays) 11.30am In the Cathedral

**Scripture Reflection** - Resumes **21 January 2025**, Tuesdays 6.00pm to 6.40pm in the Cathedral Foyer



### Fourth week of Advent

The last purple candle is lit this weekend. Often called the Angels Candle, it symbolises love. During this final week of Advent, we rejoice in the endless love that God has for us, which is made apparent in the birth of his Son. We reflect on the good news of God's love brought to us from the angel Gabriel. Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

**“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests.” (Luke 2:13–14, NIV)**

### Cathedral Chapel

We are thrilled to announce that this weekend the Blessed Sacrament Chapel will be completed.

After the Vigil Mass parishioners will be able to view the Chapel, while at the end of the 10am Sunday Mass the Ciborium will be taken into the Chapel and placed in the Tabernacle, blessing the Chapel by the Real Presence of Christ.

You will be struck by the lightness of the Chapel, with amber glass replacing the deep purple glass around the stained-glass windows. There is a beautiful new marble plinth for the Tabernacle to rest upon, on which is placed a mosaic, originally from one of the side Altars in the Cathedral. The Altar and Presiders' Chair are from the 1987 renovation of the Cathedral. Cardinal Williams consecrated this Altar as part of the dedication of the Basilica of the Sacred Heart as a Cathedral. We await the design and crafting of an Ambo/lectern which will be in keeping with the Altar and Chair. The Ambry (containing the Sacred Oils) is clearly visible on the west wall. And we await the return of the Icon of Jesus with his Mother, Mary, which will be hung on the left wall of the sanctuary once it has been placed within a wooden icon cabinet. The Reconciliation Rooms have also been renewed with new screens and cupboards. We offer prayers of gratitude for all who have brought the Chapel to such a beautiful position.

### Lobby to the Foyer

The new entrance to the foyer was not able to be completed this year. Work will get underway in February 2025. The construction will provide a larger glass lobby to the foyer with automatic doors.

### Year of Jubilee

Every 25 Years the Church celebrates a Year of Jubilee. 2025AD has been decreed by Pope Francis to be the Year of Hope. On Christmas Eve he will open the Jubilee Doors in St Peter's, Rome, and pilgrims from throughout the world are invited to go to Rome and enter the four major Basilica's which are the destinations of a Holy Year pilgrimage. Here in the Archdiocese of Wellington the Holy Year will open with the celebration of Mass in our Cathedral on January 26 at the 10am Mass. Parishioners from communities throughout the Archdiocese will join Archbishop Paul and us to welcome in this new grace-filled time. Throughout the year there will be a series of celebrations based in our Cathedral. All are welcome!



In early December, 25 parishioners gathered for **Cake, Coffee and Chat** – the idea to reconnect with fellow parishioners.

Feed back received was **“let's do this again and soon”** no formality – just us meeting in a relaxed atmosphere in the Cathedral Foyer.

SO, first Friday morning of each month starting 7 February 2025 from 10.30pm – 12.00pm come along and meet one another – no need to respond, just come along and say 'hello' if you are free.

All are welcome, the more the merrier. If you would like to note the first Friday dates they are below, however there will be a reminder in the Cathedral Connection prior to each month.

**7 February, 7 March, 4 April, 2 May, 6 June, 4 July, 1 August, 5 September, 3 October, 7 November, 5 December.**

## Sacred Heart Cathedral December 2024 to January 2025 Mass Times

Saturday Vigil:	5.30pm
Sunday:	10am, 7pm
Christmas Eve 24 December:	11.30pm Carols followed by Midnight Mass
Christmas Day 25 December:	10am
Tuesday to Saturday:	
26 December to 18 January 2025	8.30am
Monday 20 January 2025:	8.30am
From Tuesday 21 January 2025:	<i>Normal Mass Times Resume</i>

Please check <https://mcshwellington.org/calendar/> for more information.



### Archbishop's Appeal: Support Our Seminarians

Throughout December, Archbishop Paul invites you to contribute to the Archbishop's Appeal, which supports the formation of our Archdiocesan seminarians. Your generous donations will help cover the costs of their education at Holy Cross Seminary in Auckland, as well as their travel to and from the Archdiocese and ongoing pastoral care.

Please consider making a gift to help nurture and support those preparing for a life of service to the Church.

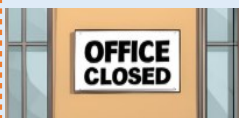
Donations can be made to **02-0536-0003306-13**

Reference: **your name**

Code: **AB Appeal**



HOLY CROSS SEMINARY 2024



The Parish Office will be closed for the Christmas Break from 12noon 24 December 2024 and reopen at 10am Tuesday 21 January 2025. **Wishing you a very happy and holy Christmas and 2025.**

## Cathedral Fundraising

### Cathedral Logo Mugs and Ceiling Wrapping Paper

These items will be for sale after all Masses.  
Ideal as gifts or for home use.

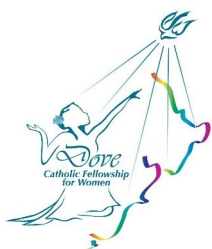
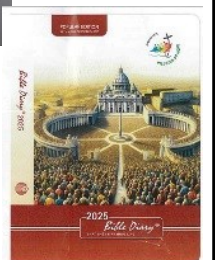
Check them out! Mugs \$20ea and Wrapping Paper \$10 per roll.

### Pompallier Madonna Cards

for sale \$7.50 each.

### Beautiful 2025 Bible Reflection Diaries

are now available for sale. These make a beautiful gift and at only \$20ea you can buy one for yourself and one for a friend. Available after Mass or during the week from our little foyer shop.



**Dove Catholic Fellowship for Women**, is excited to be launching a new initiative called **Dovecotes**. We invite you to prayerfully consider joining us by forming a Dovecote in your parish. All it needs is for two or more women, to support each other to deepen their personal relationship with Jesus Christ, through regular shared prayer.

Our leaflet called 'Welcome to Dovecotes' contains all the relevant information.

It's on our website: [www.dove.org.nz](http://www.dove.org.nz) or email Gloria Stafford: [dovenational.leader@gmail.com](mailto:dovenational.leader@gmail.com)

Donations for Sacred Heart Cathedral Strengthening and Restoration Campaign can be made to this bank account number: **02-0506-0138488-025**

**Particulars:** Your surname and initials. **Code:** Your phone number. **Reference:** REOPEN  
Credit Card Donations can be made here: <https://www.cathedralcampaign.org.nz/donation-form>



# SACRED HEART CATHEDRAL PARISH

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[www.mcshwellington.org](http://www.mcshwellington.org)  
[www.facebook.com/MCSHWellington/](http://www.facebook.com/MCSHWellington/)

## Parish Pastoral Leadership Team

- Fr Patrick Bridgman  
**Cathedral Administrator**
- Debbie Matheson  
**Lay Pastoral Leader**

**Parish Secretary:** Frank Doherty

## Office Hours:

10am-4.30pm Tues, Thurs, Fri.

**Parish Pastoral Council Chair:**

Ajith Nissangaratchie

## Sacred Heart Cathedral School

Guildford Tce, Thorndon

Ph: (04) 472 4047

**Principal:** Bernadette Murfitt

**DRS:** Nikolai (Nik) Solia

*If you would like your child to attend Sacred Heart Cathedral School please download an enrolment form.*  
<https://sacred-heart.school.nz/enrolment/>

**SACRED HEART CATHEDRAL,**  
40 HILL ST, THORNDON.

## MASS TIMES

**Weekdays** (Except Public Holidays)

**12.10pm Monday** (Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion)

**8.00 & 12.10pm Tuesday to Friday**

**Saturday 8.30am**

**Vigil (Saturday) 5.30pm**

**Sunday 10am & 7pm**

**Reconciliation:** By appointment.

**Baptism:** by appointment. Please contact the Parish office.

 The latest edition of our parish school newsletter is available at: <https://sacredhcs.schoolzineplus.com/schoolnews?nid=269>

# Please keep in your prayers



Ruth Doherty  
Ira Hayes  
Alan Scicluna  
Jayden Lai

*Please remember these and any others in the Parish who are ill. If you know of anyone confined to their homes or who needs a visit with Holy Communion, please contact the [parish office](#).*



## Remembering the Dead

### Recently Deceased:

Wilijono Tanudjojo RIP 28 Nov

Nigel Phillips RIP 7 Dec

Maria Orfea Sison Cueto RIP 7 Dec

### December / January Anniversaries:

Dec 11 Perlinda Irinco

Dec 14 Dan Kelly

Dec 22 Cardinal Thomas Williams

Dec 24 Rebecca Franklin

Dec 26 Robert Bond

Dec 28 Frances Gray

Jan 8 Michael Cecil-Gibson



*For all the dead. Those near and dear to us and those who have no one to pray for them. May their souls and the souls of all the departed rest in peace. Amen.*

## CHILDREN'S CORNER

### Christmas is Almost Here!



Now it's only a few days until Jesus' birthday! Are you all ready for it? If you have an Advent wreath then this is the week that all the candles will be lit. Jesus is coming soon, so the light should be getting very bright!

Do you have a Christmas tree? Do you know what it represents? A long time ago people used to have plays at Christmas time about how Adam and Eve sinned when they ate the fruit from the tree, and how Jesus was born to save us from that sin. So a Christmas tree is there to remind us of why Jesus came.



Does your family have a nativity scene? It should be all ready for Christmas, but the Baby Jesus doesn't get put in the manger until Christmas Eve!



[www.thekidsbulletin.com](http://www.thekidsbulletin.com)

Answer to front page puzzle: Blessed and you among women!  
False: 1 true, 2 false, 3 false, 4 true, 5 true, 6 false, 7 true.

## The Kids' Bulletin

Fourth Sunday of Advent  
December 22nd, 2024



Luke 1:39-45

*Elizabeth knew that Mary was the mother of the Messiah. What did she say to Mary when she came to visit her? Use the code to find out!*

A B D E G L M N O R S U W Y  
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