



The Cathedral Connection

Vol 14. Issue 2, 2 February 2025, The Presentation of the Lord



Praying and Fasting

You will not like me saying this, but Ash Wednesday is just over a month away – 5 March 2025. Having just celebrated Christmas and the opening of the Jubilee Year in our Archdiocese (Year of Hope), this Sunday we celebrate the Feast of the Presentation – which offers us some good guidance as we start to prepare for Lent.

The reference to Anna in our Gospel, brings back memories of a trip to the Holy Land and the sight of a lady at the Holy Sepulchre who spent most of her day praying and wiping the stone of unction (slab upon which the body of Jesus was laid). I saw her arriving first thing in the morning and again leaving when the doors closed at night. I was struck by her faith, the amount of time she spent praying and her content look. I imagine Anna to be the same.

Anna is of course not the only interesting person in our Gospel today. There is Mary and Joseph, who obeyed the law and presented their first born, along with their offering. Simeon who gave praise to God and foretold Mary's suffering and then there is Jesus himself, the symbol of hope.

His conception was contrary to the laws of life, he was not rich, never travelled internationally, except for the short time when his family was in exile, he defied the laws of nature and was never formally trained to be a preacher or wrote a book or song.

Despite all of this, he came into the world and 2000 years later we still celebrate his birth, despite not been rich, millions call him their King, his words have reached every corner of the world, he walked on water, raised the dead and more books and songs have been written about him than any other person who has walked this earth. Jesus's life is our hope.

So how does the Presentation of the Lord relate to Lent. While Jesus is the absolute focus of the Presentation – Simeon and Anna provide us with a good example of the benefits of prayer and fasting that we can take into Lent. Through their prayers and fasting as well as hope, they were able to recognise our Lord and give him praise. So as we head towards Ash Wednesday, lets use the time to reflect on how we can make prayer and fasting part of our daily lives during Lent and everyday thereafter.



Clint Ramoo - Finance Chair

Readings for the Week

Sunday 2nd - The Presentation of the Lord
Malachi 3:1-4; Hebrews 2:14-18; Luke 2:22-40
Monday 3rd - Hebrews 11:32-40; Mark 5:1-20
Tuesday 4th - Hebrews 12:1-4; Mark 5:21-43
Wednesday 5th - Hebrews 12:4-7, 11-15; Mark 6:1-6
Thursday 6th - Hebrews 12:18-19, 21-24; Mark 6:7-13
Friday 7th - Hebrews 13:1-8; Mark 6:14-29
Saturday 8th - Hebrews 13:15-17, 20-21; Mark 6:30-34
Sunday 9th - Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Isaiah 6:1-2, 3-8; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Luke 5:1-11



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).



"[The] gift of the earth with its fruits belongs to everyone. Those who tilled and kept the land were obliged to share its fruits, especially with the poor, with widows, orphans and foreigners in their midst: "When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap your field to its very border, neither shall you gather the gleanings after the harvest. And you shall not strip your vineyard bare, neither shall you gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the poor and for the sojourner" (Lev 19:9-10).

Pope Francis, *Laudato Si'*



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

PARISH ACTIVITIES

New to this parish?

Nau Mai Haere Mai - Welcome

If you would like to become a member of our parish or know more about us, please complete the form at: <https://mcshwellington.org/join-the-parish/> or contact the parish office ph. 496 1700. We look forward to welcoming you.



Divine Mercy Devotions

Sundays 6pm-6.30pm in the Cathedral.

All welcome. **Resumes 2 February**

Rosary - Every Monday (except public holidays) from 11.30am and preceding the Liturgy of the Word, in the Cathedral, all welcome.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is available on Thursdays in the Cathedral from 7am until 7pm. Everyone is welcome to make a visit during these hours. If you can regularly spare an hour on a Thursday please contact the [parish office](#) to support this special time of encounter with Jesus. **Resumes 13 February**

Scripture Reflection

Held in person every Tuesday at 6pm for 40 minutes. This is an opportunity to come together to pray with and discuss the scripture for the coming Sunday.

Meetings are in the Cathedral Foyer.
Enquires to: laurensadsadie@gmail.com



Prayer Group

We meet on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month in Connolly Hall from 7pm to 8.30pm. All are welcome. For prayer requests and enquiries, please

email mcsh.prayergroup@gmail.com

Next meeting: Monday 3 February



Reconciliation: Now that we have access to our reconciliation rooms in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel, we are making available regular opportunities to receive this wonderful Sacrament of healing. Previously referred to as Confession, or the Sacrament of Penance, the Sacrament of Reconciliation applies the emphasis on "reunion", a strengthening or healing of my relationship with God. Being reconciled brings a sense of joy and peace.

Reconciliation will be available Wednesday & Friday from 11.50am until 12.00 midday and Saturday after the 8.30am Mass and by appointment.



Reconciliation

"Pull up a pew!"

You may ask, "What happened to the old Cathedral pews?". Well, that is a great question, and the answer is, we still have them!

As part of our fundraising endeavours we are actually selling the old pews. These could make an ideal addition to someone's home or garden. A great talking point and a piece of history.

Interested? Please contact David Ryan on ryangomez@xtra.co.nz or Ph. 021 543 449



Cake, Coffee and Chat - This Friday 7 February

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

Feed back was "let's do this again and soon" no formality – gathering in a relaxed atmosphere, the Cathedral Foyer.

An easy date to remember - the first Friday morning of the month 10.30am – 12 noon. do come and meet one another – no need to respond- we will post a reminder each month in the Cathedral Connection – if you are free come and say 'hello'.

All parishioners are very welcome, the more the 'chattier'. If you would like to note the first Friday dates they are below.

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

Any questions please contact: Monica Franklin 021 464 783



COME AND SEE VOCATIONS WEEKEND

7 - 9 MARCH 2025 - A discernment retreat for young men discerning a call to the priesthood in the Archdiocese of Wellington. Registrations essential, contact Lucienne at l.hensel@wn.catholic.org.nz by Friday 14th February 2025



WAITANGI DAY

Waitangi Day Mass, Thursday February 6th, 9.00am

St Mary of the Angels church, Boulcott St, Wellington

The customary Mass to mark Waitangi Day will be held at the national shrine of Mary, Whaea o te Atua (Mother of God) with Archbishop Paul Martin presiding. The Mass includes prayers and hymns in Māori, English, Latin and other languages. A feature of the church is the special artwork presenting Mary, dressed as a woman of Aotearoa. The work includes places connected with the history of the Church here, including Te Tii marae in Waitangi.

All welcome, nau mai, haere mai!



Cathedral Fundraising

These items are for sale from the Cathedral foyer.

Cathedral Logo Mugs and Ceiling Wrapping Paper

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.



Bake Sale

Our next bake sale will be on the weekend of 15/16 February. All donations of baked goods for sale will be greatly appreciated.



Jubilee of Married Couples and St Valentine's Day Mass

Married and engaged couples are warmly invited to this special celebration of marriage. Mass will be celebrated by Archbishop Paul Martin at Sacred Heart Cathedral on **Friday 14th February at 6pm**, with refreshments to follow. Come and join us for Mass with plenty of time for a dinner reservation afterwards.



Friends of Sacred Heart Cathedral Music

Friends of Sacred Heart Cathedral Music will be holding a meeting in Connelly Hall on **Sunday 16 February 2pm** to restart the group afresh now that the Cathedral has reopened. Over the years the Friends have raised funds to support the provision of music for our parish liturgies. All are welcome to attend.

For further information contact Judith Shroff (021 203 1144) or Roger Swanson (027 444 3961)

Welcome Back

We welcome back all the students and staff at Sacred Heart Cathedral School and St Mary's College. Let us keep them all in prayer as they enter into this new academic year.



The parish has received a nice "Thank you" letter from the Wellington City Mission for the Christmas Gifts that were donated by parishioners at the Christmas Crib. "Thank you for your incredible support!"



New Position at Caritas

Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand has an exciting opportunity for a newly created role: **International Programmes Lead**. Based in Wellington with flexible working arrangements, this role offers the chance to shape international development programmes in the Pacific and Southeast Asia. The successful candidate will lead the design, development, and delivery of key programmes focused on justice, peace, and human dignity. This is a rewarding role for a senior development professional who is passionate about supporting marginalised communities and tackling the causes of poverty and injustice. For more details: [Work With Us — Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand](#)



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

Please keep in your prayers

PO Box 1937, Wellington 6140.
21 Eccleston Hill, Thorndon.
Ph: (04) 496 1700
cathedral.parish@wn.catholic.org.nz
www.mcshwellington.org
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

(Anointing Mass every 2nd Saturday of the Month)

Vigil (Saturday) 5.30pm

Sunday 10am & 7pm

RECONCILIATION:

Wednesday & Friday: From 11.50am until 12.00 midday.

Saturday: After 8.30am Mass and by appointment.

BAPTISM: by appointment.

Please contact the Parish office.



Sacred Heart Cathedral School

The latest edition of our parish school

newsletter is available at: <https://sacredhcs.schoolzineplus.com/schoolnews?nid=292>



Ruth Doherty
Ira Hayes
Jayden Lai
John Owen
Alan Scicluna

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:

June Swain RIP 20 Dec

February Anniversaries:

Feb 22 Stanley George

Feb 27 George Hunt



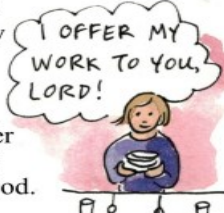
For all the dead. Those near and dear to us and those who have no one to pray for them. May their souls and the souls of all the departed rest in peace. Amen.

CHILDREN'S CORNER

The Presentation of Jesus



Today we celebrate the feast of the Presentation of Baby Jesus in the temple. God's people were supposed to offer their firstborn sons to the service of God, or make an offering of animals instead. Mary and Joseph were poor, so they followed the law by offering a pair of turtledoves.



Did you know that you can offer yourself to God too? You can use your life to do good and please God. A good way to start is to pray a "morning offering" every day. Tell God that you



love Him and offer Him all your prayers, work, joys, and sufferings of the day. When you do everything for God you will be cooperating with Jesus in making the world a better and happier place!

How can you start offering yourself to God today?

Answers to Presentation True or False: 1.False 2.False 3.True 4.True 5.False 6.True 7.False

The Kids' Bulletin

Feast of the Presentation of Jesus
February 2nd, 2025



Can you help the Holy Family find their way to the Temple so that Baby Jesus can be presented there?