



# The Cathedral Connection

Vol 14. Issue 5, 23 February 2025, Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time



## Love! Forgive!

We love being loved. We love being surrounded by care, concern, and encouragement. We love knowing that people will be beside us through the fine days of life, as well as when the storms of life's journey come to pass. And yes, a deep part of love's expression is forgiveness. We truly know we are loved when we hear another say to us, following sin and transgression, "I forgive you... you are forgiven... I love you." The emotions which flow are not easily find expression in words. The love experienced in forgiveness is literally divine!

This weekend we are reminded that love and forgiveness, which at times may be difficult to give and to receive, are not only for those we are intimate with, or close to in family or friendship. In a blunt manner Jesus speaks to us directly. "Love your enemies." "Do good and lend, expecting nothing in return." "Be merciful just as your Father is merciful." Love and forgive all people, even your enemies.

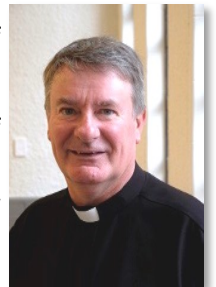
What does this look like? How can this be?

A danger for such strong emphasis by the Lord is that we can hear or read his words, and we can give our intellectual assent, however in daily practice there is no actual reality to our love or mercy beyond our own circle.

People often have a favourite image of Jesus, of Mary, of Joseph, the Holy Family, or of a saint to whom they ask intercession. How many of us keep an image of someone we have difficulty with? As a child I remember seeing a photo of my uncle at his wedding, and the image of my aunt had been cut out by my grandmother as her son in subsequent years had left by his wife. The act of taking up the scissors expressed the pain of the time, but gave no possibility of healing, no possibility of forgiveness.

How would it be to have an image of someone we find hard to love, hard to forgive, and during a time of prayer to take up the image and to pray for the grace to come from the Lord? Maybe it will require more than one 'hour of prayer' to come to true forgiveness. Yet, love and forgiveness is what is required of us who follow the Lord, yes, even of our enemies.

With prayers, patrick



## Readings for the Week

**Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> - Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
1 Samuel 26:2,7-9,11-13,22-23; 1 Corinthians 15:45-49; Luke 6:27-38  
**Monday 24<sup>th</sup>** - Ecclesiasticus 1:1-10; Mark 9:14-29  
**Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup>** - Ecclesiasticus 2:1-11; Mark 9:30-37  
**Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup>** - Ecclesiasticus 4:12-22; Mark 9:38-40  
**Thursday 27<sup>th</sup>** - Ecclesiasticus 5:1-10; Mark 9:41-50  
**Friday 28<sup>th</sup>** - Ecclesiasticus 6:5-17; Mark 10:1-12  
**Saturday 1<sup>st</sup>** - 1 Ecclesiasticus 17:1-13; Mark 10:13-16  
**Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> - Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
Ecclesiasticus 27:5-8; 1 Corinthians 15:54-58; Luke 6:39-45



## 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 strength to love is the Holy Spirit, and with the Spirit of Jesus, we can respond to evil with good, we can love those who do us harm. This is what Christians do. How sad it is when persons and peoples who are proud to be Christians see others as enemies and think about waging war against each other!'

*Pope Francis, Angelus, 20 Feb 2022*



**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.

**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.

## 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](mailto:laurensadsadie@gmail.com)



## Prayer Group

We meet on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month in Connolly Hall from 7.00pm to 8.30pm. All are welcome. For prayer requests and enquiries, please email [mcsh.prayergroup@gmail.com](mailto:mcsh.prayergroup@gmail.com)

**Next meeting: Monday 3 March**



## Ash Wednesday 5 March

There will be a special Ecumenical Ash Wednesday Service with the Anglican Cathedral and Lutheran communities at 6pm in the Sacred Heart Cathedral where ashes will be distributed. The music will be lead by the Choir of St Paul's Anglican Cathedral. Ashes will also be distributed during the regular 8.00am and 12.10pm Cathedral Masses that day.

**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 our 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

## Farewell to Debbie

At the 10am Mass on **Sunday 2 March** we will be giving thanks to God for the ministry of Debbie Matheson as Lay Pastoral Leader in the Cathedral Parish. This will be followed by a morning tea where further thanks can be given to Debbie for her pastoral presence .

If you would like to make a contribution to our gift to Debbie please hand to the office or place in the box in the foyer this weekend.



## Cathedral Fundraising

These items are for sale from the Cathedral foyer.

### Cathedral Logo Mugs and Ceiling Wrapping Paper

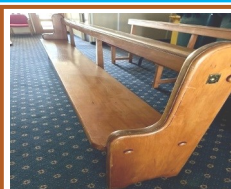
Ideal as gifts or for home use. Check them out! Mugs \$20ea and Wrapping Paper \$10 per roll.

### Pompallier Madonna Cards

for sale \$7.50 each.



**Plaques for Pews:** For those who generously donated for pews in the Cathedral, this message is to inform you that this is delayed due to a sudden sickness. Please keep John in your prayers.



**"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](mailto:ryangomez@xtra.co.nz) or Ph. 021 543 449

## Bishops' Lent Appeal 2025



Giving envelopes for the Bishops' Lent Appeal 2025 are available in the foyer. Every donation given will support Caritas' life-changing humanitarian and development work around the world—and create change not just for today but for the future.

This year, Caritas are encouraging you to give online or through direct deposit if possible, to reduce costs and make processing donations faster. To learn more or donate visit [Caritas.org.nz](https://Caritas.org.nz)

## Cake, Coffee and Chat - 7 March

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 'chatter'. If you would like to note the first Friday dates they are below.

**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

## HOLY HOUR

You are invited to come to a Holy Hour on Tuesday **25 February** at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart beginning at 7.30 pm to pray for vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life. Included in the hour will be prayers, praise and worship, scripture reading and silence, concluding with Benediction.

All are welcome.

## One In Our Midst, now available

Fresh of the press, Fr. James B. Lyons' new book which honours Mary in the 21st Century. Now available - <https://compassion.org.nz/product/one-in-our-midst/>.



## Archdiocesan Marriage Preparation Course

'Love is a Decision'. Register online now for the upcoming course, **Sundays 2 & 9 March 2025**, St Catherine's College, Kilbirnie – spaces filling up fast! Couples are encouraged to attend the course well before their wedding date. The next course is in June. For queries, please email: [marriage@wn.catholic.org.nz](mailto:marriage@wn.catholic.org.nz)

## Situation Vacant: Coordinator, Young Church Ministry (Archdiocese of Wellington)

We are still currently looking for a new team member to support our college youth ministry programme, young church ministry around the Archdiocese and our leadership camp held each year in December. To explore this option please either check out: [online at SEEK](#) or phone the Director of Church Mission, Chris Duthie-Jung – [c.duthie-jung@wn.catholic.org.nz](mailto:c.duthie-jung@wn.catholic.org.nz) / 02102305149.

## Notices from Titipounamu Study & Joy



**Incense - A Taste of Heaven?** with Beate Matthies  
Monday, 24 February 2025, 7-8pm (Zoom).  
<https://www.studyjoy.nz/2025/01/14/incense-a-taste-of-heaven/>

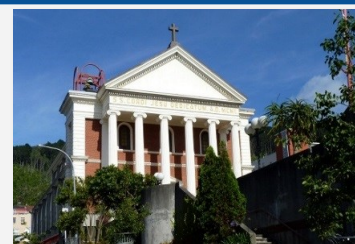
## YouTube Recordings:

The Temple in Jesus' Time - Muffin Talk with Prof Amy-Jill Levine:  
<https://www.studyjoy.nz/2025/02/11/the-temple-in-jesus-time/>

**Resources:** <https://www.studyjoy.nz/category/resources/>  
For more information: [www.studyjoy.nz](http://www.studyjoy.nz)

**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>



**Donations for Support of the Cathedral Parish** can be made to this bank account number: **02-0506-0138488-000**

**Particulars:** Your surname and initials. **Code:** Your phone number. **Reference:** PARISH  
Credit Card Donations for the support of the Parish can be made here: <https://mcswhellington.org/parishioner-and-visitor-support-of-parish/>

PO Box 1937, Wellington 6140.  
21 Eccleston Hill, Thorndon.  
Ph: (04) 496 1700  
[cathedral.parish@wn.catholic.org.nz](mailto:cathedral.parish@wn.catholic.org.nz)  
[www.mcshwellington.org](http://www.mcshwellington.org)  
[www.facebook.com/MCSHWellington/](https://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)  
**8.00am & 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.

 The latest edition of our parish school newsletter is available at:  
<https://sacredhcs.schoolzineplus.com/schoolnews?nid=295>

  
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:**

Adriana Giorgi (loved cousin of Rita Phelon) RIP 9 Feb



**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**

**Being Merciful**

YOU'RE SHARING WITH ME EVEN THOUGH I WAS MEAN TO YOU?



In today's Gospel reading Jesus tells us to be more kind and generous to others than they are to us. He tells us that the way we treat others is how God will treat us.

Has anyone ever been unkind to you and you felt like getting even by being mean back? Jesus tells us that what we should do instead is be extra kind to that

person. Sometimes we do mean or selfish things too, and we hope that God will forgive us.

What our Lord is talking about is called mercy. Mercy means being nicer to a person than they deserve. God is the most merciful of all and we should try our best to be like Him. Next time someone is mean to you ask Jesus to help you forgive that person and be kind to them.

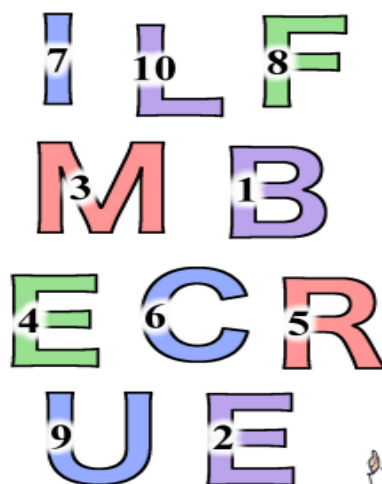


Answers to Word-Find: BE MERCIFUL, ENEMIES

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

**The Kids' Bulletin**

7th Sunday in Ordinary Time  
February 23rd, 2025



*What was Jesus telling us to do in today's Gospel reading? Use the numbers to help unscramble the letters!*

