



The Cathedral Connection

Vol 14. Issue 7, 9 March 2025, First Sunday in Lent



‘Understanding the riches hidden in Christ’

The Hebrew scriptures and the gospel passage today underline a period of trial – a passage in the desert no less. Though instead of it being a time of isolation and despair, it became a period of purification, a time to focus, without distraction; a time to discern what to set the heart on and what to leave behind. Welcome to Lent 2025.

Our Lenten practices of *prayer, fasting, and almsgiving* are designed to help us discern and refocus on what God desires for us. And so, we pray our opening prayer this Sunday, ‘Grant almighty God, through our yearly observances that we may grow in understanding of the riches hidden in Christ’.

Our conversations with God, *prayer*. Time spent in prayer is transformative. It influences and challenges the way we think about ourselves, others, the world. It touches our hearts and our minds. What is burning in your heart this Lent that you want to take to prayer?

Fasting conforms us to God. It provides us with a way of becoming more like Jesus, by creating intentional space for God to dwell. What is God asking of you this Lent?

Complementary to fasting, *almsgiving*. It isn’t just about giving something up, it also includes sharing something that we have. This could be our time, talent, or treasure. From God’s abundance we have received, and in a spirit of charity we are called to generously show mercy and love to others. From the abundance God has bestowed upon you, what is He inviting you to share this Lent?

Last weekend I was overwhelmed by the aroha, thanks and generosity shown as you farewelled me. Thank you for your prayers, kind wishes and loving words, it was very humbling. If you heard my farewell speech you may recall the themes of seasons and service. It is a coincidence that my next season begins in Lent – a time for prioritising discernment, for refocusing and service, or is it!



Ka kite anō
Debbie Matheson

Readings for the Week

Sunday 9th – First Sunday in Lent -

Deuteronomy 26:4-10; Romans 10:8-13; Luke 4:1-13

Monday 10th – Leviticus 19:1-2,11-18; Matthew 25:31-46

Tuesday 11th – Isaiah 55:10-11; Matthew 6:7-15

Wednesday 12th – Jonah 3:1-10; Luke 11:29-32

Thursday 13th – Esther 4:17; Matthew 7:7-12

Friday 14th – Ezekiel 18:21-28; Matthew 5:20-26

Saturday 15th – Deuteronomy 26:16-19; Matthew 5:43-48

Sunday 16th – Second Sunday in Lent -

Genesis 15:5-12,17-1; Philippians 3:20a-4:1; Luke 9:28-36



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).



May this time of Lent also be a time of the desert for us. Let us take time for silence and prayer — just a little, it will do us good — in these spaces let us stop and look at what is stirring in our hearts, our inner truth, what we know cannot be justified. Let us find inner clarity, placing ourselves before the Word of God in prayer.— Pope Francis, [Angelus](#) 6 March 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



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



Next meeting: Monday 17 March

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

Caritas Lenten Scripture Study

For Lent this year Caritas Aotearoa - our Catholic aid and development agency — have prepared a series of Lenten Scripture Studies. These will consist of shared reflection on the previous Sunday's gospel. The sessions will be held on Mondays in the Cathedral Foyer from 10.30am from 10 March until 7 April. All are welcome. More material can be found here: <https://www.caritas.org.nz/lent-resources>



Jubilee of Volunteers - This weekend we celebrate, give thanks and pray for volunteers. Thank you to all who volunteer in so many ways here in our Cathedral parish. I have been amazed since coming here how many parishioners undertake ministry and volunteer service. It is a true following of the one "who came to serve not be served."

The word "volunteer" comes from the Latin word "voluntarius," meaning willing or of one's own choice. The earliest known use of the word volunteer is in the early 1600s. It was derived from "one who offers himself for military service," from the Middle French volontaire.

Hopefully no one feels they've been enlisted. Yet I do hope all who volunteer feel loved and appreciated for who you are, and for the service you give. And so, no one feels left out, we will be calling for new volunteers in the near future!

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.

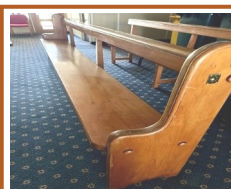


Pompallier Madonna Cards

for sale \$7.50 each.

Easter Raffle

1 ticket for \$2, 3 for \$5
Tickets available for purchase after the Saturday Vigil and Sunday Masses.



"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 some of 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

Bishops' Lent Appeal 2025



Together, let's put compassion into action.

Make a secure online donation, or use the envelopes available at mass.



Caritas.org.nz
0800 22 10 22

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



Debbie Matheson, our Lay Pastoral Leader, was thanked and farewelled, after 7 years with us, last Sunday at the 10am Mass and at morning tea afterwards. Mā te atua koe e manaaki e tiaki i ngā wā katoa, Debbie. May our loving God bless you always.



Jubilee 2025

Around the world '24 Hours for the Lord', a Lenten initiative of prayer and reconciliation will be celebrated on the eve of the 4th Sunday of Lent. In Wellington it will be observed at our Cathedral, beginning with an Opening Liturgy at 5:30pm on Friday 28th March, continuing through the night and ending with the Vigil Mass at 5:30pm on Saturday 29th March. Parishes and communities are invited to take the lead for an hour or two during these 24 hours. Everyone is welcome to visit the Cathedral and spend some time in prayer for peace, healing and hope in our broken world.

Pilgrimage is an integral part of the Jubilee Year. Pope Francis calls pilgrimage "one of the People of God's most eloquent expressions of faith". The archdiocesan office has prepared a resource for pilgrimages to sites of significance in our region, and this can be viewed at <https://www.wn.catholic.org.nz/jubilee-2025/>



A very big thank you from the Parish Fundraising Team to all who helped with last weekend's efforts in making and selling food and drink at the Newtown Festival. Geraldine Irinco reports that a total of \$3112.20 was raised for our building fund. Photo at left, Manjula, Jane, Sockhwee and Kristine at the start of the day; at right, additional support from Irene Foo, Fr James, Angela, Joy (and Alex, not pictured).



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/>



SACRED HEART CATHEDRAL PARISH

Please keep in your prayers

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cathedral.parish@wn.catholic.org.nz
www.mcshwellington.org
www.facebook.com/MCSHWWellington/

Cathedral Administrator:

Fr Patrick Bridgman

Parish Secretary:

Frank Doherty

Office Hours:

10am-4.30pm Tues, Thurs, Fri.

Parish Pastoral Council Chair:

Ajith Nissangaratchie

Parish Finance Committee Chair:

Clint Ramoo

Parish Liturgy Committee Chair:

Sadie Laurenson

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/rolment/>

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=297>



Ruth Doherty
Ira Hayes
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

Stan Pillar (Father-in-law of Jane Kelly) RIP 24 Feb



March Anniversaries:

Mar 8 Casey Foo

Mar 8 Marie Byrne

Mar 18 John Murray

Mar 19 Patrick Williams

Mar 22 Pat Schleicher

Mar 31 Sr Susanna Kraus RSM

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

Lent:

Getting ready for Jesus' death and resurrection

Lent is the special time when we prepare for the celebration of Jesus' passion, death and resurrection. We get our souls ready by doing prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.

Prayer is talking with God. We need to talk with God even more than we need to talk to our family and friends. Lent is a good time to get into a habit of talking with God every day.

Fasting is eating less than you normally would. It's a good idea to give up a little something you like for Lent. Giving things up helps us remember we need God, not just food.

Almsgiving means giving to those who are in need. It helps us to be generous like God. Maybe you have a bit of money you can give to the poor or to the Church.

Answers to True or False: 1. true, 2. false, 3. false, 4. true, 5. false, 6. false, 7. false.

www.thekidsbulletin.com

The Kids' Bulletin

First Sunday of Lent
March 9th, 2025



Luke 4:1-13

Jesus spent 40 days in the desert preparing for His work. During Lent we spend 40 days getting ready to celebrate Jesus' death and resurrection.

Can you find your way into the desert to be with Jesus?