



The Cathedral Connection

Vol 14. Issue 9, 23 March 2025, Third Sunday in Lent



Surprise!

Moses in the account from the Book of Exodus is surprised to see the bush before him was aflame yet not consumed. So surprised was he that he needed to go over and “look at this remarkable sight and see why the bush is not burned.”

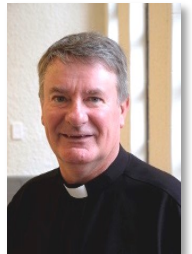
Surprise is a response from within, aroused by an experience external to us. We are caught unawares, and for a moment, at least, we are vulnerable, open, receptive, to that which has come from ‘out of the blue’.

Some don’t like to be surprised. Maybe because we want to be in control, to have life according to our plans and expectations. Surprise can evoke any number of physical responses: a scream of delight or fear, a bout of laughter, a faint, a moment of aggression; fight or flight.

Of course there can be surprises which we enjoy, and surprises which we don’t. Surprises can be delighted in, and surprises can change our very lives and living. Gerard Hughes wrote the spiritual book, ‘The God of Surprises’, and Pope Francis in his first Easter Vigil homily twelve years ago said, said, Do not be afraid of the God of surprises, “he always surprises us!”

I remember walking through a field of parched grass, not a green blade in sight. So barren, so lifeless. And there, nearly unseen to my eyes, the most delicate and bright purple flower. I stopped, I knelt down, and I gazed at this gift of nature. A drop of colour, in the midst of the lifeless dry. And there my eyes were drawn to the hive of activity which was happening through the arid grasses. This field was not dead, save for this single flower, rather the field was overflowing with life. I had been blind to what surrounded me, unseeing. The surprise of the flower enabled me to be surprised by life unknown yet abundant.

Moses is surprised by God, as he who was shepherding sheep comes to shepherd God’s people, the flock of Israel. What will surprise us, each of us, during this Lenten time? Could it be that there are not ‘good’ or ‘bad’ surprises. Rather such moments are invitations to recognise that God is in our midst, bringing us beyond the lives that we live, to the life that Jesus desires us to live with him, in new ways, unexpected, surprising.



With prayers, patrick

Readings for the Week

- Sunday 23rd – Third Sunday in Lent**
Exodus 3:1-8,13-15; 1 Corinthians 10:1-6,10-12; Luke 13:1-9
- Monday 24th – 2 Kings 5:1-15; Luke 4:24-30**
- Tuesday 25th – The Annunciation**
Isaiah 7:10-14,8:10; Hebrews 10:4-10; Luke 1:26-38
- Wednesday 26th – Deuteronomy 4:1,5-9; Matthew 5:17-19**
- Thursday 27th – Jeremiah 7:23-28; Luke 11:14-23**
- Friday 28th – Hosea 14:2-10; Mark 12:28-34**
- Saturday 29th – Hosea 5:15-6:6; Luke 18:9-14**
- Sunday 30th – Fourth Sunday in Lent**
Joshua 5:9-12; 2 Corinthians 5:17-21; Luke 15:1-3,11-32



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).



Jesus knows that conversion is not easy. He knows that we often repeat the same mistakes and the same sins; that we become discouraged, and perhaps it may seem that our commitment to do good is useless in a world where evil appears to rule. Thus he encourages us with a parable that tells of the patience of God. He offers the comforting image of a fig tree that does not bear fruit during the accorded season, but is not cut down. More time is given to it, another possibility. Pope Francis, [Angelus](#), 20 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.

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



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.

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 7 April



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 next 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>



Cathedral Fundraising

Bake Sale our next Parish Bake Sale is in two weeks — **the weekend of 5-6 April**. Do come ready to buy some delicious baked goods and other things Cash and eftpos are available. Donations of goods to sell are very much appreciated!



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
AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND

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. 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. cThank you for your generous support.

Forum on Housing—

This workshop is sponsored by the archdiocesan Ecology Justice and Peace Commission.



Adequate housing, a place to call home, is fundamental to living a life of dignity. The Forum on Housing will build on last year's foundations with a workshop to identify actions to build awareness, foster collaboration, address system level issues, and provide practical community support. This workshop is for everyone concerned about housing issues. Community Housing Aotearoa will facilitate the day.

Time and place: 10am-3pm Saturday 29 March, St Bernadette's Church Hall, Naenae.

For more information, please contact Deirdre Meskill, d.meskill@wn.catholic.org.nz; phone: 04 385 8642. A contribution of finger food to share for lunch is appreciated.

HOLY HOUR - You are invited to come to a Holy Hour on Tuesday 25 March 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.



From Titipounamu Study and Joy: Incense - A Taste of Heaven? with Beate Matthies Monday, 24 March, 7-8.30pm (Zoom). <https://www.studyjoy.nz/events/incense-a-taste-of-heaven-repeat/> and

The Story of St Joseph - Fr Merv Duffy sm:

<https://www.studyjoy.nz/2025/03/18/the-story-of-st-joseph-by-fr-merv-duffy-sm/>



JUBILEE 2025

Remember, **24 HOURS FOR THE LORD** will be held at the Cathedral from at 5.30pm this Friday 28 March starting with a Liturgy led by Archbishop Paul and continuing through the night. The Cathedral Parish will be leading the Stations of the Cross at 7pm and the 24 hours will end with the 5.30pm Vigil Mass on Saturday 29 March. Everyone is welcome at any stage during this time. Please come and support the parish.

JUBILEE OF THE SICK AND HEALTH WORKERS - A special Mass will be celebrated at 5pm on Sunday 6th April at St Anne's Church, Newtown to pray for the sick and those entrusted with their care. All care-givers, nurses and doctors at our hospitals and care facilities are especially welcome.

The Archdiocesan Marriage Preparation Course – Love is a Decision - online registration now open for the June Course on the Archdiocesan website, consecutive **Sunday 8 & 15 June 10am-4pm** held at St Catherine's College, Kilbirnie. Register early as there are limited spaces. Any queries, please email marriage@wn.catholic.org.nz.

XLT YOUTH WORSHIP 2025 — JOIN US for our first XLT in 2025! An evening of relevant worship, adoration, reconciliation and fellowship for college students and young adults. Friday 28th March @ 7pm at St Anne's Hall, Emmett Street, Newtown.

Pleroma Christian Supplies seeks a Manager to oversee their daily operations at Ōtane, Central Hawkes Bay. Responsibilities include managing the store, leading a team of dedicated staff, and fostering a welcoming environment for our customers, online, by phone and face-to-face. If you have a passion for Christian resourcing and a strong desire to serve the community apply online at Pleroma - Seek or directly to The Trust Board Chair, Chris Duthie-Jung, c.duthie-jung@wn.catholic.org.nz And everyone is welcome to visit them at <https://www.christiansupplies.co.nz/>



FOOD FOR FAITH for Lent. Fr. John O'Connor offers brief daily encouragements for those seeking greater maturity in relationship with Jesus Christ.

Sign up to receive daily emails at www.foodforfaith.org.nz

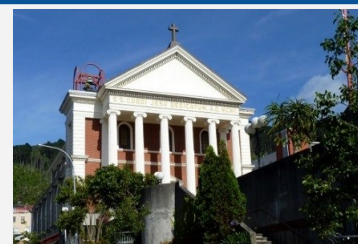
Donations for Sacred Heart Cathedral Strengthening and Restoration Campaign can be made to this bank account number: **02-0506-0138488-025**

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://mcshwellington.org/parishioner-and-visitor-support-of-parish/>



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/

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=299>


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

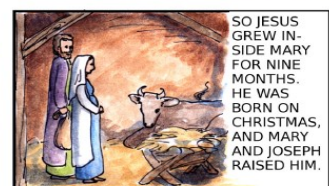
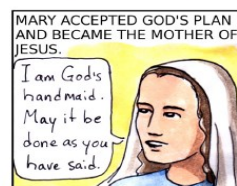
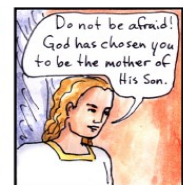
The Kids' Bulletin

Third Sunday of Lent
March 23rd, 2025



*What's wrong with this fig tree?
See what the two men want to do with it by reading what they say in a mirror.*

The Annunciation March 25



WHEN IT WAS TIME FOR GOD TO COME TO EARTH AS A MAN, HE CHOSE MARY TO BE HIS MOTHER. BUT HE DIDN'T JUST TELL HER THAT SHE WOULD BECOME HIS MOTHER; HE GAVE HER A CHOICE. BECAUSE MARY CHOSE TO SAY "YES" TO GOD, JESUS CAME INTO THE WORLD AND DIED TO LET US INTO HEAVEN!