



The Cathedral Connection

Vol 14. Issue 10, 30 March 2025, Fourth Sunday in Lent



It is hard

The parable of the prodigal son has been especially relevant to our family in the last few weeks. With the pending and then eventual passing of my wife Sandra's dad, Sandra and her younger brother have had to contemplate how to engage with their other brother who lives in Australia as he has chosen to distance himself from the family over the last 20 years.

No one was quite sure why he has chosen this path, but to exclude him from all of that was happening, did not feel right. While he has made the odd call to his parents, they were few and far between. While the siblings were disappointed and to some extent did their own "distancing" it was a completely different story for the parents. Both parents held on to the hope that they will reunite with their son and often questioned what they may have done wrong and how they could remedy the situation.

In our gospel today the overarching message is one of mercy and forgiveness. God, represented by the Father, who could be described as foolish. Instead of being angry and offended by his son who left him and squandered his inheritance, the father is instead overjoyed to have him back. The message for me is that God loves us more when we can repent.

The eldest brother, who stayed behind and obeyed his father is rightfully aggrieved by the warm reception his wayward brother has received, I would be too. However, despite having obeyed his father, he never quite got to know his father that well. The words of the father "Everything I have is yours" shows that he never really knew his father. Sometimes we can be like this in our relationship with God. We may attend Mass and do all sorts of good things, but do we really know God. Lent and the Easter season is a good time to get to know God better, be it through participating in Stations of the Cross, Exposition or just spending a little bit more time in prayer.

Showing mercy and forgiveness, spending time to get to know God amidst our busy lives is hard. We however have the hope that our Father loves us and will welcome us with open arms no matter what, and we should do the same for our loved ones.



Clint Ramoo, Finance Committee Chair

Readings for the Week

- Sunday 30th – Fourth Sunday in Lent**
Joshua 5:9-12; 2 Corinthians 5:17-21; Luke 15:1-3,11-32
- Monday 31st** - Isaiah 65:17-21; John 4:43-54
- Tuesday 1st April** - Ezekiel 47:1-9,12; John 5:1-3,5-16
- Wednesday 2nd** - Isaiah 49:8-15; John 5:17-30
- Thursday 3rd** - Exodus 32:7-14; John 5:31-47
- Friday 4th** - Wisdom 2:1,12-22; John 7:1-2,10,25-30
- Saturday 5th** - Jeremiah 11:18-20; John 7:40-52
- Sunday 6th – Fifth Sunday in Lent**
Isaiah 43:16-21; Philippians 3:8-14; John 8:1-11



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 elder son needs mercy too. The righteous, those who believe they are righteous, are also in need of mercy. This son represents us when we wonder whether it is worth all the trouble if we get nothing in return. Jesus reminds us that one does not stay in the house of the Father for a reward but because one has the dignity of being children who share responsibility. There is no "bargaining" with God, but rather following in the footsteps of Jesus who gave himself on the Cross without measure." - Pope Francis, General Audience, 11 May 2016.



**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 is 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 **next weekend 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 Cathedral 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. Thank you for your generous support.

A reminder – Cake Coffee and Chat

Our monthly cake, coffee and chat gathering is this week.

When: next Friday – 4 April, 2025

Time: 10.30 a.m -12:00 noon

Where: Cathedral Foyer

All Parishioners are welcome to gather in a relaxed environment.

Do please come and say 'hello'!

Any enquires:

Monica Franklin 021 464 783



CHRISM MASS — The Archdiocese's Chrism Mass for the North Island will be celebrated in the Cathedral, on Wednesday 16 April at 7:30pm.

All Welcome to attend this important part of the Holy Week observances.

Divine Mercy Advance Notice—The Divine Mercy Feast will be celebrated at the Cathedral on Sunday, 27 April at 2:00pm. Archbishop Paul Martin will preside. All are welcome.

You can bring Holy objects to be blessed. Refreshment and Fellowship follows, please bring a plate.



Thank you. The Cathedral Parish sincerely thank the staff and students at Sacred Heart Cathedral School for their generosity and support of the Cathedral in so many ways. \$203.00 was donated from a recent school fundraiser.



JUBILEE 2025

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.

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](https://www.pleroma.co.nz) 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/>

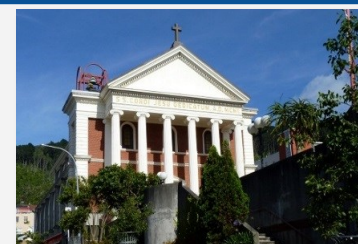


FOOD FOR FAITH for Lent. Fr. John O'Connor offers brief daily encouragements for those seeking greater maturity in relationship with Jesus Christ.

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://mcswhellington.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/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=301>



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

Mass has been offered for:

Kanthi Nanayakkara
Anton Perera
Winston Perera



Recently Deceased:

Sonny Naidu
(Father of Sandra Ramoo RIP 19 Mar)

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 Son who was Sorry



Today's Gospel reading tells us about God's forgiveness. We are like the son who ran away and wasted all his money whenever we don't use our gifts or talents to serve God or others.

God is like the father in this story. He lets the younger son do whatever he wants, but he loves him even when he chooses to be bad. All he wants is for his son to come home and be sorry. He is ready and waiting to forgive the prodigal son.

God is waiting to forgive us too, in the sacrament of Confession. He wants us to be sorry for our sins and tell Him we are sorry so He can take them away.

Try to make sure you go to confession before Easter so your soul will be clean and ready for the great celebration!

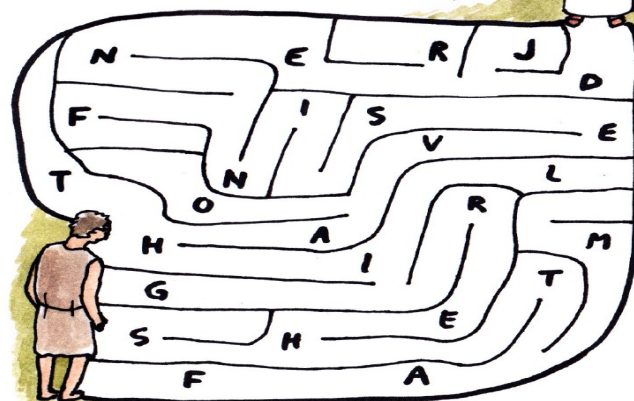


The Kids' Bulletin

Fourth Sunday of Lent
March 30th, 2025

What did the son in today's Gospel reading say to show his father he was sorry?

Luke 15.1-3, 11-32



As you go through the maze, use only the letters in the right path to fill in the blanks:

_____ , _____
