



# The Cathedral Connection

Vol 14. Issue 19, 1 June 2025



## 'You will be my witnesses'

What are we to make of the Ascension? In the creed every Sunday we say that Jesus 'ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty'. In Luke's account in Acts which we read today, it seems that the apostles still just did not get it. It seems they still wanted a secular king who would restore the kingdom to Israel – that is, throw the Romans out and perhaps be a King David the Second.

Jesus had often told the disciples that his kingdom wasn't like that, and as so often, Jesus' reply to their question – when was he going to restore the kingdom to Israel – is elliptical. Jesus just says, 'it's not for you to know the times that the Father has decided on his own authority. But you will be my witnesses, not only in Jerusalem but across Judaea and Samaria, and to all the world'.

'You will be my witnesses'. Writing on evangelisation in 1975, Pope Paul VI said that people 'listen more willingly to witnesses than to teachers, and if they do listen to teachers, it is because they are witnesses'. I think that what Pope Paul was getting at was, it's what you do, as much as what you say, that matters.

A few weeks ago I borrowed a book from the Wellington City Library on St Oscar Romero and Catholic Social Teaching. Romero was the archbishop of San Salvador from 1977 until he was murdered in March 1980. Much influenced by Pope Paul, as he matured in discipleship, Romero learned to listen, especially to the most vulnerable and marginalised. This is always an exercise in humility if you are in a position of power and influence, whether an archbishop or a professor. And as he listened, Romero spoke, often, in defence of the poor, the exploited day labourers, the landless peasantry – all in a context of outrageous inequality and increasing government and quasi-government repression and violence. Pope Francis canonised him in 2018.

Pope Paul emphasised that it was impossible that 'in evangelisation one could or should ignore the importance of the problems so much discussed today, concerning justice, liberation, development and peace in the world'. In his first blessing after being elected, Pope Leo said, 'we must look for ways to be a missionary Church, a Church that builds bridges and encourages dialogue, a Church ever open to welcoming... all those who are in need of our charity, our presence, our readiness to dialogue and our love'.

Seen in that light, the Ascension is not so much an end as a beginning.

Jim McAloon



*"We see Jesus' love for us: his is a presence that does not want to limit our freedom. On the contrary, he leaves space to us, because true love always generates a closeness that does not stifle, is not possessive, is close but not possessive; on the contrary, true love which makes us protagonists....Let us ask ourselves if we really are; and also, if we are capable of loving others, leaving them free and making room for them."*

Pope Francis, Regina Caeli, 29 May 2022

## 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 Otari (Wilton and Karori).

## Readings for the Week

### Sunday 1st – Ascension of the Lord

Acts 1:1-11; Ephesians 1:17-23; Luke 24:46-53

**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup>** Acts 19:1-8; John 16:29-33

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup>** Acts 20:17-27; John 17:1-11

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup>** Acts 20:28-38; John 17:11-19

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup>** Acts 22:30,23:6-11; John 17:20-26

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup>** Acts 25:13-28; John 21:15-19

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup>** Acts 28:16-20,30-31; John 21:20-25

### Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> – Pentecost

Acts 2:1-11; Romans 8:8-17; John 14:15-16,23-26



**METROPOLITAN CATHEDRAL  
OF THE SACRED HEART**

TE AHUREWA O TE NGĀKAU TAPU

## You are being called!

It's a year since the Cathedral re-opened. For all of us this has been a 'home coming', whether we have recently come to the parish, or have been here for many years.

Now is the time to look to ministries in our parish, and how each of us can participate in the life of the parish. No matter where we live, if the Cathedral is where we come to Mass, we are being called to take up ministries in the life of the parish!

The question to ask ourselves today is, "to what ministry am I being called?" Please fill out the Ministries questionnaire as you leave Mass or take one home and return it next weekend and place in the collection basket during Mass.



### A reminder: Cake, Coffee and Chat

**When:** Friday, 6 June 2025 | **Time:** 10.30am-noon | **Where:** Cathedral Foyer

All parishioners welcome - please come and say 'hello'. 6 June is the feast day of St Marcellin Champagnat, so Old Boys of the Marist Brothers are most welcome

Any enquiries: Monica Franklin 021 464 783 or Maureen Sweeney 021 050 6141

## Parish Council

We sometimes hear reference to the Parish Pastoral Council, but who are they?! In the coming weeks, we are including in the newsletter a brief bio on the members of the council.

Each parish in the Archdiocese has a parish council, who, with the pastoral team, help provide direction to the life of the parish. As we look to ministries in the parish, are you being called to be a member of the Parish Council as well?

## INTRODUCING:

**Marianna Pekar**

I have worshipped at Sacred Heart Parish since 2016, and recently started serving on the Parish Pastoral Council and proclaiming the Word and leading liturgy at the 7pm Sunday Mass. Born in Hungary and raised in Budapest, I learned resilience in a Catholic family that practised faith despite persecution. A scholarship brought me to Otago University; after earning degrees in Financial Mathematics and Statistics I settled in Wellington. I later added studies in AI and Data Science, and now consult in social research while completing a PhD. In my free time I fill moments with travelling, art history and learning languages.

Together with my husband we raise our children in faith, showing them that in our multicultural Parish we serve God together just like a family. Grateful for God's guidance from leaving home young and alone to finding community in Aotearoa and I hope to keep helping Sacred Heart grow as a welcoming parish where we journey together toward Christ's love.



## REGULAR PARISH ACTIVITIES

### Divine Mercy Devotions

Sundays 6pm-6.30pm in the Cathedral. All welcome.

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

**Scripture Reflection** (held every Tuesday evening from 6 pm until 6.45 pm).

The Gospel scripture for the coming Sunday is read and discussed within a small group. The gatherings are held in the Cathedral Foyer where everyone gets the opportunity to express their views no matter what level of knowledge of the Liturgies. The discussion is deemed to be very beneficial in providing background to the Gospel when it is read in the next Saturday and Sunday's Masses.



**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament** - Thursdays in the Cathedral from 7am until 7pm and Fridays 7.15am to 8am 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

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](mailto:mcsh.prayergroup@gmail.com)

### Reconciliation

Blessed Sacrament Chapel - Wednesday & Friday - 11.50am to noon, and Saturday after the 8.30am Mass and by appointment.

## New to this parish?

### Nau Mai Haere Mai - Welcome

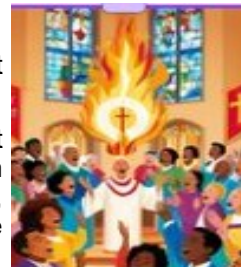
If you would like to become a member of our parish or know more about us, please complete the form at: <https://mcshwellington.org/join-the-parish/> or contact the parish office ph. 496 1700. We look forward to welcoming you.



## Pentecost Sunday, 8 June 2025

Join us in celebrating the Jubilee of Ecclesial Movements, Associations and Communities on Pentecost Sunday, 8 June 2025.

The afternoon programme will be held in the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Hill Street. Beginning at 2.30pm, the event includes a shared dinner (please bring something to share) and will finish with 7pm Mass celebrated by Archbishop Paul. If you are interested in more information or contributing to the day, please contact Bern McCabe 0211655463. This event is part of the Archdiocesan Celebration of the Jubilee Year 2025: Pilgrims of Hope.



Jesus Youth

### Hour of Mercy - Eucharistic Adoration

Between 10am and 2pm on Friday 6 June 2025 in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel. This is an initiative of Jesus Youth New Zealand and all are welcome. Please scan the QR Code for more information.



## KING'S BIRTHDAY, MONDAY 2 JUNE

Tomorrow, 2 June, is King's Birthday and a Public Holiday. There will be no lunchtime rosary or Liturgy of the Word. There will be one Mass at 8.30am in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel.

**TURN DEBT INTO HOPE WEBINAR – 4 JUNE:** Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand is hosting a 30-minute webinar to invite people to take part in its "Turn Debt Into Hope" campaign. The global campaign for debt justice was launched by Pope Francis for the Jubilee Year, and Caritas has big plans to honour this legacy in Aotearoa. The webinar will feature guests from the Pacific explaining the impacts of climate debt, Caritas explaining what Kiwis can do about it and a chance for Q&A. Mark your diaries for 12 noon on Wednesday, 4 June. Find out more and learn how you can get involved at [www.caritas.org.nz/turndebtinto hope](http://www.caritas.org.nz/turndebtinto hope)



**VACANCY – DIRECTOR, CATHOLIC ENQUIRY CENTRE:** For over 60 years, the Catholic Enquiry Centre has helped thousands of people explore the Catholic faith and, in many cases, become Catholic. An agency of the Bishops Conference, the Centre is the first point of contact for enquirers seeking information about the Catholic Church in Aotearoa New Zealand, and supports Church communities in their mission of evangelisation. The Centre is seeking a new Director to lead a small team in continuing this important work. A personal commitment to the Catholic Church along with a proven history of sharing the faith and of leading a team will be necessary. Please send expressions of interest to [secretariat@nzcbc.org.nz](mailto:secretariat@nzcbc.org.nz) by June 6. The role could be filled sooner for the right candidate, so please contact the Bishops Conference promptly.



### St Thomas More Society, Wellington - Mass and Dinner

Friday 13 June 2025. The St Thomas More Society's annual Mass and dinner is an opportunity for members of the Wellington legal community (including non-lawyers) and law students to gather and celebrate the feast day of the Patron Saint of lawyers. This year, Mass will take place at 6pm in the Cathedral Chapel.

Drinks and dinner will follow at the Wellington Club. Guest speaker this year is Bishop John Adams, Bishop of Palmerston North Diocese. If you are interested in attending or would like more information, please email [thomasmoresoc@gmail.com](mailto:thomasmoresoc@gmail.com) or call Monica Devine on 021 299 1138.



Thomas More  
SOCIETY

## An Afternoon of Mozart

Resonance Choir presents "An Afternoon of Mozart" including the beautiful Missa Brevis and audience favourites such as Regina Coeli, Laudate Dominum and Verum Corpus.

Guest soloists include Barbara Paterson, Rose Aldridge, Jamie Young and Joe Haddow. It promises to be a wonderful afternoon of choral music at St Andrew's on the Terrace, 2.30pm Saturday 28 June.

Tickets \$25, or \$20 for 10 or more tickets.

Tickets available on Humanitix: <https://events.humanitix.com/an-afternoon-of-mozart> Door sales also available.



2 Rhine Street (off Murray Street), Island Bay, Wellington  
Chapel of Our Lady of Compassion

### Drift crosses exhibition

A Pilgrim's Rest 2025, a collection by local artist David Krsticevic, has been created using materials such as driftwood, rusted metal and shells, as part of a series of pilgrimage-themed displays throughout this Jubilee Year of Pilgrimage until 8 June 2025.



### Morning Prayer / Mass

Come along - contemplative morning Mass to start the day.

All are welcome.

Wed, Thu, Fri 8:30 am

Saturdays 9am



### Craft Group

Join Sister Josefa for our weekly craft gathering. Bring your handheld craft and enjoy conversation, creativity, and the ambiance of the Cloister café.

Wednesdays 11:30am



### Miha Māori / Māori Mass

Attend our weekly Mass in Te Reo Māori Sundays 11am





# 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](mailto:cathedral.parish@wn.catholic.org.nz)

[www.mcshwellington.org](http://www.mcshwellington.org)

[www.facebook.com/MCSHWWellington/](https://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/our-school/enrolment/>

**SACRED HEART CATHEDRAL,**  
40 HILL ST, THORNDON.

**MASS TIMES**

**Weekdays**

(Except Public Holidays)

**12.10pm Monday** (Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion)

**8am & 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 noon.

**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=309>



Ruth Doherty

Ira Hayes

John Owen

Concepcion

Villanueva



*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

### May Anniversaries:

6 May Josefina Pantaleon  
22 May Eileen Romanos  
23 May Paul Guerin  
23 May Robert (Bob) Thomson  
26 May Natale Carmana  
26 May Eduardo Pangilinan



### June Anniversaries:

4 June Anthony Wilson  
13 June Loreto Irinco  
13 June Geraldine Mollo  
14 June Mick Robbers  
21 June Francesca Chechile de Ragone  
25 June Brian Dunn  
25 June Martin Murray

*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

### Jesus Ascends into Heaven!



Today we celebrate the feast of the Ascension- when Jesus went up, body and soul, into Heaven. Forty days after Jesus rose from the dead He took his disciples up to a big hill and told them that He was going to send the Holy Spirit to them soon. Then He went up into the sky and disappeared behind the clouds.

At first it seems kind of sad that Jesus left His friends, doesn't it? But how could they be sad when Jesus was returning with joy to His Father in Heaven?

Sometimes we are sad when somebody we love dies or moves away, and that's okay. We can't stay with our friends forever in this world, but we will in Heaven. Jesus is there waiting for us to come and live forever with Him and all our friends.

So today we should celebrate Jesus' going into Heaven, and remember that He has gone ahead of us to make a place ready for us when we die.

1. True, 2. True, 3. False, 4. True, 5. False, 6. True, 7. True.

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

## The Kids' Bulletin

Feast of the Ascension  
May 29th or June 1st, 2025



Luke 24:46-53

*Jesus disappeared into a cloud forty days after He rose from the dead. Where did He go?*

*Colour in the spaces with crosses (+) to find out!*