

Archdiocese of Wellington 24 hours for the Lord

Reflective music filled the air at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Wellington on Saturday, March 29, as hundreds of worshippers filled the pews in prayer and adoration. Others took part in reconciliation, confessing sins to priests and clergy.

It was 3am.

The Cathedral was open for more than 24 continuous hours, for the aptly-named 24 Hours for the Lord. Attendees came from throughout Wellington and beyond.

“24 Hours for the Lord” is celebrated on the eve of the fourth Sunday of the Lent season. Although it’s an annual event, this year it took place in the Archdiocese as part of Jubilee 2025 celebrations.

The 24 hours began with a special opening liturgy at 5:30pm on Friday, March 28. This was led by Archbishop Paul Martin, who encouraged people to use the time to reflect and come to reconciliation in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel at the cathedral.

Other groups led the proceedings during the following hours. At one point, the Archdiocesan Samoan Chaplaincy sang in Samoan to attendees.

There were many periods of silence for reflection during the 24 hours. People came for the time that they could—some stayed for a few minutes, others for multiple hours.

Many attendees commented how special the atmosphere inside the cathedral was, and the opportunity for silence and reflection after a busy week. Other talked about praying for healing in a world that’s hurting, and for healing in their personal lives and the lives of friends and whānau.

The 24 hours concluded with a special Vigil Mass at 5:30pm on Saturday, March 29. Many Mass attendees had already been at the Cathedral for hours—while others returned after visiting during the previous hours.

In all, it was a beautiful time. The 24 hours also embodied Jesus’ words in Matthew 18:20 (RSV): “For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them.”

Archdiocese of Wellington
March 31, 2025