

Pope Francis' New Year Homily (continued)

... To begin the year by recalling God's goodness in the maternal face of Mary, in the maternal face of the Church, in the faces of our own mothers, protects us from the corrosive disease of being "spiritual orphans". It is the sense of being orphaned that the soul experiences when it feels motherless and lacking the tenderness of God, when the sense of belonging to a family, a people, a land, to our God, grows dim. This sense of being orphaned lodges in a narcissistic heart capable of looking only to itself and its own interests. It grows when what we forget that life is a gift we have received – and owe to others – a gift we are called to share in this common home.

It was such a self-centred orphanhood that led Cain to ask: "Am I my brother's keeper?" (Gen 4:9). It was as if to say: he doesn't belong to me; I do not recognize him. This attitude of spiritual orphanhood is a cancer that silently eats away at and debases the soul. We become all the more debased, inasmuch as nobody belongs to us and we belong to no one. I debase the earth because it does not belong to me; I debase others because they do not belong to me; I debase God because I do not belong to him, and in the end we debase our very selves, since we forget who we are and the divine "family name" we bear. The loss of the ties that bind us, so typical of our fragmented and divided culture, increases this sense of orphanhood and, as a result, of great emptiness and loneliness. The lack of physical (and not virtual) contact is cauterizing our hearts (cf. *Laudato Si'*, 49) and making us lose the capacity for tenderness and wonder, for pity and compassion. Spiritual orphanhood makes us forget what it means to be children, grandchildren, parents, grandparents, friends and believers. It makes us forget the importance of playing, of singing, of a smile, of rest, of gratitude.

Celebrating the feast of the Holy Mother of God makes us smile once more as we realize that we are a people, that we belong, that only within a community, within a family, can we as persons find the "climate", the "warmth" that enables us to grow in humanity, and not merely as objects meant to "consume and be consumed". To celebrate the feast of the Holy Mother of God reminds us that we are not interchangeable items of merchandise or information processors. We are children, we are family, we are God's People.

Celebrating the Holy Mother of God leads us to create and care for common places that can give us a sense of belonging, of being rooted, of feeling at home in our cities, in communities that unite and support us (cf. *Laudato Si'*, 151).

Jesus, at the moment of his ultimate self-sacrifice, on the cross, sought to keep nothing for himself, and in handing over his life, he also handed over to us his Mother. He told Mary: Here is your son; here are your children. We too want to receive her into our homes, our families, our communities and nations. We want to meet her maternal gaze. The gaze that frees us from being orphans; the gaze that reminds us that we are brothers and sisters, that I belong to you, that you belong to me, that we are of the same flesh. The gaze that teaches us that we have to learn how to care for life in the same way and with the same tenderness that she did: by sowing hope, by sowing a sense of belonging and of fraternity.

Celebrating the Holy Mother of God reminds us that we have a Mother. We are not orphans. We have a Mother. Together let us all confess this truth. I invite you to acclaim it three times, standing, like the faithful of Ephesus: Holy Mother of God, Holy Mother of God, Holy Mother of God."

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The Angelus

St Mary of the Angels Parish

Church and Presbytery
17 Boulcott Street
Wellington Central
Telephone: 04 473 8074
Parish website: www.smoa.org.nz

St Mary of the Angels is a diverse community which seeks to praise and thank God in a place of calm and beauty and strives to be Christ alive in Central Wellington

MASS TIMES

Sunday

7am St Mary of the Angels Parish Hall
9am Sacred Heart Cathedral
12pm St John's Presbyterian Church
5pm St Joseph's Church, Mt Victoria

Monday to Friday

St Mary of the Angels Parish Hall
7:30am, 12:05pm & 5:15pm

Saturday

11am St Mary of the Angels Parish Hall

SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING

St Mary of the Angels Parish Hall
11am Mass 4th Saturday of each month

ADORATION

St Mary of the Angels Parish Hall

Monday to Friday 6:45am - 7:30am
Friday 11:00am - 12:00pm

RECONCILIATION

St Mary of the Angels Presbytery

Monday to Thursday 11:30am - 12:00pm
12:30pm - 1:00pm
4:30pm - 5:00pm

Friday

11:00am - 12:00pm
12:30pm - 1:00pm
4:30pm - 5:00pm

Saturday

10:30am - 11:00am
4:00pm - 5:00pm

Parish Priest

Fr Barry Scannell SM
smoapp@xtra.co.nz

Assistant Priest

Fr Joe Savesi SM

Adult Education

Fr Kevin Conroy SM

Pastoral Worker

Sr Frances Gibbs CSB

Director of Music

Robert Oliver
robert.oliver@paradise.net.nz

Parish Accountant

Jeanette Temelo
smoamanager@xtra.co.nz

Parish Office

smoaoffice@xtra.co.nz

15 January 2017, 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Father Michael Young s.m.

Today is Father Michael's last day here in the Parish. He will be the celebrant for the 9am Mass and following Mass we will have a farewell morning tea to thank him for his work at St Mary of the Angels over the past five years.

During his time here Father Michael divided his time between celebrating Mass and teaching a spirituality course two nights each week during the school term. Over the past few months he has been on Marist renewal in Sydney.

We are very grateful to Father Michael for his work here at St Mary of the Angels and we wish him well in his new appointment. He will be working in the Marist Spirituality ministry which is based at Pa Maria in Hobson Street in Thorndon. However, before taking up this appointment Father Michael will for the next few months return to Sydney to assist our Australian Marist confreres at St Patrick's Church in Sydney.

Seismic Strengthening of the Church

Work continues to progress well on the seismic strengthening of the Church. If you have walked down Boulcott Street in recent days you will have noticed that the new copper roof is nearing completion and much of the scaffolding which has been covering the building for several months has now been taken down. There is still a great deal of work to do both inside and outside the Church.

We are hoping for an Easter re-opening in April. However, it is important for us not to lose focus on the substantial fundraising still required to ensure that this goal is achieved. We need the continued generosity of parishioners, family, friends and the wider Wellington and New Zealand community to complete the task.



Father Barry Scannell s.m.
Parish Priest

This Week's Readings

First Reading Is 49:3, 5-6
I will make you the light of the nations so that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.

Second Reading 1 Cor 1:1-3
The grace and peace of God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

Gospel Reading Jn 1: 29-34
This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

Next Week's Readings

First Reading Is 8:23 - 9:3

Psalm 26

Second Reading 1 Cor 1:10-13, 17

Gospel Reading Mt 4:12-23

Last Sunday's Collection

Total: \$4,779



Christmas Day Responsorial Psalm 39

**R. Here I am, Lord;
 I come to do your will.**

I waited, I waited for the Lord and he stooped down to me; he heard my cry.
 He put a new song into my mouth, praise of our God. **R**

You do not ask for sacrifice and offerings, but an open ear.
 You do not ask for holocaust and victim. Instead, here I am. **R**

In the scroll of the book it stands written that I should do your will
 My God, I delight in your law in the depth of my heart. **R**

Your justice I have proclaimed in the great assembly.
 My lips I have not sealed; you know it, O Lord. **R**

Prayer for Seismic Strengthening Work

Gracious God, Creator of the Universe, you made us in your own image and likeness.

You gave us wisdom and understanding, grateful hearts and creative minds.

We pray that our beautiful Church will be strengthened against the peril of earthquake through the generosity of parishioners, the community of Wellington and people throughout New Zealand.

We ask, Lord, that you abundantly bless those who have already donated funds, skill and expertise to this project.

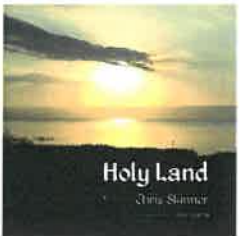
May St Mary of the Angels Church be a symbol of a unified community that will gather to praise and thank you.

Mary our Mother, pray for us.

Holy Land Album by Father Chris Skinner

Chris is a Marist Priest from New Zealand living in Auckland. He is presently involved in the formation of Marist priests/brothers at the Marist Seminary. Previously his work included teaching, work with youth at risk, school chaplaincy and pastoral work at an inner city parish. He has recorded 'Amazing Grace' for the first time to honour his late Mothers memory. The album comprises 2 Discs. The 10 new songs on Disc 1 connect with the pilgrimage tour he led to Jordan and Israel in June 2016 and the 30 day retreat he began at St Beunos in Wales. For more information including song titles please visit his website www.chrisskinner.org.nz

The album is available for purchase through the Parish office for \$30.



Pope Francis' New Year Homily:

'Mary treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart! (Lk 2:19). In these words, Luke describes the attitude with which Mary took in all that they had experienced in those days. Far from trying to understand or master the situation, Mary is the woman who can treasure, that is to say, protect and guard in her heart, the passage of God in the life of his people. Deep within, she had learned to listen to the heartbeat of her Son, and that in turn taught her, throughout her life, to discover God's heartbeat in history. She learned how to be a mother, and in that learning process she gave Jesus the beautiful experience of knowing what it is to be a Son. In Mary, the eternal Word not only became flesh, but also learned to recognize the maternal tenderness of God. With Mary, the God-Child learned to listen to the yearnings, the troubles, the joys and the hopes of the people of the promise. With Mary, he discovered himself a Son of God's faithful people.

In the Gospels, Mary appears as a woman of few words, with no great speeches or deeds, but with an attentive gaze capable of guarding the life and mission of her Son, and for this reason, of everything that he loves. She was able to watch over the beginnings of the first Christian community, and in this way she learned to be the mother of a multitude. She drew near to the most diverse situations in order to sow hope. She accompanied the crosses borne in the silence of her children's hearts. How many devotions, shrines and chapels in the most far-off places, how many pictures in our homes, remind us of this great truth. Mary gave us a mother's warmth, the warmth that shelters us amid troubles, the maternal warmth that keeps anything or anyone from extinguishing in the heart of the Church the revolution of tenderness inaugurated by her Son. Where there is a mother, there is tenderness. By her motherhood, Mary shows us that humility and tenderness are not virtues of the weak but of the strong. She teaches us that we do not have to mistreat others in order to feel important (cf. Evangelii Gaudium, 288). God's holy people has always acknowledged and hailed her as the Holy Mother of God.

To celebrate Mary as Mother of God and our mother at the beginning of the new year means recalling a certainty that will accompany our days: we are a people with a Mother; we are not orphans.

Mothers are the strongest antidote to our individualistic and egotistic tendencies, to our lack of openness and our indifference. A society without mothers would not only be a cold society, but a society that has lost its heart, lost the "feel of home". A society without mothers would be a merciless society, one that has room only for calculation and speculation. Because mothers, even at the worst times, are capable of testifying to tenderness, unconditional self-sacrifice and the strength of hope. I have learned much from those mothers whose children are in prison, or lying in hospital beds, or in bondage to drugs, yet, come cold or heat, rain or draught, never stop fighting for what is best for them. Or those mothers who in refugee camps, or even the midst of war, unfailingly embrace and support their children's sufferings. Mothers who literally give their lives so that none of their children will perish. Where there is a mother, there is unity, there is belonging, belonging as children. ... P.T.O.

Seismic Strengthening Cook Book Fundraiser

Copies of **Recipes for Restoration** are still available for purchase after Masses, from the Parish Office and from St Vincent de Paul stores around the city. This book is a 'must have' for every parishioner's kitchen, and a great gift idea.

The basic cost of the book is \$30. This price covers the cost of printing and makes a small contribution to the seismic strengthening fund. However, we invite you to pay what you can for the book with the assurance that all funds go toward the seismic strengthening.

We need parishioners to help sell these books. Please consider taking some copies and asking your friends to buy them and that way you will be helping with the restoration of the Church.



Mass has been offered for:

- Recently Deceased:** Don Hayes, Kim Keng Yap
- Anniversaries:** Sr Margaret Mary Murphy, Fr Bryan Montgomery sm, Lois Palentine, Sheila Mahony, Margaret Heister, John O'Brien, Fr Brian O'Connell sm, Mary Hutchins, Edward Haughey, Gordon Ashbridge, Bertrand Weir
- Prayers for the Sick:** Mary Crompton, Jenni Rowell, Jeanette Parker, Teresa Jeong, Dr Peter Brooke, Clem Cull, Fr Fred Bliss sm, Maureen Ayling, Richard Wright, Losalia Leo, Maureen McDonald, Patricia Smyth, John Foden, Joanna Veltman, Imelda Reeve, Jan Tuinman, Kathleen Phelan, John Mora, Maria Kim, Leo Buchanan, Carol Aldridge



Please remember these and any others in the Parish who are ill. If you know of anyone confined to their home or who needs a visit with Holy Communion, please contact Sister Frances at the Parish Office.

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