

This Week's Readings

First Reading	Isaiah	40:1-5, 9-11
<i>Prepare the way for the Lord.</i>		
Second Reading	St Peter	3:8-14
<i>We wait for new heavens and a new earth.</i>		
Gospel Reading	Mark	1:1-8
<i>Make straight the paths of the Lord.</i>		

Next Week's Readings

First Reading	Isaiah	61:1-2, 10-11
	Psalm (Magnificat)	1:46-50, 53-54
Second Reading	St Paul	5:16-24
Gospel	John	1:6-8, 19-28

Last Sunday's Collection

Total	\$4,784
Parish Expenses	\$3,397
Support of House	\$1,387

Thank You

St Mary of the Angels Christmas Cards

We have once again this year produced Christmas cards of the beautiful Nativity Window in the Church. The cards are high quality and have been finished with a gloss laminated front cover. They come in three sizes and with envelopes. The cards will be on sale after all Masses today and are available at the Parish Office.

- A6 (\$15 for a pack of 12)
- DLE (\$15 for a pack of 12)
- A5 (\$1.50 each)

Columban Calendars for 2012 are also available for purchase from the Parish Office.

Mass has been offered for:

Anniversaries Felix Kane, Frances Haughey, Paul Jenkins

Prayers for the Sick Maryvac de Rosario, Mary Egan, Dulcie Campbell, Oinah Macpherson, Maureen McDonald, Ron Blair, Paul Carr, Peter Tawhaki, Cecilia Dickson, Maria Kasperowicz, Marion Hyland, Helen Havasi, Desmond Nunns, Patricia Smyth, Ron Finlayson, Vicki McPhee, Pat Perkins, Romola Sullivan, Bryan Stempa, Patrick Grace.



Please remember in your prayers, these and the other sick of the Parish. If you know of anyone who is confined to their home or who needs a visit with Holy Communion, please contact Sister Frances at the Parish Office. Phone 473 8074

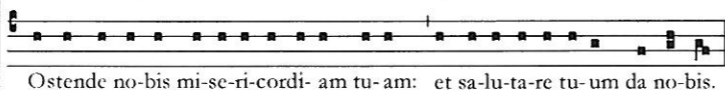
Responsorial Psalm 84: 9-14 (85)

R. Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

I will hear what the Lord God has to say,
a voice that speaks of peace,
peace for his people.
His help is near for those who fear him
and his glory will dwell in our land. **R.**

Mercy and faithfulness have met
justice and peace have embraced.
Faithfulness shall spring from the earth
and justice look down from heaven. **R.**

The Lord will make us proper
and our earth shall yield its fruit.
Justice shall march before him
and peace shall follow his steps. **R.**



Ostende no-bis mi-se-ri-cordi-am tu-am: et sa-lu-ta-re tu-um da no-bis.

Show us thy mercy: and grant us thy salvation.

Offertory Hymn For 11am Mass

Number 247 **"On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry".**
Verses 1, 2, 3 and 5.

'Viols in Performance'

A concert of fantasias, dances and consort songs by
Jenkins, Simpson, Lupo, Byrd and Gibbons.
Sunday 11th December, 6pm-7pm, 31 Hobson Crescent.
Loren Ludwig, treble & bass viols;
Kevin Wilkinson & Susan Alexander, tenor viols;
Robert Oliver, bass viol;
Amy van de Laar & Olivia Webb, sopranos.
Koha donation to help cover venue hire.

Reflection: A Perfect Start

This time leading up to Christmas is full. Preparations for the Christmas liturgies and carol services dominate. There are gifts to be gathered and distributed and the hope of quiet time for the writing and reading of cards and letters.

There are significant feast days in this time of preparation and we might reflect on the spiritual gifts we have inherited through the work of missionary St Francis Xavier, fellow Jesuit St Peter Canisius, Carmelite mystic St John of the Cross and Juan Deigo, witness to Our Lady of Guadalupe. Each of these is remembered in December and each lived in the 1500's, a time of shifting political power and robust religious activity. We know something of Xavier, Canisius and John of the Cross through their many letters, poems and other documents. The best understanding of their influence however, lies in the faith which continues to grow from those they first instructed in the Gospels and encouraged in prayer. Francis Xavier, a faithful, gifted and erudite man was called to mission throughout India, Japan, China and Indonesia, places which now offer missionaries to the West. Similarly, Canisius' contribution of the Catechism written to make Catholic teaching easily understood, is a model for parents and theologians today. He realised that children from any age can grow in understanding of faith, hope, charity and justice by learning how to avoid evil and practice doing good. The Shortest Catechism for young children includes prayers for morning, evening and mealtimes as well as instruction in Christian virtues. The Church has long recognised the openness of children and young people to spiritual experience and the existence of so many Catholic schools, universities and institutions of higher learning throughout the world today, demonstrates the importance attached to faith-based education.

It is impossible to describe precisely what influences a person's faith, but the practice of prayer is certainly at the heart of it. We are soon to celebrate the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, 8th December. To the world, this doctrine may be unfamiliar but surely not inexplicable. We know Jesus, truly God and truly human, was born of Mary whose response to God was perfect. Hence her own holy and immaculate conception; 'free from original sin'. Among the many descriptions of Mary, 'Immaculate Conception' is possibly the most easily understood while 'model of all virtues' is possibly the most useful. For our own spiritual journey, reflecting on both is a good place to start.

Suzanne O'Rourke, Liturgy Committee



"Children stand before God with open arms"

SMAYACS

St Mary of the Angels Young Adult Catholics
Young Adults Prayer (Thursdays @ 6pm)
Join us for a gathering of prayer every Thursday at 6pm in the Church.

The Marist Young Adult Ministry situated at the Grove, 7 Birch St, Lower Hutt, has two vacancies left for Young Adult men (20-35 years of age) who are seeking the experience of living in a Christian community rather than a flatting situation. Applications may be made to Br.Kieran and Br. Doug by email:

kieranfenn@gmail.com or
brdougfms@gmail.com

Email: smayacs@gmail.com

Challenge 2000/Society of Mary 2011

Social Justice Pilgrimage

When: Meet at 10am at Challenge 2000
27 Dr Taylor Terrace Johnsonville on Sunday December 11 and return on Sunday 18 December, 7pm.

Where: Journeying around the lower North Island visiting Sacred sites, special places and spiritual people. An opportunity for young people aged 18-23 to enhance their leadership abilities skills, grasp social justice teachings and to reflect on what it means to be a prophetic Catholic in Aotearoa today and in the future.

The Pilgrimage will be led by Kitty McKinley and Fr Chris Skinner SM as well as Challenge 2000 staff. Some sponsorship available. Cost: \$150.00 per person.

Contact: www.challenge2000.org.nz

Walk By Faith. A three year adult distance learning course in Religious Studies for those interested in deepening their knowledge of Jesus Christ, the Scriptures, the Church, and growing in personal faith. Enrolment forms are available in the Church foyer. Contact the National Centre for Religious Studies for more information: (04) 819 8380, ncrsnz@clear.net.nz

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For Your Diaries : 2011 and 2012

Friday 9th December Church Cleaning (afternoon)

Those who are available to help with cleaning and preparing the Church for Christmas are invited to contact Sr Frances Ph 473 8074 or email: sisterfrancesgibbs@hotmail.com. Help most appreciated.

Thursdays in Advent Meditations after midday Mass

Advent meditations will be held in the Church immediately after the midday Mass each Thursday for approximately 10-15 minutes. All welcome.

11th December concert at St Joesph's Church, 3pm. The SMP Ensemble - graduates from the New Zealand School of Music - will be giving a concert

12th December Rite II Reconciliation. At St Joseph's, Mt Victoria at 6.30pm

Sunday 11th December 2011 concert at St Joesph's Church, 3pm. The SMP Ensemble - graduates from the New Zealand School of Music - will be giving a concert (incl. pieces by Psathas and Dvorak) to raise funds for the Refugee Family Reunification Trust. Tickets: \$25 (\$15 student/child).

Wednesday 14th December 'Carols with the Angels' 7.30pm

You are invited to bring your friends and enjoy the beautiful 'Carols with the Angels' in our Church. It is a wonderful way to prepare for the feast of the birth of Christ. The evening features our own Choirs and the Salvation Army Band. Father Peter Roe S.M. will be our guest soloist.

Sunday 8th January 2012 Commemoration of Bishop Pompallier's First Mass in New Zealand 11am. You are invited to visit Totara Point, Northland in the Hokianga (the site of the first Catholic Mass in New Zealand). After Mass at Totara Point visitors are invited to Motuti, where Bishop Pompallier's remains are interred. The church will be open all day.

24-26 February 2012 Rachel's Vineyard Retreat (Wellington)

A weekend Retreat of spiritual and emotional healing for those whose lives have been touched by abortion. All enquiries are strictly confidential. Contact Wendy Hill 027 254 9222 or info@rachelvineyard.org.nz

Pilgrimages to Pukekaraka, Otaki, 2012.

The Pa Maria Retreat and Spirituality Centre team is offering Wellington parishioners a prayerful day in Pukekaraka next year, a site of significant Catholic history of the Wellington Archdiocese. To enrol, phone the Parish Office: 4738074 by Friday 9th December 2011.

Traditional Latin Mass each Sunday of December, 12.30pm at St Mary of the Angels. Contact Neil Coup 021 896 924.

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Contact by e-mail for further information: mariabaldock@gmail.com

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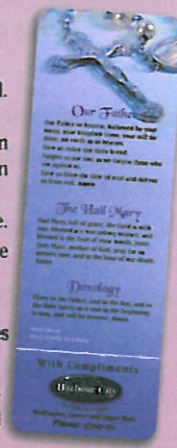
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The Angelus

St Mary of the Angels Parish

Church and Presbytery:

17 Boulcott Street,

Wellington Central

Telephone: 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

Parish Priest

Fr Barry Scannell SM
smoapp@xtra.co.nz

Assistant Priest

Fr Tom O'Connor SM

Adult Education

Fr Michael Young SM

Pastoral Worker

Sr Frances Gibbs CSB

Director of Music

Robert Oliver
robert.oliver@paradise.net.nz

Parish Manager

Penny Holden
smoamanager@xtra.co.nz

Parish Office

smoaoffice@xtra.co.nz

MASSES

Sunday 7am, 9am, 11am, 5pm

Monday to Friday 7.30am, 12:05pm, & 5:15pm

Saturday 11am

EACH MONTH

1st Saturday Marian Devotions 10:30am

4th Saturday 11am Mass with Sacrament of Anointing

ADORATION

Monday to Friday 7:00-7:30am

Friday 11am- noon

RECONCILIATION

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

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

4th December 2011: 2nd Week of Advent, Year B

Advent Carol Service with St John's Presbyterian Church

Our Annual Carol Service with our Presbyterian neighbours will be held tonight Sunday 4 December at 7pm (note change of time) at St John's Church on the corner of Willis and Dixon Street. I would be very grateful if as many parishioners as possible could attend. This is a very good opportunity for us to worship with our Christian brothers and sisters.

Ad Limina Visit

Archbishop John and the other New Zealand Bishops have left for Rome for their Ad Limina visit. These visits (which take place approximately every five years) are required of every diocesan Bishop and Apostolic Vicar across the world. They involve a visit to the tombs of St Peter and Paul, consultations with appropriate Vatican officials and an audience with the Holy Father. Our hope and prayer is that through this visit the bonds of communion between the New Zealand Church and Pope Benedict XVI may become stronger.

First Sacraments Programme

The First Sacraments Programme for 2012 will begin in February. This programme is for children in Year 4 and above. If you would like further information, please contact one of the Priests or leave your name at the Parish Office.

Bishops Christmas Appeal

Each year Archbishop John has a Christmas Appeal. This year the appeal funds will assist:

- the lay Pastoral Leaders fund;
 - for international priests serving in the Archdiocese;
 - Catholic Social Services' social workers in schools project
- Envelopes are available on the side and back tables of the Church. Place the envelope in the normal collection basket at Mass.

Father Barry Scannell SM
Parish Priest

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