

## For Your Diaries: 2019

### Wednesdays, Christian Meditation

Come and join us in Christian Meditation (CM) at 2pm every Wednesday in the church; being still, silent and simply one with the prayer of Christ.

### 18 December, Carols with the Angels

Our annual Carol Service will be held at 7.30pm in the church. This special event in our church that will involve the St Mary of the Angels Choir, Korean Community Choir, Salvation Army Band, and all your favourite carols.

### 20 December, Sung Advent Meditations

You are invited to contemplate the Mystery of Christ in Song and Silence. Held after the 12.05pm Mass with singing led by members of the St Mary of the Angels Choir.

### 21 December, Memorial Mass for Kraft D'Souza

The Mass will be held at 12pm in the church, followed by light refreshments in the parish hall and a 2.30pm departure to Makara Cemetery for the unveiling of the headstone.

## Christmas Gift Ideas

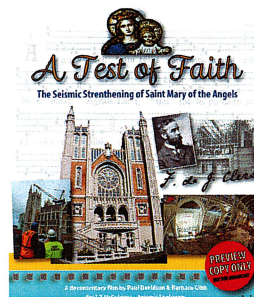


### Recipes for Restoration

*Recipes for Restoration* are available for purchase after Masses and from the parish office. The book is \$15, with the price covering the cost of printing and making a small contribution to the building maintenance fund. The book is a 'must have' and great gift idea!

### A Test of Faith

The documentary 'A Test of Faith' provides a wonderful insight into the seismic strengthening work that took place at St Mary of the Angels. The documentary also includes the story of the Church in Wellington from 1843 and in particular the three churches that have been built on the present St Mary of the Angels site. DVDs are available to purchase from the parish office for \$30, with all proceeds going towards the ongoing maintenance of the church.



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DDI (04) 9744703 or email tom.mahony@mbhlaw.co.nz



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## A LEGACY OF FAITH



Remembering St Mary of the Angels in your will provides an ideal opportunity to make a statement of your faith and to give resources that will support your Church for years to come.

Please contact the Parish Office for further details.  
Phone (04) 473 8074.



## NEW WORLD Wellington City

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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*

### Parish Priest

Fr Kevin Conroy SM

smoapp@xtra.co.nz

### Assistant Priests

Fr Peter McAfee SM

Fr Kevin Mowbray SM

Fr Pat Brophy SM

Fr Joe Savesi SM

### Pastoral Worker

Sr Frances Gibbs CSB

### In Residence

Fr Brian Wysocki SM

### Director of Music

Robert Oliver

chant4robert@gmail.com

### Parish Accountant

smoamanager@xtra.co.nz

### Parish Office

smoaoffice@xtra.co.nz

### MASSES

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

Monday to 7:30am, 12:05pm,  
Friday & 5:15pm

Saturday 11am

### EACH MONTH

4th Saturday 11am Mass with  
Sacrament of Anointing

### ADORATION

Monday to 6:30am-7:20am  
Friday

Friday 11am-Noon

### RECONCILIATION

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

Friday 11:00am-11:50pm  
12:30pm-1:00pm  
4:30pm-5:00pm

Saturday 10:30am-10:55am  
4:00pm-5:00pm

## 15 December 2019, 3rd Sunday of Advent—Gaudete Sunday

As we prepare for Christmas, we can be so busy attending parties, wrapping gifts, writing cards, and decorating houses that we ignore Advent which is a preparation for Christmas. On this the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday we light the 3<sup>rd</sup> candle which is pink, and represents joy or patience. We are waiting for the coming of the Lord. So often we think waiting means boredom and a waste of time. How are we really preparing this Advent? The Sacrament of Reconciliation and daily Mass are wonderful ways.

This week John Moynihan and Robert Bok assembled the crib. The Nativity scene is a living Gospel. The depiction of Jesus' birth is itself a simple and joyful proclamation of the mystery of the Incarnation of the Son of God. As we contemplate the Christmas story, we are invited to set out on a spiritual journey, drawn by the humility of the God who became man, so that in his great love for us he became one with us, so that we in turn might become one with him.

The origin of the Christmas crib was a vision had by St. Francis of Assisi, in the year 1223. In Luke's Gospel, Mary gave birth to a Son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in an inn. Coming into this world, the Son of God was laid where animals feed. Hay became the first bed of the One who would reveal himself as "the bread of heaven". The nativity scene evokes a number of mysteries of Jesus' life and brings them close to our own daily lives.

Why does the Christmas crib move us so deeply? Firstly, because it shows God's most tender love; the creator of the world who lowered himself to take up our littleness. The gift of life, in all its mystery, becomes all the more wondrous as we realise that the Son of Mary is the source and sustenance of all life. In Jesus, the Father has given us a brother who comes to seek us out whenever we are confused or lost, a loyal friend at our side he gave us his Son who forgives us and frees us from our sins.

We see the figures of Mary and Joseph placed; Mary became Mother of God's Son. In her we see the Mother of God who does not keep her Son only to herself, but invites everyone to obey his Word and put it into practice. At her side and protecting the Child is St. Joseph. Joseph was the protector and guardian of his family. He treasured in his heart the great mystery surrounding Jesus and Mary; as a just man he entrusted himself always to God's will.

As we contemplate this aspect of the nativity scene, we are called to reflect on the responsibility of every Christian to spread the Gospel. Each of us is called to bear glad tidings to all, by our practical works of mercy to the joy of knowing Jesus and his love. We open our hearts to this simple grace, so that our humble prayer may rise, a prayer of thanksgiving to God, who wished to share with us all, and never leave us alone.

We have the cow and the ox, shepherds and lastly the wise men. They too have their story to tell.

Sister Frances Gibbs CSB  
—Pastoral Worker



## This Week's Readings

**First Reading** Isaiah 35:1-6, 10

*God himself will come and save us.*

**Second Reading** James 5:7-10

*You also must be patient; do not lose heart, the Lord's coming will be soon.*

**Gospel Reading** Matthew 11:2-11

*Are you the one who is to come, or must we wait for someone else?*

## Next Week's Readings

**First Reading** Isaiah 7:10-14

**Psalm** 23

**Second Reading** Romans 1:1-7

**Gospel Reading** Matthew 18-24

## Responsorial 145

**R. Lord, come and save us.**

It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,  
who is just to those who are oppressed.  
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,  
the Lord, who sets prisoners free. **R**

It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,  
who raises up those who are bowed down,  
the Lord, who protects the stranger  
and upholds the widow and orphan. **R**

It is the Lord who loves the just  
but thwarts the path of the wicked.  
The Lord will reign for ever,  
Zion's God, from age to age. **R**



Ecce De-us noster ve-ni- et et salvandos nos.-

*Behold our God will come and save us.*

## Carols with the Angels

Our annual Carol Service will be held on **Wednesday 18 December** at 7.30pm. Please join us for this special event in our church that will involve the St Mary of the Angels Choir, Korean Community Choir, Salvation Army Band, and all your favourite carols.

The parish office will be closed from **Tuesday 24 December 2019** until **Tuesday 21 January 2020**.



**THE CARDINAL'S CARE APPEAL 2019**

The 2019 Cardinal's Care Appeal envelopes have been distributed this week. All funds raised through this year's Care Appeal will be directed to **Catholic Social Services** and used to support outreach, facilitation and capacity building within communities across the Archdiocese. These services are the best approach to reach and to benefit those on the peripheries of our society and those in greatest need of God's love and our unconditional support. The work of Catholic Social Services does and will continue to make a difference in the lives of countless people, but it is your support that makes this work possible! Please join us by making even a small gift today. If everyone gives a little, together we can make a big difference.

## Church Tour Guide Pamphlets

We are interested in having new tour guide pamphlets professionally printed for the church. Our current pamphlets are very popular and used by many visitors. We hope that a new design and revised guide will give parishioners, tourists, and non-parishioners an introduction to the history and meaning of our church building. The approximate cost to have these typesetted and printed would be \$1000 for one year's supply, so we want to gauge if there is any interest in helping fund this. If you can help in any way please contact the parish office.

## Maxwell Fernie Book

A few weeks ago *The Perfection of Sound* was successfully launched in the Crypt of the church. The book relates the story of the design and construction of the organ by Maxwell Fernie in 1958 and is based on the voluminous and fascinating letters Max exchanged with parish priest Fr McHardy, Crofts the organ builder and the pipe makers from Finchfield in the UK. It is a handsome volume of 284 richly illustrated pages, published in a limited edition of 200. Many copies sold on the day, for the launch price of \$99.00. We wish to let you know that this price will be maintained until the end of 2019, at which point the price will be \$120. If you would like a copy, please email the Maxwell Fernie Trust at [Maxwellfernietrust@gmail.com](mailto:Maxwellfernietrust@gmail.com) as soon as possible, or buy through the publisher's website [www.steeleroberts.co.nz/product/the-perfection-of-sound/](http://www.steeleroberts.co.nz/product/the-perfection-of-sound/)

## Farewell for Fr Kevin Conroy

Please join us in wishing Fr Kevin farewell after the 11am Mass today, **15 December**. It will be held at 'The Precinct' at Boulcott Suites on O'Reilly Ave.

## Columban Calendars

2020 Columban Calendars are still available for sale from the parish office or from Sr Frances, \$12 each.

## Carol Singing at Wellington Hospital

Come and join us Carol Singing around the Wards on Christmas Eve **24 December** at 7pm. Please gather at the Atrium at 6.45pm and we will divide into two groups, spend about an hour singing in various wards concluding with a light supper.

## Kraft D'Souza Memorial Mass

The Memorial Mass for Kraft D'Souza will be held at 12pm on **Saturday 21 December** in the church, followed by light refreshments in the parish hall and a 2.30pm departure to Makara Cemetery for the unveiling of the headstone.

## Guardians Needed

Each day our church is looked after by Guardians who take it in turn to spend an hour in the church ensuring that the many visitors feel welcome and that they respect our sacred place. **We are in need of a Guardian for Wednesdays 3.30—4.30pm immediately, and Thursday 10am—11am from 2020.** If you would like to consider being part of this service to the parish community please contact the parish office.

## Thank you from our St Vincent de Paul Conference

Warm thanks to our fellow parishioners who donated gifts and cash to the St Vincent de Paul appeal to help provide Christmas joy and fun for the children of families seeking our services. Grateful thanks also to those who make contributions to the Poor Box to support our year-round work of assisting people in need. We wish everyone the blessings of the Advent and Christmas season.



## ST MARY OF THE ANGELS ONGOING MAINTENANCE APPEAL

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Donations can be sent to: Ongoing Maintenance Fund St Mary of the Angels 17 Boulcott St Wellington 6011	
Bank Account Details: 02-0536-0003242-23 Bank of New Zealand Lambton Quay Wellington	

St Mary of the Angels is registered with the Charities Commission. All donations are tax deductible and a receipt issued.

## Last Sunday's Collection

Total: \$5,411

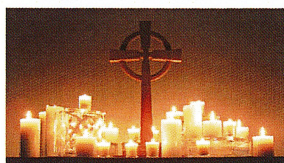


## Mass has been offered for:

**Recently deceased:** Elizabeth Ezukwo

**Anniversaries:** Shona Rippin, Fr George Duggan sm, Phyllis Clifford, Diana Bartram

**Prayers for the Sick:** Peter Aldridge, Tony Crawley, John Adams, Fr Tom O'Connor sm, Geoff Sweet, Dianne Sweet, Losalia Leo, Patricia Smyth, John Foden, John Mora, Kerry Barber, Pam Finlayson, Paul Sparnaay, Brendan Gilmore, Shirley O'Brien, Pat Johnson



*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.*



9 Francis Place,  
PO Box 9639, Wellington  
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