

For Your Diaries: 2020

6 February, Waitangi Day Mass

Join us in celebrating Waitangi Day at the 9am Mass. Please bring a plate.

11 February, Talk—*Student Life in Occupied Palestine*

Br Peter Bray, a New Zealander, De La Salle Brother and since 2008 Vice-Chancellor of Bethlehem University in the Occupied Palestinian Territories will be giving a presentation on student life in the extremely difficult circumstances of occupied Palestine, giving an insight on the work for a just and peaceful future. 6pm at St Andrews on the Terrace. Entry is free with koha encouraged.

15 February, A Stewardship Reflection Day

Start your year with prayer and reflection. Please join us for *Suzanne Aubert: Intentional disciple*, A Stewardship Reflection Day from 10.30am - 3.30pm at the Home of Compassion, Island Bay. Bring your lunch (café onsite) and walking shoes if you want to do the optional walk to the reservoir. Register now with Ann Williams at a.williams@wn.catholic.org.nz

18 February, Sacramental Programme Begins

Enrolment for the programme preparing children for the Sacrament of Reconciliation is still open - children must be at least 8 years old and must have already been baptised. The first parents' session is on 18 February, and the Reconciliation Day will be on Sunday 5 April.

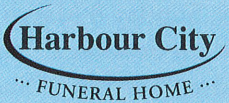
Update your details!

Due to recent changes to the way Inland Revenue are processing material, you can now upload an electronic receipt to your online myIR account to claim a tax credit for your donations. For this reason, we will be working to make the transition to electronic receipts for the end of the financial year. Please take the time to make sure the parish office has the correct email address on file for you by calling 473 8074 or emailing smoaoffice@xtra.co.nz

If you are not currently a planned giver and are interested in making regular donations to the parish, contact the office for more information about our planned-giving programme.



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A LEGACY OF FAITH



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



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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

26 January 2020, 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

LIVING A SPIRITUAL LIFE

"Is there a God in this world?" This perhaps is the central question of our spiritual life. To answer this question we must begin to see ourselves for what we truly are - the beloved children of God. The first step in gaining a spiritual perspective on our lives is to *"Dare to be Loved."*

Once we begin accepting ourselves as the beloved of God, we "Come Home" - we begin to live in the loving home that God has made in our hearts. We begin to see how many ways God is a living and active presence in all that we do.

But seeing ourselves as the beloved-of-God is a challenge. So often we feel unloved. We need to "Dare to be Human" - to accept our mortal reality while claiming our soul-deep union with the divine.

This process of gradually gaining a spiritual perspective is a daily discipline in which we "Learn God's Ways." Every person we meet can offer us a glimpse of God. Every earthly thing can become a sacred window.

One of the most difficult things for us to believe is that we are each a beloved child of God. How often do we recognize this? How often do we allow ourselves to live this core truth of our identity? We are reminded that God's one response to each of us is "You are my beloved, on you my favour rests." In a way we cannot fathom, each of us is God's favourite. From all eternity God has seen each of us as "unique, special, precious beings." Accepting God's love makes us better human beings, while enabling us to make our world a better place.

When our life becomes a burden, we need to remind ourselves again and again that we are loved with an everlasting love. Our Father embraces us with the heart and arms of a loving Mother.

Our whole life is a search for a place we can really call home. God knows how much we yearn for a home. Living a spiritual life is living in God's house here and now. Yet time and again our life drifts away. To come home we need to move away from places in which God is no longer with us. We need to come home again and again. God is always looking for us. God wants us home. Our hearts were created with a yearning that only the divine spirit can fill.

On a personal note, today is my last day of active ministry here in the parish until the middle of June. I am heading to Sydney in the next week or so to begin a course. Be assured of my continued prayers for our parish and I ask that you continue to pray for me. God bless.

Fr Joe Savesi sm
—Assistant Priest

Parish Priest

Fr Kevin Mowbray SM
smoapp@xtra.co.nz

Assistant Priests

Fr Peter McAfee 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

Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 9am - 4pm
smoaoffice@xtra.co.nz

MASSES

Sunday 7am, 9am, 11am, 5pm
Mon-Fri 7.30am, 12.05pm, 5.15pm
Saturday 11am

EACH MONTH

4th Saturday Sacrament of Anointing
at 11am Mass

ADORATION

Mon-Fri 6.30am - 7.20am
Friday 11am - Noon

RECONCILIATION

Mon-Thurs 11.30am - Noon
12.30pm - 1pm
4.30pm - 5pm
Friday 11am - 11.50pm
12.30pm - 1pm
4.30pm - 5pm
Saturday 10.30am - 10.55am
4pm - 5pm

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This Week's Readings

First Reading Isaiah 8:23-9:3

In the Galilean country, the people have seen a great light.

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 17

I appeal to you, my brothers and sisters, make up the differences between you.

Gospel Reading Matthew 4:12-23

He went to Capernaum, that the prophecy of Isaiah be fulfilled.

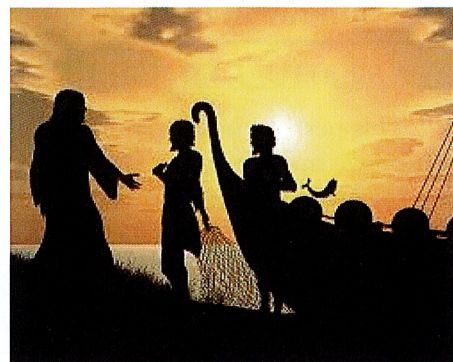
Next Week's Readings

First Reading Malachi 3:1-4

Psalm 23

Second Reading Hebrews 2:14-18

Gospel Reading Luke 2:22-40



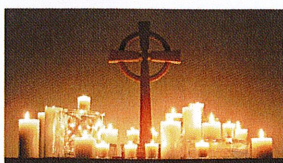
Guardians Needed

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 on Mondays 1.30 - 2.30pm and Thursdays 10am - 11am.** If you would like to consider being part of this service to the parish community please contact the parish office.

Mass has been offered for:

Anniversaries: Patrick Darroch, Joan McGrath, Marianna Grinskis, Sandra Moran, Br Luke Paget SM, Brian McKeown, Stella Brown

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.

Responsorial 26

R. The Lord is my light and my salvation.

The Lord is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life;
before whom shall I shrink? **R**

There is one thing I ask of the Lord,
for this I long,
to live in the house of the Lord,
all the days of my life,
to savour the sweetness of the Lord,
to behold his temple. **R**

I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness
in the land of the living.
Hope in him, hold firm and take heart.
Hope in the Lord! **R**



The Lord is my light and my help.

Columban Calendars

We still have a few 2020 Columban Calendars to sell. They are \$12 each. Please see Sr Frances or the parish office if you are interested.



Sacramental Programme 2020

The 2020 Sacramental Programme which started with the Sacrament of Confirmation last November resumes next month with preparations for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Enrolment is still open for children who are at least 8 years old and have already been baptised. The meetings for First Reconciliation preparations are as follows:

- ♦ Parents' Session 1: Tuesday 18 February
- ♦ Parents' Session 2: Thursday 5 March
- ♦ Children Session, Blessing & Presentation at Parish Mass: Sunday 8 March
- ♦ Children Session 2: Sunday 22 March
- ♦ Children Session 3: Sunday 29 March
- ♦ Reconciliation Day: Sunday 5 April (Palm Sunday)

Please direct expressions of interest or enquiries to the parish office: smoaoffice@xtra.co.nz

Stewardship Reflection Day

Start your year with prayer and reflection. Please join us for *Suzanne Aubert: Intentional disciple*, A Stewardship Reflection Day on **Saturday 15 February** 10.30am - 3.30pm at the Home of Compassion, Island Bay. Everyone welcome! Bring your lunch (café onsite) and walking shoes if you want to do the optional walk to the reservoir. Register now with Ann Williams at a.williams@wn.catholic.org.nz

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 typeset and printed would be \$550 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.

Readers Wanted

We are in need of volunteer Readers for Sunday and Weekday Masses. Please get in touch with Sr Frances if you are interested: sisterfrancesgibbs@hotmail.com



New Year's Honours and Blessings



On behalf of the Pastoral team and parishioners of St Mary of the Angels, we would like to congratulate **Louise Green** for obtaining the Member of NZ Order of Merit in the New Year's Honour List. Louise has given

many years in the service of education. Credit must also go to her husband Michael and family who have supported Louise during this time.

In turn we also congratulate our parish secretary Alexandra and Joe Haddow who were married during the holidays. We ask a blessing and a long life together for them both. Congratulations Alexandra and Joe!



Seasons for Growth Programme

For some people, Christmas can be a distressing time. For those who have been touched by change, loss, separation, divorce, illness and more, *Seasons for Growth* can help to process and respond well to such experiences. Catholic Social Services is offering a 4 session-programme to adults on consecutive Thursday evenings 5.30-8.30pm, from **5-26 March**. These will be held at the Catholic Centre on Hill St, and the cost is \$30 to cover materials and research. Please register by **Wednesday 26 February**, contact Katrin: 385 8642 or season@wn.catholic.org.nz

Waitangi Day at the National Library

This Waitangi Day, **Thursday 6 February**, the National Library of New Zealand Te Puna Mātauranga o Aotearoa invites you to *He Tohu*, the exhibition featuring the original Treaty of Waitangi. The day will also comprise craft activities for children, an opportunity to have your say on the Treaty, and Apirana Taylor telling stories at He Matapihi Wellington City Library pop up within the National Library.

Time: 9am - 5pm. *He Tohu* tours will run every half hour from 9.30am. Tours are 20 mins long. Last tour at 4pm. Bilingual tours at 11am and 2pm.

Location: Te Ahumairangi (ground floor), National Library, corner Molesworth & Aitken St, Thorndon.



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