

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 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

22 March 2020, 4th Sunday of Lent

THE MAN BORN BLIND

Here is the 'agenda' for today's Mass. It is a slightly abbreviated form of the story of a blind man being brought to sight. Some of the legalistic arguing among the Pharisees is omitted for Sunday reading at Masses. Here, sight stands for faith – for 'seeing' the true identity of Jesus. Read it over and see what you 'see'. There are often three 'actors' in Gospel scenes as there are here: Jesus, the man, and the Pharisees.

As Jesus went along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. He spat on the ground, made a paste with the spittle, put this over the eyes of the blind man, and said to him, 'Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam' (a name that means 'sent').

So the blind man went off and washed himself and came away with his sight restored.

His neighbours and people who earlier had seen him begging said, 'Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?' Some said, 'Yes, it is the same one.' Others said, 'No, he only looks like him.' The man himself said, 'I am the man.'

They brought the man who had been blind to the Pharisees. It had been a Sabbath day when Jesus made the paste and opened the man's eyes, so when the Pharisees asked him how he had come to see, he said, 'He put a paste on my eyes, and I washed, and I can see.'

Then some of the Pharisees said, 'That man cannot be from God: he does not keep the Sabbath.' Others said, 'How could a sinner produce signs like this?' And there was disagreement among them.

So they spoke to the blind man again, 'What have you to say about him yourself, now that he has opened your eyes?' 'He is a prophet,' replied the man. 'Are you trying to teach us,' they replied, 'and you a sinner through and through since you were born!' And they drove him away.

Jesus heard they had driven him away, and when he found him he said to him, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' 'Sir,' the man replied, 'tell me who he is so that I may believe in him.' Jesus said, 'You are looking at him; he is speaking to you.' The man said, 'Lord, I believe,' and worshipped him. (John 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38)

In this Gospel (John), Jesus is called the Light of the World. He brings light to this man. Born blind, the man is symbolic of a people without the Lord. He moves from physical blindness to physical sight to spiritual enlightenment. Meanwhile, tragically the Pharisees move in the opposite direction, from physical sight to spiritual darkness to unbelief. For sure we would like to identify with the man, but both journeys more likely reflect our lives as they really are.

Fr Peter McAfee sm

—Assistant Priest

This Week's Readings

First Reading Samuel 16:1, 6-7, 10-13
In the presence of the Lord God, they anointed David king of Israel.

Second Reading Ephesians 5:8-14
Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.

Gospel Reading John 9:1-41
The blind went off and washed himself and came away with his sight restored.

Next Week's Readings

First Reading Ezekiel 37: 12-14

Psalm 22

Second Reading Romans 8:8-11

Gospel Reading John 11:1-45



Last Sunday's Collection

Total: \$4,977

Planned Giving

Donation envelopes for the new financial year are available for you to collect at the back of the church, listed by surname in alphabetical order. Please check that the number on your envelopes is the same as on your label.

Please let us know if you would like to join our planned giving programme, or if you would like to opt to donate by internet banking instead of donation envelopes this year.

Please also take the time to confirm your email address with the parish office by contacting 473 8074 or smoaoffice@xtra.co.nz so that you can receive your donation tax receipt in April.

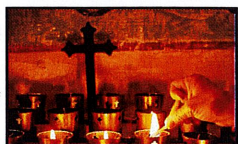
Thanks to all who have been donating to the St Vincent de Paul Food basket in the church! The Foodbank is grateful for this support which is vital to people in need.

Mass has been offered for:

Recently Deceased: Sr Catherine Hannan, Fr Bill Clancy

Anniversaries: Fr Brian Quin SM, Fr Michael Tomasi, Joan Smart, Mavis Henderson-Newport

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, Peter Aston, Henry Prendergast, Barbara and Vic Stairs, Josephine McLean



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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Responsorial Psalm 22

**R. The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.**

The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me,
to revive my drooping spirit. **R**

He guides me along the right path;
he is true to his name.

If I should walk in the valley of darkness
no evil would I fear.

You are there with your crook and your staff;
with these you give me comfort. **R**

You have prepared a banquet for me
in the sight of my foes.

My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing. **R**

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me
all the days of my life.

In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
for ever and ever. **R**

Councillor

Nicola Young

representing Lambton ward

*Please contact me if I can help
with a City Council issue*

021 654 844

nicola.young@wcc.govt.nz

All Masses suspended until further notice

The Archdiocese of Wellington has directed all parishes to suspend all public Masses and liturgies until further notice, due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

- ◆ **Reconciliation** times will continue at normal times.
- ◆ The **parish office** will remain open, but we encourage you to contact us via email or phone rather than visit in person.
- ◆ The **Angelus** newsletter will still be published online each week.
- ◆ We intend to keep the **church open** during the day for private prayer.

For more information, see the official letter from Cardinal John Dew on our website www.smoa.org.nz

40 Days for Life

Be a sign of hope this Lent and help save lives! *Family Life International* are spending 40 days running hourly Vigils **Monday—Friday 8am to 4pm and Saturday 8am to 12pm** outside Wellington Regional Hospital. Join them, as 2 prayer volunteers are needed for each hour. To find out more information and to sign up for your prayer hour please visit fli.org.nz/40daysforlife or call 021 231 7954

Job Vacancy: Director of Music

As we will soon farewell our wonderful Director of Music Robert Oliver, we are seeking applications for this position in our parish. Applicants should have musical training to degree standard or equivalent professional experience, be an effective and constructive communicator, and ideally be familiar with the Catholic liturgy. The position description is available at: www.smoa.org.nz/mdposition. For more information, please contact Fr Kevin Mowbray at smoapp@xtra.co.nz. Applications in writing, enclosing a CV, to smoaoffice@xtra.co.nz by **Tuesday 31 March**.

Takirua Conference Cancelled

The *Takirua 2020: Shaping the Mission* conference planned for Wellington on 24-26 April has been postponed until further notice because of the uncertainties caused by the Covid-19 coronavirus pandemic.

God our Father, we ask your protection against the Coronavirus that has claimed lives and affected many.

We pray for your grace for the people tasked with studying the nature of this virus and of stemming the tide of its transmission.

Guide the hands and minds of the medical experts to minister to the sick with competence and compassion, and guide government and private agencies to find a cure and solution to this epidemic.

We pray for those afflicted. May they be restored to health soon. Grant us the grace to work for the good of all and to help those in need.

We ask for your special providence and protection for our country, our families, and our friends. Please send your Holy Spirit to protect us from this virus. And may Mary, our Blessed Mother, place over us her mantle of protection.

Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.

2020 Lent Appeal

As a member of the During Lent, NZ's Catholic Bishops invite us to provide for the needs of the poor through the work of Caritas. Caritas NZ is a member of the Caritas Internationalis network, the second largest humanitarian organisation in the world. When a crisis like the COVID-19 epidemic strikes, Caritas already has partners on the ground who are ready to reach out to those most in need. Our Lent Appeal is currently underway and is their largest appeal of the year. The gifts you contribute make a life-saving difference, as we are able to use the funding wherever it is most needed. With your support, we have already raised over 25% of our total fundraising goal! You can contribute to the Lent Appeal through donation envelopes at your local parish, by calling us at **04 496 1742 or 0800 22 10 22**, or by donating on our website at www.caritas.org.nz/donate-online

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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.



Recipes for Restoration

Recipes for Restoration are available for purchase. 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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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.



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