

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

smoaoffice@xtra.co.nz

While the nation is in alert levels 3 and 4, the church building will be closed and there will be no Masses, liturgies or Sacraments celebrated.

- ♦ The **parish office** will be answering emails remotely
- ♦ A priest will be available via our office phone at (04) 473 8074 from 9am-12pm.
- ♦ The **Angelus** newsletter will still be published online each week.
- ♦ Our website will have regularly updated information, as well as links to prayer resources and livestreamed Masses:
www.smoa.org.nz

29 March 2020, 5th Sunday of Lent

Here we are in the 5th week of Lent. Are you surprised! Palm Sunday, Holy Week next week, then Easter! What has been our preparation for this wonderful celebration of Easter? Or is it just another holiday to look forward to.

Today, we hear the story of Lazarus in John's Gospel. Jesus has a great love for Lazarus, Mary and Martha, as He does for each one of us. Jesus has come to bring that love of God to us and help us understand that he has come to show that love in the ordinariness of our lives.

Martha rushes out to meet Jesus, also annoyed that he comes when Lazarus has died. Jesus is aware of the illness of Lazarus, he could have healed him like he did for so many others. She is hoping that he will do something special. Jesus said to her 'your brother will rise'. Jesus says to her, "I am the resurrection and the life, whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die." He means exactly what he says - that he himself can give eternal life to all who come to him and believe in him.

They go to the tomb, Jesus weeps. For what does Jesus weep? He weeps for the fact that this world is a rough and cruel place. People's lives are full of loneliness and difficulties. There are many fears, even in this day we seem to have material things at our beck and call, our hearts hunger and sometimes fear for what we are being caught up with. We were created to love. That is what Jesus says in the Gospel. God loves us and cares for us. God is so concerned for us that he sent his only Son to walk with us and to accept the pain which was born of that love, even to the point of dying on the cross for us.

The Gospel of John is to prepare us for the passion and death of Jesus. Lazarus is a sign and symbol of the truth of every human being, that we are not created for a time, die and disappear into nothingness, but we are created to love God and to love each other.

For it is the mourning and weeping of Jesus- he does not weep over himself, he weeps over us, that we may finally bring this world and each other to a world that it was created for; a world of forgiveness, a world of caring, a world not without its problems, but a world based on the faith of Martha. Martha doesn't say do something, but when she sends her message to Jesus, she says "Master, someone you love is sick".

Sr Frances Gibbs
—Pastoral Worker

Planned Giving Donations

As we cannot take cash or envelope donations during this time, we ask that you make your donations via internet banking. Our details are as follows:

Bank: BNZ
Bank Account: 02 0536 0003242 24
Account Name: St Mary of the Angels Parish
Reference: [your planned giving number]
Code: [your surname]

If you are unsure of your planned giving number, or are interested in signing up for our planned giving programme, please email the parish office at smoaoffice@xtra.co.nz

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

Parishioner News



Congratulations to parishioners Delwynne Walsh and Allan Mansell on their marriage in the church before we all went into lockdown! May God bless your union for the years to come.

Services Available

Mental Health Line: 1737 (txt or phone)

Parent Helpline: 0800 568 856.

Catholic Social Services: 021 374 373 or 027405546

Society of St Vincent de Paul

Vinnies Wellington Call 04 389 7122, text 021 215 7098, email info@vinnieswgtm.org.nz

Vinnies Tawa, Porirua, Plimmerton 021 243 2249 or 04 237 596

Vinnies Paraparaumu, Waikanae 022 3447872

Vinnies Otaki 021 02674188

Vinnies Levin 06 368 303

Vinnies Hutt Valley & Wairarapa: 027 600 8732

Viral Kindness

Purpose Projects is a volunteer organisation for young people across all of New Zealand. We have set up a response service for those in isolation or at home and for those willing to volunteer during the turmoil of COVID-19. We can get groceries, go to the pharmacy, give a friendly phone call, get food and/or support letters to front line services or anyone who needs it.

If you are healthy, we would love your help. Fill out a form at <https://purposeprojects.org.nz/viral-kindness/> and we will be in touch if there are opportunities in your area to help out.

Alternatively, if you require assistance, there is form at the link for you to fill out as well, and we will do our best to match up volunteers in your area to assist you in whatever your needs may be!

Any queries to Alice Ingham: 027 296 5385 or email aliceingham@purposeprojects.org.nz

Please pray for:

Anniversaries:

Anita Rae, Lucie Halberstan, Fr Mark Beban SM

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 and Francisca 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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Councillor

Nicola Young

representing Lambton ward

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nicola.young@wcc.govt.nz

Sunday's Readings

First Reading Ezekiel 37:12-14

The Lord says this: I am now going to open your graves; I mean to raise you from your graves, my people, and lead you back to the soil of Israel. And you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you from your graves, my people. And I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live, and I shall resettle you on your own soil; and you will know that I, the Lord, have said and done this—it is the Lord who speaks.

Responsorial Psalm 129

R. With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord,
Lord, hear my voice!

O let your ears be attentive
to the voice of my pleading. **R**

If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt,
Lord, who would survive?

But with you is found forgiveness
for this we revere you. **R**

My soul is waiting for the Lord,
I count on his word.

My soul is longing for the Lord
more than watchman for daybreak.
(Let the watchman count on daybreak
and Israel on the Lord.) **R**

Because with the Lord there is mercy
and fullness of redemption,
Israel indeed he will redeem
from all its iniquity. **R**

Second Reading Romans 8:8-11

People who are interested only in unspiritual things can never be pleasing to God. Your interests, however, are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him. Though your body may be dead it is because of sin, but it Christ is in you then your spirit is life itself because you have been justified; and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

Gospel Reading John 11:1-45

The sisters sent this message to Jesus, 'Lord, the man you love is ill.' On receiving the message, Jesus said, 'This sickness will end not in death but in God's glory, and through it the Son of God will be glorified.'

Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, yet when he heard that Lazarus was ill he stayed where he was for two more days before saying to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judaea.'

On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. When Martha heard that Jesus had come she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house. Martha said to Jesus, 'If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that, even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you.' 'Your brother' said Jesus to her 'will rise again.' Martha said, 'I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said:

'I am the resurrection and the life.

If anyone believes in me, even though he dies
he will live,
and whoever lives and believes in me
will never die.

Do you believe this?

'Yes, Lord,' she said 'I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into the this world.'

Jesus said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight from the heart, 'Where have you put him?' They said, 'Lord, come and see.' Jesus wept; and the Jews said, 'See how much he loved him!' But there were some who remarked, 'He opened the eyes of the blind man, could he not have prevented this man's death?' Still sighing, Jesus reached the tomb: it was a cave with a stone to close the opening. Jesus said, 'Take the stone away.' Martha said to him 'Lord, by now he will smell; this is the fourth day.' Jesus replied 'Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. Then Jesus lifted up his eyes and said:

(continued over page)

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Wellington

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

'Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer.
I knew indeed that you always hear me.
But I speak
for the sake of all these who stand round me,
so that they may believe it was you who sent me.'

When he had said this, he cried in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, here! Come out!'
The dead man came out, his feet and hands bound with bands of stuff and
a cloth round his face. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, let him go free.'

Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and had seen what he did
believed in him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.



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