

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

12 April 2020, Easter Sunday

Easter Morning – The Evidence

Here's the Gospel today. It the 'agenda' for all Masses throughout the world this morning.

It was very early on the first day of the week and still dark, when Mary of Magdala came to the tomb. She saw that the stone had been moved away from the tomb and came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved. 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb' she said 'and we don't know where they have put him.'

So Peter set out with the other disciple to go to the tomb.

They ran together, but the other disciple, running faster than Peter, reached the tomb first; he bent down and saw the linen cloths lying on the ground, but did not go in.

Simon Peter who was following now came up, went right into the tomb, saw the linen cloths on the ground, and also the cloth that had been over his head; this was not with the linen cloths but rolled up in a place by itself.

Then the other disciple who had reached the tomb first also went in; he saw and he believed. Till this moment they had failed to understand the teaching of scripture, that he must rise from the dead.
(John 20: 1-9)

A few thoughts:

Did you notice how sober it is? For a miracle story at the core of a new religion, it reads like a report. Like a courtroom testimony. In fact that's all that was needed.

Three witnesses with three pieces of evidence: Mary and the stone removed; John and the grave clothes; Peter and the folded head cloth.

Now to the logic of each:

By the stone removed Mary concludes that there were grave robbers. A logical conclusion from this alone.

The grave clothes left behind imply that it wasn't robbers. (Grave robbery did exist but why would robbers unwrap the dead body when they are in a hurry and the body smells?) The conclusion is that the body was alive and needed freeing.

The headcloth folded up implies order and no hurry. The person(s) had things under control. If the living person was alone, he was no ghost who 'evaporated' from the scene. He was thoroughly physical in order to make these folds.

These three pieces of evidence in the vocabulary of John's Gospel are called 'signs'. (There are many signs or evidence in this Gospel.) On this evidence John 'sees and believes'. He understands early on, with eyes of faith.

There is no such comment about Peter – yet. Peter will believe more slowly – especially after the appearances of Jesus still to come.

What of you and me?

St John has a word of encouragement for us who weren't there. He quotes Jesus who says to Thomas (to whom Jesus has just appeared), "You (Thomas) believe because you can see me. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe" (John 20:29). The signs or evidence is what you and I must depend on. Evidence is not proof – but even NZ courts don't require it. What they do require is evidence 'beyond reasonable doubt'. For me, like at a court case, the evidence of God at work among us is overwhelming, overwhelmingly 'beyond reasonable doubt.' Hit the gavel! Conviction assured. Alleluia.

Fr Peter McAfee sm - Assistant Priest

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

WelCom and NZ Catholic online

Due to Covid-19 restrictions and the Government's rules to stop delivery of printed 'community' newspapers and magazines, the WelCom and NZ Catholic newspapers have been published online. Click on the links below to open the issues.

WelCom: https://issuu.com/dartworks/docs/welcom_381_april_2020_5-6_final_web

NZ Catholic: <https://indd.adobe.com/view/888733fa-9004-4e70-9b91-df418a9f5d2a>

Prayer at Home over Holy Week

Fr Patrick Bridgman, Liturgy Adviser at the Archdiocese of Wellington, has created a document with suggestions for prayer at home during Holy Week. There are suggestions for Palm Sunday and the Triduum (Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday). [Click here for the document.](#)

Message from the St Vincent de Paul Society

Vinnies Foodbank Wellington have had a 380% increase in people accessing food supplies since COVID-19 lockdown began. To keep up with demand and make sure the community is receiving the items they need, we are bulk buying food and supplies every few days. We can't do this alone. We need your help, since our shops and churches are now closed. Monetary help is the best way now. If you are in a position to do so, please donate directly to:

St Vincent de Paul Society Wellington
Bank: BNZ
Account # 02-0576-0017817-00
Reference: COVID 19

Stay safe and look after your neighbours. God's Blessings to you all.

—St Vincent de Paul City Conference.

Watch and participate in the Easter Triduum liturgies

Cardinal John Dew will be celebrating the Easter liturgies from the Chapel in Viard House. These can be accessed via YouTube at the following link:

www.youtube.com/c/MCSHWellington

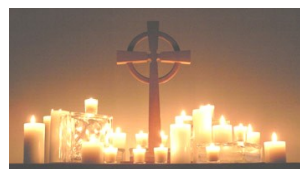
Holy Thursday at 7.30pm, Good Friday at 3pm, Easter Vigil at 7.30pm
**No Easter Day Mass*

Please pray for:

Recently Deceased: Maria Nilsson

Anniversaries: Dorothy Cook, Katherine Butler, Sandra Southon, Nance Mills

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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with a City Council issue*

021 654 844
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Easter Sunday's Readings

CHRIST IS RISEN. ALLELUIA! The empty tomb, and the neatly folded burial cloths, were signs that led the Beloved Disciple to believe that Jesus had risen from the dead. In the witness of the apostles, and the faithfulness, courage and love of our fellow Christians, we too have powerful signs that Christ is risen and lives among us. Observing them, our faith cries out: 'Alleluia!'

First Reading: Acts 10:34, 37-43

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household: 'You must have heard about the recent happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil. Now I, and those with me, can witness to everything he did throughout the countryside of Judaea and in Jerusalem itself: and also to the fact that they killed him by hanging him on a tree, yet three days afterwards God raised him to life and allowed him to be seen, not by the whole people but only by certain witnesses God had chosen beforehand. Now we are those witnesses – we have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection from the dead – and he has ordered us to proclaim this to his people and to tell them that God has appointed him to judge everyone, alive or dead. It is to him that all the prophets bear this witness: that all who believe in Jesus will have their sins forgiven through his name.'

Responsorial Psalm 117

**R. This is the day the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad.**

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,
for his love has no end.

Let the sons of Israel say:
'His love has no end.' **R**

The Lord's right hand has triumphed;
his right hand raised me up.

I shall not die, I shall live
and recount his deeds. **R**

The stone which the builders rejected
has become the corner stone.

This is the work of the Lord,
a marvel in our eyes. **R**

Second Reading: Colossians 3:1-4

Since you have been brought back to true life with Christ, you must look for the things that are in heaven, where Christ is, sitting at God's right hand. Let your thoughts be on heavenly things, not on the things that are on the earth, because you have died, and now the life you have is hidden with Christ in God. But when Christ is revealed – and he is your life – you too will be revealed in all your glory with him.

Gospel: John 20:1-9

It was very early on the first day of the week and still dark, when Mary of Magdala came to the tomb. She saw that the stone had been moved away from the tomb and came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved. 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb' she said 'and we don't know where they have put him.'

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Lambton Quay
Wellington

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

Need help?	Offer help
<p><u>Need someone to talk to?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wellington Catholic Social Services social workers—working remotely, can help identify appropriate sources of assistance, 0274055469 or reception@wn.catholic.org.nz Need to Talk helpline—staffed by paid counsellors 24/7. Free phone or text 1737 <p><u>Emergency food assistance</u></p> <p><i>Society of St Vincent de Paul:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wellington area, Newtown office essential packs: Call 04 389 7122, Text 021 215 7098 or email info@vinnieswgtgtn.org.nz Hutt valley: 04-568 6408 Kapi-Mana: 04-237 5968 <p><i>Compassion Centre Soup Kitchen:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 132 Tory St, Wellington. Serving 1 meal a day, everyday during the COVID-19 lockdown, 1.30-2.30pm <p><i>Foodbanks:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A number of foodbanks are operating during the lockdown. Please see foodbank.co.nz for information on how to access foodbanks during this time. <p><u>Assistance with benefits, hardship grants</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Social Development: 0800-559-009 Hutt Valley Benefit Education Service Trust hvbest@xtra.co.nz, 0284246295 or 04-529-8108 Wellington Benefit Rights Service 04-210-2012, 0212927636 or benefitrights@gmail.com <p><u>Legal advice</u></p> <p><i>Community law centres:</i> Offices are closed during the lockdown but most are continuing to offer free legal advice by phone and email:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wellington & Hutt Valley Community Law: 04-499-2928 Porirua Community Law: info@pkclc.com or 04 2376811 Wairarapa Community Law: 06-377-4134 or info@wairarapacclc.org.nz Manawatu Community Law, incl. Otaki & Levin: reception@mancomlaw.org.nz (06) 356 7974, 0508 FOR LAW (0508 367 529) <p><u>Violence in the home</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Women's refuge: 0800 REFUGE or 0800-733-843 For more information womensrefuge.org.nz Shakti: Support for migrant and refugee women of Asian, African and Middle Eastern origin. 0800-742-584 <p><u>Support during pregnancy and for young mothers</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greenstone Doors (Lower Hutt): online counselling and practical support 04-566 5037 or info@greenstoneddoors.co.nz St Vincent de Paul, essential baby packs: 04 389 7122, 021 215 7098 or info@vinnieswgtgtn.org.nz 	<p><u>Opportunities to support wellbeing and support work during the COVID-19 lockdown:</u></p> <p>As most services are operating remotely, and because of COVID-19 restrictions, organisations are mostly unable to accept donated goods at this time. Please contact any of the organisations above if you want to discuss the suitability of any donated items.</p> <p><u>Ways to support financially:</u></p> <p><i>Wellington St Vincent de Paul essential services response</i> Account number: 02-0576-0017817-00 Reference: COVID19 www.vinnies-wellington.org.nz/donate</p> <p><i>Kapi-Mana St Vincent de Paul</i> Plimmerton conference supplying food parcels in Porirua Account number: 06-0549-0128322-00</p> <p><i>Compassion Soup Kitchen:</i> www.soupkitchen.org.nz/donate/donate-money</p> <p><i>Upper Hutt Housing Trust:</i> Would appreciate donations to assist with purchasing warm winter clothes and blankets www.uhht.org.nz/?page_id=91</p> <p><i>Wellington Catholic Social Services:</i> Account number: 02-0560-0213864-000 wn-catholicsocialservices.org.nz/Donate</p> <p><i>Challenge 2000 youth development agency:</i> Support to families that Challenge 2000 works with: Account number: 01-0519-0057600-00 www.challenge2000.org.nz</p> <p><u>Foodbanks</u></p> <p>Details on how to donate to a range of foodbanks are available here: www.foodbank.co.nz/donate</p> <div data-bbox="917 1648 1388 2018" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; margin-top: 20px;"> <p>This resource is taken from the Archdiocese of Wellington's website</p>  <p>Archdiocese OF Wellington</p> </div>

During this lockdown, we are sending out the Angelus newsletter, as well as other liturgical resources and reflections, through an email distribution list. If you would like to subscribe to this mailing list, [Please fill out the form here.](#)



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