

# 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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:chant4robert@gmail.com)

### Parish Accountant

[smoamanager@xtra.co.nz](mailto:smoamanager@xtra.co.nz)

### Parish Office

[smoaoffice@xtra.co.nz](mailto:smoaoffice@xtra.co.nz)

## 17 May 2020, 6th Sunday of Easter

This month of May is a time to pray for Priestly and Religious Vocations and I will make an attempt to fill you in on what is meant by that.

**What is a Religious Vocation?** A religious vocation is a grace, a gift, an opportunity that must be freely responded to. A true vocation is important in an age when so many once promising vocations are being lost. Typical features of a vocation would be:

- ◆ Strong faith in the Catholic Church
- ◆ A love of prayer
- ◆ A readiness to follow in the footsteps of Christ.

Through a vocation accepted and lived joyfully, we make visible and extend God's kingdom and are faithful to a call to holiness. We are called to make a public, permanent profession of Chastity, Poverty and Obedience lived in the spirit of the Beatitudes.

**Chastity:** is a special call to a deep, strong relationship with Christ. We are ever aware of the need to love others deeply and personally. Consecrated celibacy, joyfully lived in fidelity, gives the freedom to be of greater service in the spreading of God's message. There will be times of loneliness, but we find strength in prayer and are lead to deepen our relationship with Christ.

**Poverty:** is lived in a spirit of faith and love - putting the Father first in our lives, seeking the kingdom of God and his justice. It is seeking to have all things in common; using our time and talents for others; in joyful, loving service, responding to the needs of all rich and poor alike.

**Obedience:** is always and only to God. It takes a deep faith, courage and humility to accept and live wholeheartedly to all that is implied in our vocation. Responding to this call we listen to God speaking through each person in community and through the events of our lives so that we may discern what God is asking of us.

**Prayer:** is very much an essential in our lives. Through prayer we discover what God's plan is for us and for the world. It strengthens our relationship with God and our growth in concern for God's people. Through Mass, Eucharist, Prayer of the Church, devotion to Mary, and personal prayer our lives are enriched to fulfil the vocation we are called to.

On a personal note: Often I have been asked how long have I been a sister? How old was I when I joined? Was it easy?

I was the eldest of a family of nine. My mother was a homemaker, my father worked hard as a baker. I was taught by the Brigidines in Johnsonville. Just before I turned 18 I went to Randwick for three years Novitiate training. Was it easy? No, it had its moments! After three years I went to Masterton where we had boarders. A challenging time, but also a happy time. In 1974 I had the opportunity to go nursing and this was a wonderful changing time in my life - nearly 30 years of nursing and wonderful friends in doctors and staff. Yet, another door opened. I was asked by Fr. Roderick Milne if I would like to work at St Mary of the Angels. It became my parish when I went nursing.

31 years and I am still here! After 66 years as a Brigidine I am very happy and would not have changed anything. I am so grateful to my family, Religious family, nursing staff and the many friends and parishioners of SMOA for their support, love and prayers. You are the people who keep me going! Thank you.

*Sister Frances Gibbs CSB —Pastoral Worker*

### This week:

- ◆ The **parish office** is open to answer phone calls, emails, and receive visitors from from Monday 18 May.
- ◆ If you wish to speak to a **Priest**, please ring the parish office.
- ◆ The **Angelus** newsletter will still be published online each week.

## ST MARY OF THE ANGELS TO REMAIN CLOSED FOR AT LEAST TWO MORE WEEKS

A few days ago the New Zealand Catholic Bishops advised that with the move to a restricted Alert Level 2, following strict adherence to health and safety requirements of the Ministry of Health, churches could open for private prayer and the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Because of the gathering restriction of 10 people, public Masses will not commence again during this stage of Level 2. The Government will reconsider this restriction in two weeks.

The Parish Leadership Team has considered what is necessary for the St Mary of the Angels to open for private prayer and the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The health and safety requirements required by the Ministry of Health are complex and challenging. Some parishioners would need to be involved in ensuring compliance with cleaning and sanitisation, contact tracing, managing the restriction of no more than 10 people in the building and keeping people at a safe distance from one another. This would be a very significant undertaking and is not something that we should ask of parishioners. Therefore, St Mary of the Angels must remain closed.

We are disappointed that we are not yet able to open the church but our priority is to keep everyone safe. The need to protect and care for one another, especially those who are vulnerable, is foremost in our minds. Please phone or email the Parish Office if you would like to talk about this situation.

Prayerful good wishes,

Fr. Kevin Mowbray sm

Parish Priest,  
St Mary of the Angels

### Parish Office Hours

Starting from **Monday 18 May**, the parish office will be officially open to answer phone calls, emails, and drop-in visitors. Any visitors will need to sign a contact-tracing register, and must **not**:

- ♦ Have any symptoms of Covid-19
- ♦ Be awaiting results from a Covid-19 test
- ♦ Been in contact with anyone known or suspected to have Covid-19, in the past 14 days
- ♦ Have not returned, or been in contact with anyone else who has returned, from overseas in the past 14 days.

*The parish secretary's hours are: **Monday** 10am-12pm, **Tuesday** 11am-4pm, **Thursday** and **Friday** 9am-4pm.*

### Please pray for:

**Anniversaries:** John Smith, Brian Flynn, Michael Cenek, Margaret Fogarty, Mary Davidson, Maxwell Fernie

**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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## St Vincent de Paul Society

Vinnies Foodbank Wellington have had a huge increase in demand since the COVID-19 lockdown began. They need your help, as their shops and churches are now closed so monetary donations are what they are relying on. 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

## Gianna's Choice

Pregnancy Options and Support. We are here 24/7 to answer your pregnancy questions and talk about your options. Call 0800 367 5433 or text 027 448 8070.

## WelCom and NZ Catholic online

Click on the links below to open the most recent issues.

[For the May 2020 Issue of WelCom, click here.](#)

[For the 3 May Issue of NZ Catholic, click here.](#)

## Spiritual Communion Prayer

Spiritual communion is a traditional practice of uniting ourselves to God through prayer. As we are unable to receive Holy Communion at this time, the following prayer can be said while Mass is being celebrated online or at any time during the day.

### An Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus,

I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.

I love You above all things,

and I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally,

come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You.

Never permit me to be separated from You.

Amen

## Online Masses

Below are links to online Masses—click on the link of your choice and it should open in a new window.

### Daily Mass

- ◆ [5pm \(NZ Time\) - Pope Francis](#)
- ◆ [9.30am - St Teresa's, Plimmerton](#)
- ◆ [9am - Diocese of Hamilton](#)
- ◆ [9am - Diocese of Christchurch](#)
- ◆ [Diocese of Auckland \(Different times\)](#)

### Sunday Mass

- ◆ [Cardinal John Dew, Wellington](#)
- ◆ [10am - Diocese of Palmerston North](#)
- ◆ 2.00pm on TV - *Shine TV* (Freeview channel 25, Sky channel 201, Vodafone TV Channel 700)

## Planned Giving Donations & Receipts

Donation receipts have now been sent to parishioners via email. If you have not received your receipt, please contact the parish office ([smoaoffice@xtra.co.nz](mailto:smoaoffice@xtra.co.nz)) confirming your email address. We are working on posting out receipts for those who do not have email.

As we cannot take cash or envelope donations during this time, we ask that you make your donations via internet banking.

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 us at [smoaoffice@xtra.co.nz](mailto:smoaoffice@xtra.co.nz)

## Liturgy Magazine

Have a read of the March 2020 issue of *Liturgy*, including articles regarding the RCIA, contemplative silence, and guidelines for hygiene at Mass.

[To read the issue, click here.](#)

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## ST MARY OF THE ANGELS ONGOING MAINTENANCE APPEAL

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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.

## **Sunday's Readings—6th Sunday of Easter**

*PROCLAIM THE GOOD NEWS.* The early Christian community could not remain as an enclosed, self-contained group in Jerusalem. Its members felt impelled by Christ to bring the Good News to Samaria and then to the ends of the earth. Christians in every age are called to be fully involved in the life and joys and pains of the world. At times this can be difficult but the Spirit of God is always with us to help us.

### **First Reading**

Acts 8:5-8, 14-17

Philip went to a Samaritan town and proclaimed the Christ to them. The people united in welcoming the message Philip preached, either because they had heard of the miracles he worked or because they saw them for themselves. There were, for example, unclean spirits that came shrieking out of many who were possessed, and several paralytics and cripples were cured. As a result there was great rejoicing in that town.

When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, and they went down there, and prayed for the Samaritans to receive the Holy Spirit, for as yet he had not come down on any of them: they had only been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

### **Responsorial Psalm 32**

**R. Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.**

Cry out with joy to God all the earth,

O sing to the glory of his name.

O render him glorious praise.

Say to God: 'How tremendous your deeds!' **R**

'Before you all the earth shall bow;

shall sing to you, sing to your name!'

Come and see the works of God,

tremendous his deeds among men. **R**

He turned the sea into dry land,

they passed through the river dry-shod.

Let our joy ten be in him;

he rules for ever by his might. **R**

### **Second Reading**

1 Peter 3:15-18

Reverence the Lord Christ in your hearts, and always have your answer ready for people who ask you the reason for the hope that you all have. But give it with courtesy and respect and with a clear conscience, so that those who slander you when you are living a good life in Christ may be proved wrong in the accusations that they bring. And if it is the will of God that you should suffer, it is better to suffer for doing right than for doing wrong.

Why, Christ himself, innocent though he was, had died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life.

## Gospel Reading

John 14:15-21

Jesus said to his disciples:

‘If you love me you will keep my commandments.

I shall ask the Father,  
and he will give you another Advocate  
to be with you for ever,  
that Spirit of truth  
whom the world can never receive  
since it neither sees nor knows him;  
but you know him,  
because he is with you, he is in you.

I will not leave you orphans;

I will come back to you.

In a short time the world will no longer see me;

but you will see me,  
because I live and you will live.

On that day you will understand that I am in my Father  
and you in me and I in you.

Anybody who receives my commandments and keeps them  
will be one who loves me;

and anybody who loves me will be loved by my Father,  
and I shall love him and show myself to him.’



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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## 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.

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