

# 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

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

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## This week:

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

## 24 May 2020, The Ascension of the Lord

### The Ascension of Our Lord into Heaven

Here's the First Reading for today's feast:

*In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and I taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is' he had said 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'*

*Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.'*

*As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.' (Acts of the Apostles 1:1-11)*

A few observations:

- 1) This is the very beginning of the Acts of the Apostles which is addressed to "Theophilus." This Greek name suggests a non-Jewish reader and therefore a convert. It means "lover of God" and could be a particular person or more likely one representative of the new Christian community. The "earlier work" referred to is St Luke's Gospel which is also addressed to "Theophilus" - making Acts a sequel to that Gospel.
- 2) The last paragraph describes today's feast the Ascension. The cloud takes and receives Jesus - the reverse of how it is promised he will return in the future "on the clouds of heaven" (Lk 21:27). The cloud indicates the presence of Yahweh - think back to the clouds and thunder over Mt Sinai when Moses received the commandments or the cloud that hung over Jesus' baptism or his transfiguration. Jesus is there enthroned at God's right hand. In truth Jesus is one with God.
- 3) The two men who speak recall the two with Jesus at the transfiguration and more recently the two (angels?) at the tomb who also provided commentary to the puzzled disciples. All these moments are theophanies - moments where the transcendent divinity of Jesus breaks through the disciples' ordinary human experience of Jesus.
- 4) The question about looking up is a reproach: the disciples have already been told to prepare for the coming of the Holy Spirit who would empower them to move out to ends of the earth as Jesus' witnesses. There is no reason to look at the sky.

Fr Peter McAfee SM—Assistant Priest

## Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Dear friends,

During this week between Ascension and Pentecost Sundays the Christian churches make a special effort to pray for Christian unity.

The theme for this year's Week of Prayer for Christian unity is "They showed us unusual kindness" (Acts 28.2), which refers to the reception given to Paul and companions when they were shipwrecked on the island of Malta.

There is much to reflect upon in this theme in the light of our experience of the last few weeks with COVID-19. We have been urged to "Be kind" and to "Stay united". The pandemic has been the equivalent of a shipwreck for many people, and "unusual kindness" is needed as never before.

Over centuries the Christian churches have moved from hostility and aggression towards one another to working together on the many things we have in common, especially our assistance for those who are most vulnerable. Kindness can unite us as Christians. We have already seen how it can unite us as Kiwis.

Please take part in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in some way. If gathering is not possible or risky, then use the Eight Days of Prayer for Christian Unity leaflet which is available on [www.catholic.org.nz](http://www.catholic.org.nz) or your diocesan website.

Everything you do towards Christian unity counts.

✠ John A Cardinal Dew

*Archbishop of Wellington*

For online resources for this Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, including a Liturgy sheet and children's activities, click the following link:

<https://www.catholic.org.nz/resources/week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-25-31-may-2020/>

### Please pray for:

**Recently Deceased:** Fr Michael O'Dea, Carol Sinnott

**Anniversaries:** Colleen Pocock, Arthur Freeman, Robert Bell, Margaret Doe, Anton Parris, Keith Shirley, Su-Yen Bok

**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, Kate Kelly



*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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representing Lambton ward

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[nicola.young@wcc.govt.nz](mailto:nicola.young@wcc.govt.nz)

## Laudato Si'

This **Sunday 24 May** marks the anniversary of Pope Francis' publication *Laudato Si'*, a letter regarding ecology and care for God's creation. Pope Francis invites all Catholics and people of good will to celebrate this 5th anniversary by protecting families and future generations through action to care for our common home. At noon on Sunday 24 May, you are invited to say the following prayer:

*Loving God,*

*Creator of heaven and earth and all that is in them,*

*You created us in your own image and made us stewards of all your creation, of our common home.*

*You blessed us with the sun, water and bountiful land so that all might be nourished.*

*Open our minds and touch our hearts, so that we may attend to your gift of creation.*

*Help us to be conscious that our common home belongs not only to us, but to all future generations, and that it is our responsibility to preserve it.*

*May we help each person secure the food and resources that they need.*

*Be present to those in need in these trying times, especially the poorest and those most at risk of being left behind.*

*Transform our fear, anxiety and feelings of isolation into hope so that we may experience a true conversion of the heart.*

*Help us to show creative solidarity in addressing the consequences of this global pandemic,*

*Make us courageous to embrace the changes that are needed in search of the common good,*

*Now more than ever may we feel that we are all interconnected and interdependent.*

*Enable us to listen and respond to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.*

*May the present sufferings be the birth pangs of a more fraternal and sustainable world.*

*Under the loving gaze of Mary Help of Christians, we make this prayer through Christ our Lord.*

*Amen*

[Click here to read more about the themes of \*Laudato Si'\* and how you can respond.](#)

## 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 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. If you would like to know our bank details, or are interested in signing up for our planned giving programme, please email us at [smoaoffice@xtra.co.nz](mailto:smoaoffice@xtra.co.nz)

## Spiritual Communion Prayer

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

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

## Sunday's Readings – The Ascension of the Lord

I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS. When Christ ascended into heaven he did not abandon his disciples. Matthew's Gospel begins with the angel's words that Jesus will be called Emmanuel, which means God-is-with-us, and it ends with Jesus' promise: 'Know that I am with you always, yes, to the end of time.' In a special way Emmanuel is with us in this Eucharist for 'where two or three are gathered in my name, I shall be there with them.'

### First Reading

Acts 1:1-11

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is' he had said 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'

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### Responsorial Psalm 46

**R. God mounts his throne to shouts of joy:  
a blare of trumpets for the Lord.**

All peoples, clap your hands,  
cry to God with shouts of joy!  
For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear,  
great king over all the earth. **R**

God goes up with shouts of joy;  
the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.  
Sing praise for God, sing praise,  
sing praise to our king, sing praise. **R**

God is king of all the earth.  
Sing praise with all your skill.  
God is king over the nations;  
God reigns on his holy throne. **R**

## **Second Reading**

**Ephesians 1:17-23**

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named not only in this age but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet and made him, as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

## **Gospel**

**Matthew 28:16-20**

The eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them. When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated. Jesus came up and spoke to them. He said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commands I gave you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'



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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