

## For Your Diaries: 2020

### 20 August, Joshua Men's Fellowship

A cuppa available from 7pm for a 7.30pm start in Connolly Hall, Thorndon (behind the closed Sacred Heart Cathedral). The speaker will be Gerard Wickrema, a Joshua leader, on "Many are called; few are chosen" If you want to know more, contact Steve on 027 356 9555 or [joshua.wgtn@gmail.com](mailto:joshua.wgtn@gmail.com)

### 5-6, 19-20 September, Human Love in the Divine Plan

*Theology of the Body*. First intake in Wellington! Courses for young adults (ages 18-35 years) on the 5 and 6 September, and for adults on 19 and 20 September. Held at Challenge 2000, 1 Wanaka St, Johnsonville. Contact 0220289737 or email [info@marriageandfamily.org.nz](mailto:info@marriageandfamily.org.nz) for more information.

### 20 September, I Want To Sing With You Concert

Fr Chris Skinner SM will be presenting a concert at Our Lady of Kāpiti Church from 2-4pm, with an interlude from Kāpiti Senior Singers. Tickets are \$25 are available to buy from their parish office at (04) 902 8515 or [oloktickets@gmail.com](mailto:oloktickets@gmail.com)

## Donating to the Parish

We encourage you to support the life and ministry of St Mary of the Angels through making your weekly offering by direct debit. Direct debit contributions make it easier for us to plan our activities and to budget for expenses more accurately. If you would like to sign up to our planned giving programme, please contact the parish office at (04) 473 8074 or [smoaoffice@xtra.co.nz](mailto:smoaoffice@xtra.co.nz) for more information. Thank you for considering this possibility.



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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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# 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

William McElwee  
[wmcelweemusic@gmail.com](mailto:wmcelweemusic@gmail.com)

### Parish Accountant

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

### Parish Office

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

## 16 August 2020, 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

### A Humble Plucky Generous Canaanite Woman

Here's the 'agenda' or Gospel reading for all Masses throughout the world this Sunday. See if you can read it through before Mass to be better prepared...

*Jesus left Gennesaret and withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. Then out came a Canaanite woman from that district and started shouting, 'Sir, Son of David, take pity on me. My daughter is tormented by a devil.' But he answered her not a word. And his disciples went and pleaded with him. 'Give her what she wants,' they said 'because she is shouting after us.' He said in reply, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the House of Israel'. But the woman had come up and was kneeling at his feet. 'Lord,' she said 'help me.' He replied, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the house-dogs'. She retorted, 'Ah yes, sir; but even house-dogs can eat the scraps that fall from their master's table'. Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, you have great faith. Let your wish be granted.' And from that moment her daughter was well again.*

*The Gospel of the Lord. (Matt 15: 21-28. Week 20 year A)*

Jesus' attitude to this desperate mother regarding her sick daughter seems quite callous. Which of course gets us thinking. What am I missing here?

The first alarm bell rings out in the very first line. This is Tyre and Sidon (pagan territory) and she is a Canaanite (ancestral enemy tribe of Israel). As a symbol of her people she speaks correctly: 'my daughter is tormented by a devil.' As a people devoted to various gods, it is true, they are spiritually tormented, torn this way and that. They need to know that Jesus is not a wonderworker doing magic as pagans expected. Jesus' cures and miracles come only as a response to faith in him. Faith comes first. Which, it turns out, this woman has.

She recognises Jesus as the Messiah ('Son of David' and 'Lord') showing that she accepts the superiority of the Jewish faith. Seeing this, Jesus still acts coolly to her, for the very purpose of leading her to an even greater confession of faith. And she responds splendidly. The action of kneeling is a Gospel and biblical gesture reserved especially for God, as is her title for him 'Lord'. She believes that Jesus is Lord. Jesus concedes, 'Woman you have great faith.'

There is insufficient space here to discuss the rebuffs in the dialogue. Except to say that she clearly accepts the priority of the Jews in God's plan, and that Jesus' first responsibility is to them. Her humble attitude is perhaps challenging today for us who are Gentiles as she was. Jesus, Mary and the first Christians were all Jews. Jesus' mission was firstly to them. St Paul (a devout and passionate Jew himself) wrestles with this in the Second Reading today since, 'God never takes back his gifts or revokes his choice.' Somehow they are still first.

This Canaanite woman - humble, plucky and generous - stands in for all of us Gentiles. Jesus says (Jn 4:22) that 'salvation comes from the Jews' and only then to the countless non-Jews of faith like her, her daughter and us.

Fr Peter McAfee SM  
—Assistant Priest

COVID-19 ANNOUNCEMENT ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE



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## This Week's Readings

<b>First Reading</b>	<b>Isaiah</b>	<b>56:1, 6-7</b>
<i>I will lead the foreigners to my holy mountain.</i>		
<b>Second Reading</b>	<b>Romans</b>	<b>11:13-15, 29-32</b>
<i>The gifts and call of God are irrevocable.</i>		
<b>Gospel Reading</b>	<b>Matthew</b>	<b>15:21-28</b>
<i>Woman, you have great faith.</i>		

## Next Week's Readings

<b>First Reading</b>	<b>Isaiah</b>	<b>22:19-23</b>
<b>Psalm</b>	<b>137</b>	
<b>Second Reading</b>	<b>Romans</b>	<b>11:33-36</b>
<b>Gospel Reading</b>	<b>Matthew</b>	<b>16:13-20</b>

## Responsorial Psalm 66

**R. O God, let all the nations praise you!**

O God, be gracious and bless us and let your face shed its light upon us. So will your ways be known upon earth and all nations learn your saving help. **R**

Let the nations be glad and exult for your rule the world with justice. With fairness you rule the peoples, you guide the nations on earth. **R**

Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you. May God still give us his blessing till the ends of the earth revere him. **R**

## St Vincent de Paul

The next Meeting is this **Tuesday 18 August** at 6pm in the Crypt. Come and join us prepare to help people in need.

Thank you to all the parishioners of St Marys of the Angels who have donated to our food basket at the rear of the church. It is great to collect such a wide variety of non-perishable goods to rebuild our supplies. If you are unable to leave groceries in the basket, a donation can be left in our collection box at the foot of the St Vincent de Paul statue. God's blessings to you all.

## Healing Service: Postponed

The proposed Healing Service with Fr John Rea in Tawa on **Tuesday 18 August** has been postponed because of the uncertainty of which alert level we will be in.

## Joshua Men's Fellowship

Come and join other men on **Thursday 20 August**. A cuppa available from 7pm for a 7.30pm start in Connolly Hall, Thorndon (behind the closed Sacred Heart Cathedral). The speaker will be Gerard Wickrema, a Joshua leader, on *"Many are called; few are chosen"* If you want to know more, contact Steve: 027 356 9555/[joshua.wgtn@gmail.com](mailto:joshua.wgtn@gmail.com)

## SMOA Carpark

We have two parking spaces available for hire in our church carpark off O'Reilly Avenue. If you are interested in renting a space during the week, please contact the parish office.

## Online Masses

**Sunday Mass**, Our Lady of Kāpiti Parish  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCO9bV8i1FYR3nRi8qvyQ5qg>

**Sunday Mass**, Diocese of Auckland  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCb7o1XYfQet-mOW1mJSzfow>

**For up to date information regarding the church during this time, visit our webpage:**  
[www.smoa.org.nz/covid19updates/](http://www.smoa.org.nz/covid19updates/)

## 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

## Hospital Chaplaincy Assistants

The Hospital Chaplaincy Department within Wellington Regional Hospital is enhanced by a team of volunteer Chaplaincy Assistants who give around 2 hours a week to visit all patients in a ward. We are currently looking to add to our team, people with good pastoral skills and willing to work within the terms of our contract with the Ministry of Health. A ten-week training programme is planned, running each Tuesday 1-3pm, beginning Tuesday 1 September to 3 November. Expressions of interest are invited by **Tuesday 25 August** to Mary Minson at [mary.minson@ccdhb.org.nz](mailto:mary.minson@ccdhb.org.nz)

*On blogs and social media on Friday it was claimed that the Catholic Bishops have endorsed the New Conservative Party. This entire report was untrue. **The Bishops do not endorse political parties.***

## Updating Our Database

During the recent COVID-19 lockdown we discovered that our database of parishioners was out-of-date. Contact details for many parishioners were incorrect. Over the coming weeks, then, we would like to validate your addresses, emails and phone numbers. We will try and make contact with everyone on the parish database in a systematic way. **We ask you please to respond to our email or text message once you receive it.**

Should you have any questions on this matter please contact Alexandra at the Parish Office by phone (04) 473 8074 or by email at [smoaoffice@xtra.co.nz](mailto:smoaoffice@xtra.co.nz)

—Fr Kevin Mowbray SM, Parish Priest

## Last Sunday's Collection

Sunday Collection:	\$2400
Automatic Payments:	\$3665
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$6065</b>

## Readings

The Readings for the Feast of the Assumption (Saturday 15 August) can be found at this link:  
<https://universalis.com/20200815/mass.htm>

The Readings for the 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Sunday 16 August) can be found at this link:  
<https://universalis.com/20200816/mass.htm>

## Mass has been offered for:

**Recently Deceased:** Patricia Smyth, Barbara Kriebel, Clare Kennerley, Joan Ciurlionis, Ngaire Leahy  
**Anniversaries:** Robert Teh, Pauline Hastings, Noel Gavin, Anna Zanotto, Rita Dewey, Kathleen McCready, Deyls Reed, Noeline Ryan, Br Adrian Kennedy sm, Bernard Lynch, Kevin Fitzgerald  
**Prayers for the Sick:** Peter Aldridge, Tony Crawley, John Adams, Geoff Sweet, Dianne Sweet, Losalia Leo, John Foden, John Mora, Kerry Barber, Pam Finlayson, Paul and Francisca Sparnaay, Brendan Gilmore, Pat Johnson, Peter Aston, Barbara and Vic Stairs, Shirley Mahony, Doug Matthews  
*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 MARY OF THE ANGELS ONGOING MAINTENANCE APPEAL

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