

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 Joe Savei SM

Pastoral Worker

Sr Frances Gibbs CSB

In Residence

Fr Brian Wysocki SM

Director of Music

William McElwee

wmcelweemusic@gmail.com

Parish Accountant

smoamanager@xtra.co.nz

Parish Office

Alexandra Haddow

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

8 November 2020, 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Drums, Flaming Torches, Guitars and Chanting Accompany a Veiled Bride

Here is today's Gospel reading. See if you can read it over before Mass. See what strikes you before the priest shares his ideas in the homily. What do you like? Or dislike? Why? Could the Holy Spirit be prodding you about something? Read on:

Jesus told this parable to his disciples:

'The kingdom of heaven will be like this: Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five of them were sensible: the foolish ones did not take their lamps, but they brought no oil, whereas the sensible ones took flasks of oil as well as their lamps. The bridegroom was late, and they all grew drowsy and fell asleep. But at midnight there was a cry, "The bridegroom is here! Go out and meet him." At this, all those bridesmaids woke up and trimmed their lamps, and the foolish ones said to the sensible ones, "Give us some of your oil: our lamps are going out". But they replied, "There may not be enough for us and for you; you had better go to those who sell it and buy some for yourselves". They had gone off to buy it when the bridegroom arrived. Those who were ready went in with him to the wedding hall and the door was closed. The other bridesmaids arrived later. "Lord, Lord," they said "open the door for us." But he replied, "I tell you solemnly, I do not know you". So stay awake, because you do not know either the day or the hour. — The Gospel of the Lord (Matt 25:1-13)

Here are a few background ideas.

Oil. This is central to the story. It stands for good works - a life that puts the Gospel into practice - not just thinking or talking about it ("Lord Lord open the door to us!"). Those wise bridesmaids have plenty of this oil in store. They are thoroughly ready for the celebration.

Sleep. This stands for the sleep of death. When Jesus says 'Stay awake', the spiritual meaning of this is 'be prepared'. Sleeping (death) is not the problem since both the wise and the foolish slept. The wise however were ready for the bridegroom when he called upon them to take them to his home.

Bridegroom. Jesus. His comes to take us (the various girls stand for us, the 'bridal' people) to his Father's House at the end of our life. Biblically speaking this refers to the end of time. Hence the long delay.

Wedding. In the Bible, customs varied from one region or epoch (as they still do) making a hard and fast format impossible. Two things were universal however: (1) the bride was taken to live in the extended family, or 'house', of her husband and (2) there was a noisy joyous procession of the bride through the town with her youthful supporters in the early evening to the groom's "Father's House". Boys with drums, girls with flaming torches, and everyone dancing and chanting ensured that the marriage was a public affair. Either the groom (with his noisy young friends) would come to collect her (the scenario of today's parable), or she would be accompanied by her own proud entourage of family, cousins and friends to his home where he would be waiting outside to meet her and take her (with all the supporters) inside - for the feast.

No one and nothing would wait for any girlfriends silly enough to go off and buy oil to fire up their inadequate, dying torches. With the groom and his pumped up cohort singing and drumming on the bride's verandah, for her to come and accompany them to the feast, the moment is NOW. And what a festive, not-to-be-missed moment of fun that will be.

Fr Peter McAfee SM — Assistant Priest

This Week's Readings

First Reading Wisdom 6:12-16

Wisdom is found by those who look for it.

Second Reading 1 Thess 4:13-18

Those who died as Christians, God will bring to life with Jesus.

Gospel Reading Matthew 25:1-13

Look, the bridegroom comes. Go out to meet him.

Next Week's Readings

First Reading Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31

Psalm 127

Second Reading 1 Thess 5:1-6

Gospel Reading Matthew 25:14-30



Last Sunday's Collection

Sunday Collection: \$2743

Automatic Payments: \$2740

Total: \$5443

Covid Alert Level 1

While we are at Alert Level 1 ALL Masses and Reconciliation times are running as per the normal timetable, with no restrictions to numbers.

The following is still in place:

- ◆ Communion under one kind only, therefore no Precious Blood is to be distributed
- ◆ No physical contact at the Sign of Peace
- ◆ Communion on the hand only

Go to www.smoa.org.nz/covid19updates for more information and for Cardinal John Dew's full announcement.

Responsorial 62

R. My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

O God, you are my God, for you I long;
for you my soul is thirsting.

My body pines for you
like a dry, weary land without water. R

So I gaze on you in the sanctuary
to see your strength and your glory.

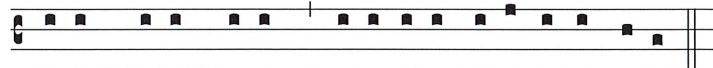
For your love is better than life,
my lips will speak your praise. R

So I will bless you all my life,
in your name I will lift up my hands.
My soul shall be filled as with a banquet,
my mouth shall praise you with joy. R

On my bed I remember you.

On you I muse through the night
for you have been my help;

in the shadow of your wings I rejoice. R



De- us, De- us me- us, si- ti- vit in te a- ni- ma me- a!

O God, my God, for thee my soul hath thirsted.

Christmas Cards and Calendars for sale

Now available and can be purchased before the 9am & 11am Mass this **Sunday 8 November**. \$3 for a pack of 5 Christmas Cards & envelopes, or \$15 for a pack of 12 SMOA Christmas Cards. Columban Calendars are \$12 each. See Laurie or Steph: 027 282 5171

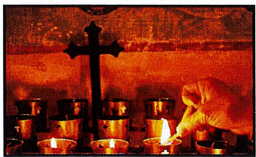
You can also purchase Columban Calendars from the parish office.

Mass has been offered for:

Recently deceased: Doug Matthews, Pastor Aguirre, Leo Cespedes

Anniversaries: Leslie Thomas Jones, Marion Hyland, Romola Sullivan, Peter O'Meehan, Denise Sutich, Terence Christie, Joan Welch, Jaime E. Biton, Vicente B. Valdez

Prayers for the Sick: Peter Aldridge, John Adams, Geoff Sweet, Dianne Sweet, Losalia Leo, John Foden, John Mora, Kerry Barber, Pam Finlayson, Paul and Francisca Sparnaay, Brendan Gilmore, Pat Johnson, Barbara and Vic Stairs, Shirley Mahony, Carol Armstrong, Samara Jamed



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

Catholic Social Service Kotahitanga Appeal

This year's appeal explains that Catholic Social Services is now doing things differently and has recently committed to focus efforts on facilitating the development of a community partnership response to local social issues. CSS believes that local communities understand their needs better than anyone else and that by working together locally, solutions can be found to address the unique needs of each community. In the end, no progress is possible without your financial support. Every little bit makes a difference and small gifts add up for the greater benefit of our communities. No one person can take on societal problems, it takes an entire community to pull together in order to make positive change. **Appeal Packages are enclosed in the Angelus**, and available at the back of the church. We are asking everyone to consider the difference your gift will make. Thank you!

Wanted: Spare Reusable Bags

Donate your spare reusable bags to the Vinnies Choice-Based Food Bank. The St Vincent de Paul Society food assistance service is continuing to support an increasing number of people. As the need rises, our stock of bags to pack parcels is not keeping up. Supermarket sized bags are most suitable. If you have spare that you can donate, please drop them off directly to the Vinnies Welfare and Support Hub (level 1, 207 Riddiford St, Newtown), to your local Vinnies Op Shop, or to your parish St Vincent de Paul Conference. For more info, please call 04 389 7122.

World Day of the Poor: Be a neighbour

Parishes, households, individuals and communities of the Archdiocese are invited to share food with a neighbour, friend, foodbank or Soup Kitchen for the World Day of the Poor on **Sunday 15 November**. Please join with us in making a special effort to mark this day by being a neighbour. Further information available on the Archdiocese of Wellington website www.wn.catholic.org.nz

Healing Service

There will be a Healing Service conducted by Fr John Rea S M at St Pius X Church at Titahi Bay on **Monday 9 November** beginning at 7.30 pm. Come and receive the healing and peace that only Jesus can give.

Invitation to contribute

Christmas Gifts for Children

The St Vincent de Paul Society is providing its successful Vinnies Christmas Shop experience again in December. It enables parents of families in real need to have the pleasure, dignity and choice of selecting and wrapping Christmas gifts for their children. We invite you to donate a new gift for a child aged 0 to 16 years. Please put your gift, unwrapped, in the container in St Joseph's Chapel at the front left of the church, by **29th November**. Alternatively, if you wish to make a financial contribution to this outreach project please visit the Vinnies GiveALittle page at www.givealittle.co.nz/org/vinnieswgtn



Concert on 22 November

Baroque orchestra The Queen's Closet and the Bach Choir of Wellington are excited to present *Seraphic Flames and Heav'nly Love* at SMOA on **Sunday 22 November** at 2pm. Featuring Purcell's *Hail! Bright Cecilia* and Biber's *Requiem in A Major*. Tickets are \$40, \$30 concession, free for under 16-year-olds. Available only from www.eventfinda.co.nz/2020/seraphic-flames-and-heavny-love/wellington/tickets or from Eventfinda ticket outlets.

Weekday Rosary Group

The rosary is said at 11.30am Monday-Thursday, and after the midday Mass on Friday. All are welcome to join.

Guardians Needed

Each day our church is looked after by Guardians who take it in turn to spend an hour in the church ensuring that the many visitors feel welcome and that they respect our sacred place. We are in need of a Guardian for the following time slots:

- ◆ Mondays 1.30-2.30pm
- ◆ Tuesdays 3.30-4.30pm
- ◆ Thursdays 3.30pm-4.30pm
- ◆ Saturdays 1-2pm

If you would like to consider being a part of this important service to the parish community please contact the parish office.

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ST MARY OF THE ANGELS ONGOING MAINTENANCE APPEAL

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Wellington 6011

Bank Account Details:
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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.

For Your Diaries: 2020

27-29 November, Advent Retreat

With Rex Begley and Fr. Donald Hornsey SSC – time to reflect on what's happened to You, our Church, our World since last Christmas. Held at Magnificat Retreat Centre, Featherston. Cost is \$190.00. Registration required. Email rexandtheresabegley@gmail.com or phone 027 545 6808

4 December, Mass for Life

You're invited to pray for babies, mums, dads and families at a Mass for Life on Friday 4 December, 7pm here at SMOA. Bishop Michael Gielen will be the principal celebrant. Eucharistic Adoration will follow for one hour after Mass to pray in readiness for the National March for Life. For more information please visit fli.org.nz/prolifeevents or phone Clare 021 231 7954.

16 December, Carols with the Angels

Our annual Christmas concert *Carols with the Angels* will be held at 7.30pm in the church.

Updating Our Database

We are still in the process of updating our parish database and asking parishioners to verify their contact details. **We ask you please to respond to our email once you receive it.** Contact Alexandra at the Parish Office: (04) 473 8074 or smoaoffice@xtra.co.nz if you have any queries.

SMOA Carpark

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

A Test of Faith

The documentary 'A Test of Faith' provides a wonderful insight into the seismic strengthening work that took place at St Mary of the Angels. The documentary also includes the story of the Church in Wellington from 1843 and in particular the three churches that have been built on the present St Mary of the Angels site. DVDs are available to purchase from the parish office for \$30, with all proceeds going towards the ongoing maintenance of the church.



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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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