

# 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*

15 November 2020, 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

## SERENITY, COURAGE, WISDOM

Many of us will have been fascinated these last few days by the drama unfolding in the United States of America: an election for president predicted to be a landslide, turning into a cliffhanger then sliding into confusion. From a distance it appears that one powerful man, entrusted with the highest office of his country, is unable to face reality. And, as a consequence, he may only entrench further the discord and divisions which seem to haunt a nation we look to for leadership, both political and economic.

One person in authority can truly do a great deal of damage.

But before we begin to congratulate ourselves for not being like that (shades of the Pharisee reported by Jesus as saying in his prayers: "Thank God I am not like the rest of men ...") perhaps we could ask ourselves if we have ever done great damage to those around us because we refused to accept reality.

Anyone can be blinded to reality because of such vices as pride and ambition, by a sense of entitlement or status. Anyone who is entrusted with authority or power over others may find themselves speaking or acting in a manner which is destructive rather than productive, whilst perversely claiming that they are only acting in the name of a greater good.

This will become very evident to we Catholics here in New Zealand when, towards the end of this month, the Royal Commission on Abuse begins to examine in public and in detail the terrible offences committed by priests, religious and lay leaders to persons who looked up to them as exemplars of the love and mercy of Jesus. As case histories are reported in the media we will again have to live through a time of unavoidable shame and anger.

But there are many other forms of abuse of authority: in our parishes when priests fail to respect the talents and gifts of parishioners; in homes when parents strike out at their children either physically or verbally; at schools when the weak are bullied by the arrogant and their followers; in work-places when criticism or gossip humiliates colleagues, perhaps destroys their reputation.

Yes, one person in authority - in any walk of life - can truly do a great deal of damage!

I offer a well-known prayer for all of us who are called upon to exercise authority over others, a prayer that encourages us to accept the reality of our lives and to look upon others as Christ would have us:

***"Lord, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change;  
The courage to change the things I can;  
And the wisdom to know the difference"***

*Fr Kevin Mowbray SM, Parish Priest*

### Parish Priest

Fr Kevin Mowbray SM  
[smoapp@xtra.co.nz](mailto:smoapp@xtra.co.nz)

### Assistant Priests

Fr Peter McAfee 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

Secretary in Tuesday, Thursday, Friday  
[smoaooffice@xtra.co.nz](mailto:smoaooffice@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

## This Week's Readings

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

*Give her a share in what she has worked for.*

**Second Reading** 1 Thess 5:1-6

*The day of the Lord is going to come like a thief in the night.*

**Gospel Reading** Matthew 25:14-30

*Because you have been faithful over a few things; enter into the joy of the Lord.*

## Next Week's Readings

**First Reading** Ezekiel 11-12, 15-17

**Psalm** 22

**Second Reading** 1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 28

**Gospel Reading** Matthew 25:31-46



## Last Sunday's Collection

Sunday Collection: \$1690

Automatic Payments: \$3275

**Total: \$4965**

## 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](http://www.smoa.org.nz/covid19updates) for more information and for Cardinal John Dew's full announcement.

## Responsorial 62

**R. Happy are those who fear the Lord.**

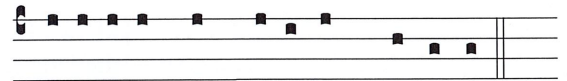
O blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways!

By the labour of your hands you shall eat. You will be happy and prosper. **R**

Your wife like a fruitful vine in the heart of your house; your children like shoots of the olive, around your table. **R**

Indeed thus shall be blessed the man who fears the Lord.

May the Lord bless you from Zion in a happy Jerusalem all the days of your life. **R**



Be-a-ti omnes qui timent Domi-num.

*Blessed are all they that fear the Lord.*

## Christmas Cards and Calendars for sale

Now available and can be purchased before the 9am & 11am Mass this **Sunday 15 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

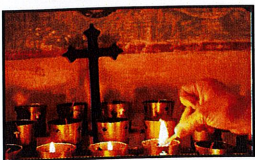
*You can also purchase Columban Calendars from the parish office.*

## Mass has been offered for:

**Recently deceased:** Doug Matthews, Pat Perkins, Walter Parris, Tony Muollo, Ted Robins

**Anniversaries:** Catherine O'Regan, Brendan Kirwan

**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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**Nicola Young**

representing Lambton ward

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## World Day of the Poor 2020 "Stretch forth your hand to the poor"

Today, **Sunday 15 November** is the World Day of the Poor. Pope Francis has called on people to keep their gaze fixed on the poor, especially during the Covid-19 pandemic. This year's theme is "*Stretch forth your hand to the poor*", taken from the book of Sirach. Pope Francis points out that "prayer to God and solidarity with the poor and suffering are inseparable."

Even during this pandemic, the Word of God "constantly impels us to acts of love," Pope Francis says. He also describes how the command: "Stretch forth your hand to the poor" "challenges the attitude of those who prefer to keep their hands in their pockets and to remain unmoved by situations of poverty in which they are often complicit." Concluding his message, the Pope recalls that in the book of Sirach it is written, 'In everything you do, remember your end.' He continues by saying, "the 'end' of all our actions can only be **love**. This is the ultimate goal of our journey, and nothing should distract us from it."

### Prayer

*Heavenly Father we thank you for the reminder from Sirach that "In all your actions, remember your end" (Sir 7.36). Help us to always remember our common destiny with our brothers and sisters and to lead a life of attention to those who are poorer and have not had the same opportunities as us.*

*Lord help us to remember that you are authentic love and are the true meaning of love. Help us to abide in love. Make our every action have as its purpose – love for you and love for others – especially the poor. Remind us each day that we are loved and help us to be awakened to love. Help us to share what we have with the poor and to remember that even a smile can be a source of love and allows us to live in joy. Amen.*

### Be a neighbour

We invite you to share food with a neighbor! You may want to invite a friend over for a meal, drop off a cake to a family, share some spring garden vegetables, or make a donation to a foodbank or soup kitchen. Please join with us in making this special effort.

More information available on the Archdiocese of Wellington website: [www.wn.catholic.org.nz](http://www.wn.catholic.org.nz)

## 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/vinnieswgtm](http://www.givealittle.co.nz/org/vinnieswgtm)

### 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 works of Purcell and Biber. Tickets are \$40, \$30 concession, free for under 16-year-olds. Available only from Eventfinda outlets or: [www.eventfinda.co.nz/2020/seraphic-flames-and-heav'nly-love/wellington/tickets](http://www.eventfinda.co.nz/2020/seraphic-flames-and-heav'nly-love/wellington/tickets)

### Cheques soon to be discontinued

Many banks are beginning to discontinue cheques as a form of payment. We ask that you keep this in mind when making future donations to the Parish, and consider using cash or internet banking instead. If you would like to sign up for our planned giving programme or switch from our envelope system to internet banking, please contact the parish office.

### 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

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## ST MARY OF THE ANGELS ONGOING MAINTENANCE APPEAL

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

## For Your Diaries: 2020

### 17 November, St Vincent de Paul Meeting

Please join us in helping those in need in the Wellington Area. Our next meeting is in the Crypt on Tuesday 17 November at 6pm.

### 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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:smoaoffice@xtra.co.nz) if you have any queries.

### 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.

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