

# 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 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

## 6 December 2020, 2nd Sunday of Advent

### 'Giving the Show Away' in the First Sentence

Here is the Gospel for today's Sunday Mass. It is the 'agenda' for today and for the week ahead. After you've greeted our Lord and prayed that you may be one with him in this Mass, read over this Gospel. It's a good way to be focussed or 'ready' for the Mass.

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.*

*The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah:*

*Look, I am going to send my messenger before you;*

*he will prepare your way.*

*A voice cries in the wilderness:*

*Prepare a way for the Lord,*

*make his paths straight.*

*And so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'*

*The Gospel of the Lord. (Mark 1:1-8)*

### Some Background Ideas to the Opening Sentence.

You will notice from the reference (Mark 1:1-8) that this is the very opening of St Mark's Gospel: Chapter 1 verse 1. And we know that Mark is the first or oldest of the four gospels. So it is the opening sentence for all four of them. Mark seems to have invented this genre - a "Gospel". It is a book that is neither a Letter nor a Biography nor a History. He borrows the word "Gospel" or "good news" from the emperors who used it for announcements of victories, coronations or births of crown princes. The 'good news' of these pagan rulers or Caesars was always a promise of a new era of peace, justice and prosperity - which of course they never delivered. Politicians have long promised such things. But this time with the Messiah it will come true spiritually speaking. And Mark knows that.

Mark calls it 'the beginning'. Yes this is the start of his book. Or perhaps the whole Gospel book is a beginning of something completely new. Mark expects us to know our bible and to recall the start of Genesis "in the beginning" when our story with God began.

Calling Jesus "Jesus Christ" lets us know that Jesus is the Messiah. Christ is the Greek word for Messiah meaning "the anointed" of God. Finally, naming Jesus as "the Son of God" really gives the 'show away' at the very start of this book.

So from the very first sentence we find out who this book is really about. It is not meant to be suspense story, a surprise. We readers are told who Jesus is from the first line. We should never forget that, as we read on - even though many of the characters whom we will meet along the way will wonder who this Jesus is.

Ok, well at least we've covered the first sentence. And that's all that there's room for. What are your thoughts re the rest of reading?

*Fr Peter McAfee sm, Assistant Priest*



## This Week's Readings

First Reading	Isaiah	40:1-5, 9-11
<i>Prepare the way for the Lord.</i>		
Second Reading	2 Peter	3:8-14
<i>We wait for new heavens and a new earth.</i>		
Gospel Reading	Mark	1:1-8
<i>Make straight the paths of the Lord.</i>		

## Next Week's Readings

First Reading	Isaiah	61:1-2, 10-11
Psalm	Lk 1: 46-50, 53-4; Isa 61:10	
Second Reading	1 Thess	5:16-24
Gospel Reading	John	1:6-8, 19-28



## Last Sunday's Collection

Sunday Collection:	\$1835
Automatic Payments:	\$3145
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$4980</b>

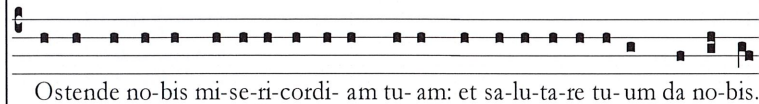
## Responsorial Psalm 84

**R. Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.**

I will hear what the Lord God has to say,  
a voice that speaks of peace,  
peace for his people.  
His help is near for those who fear him  
and his glory will dwell in our land. **R**

Mercy and faithfulness have met;  
justice and peace have embraced.  
Faithfulness shall spring from the earth  
and justice look down from heaven. **R**

The Lord will make us prosper  
and our earth shall yield its fruit.  
Justice shall march before him  
and peace shall follow his steps. **R**



Ostende no-bis mi-se-ri-cordi- am tu- am: et sa-lu-ta-re tu-um da no-bis.

*Show us thy mercy: and grant us thy salvation.*

## 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.

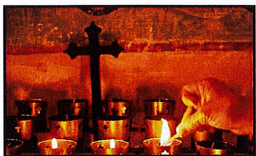
Fr Kevin Mowbray is away until 19 December. While he is away, Fr Joe Savesi will be Acting Parish Priest.

## Sung Advent Meditations

On each Friday of Advent following the 12.05pm Mass, there will be a short Advent meditation, with members of the choir singing the 'O' Antiphons.

## Mass has been offered for:

<b>Recently deceased:</b>	Doug Matthews, Walter Parris, Tony Muollo, Laura Famularo
<b>Anniversaries:</b>	Su-Yen Bok, William Jenkins, Frances Haughey, James Coyle, Daniel McKone
<b>Prayers for the Sick:</b>	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, Nguyen Minh Phuong, Bill Carroll, 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.*



9 Francis Place,  
PO Box 9639, Wellington  
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[nicola.young@wcc.govt.nz](mailto:nicola.young@wcc.govt.nz)



## NEW SMOA Church App

We are pleased to formally 'launch' our Church App through ChurchAppsNZ! We expect this to be a useful and convenient way parishioners can engage with the Parish and be kept up to date with what's happening. On the app, you'll be able to view the newsletters, Mass times, upcoming events and more. You will also have the option to receive alert notifications, particularly if you are a part of a Parish group or ministry. To download the app, follow the steps below:

1. Go to your App Store or Google Play Store and search "**ChurchAppsNZ**"
2. Download the app, and then select St Mary of the Angels as a Parish
3. The app will then prompt you to select which "alert groups" you want to be a part of. Select as many or as few of these groups as you like. You will be able to change this later if you need to.

If you need any help setting this up, please do not hesitate to contact Alexandra at the parish office. You can come into the office to see her on Tuesdays 11am-4pm or Thursdays & Fridays 9am-4pm and she can download it to your phone for you and show you how to use it.

## Projector Operators needed for the 9am Mass

We are in need for an additional projector operators at the 9am Mass on Sundays. You will be alternating with our other operators, and full training is provided. Please see Sister Frances or contact the parish office if you are interested.

## Royal Commission Inquiry into Abuse in Care

Starting in late November & early December, the Royal Commission will focus on cases involving the Catholic Church. While this may be a difficult time for survivors and many in our communities, this is an important process. We listen to the experiences of survivors, acknowledge failings, support the justice and reconciliation process and look forward to the future with hope. Please keep in your prayers the work of the Royal Commission and for ongoing courage for survivors as they share their experiences with the Commission.

## Carols with the Angels

Our annual *Carols with the Angels* concert will be held on **Wednesday 16 December** at 7.30pm here at St Mary of the Angels. Please join us for this special event in our parish, which will feature the St Mary of the Angels Choir, Korean Community Choir, Salvation Army Band, MC Cynthia Morahan, and your favourite carols.

## Interested in Prison Ministry?

Sr Veronica Casey, PBVM, our Catholic Senior Prison Chaplain, is always seeking suitable people for the volunteer and paid prison chaplaincy roles she supports, but often can't find enough of them. To help, Sr Veronica has produced a special booklet on Prison Ministry and How to Get Involved. Prison ministry is service to some of society's most rejected people and is very valuable work. Look out for a copy of the booklet at your local parish church, think about how you could serve, and contact Sr Veronica. For full information visit: [www.catholic.org.nz/news/media-releases/prison-chaplains-needed/](http://www.catholic.org.nz/news/media-releases/prison-chaplains-needed/)

## Carol Singing at Wellington Hospital

You are invited to join us Carol Singing around the wards at Wellington Regional Hospital on Christmas Eve at 7pm. Please gather in the Atrium at 6.45pm and we will spend about an hour singing, concluding with supper.

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



## For Your Diaries: 2020

### 11 & 18 December, Sung Advent Meditations

On each Friday of Advent, following 12.05pm Mass, there will be a short Advent meditation, with members of the choir singing the 'O' Antiphons.

### 11 December, Service of Remembrance

As we reflect on what has been an incredibly difficult year for all, we especially take time to remember and support those that have lost somebody close to them this year. Join Harbour City Funeral Home at their Service of Remembrance and gather strength from others. 6.30pm at Old St Paul's, Thorndon. This Christmas let us support one another.

### 16 December, Carols with the Angels

Our annual Christmas concert *Carols with the Angels* will be held at 7.30pm in the church. Come along to this special event in our parish, which will feature the St Mary of the Angels Choir, Korean Community Choir, Salvation Army Band, MC Cynthia Morahan, and your favourite carols.

### Greeting Ministry at SMOA

It is always great to be welcomed into Mass by a friendly face! We are seeking more Greeters—volunteers that welcome parishioners and visitors to our church as we gather for Sunday Mass. You will need to arrive 10 minutes before Mass and check that the tables at the church entrances are tidy, and then welcome people as they come in. At the end of Mass the Greeters will do some tidying up for the next Mass. If you are interested in being a regular Greeter 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.

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