

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 Savesi 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

Secretary in Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

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

13 December 2020, 3rd Sunday of Advent

ON TRIAL FOR HOPE

The celebration of Christmas seems to be as big as ever. But it has changed quite dramatically over the decades. The holidays, the decorations, the gift-giving, the gathering of families and friends – all of that is still very much alive. But now there is a very different feel to everything. Christmas is no longer a religious celebration but a secular one. Little things just make this more and more obvious. Since my return to Wellington, for example, I have noticed the Christmas cards with Christian themes are getting fewer and fewer and lower and lower on the racks of cards in Unity Book Store.

Regrettably, then, it is no longer a shock to hear people commenting how Christ is disappearing from Christmas. Increasingly Christians everywhere have to fight for space, as it were, in order that the very reason for this feast is paid attention to. It seems as if in the court of public opinion, we have to prove our case time and time again.

The community of St John, for whom he wrote his Gospel which we listen to today, would understand our experience. They had to stand up for their beliefs against those who scoffed or shook their heads at them. This is most probably why so many people in John's Gospel are shown as publicly standing-up for Jesus. They were an encouragement to the members of John's community to be strong and constant in their faith.

St John the Baptist certainly was one of those persons who stood up to be counted. His testimony was bold and vigorous. He was not afraid to preach his message of repentance and preparation for the coming of the Messiah. Even when challenged by religious authorities he did not waver. Ultimately his strong stand was to lead to his death as a martyr.

Testimony – witnessing in word and deed – can be costly because it marks people out. Testimony can place us in the position of having to take a stand before others. It need not be as bold, as loud as that offered by John the Baptist. But the challenge is to find ways of allowing our faith to quietly speak to others, to remind them of the true meaning of Christmas - the hope of true peace and joy that only the Christ-child can bring.

We are on trial for hope! In the court of public opinion, we must find ways of giving our testimony. Perhaps only buying Christmas cards with a Christian theme would be a good start?

Fr Kevin Mowbray sm—Parish Priest

This Week's Readings

First Reading Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11

I exult for joy in the Lord.

Second Reading 1 Thess 5:16-24

May you all be kept blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel Reading John 1:6-8, 19-28

There stands among you, unknown to you, the one who is coming after me.


Next Week's Readings

First Reading 1 Samuel 1-5, 8-12, 14, 16

Psalm 88

Second Reading Romans 16:25-27

Gospel Reading Luke 1:26-38



Last Sunday's Collection

Sunday Collection:	\$2196
Automatic Payments:	\$3733
Total:	\$5929

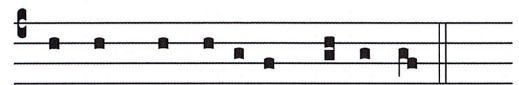
Responsorial Psalm—Luke 1

R. My soul rejoices in my God.

My soul glorifies the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour.
He looks on his servant in her nothingness,
henceforth all ages will call me blessed. **R**

The Almighty works marvels for me.
Holy his name!
His mercy is from age to age,
on those who fear him. **R**

He fills the starving with good things,
sends the rich away empty.
He protects Israel, his servant,
remembering his mercy. **R**



Gaudens gaudebo in Domi-no.-

Rejoicing, I rejoice in God.

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.

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

Our **Christmas and New Year Timetable** is available to view on our website or on the noticeboard in the church foyer. There are some copies at the back of the church you may take home as well.

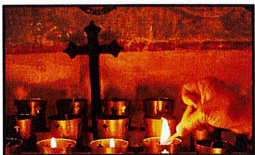
The parish office will be closed from Thursday 24 December until Tuesday 26 January.

Mass has been offered for:

Recently deceased: Walter Parris, Tony Muollo, Laura Famularo

Anniversaries: Su-Yen Bok, Diana Bartram, Maurice O'Brien, Janina Knopp, Teresa Vital, Shona Rippin, Fr George Duggan sm

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, 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.



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Councillor
Nicola Young
representing Lambton ward

Please contact me if I can help with a City Council issue

021 654 844
nicola.young@wcc.govt.nz

SMOA Church App

If you haven't already downloaded our new Parish App onto your smart phone, please do! 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.

Thank you from St Vincent de Paul

A warm thanks to our parishioners who donated gifts and cash to the **St Vincent de Paul Children's Christmas Gift Appeal.**

You have helped to brighten Christmas for the many needy families who use our services.

Sharing the joy of Christmas is extra special in this difficult year when Vinnies has seen a 400% rise in welfare requests since March. We wish everyone at St Mary of the Angels the blessings of Advent and Christmas.



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 Sr Frances or contact the parish office if you are interested.

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.

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.

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 survivors as they share their experiences with the Commission.

Parish Secretary Vacancy

Our Parish Secretary Alexandra will sadly be leaving us at the end of the year. We are seeking someone to take her place in this important role in the parish. The position is part-time and will start in late January. If you are interested, please email the parish office at smoaoffice@xtra.co.nz with your CV, cover letter, or any queries regarding this position.

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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PLEASE SPECIFY AMOUNT

\$

Donations can be sent to:
Ongoing Maintenance Fund
St Mary of the Angels
17 Boulcott St
Wellington 6011

Bank Account Details:
02-0536-0003242-23
Bank of New Zealand
Lambton Quay
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

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.

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.

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.

Phone (04) 473 8074.



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