

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

smoaoffice@xtra.co.nz

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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

31 January 2021, 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Here is today's Gospel reading. It will be read at all Masses today throughout the world – and the services of many other faiths who also use this Lectionary. See if you can read it over before Mass. See what strikes you before the priest shares his ideas in the homily. What part do you like, or perhaps dislike? Why? Could the Holy Spirit be prodding you about something? Read on:

Jesus and his followers went as far as Capernaum, and as soon as the sabbath came Jesus went to the synagogue and began to teach. And his teaching made a deep impression on them because, unlike the scribes, he taught them with authority.

In their synagogue just then there was a man possessed by an unclean spirit, and it shouted, 'What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are: the Holy One of God.' But Jesus said sharply, 'Be quiet! Come out of him!' And the unclean spirit threw the man into convulsions and with a loud cry went out of him. The people were so astonished that they started asking each other what it all meant. 'Here is a teaching that is new,' they said, 'and with authority behind it: he gives orders even to unclean spirits and they obey him.' And his reputation rapidly spread everywhere, through all the surrounding Galilean countryside. (Mark 1:21-28)

Here are some observations:

- ◆ Having just called the first disciples (recall last Sunday) Jesus goes to the local synagogue on the lake front in Capernaum and speaks there.
- ◆ He does two things here: He speaks with authority and casts out a demon. — - Despite the drama of the exorcism, it is the authority that he has (compared to that of the scribes) that 'amazes' the people.
- ◆ In the very next passage (next Sunday) he will cure the sick.
- ◆ These three actions (expelling demons, teaching and curing) will be repeated many times in this Gospel (Mark). We moderns have little difficulty with the second two, but expelling demons is more puzzling. In the context of this Gospel, the three actions are in fact all 'exorcisms'. Each intervention by Jesus is a *liberation* - a liberation from a wrong or falsehood or power that is set on the control and downfall of a child of God. The division between curing illness, authoritative teaching and expelling demons is not sharp – and should not be - made so.
- ◆ Curing illness or a physical ailment is to restore to a person the wholeness that God intended from the beginning. It is currently controlling their life and making them unfree.
- ◆ Similarly the authoritative teaching 'expels' false ideas and replaces them with a true and freeing understanding.
- ◆ In this context the demon is that spirit which has taken a hold in a person, controlling and directing him or her away from God who is our true origin – and destiny. It never departs without a fight.
- ◆ To the question, "Have you come to do away with us?" Jesus does not reply. But it is clearly "yes".

Fr Peter McAfee
Assistant Priest

This Week's Readings

First Reading Deut 18:15-20
I will put my words into the prophet's mouth, and he will tell them all I command.

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 7:32-35
The unmarried woman dedicates herself to the things of the Lord, that she might be holy.

Gospel Reading Mark 1:21-28
This is a new kind of teaching that speaks with authority.

Next Week's Readings

First Reading Job 7:1-4. 6-7.
Psalm 146
Second Reading 1 Corinthians 9:16-19. 22-23
Gospel Reading Mark 1:29-39



Last Sunday's Collection

Sunday Collection: \$1870
 Automatic Payments: \$2450
Total: \$4320

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 Psalm 94

**R. If today you hear his voice,
 harden not your hearts.**

Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;
 hail the rock who saves us.
 Let us come before him, giving thanks,
 with songs let us hail the Lord. **R.**

Come in; let us kneel and bend low;
 let us kneel before the God who made us
 for he is our God and we
 the people who belong to his pasture,
 the flock that is led by his hand. **R.**

O that today you would listen to his voice!
 'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
 as on that day at Massah in the desert
 when your fathers put me to the test;
 when they tried me, though they saw my work.' **R.**



If to - day you hear his voice, harden not your hearts

Pa Maria Marist Spirituality Centre

The Programme for 2021 is now available. If you would like an emailed copy, please contact Brian Cummings SM at bgcummings@xtra.co.nz

Gianna's Choice

Pregnancy Options and Support. We are here 24/7 to answer your pregnancy questions and talk about your options. Call 0800 367 5433 or text 027 448 8070.

Mass has been offered for:

Recently deceased: Dorothy O'Brien, Carol Armstrong, Xavier Reidy

Anniversaries: Helen McKone, Sr Margaret Mary Murphy, Fr Bryan Montgomery sm, Lois Palentine, Mary Hutchens, Sheila Mahony, Euphemia Taylor, Maureen McDonald, Margaret Heister, John O'Brien, Fr Brian O'Connell sm, Mary Hutchins, Edward Haughey, Gordon Ashbridge, Bertrand Weir, Margaret Philpott, Margaret Baxter, Alan Shapleski, William Lyons, Virginia Turner, Veronica Reynolds, Patrick Darroch, Joan McGrath, Marianna Grinskis, Sandra Moran,

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, Samara Jamed, Bill Carroll

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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representing Lambton ward

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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.

Feast of the Presentation of the Lord 2 February

This is a day when Candles for Mass and various Liturgies are blessed at each Mass. You are invited to bring your own candles to be blessed. Please put them in the basket provided and collect immediately after the Mass you attend.



Projectionists 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.

Secular Franciscan Order (Third Order of St Francis)

Although, with the departure of the Capuchins from Wellington, our Spiritual Assistants will no longer be local, we will still be meeting monthly, usually on the first Sunday afternoon of the month. In 2021 the venue for our monthly meetings will alternate between Kilbirnie and Lower Hutt. Any Catholic feeling drawn to St Francis is welcome to come and find out more. Contact Mary on 022 059 8485.

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

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

Waitangi Day Mass:

Nau mai, haere mai! The customary Waitangi Day Mass to pray for this land and all who dwell here under the guardianship of the Treaty will be celebrated on Saturday, **6th February, 9am at St Mary of the Angels**, Boulcott St, Wellington. This Mass combines the choirs of St Mary of the Angels and Te Ngākau Tapu parish for Māori in Porirua. Prayers will be primarily be in Māori, English and Latin along with various other languages. Celebrant: Cardinal John Dew. Please bring a plate of food to share for morning tea. Enquiries to the parish secretary, St Mary of the Angels smoa.office@xtra.co.nz (04) 473 8074. All welcome.

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ST MARY OF THE ANGELS ONGOING MAINTENANCE APPEAL

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Donations can be sent to:
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17 Boulcott St
Wellington 6011

Bank Account Details:
02-0536-0003242-23
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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.

New Parishioners

If you are new to the parish, not yet enrolled as a parishioner, or would like to start giving regularly to the parish through our planned giving programme, please fill out one of our new parishioner forms at the back of the church, or our online Google Form at: www.forms.gle/hV7w341HEaNTkKup7

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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