

The Angelus

St Mary of the Angels Parish
Including St Joseph's, Mount Victoria

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
parish.priest@smoa.org.nz

Assistant Priests

Fr Joe Savei SM
dennys4life@hotmail.com
Fr Hayden Powick SM
haydenpowick@hotmail.com

Pastoral Worker

Sr Frances Gibbs CSB

Director of Music

William McElwee
wmcelweemusic@gmail.com

Parish Accountant

accounts@smoa.org.nz

St Mary of the Angels Church Office

office.manager@smoa.org.nz
04 473 8074

St Joseph's Church Office

st.josephs.office@xtra.co.nz
04 385 0915

St Mary of the Angels Church

MASSES

Sunday 7am, 9am, 11am, 5pm
Mon-Fri 7.30am, 12.05pm, 5.15pm
Saturday 11am

EACH MONTH

4th Saturday - Anointing Mass - 11am

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

St Joseph's Church

MASSES

Sunday 9.30am
Tuesday 8.30am

BAPTISMS

Baptisms will be held only on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month at 2pm. Please contact the Parish Office if you are interested.

19 December 2021, 4th Sunday of Advent

A Matter of Balance

A heavily pregnant woman on a donkey. Personal belongings uncomfortably strapped in front and behind. Travelling long distances for several days. In the heat with choking dust constantly swirling around. Rough roads and stony tracks. From time to time being jostled and pressed by other pilgrims passing by. This was Mary on her way to Bethlehem.

Not at all an easy ride! At the very least she would have needed a great sense of balance, of poise. No matter how gentle the pace it would have been a trying journey.

Mary's sense of balance would not only have been something physical. There was a spiritual balance she needed as well. To find that fine point of balance as she swayed between deepening feelings of awe and wonder as the birth of this unexpected child drew nearer and lingering feelings of apprehension and anxiety at 'what it could all mean'. And then there was the balance to be discovered between her expectations and those of Joseph, her husband, who was so much part of her motherhood yet somehow not. And had she, even at this late hour, found the balance between her will and God's will for her?

As always, Mary, the first and greatest of Christ's disciples, has so much to teach us about what it means to undertake the journey of Faith. We, too, have to find and maintain that fine point of balance as we make our way through life. No matter where we are on our journey – whether we are still exhilarated by morning freshness, burdened by the noonday heat, or worn out as the shadows lengthen – we need to keep searching for that point of balance: seeking to adjust ever so subtly as slight discomforts increase; accepting the need to take the time to rearrange ourselves, when it all becomes too much, and then move on again. Never denying the ever-changing reality we are experiencing but always keeping in mind the goal of journey that makes it all worthwhile.

And that goal is to give flesh to the Word, as Mary did. To bring the Word of Life into the world through all that we do or say, for richer or poorer, in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health.

My prayer for us all this Christmas is that, amidst all the disjointedness and strangeness of these times we are journeying through, we will find the fine point of balance and so arrive at Bethlehem where the peace and joy only the Christ-child can bring awaits us.

Fr. Kevin Mowbray sm
Parish Priest

This Week's Readings

First Reading: Micah 5: 1-4

Out of you will be born the one who is to rule over Israel.

Second Reading: Hebrews 10: 5-10

I am coming to do your will.

Gospel: Luke 1: 39-44

Why should it happen that I am honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord.

Next Week's Readings

First Reading: 1 Samuel 1: 20-22, 24-28

Psalm: 83

Second Reading: 1 John 3: 1-2, 21-24

Gospel: Luke 2: 41-52



Last Sunday's Collection

Sunday Collection: \$2,515

Automatic Payments: \$3,183

Total: \$5,698

Covid Alert Level Orange

While we are at Alert Level Orange ALL Masses and Reconciliation times are running as per the normal timetable. At SMOA the 5.15pm Weekday Mass and the 7am Sunday Mass are the only Masses that do not require a Vaccine Pass. All Masses at St Joseph's Church require a Vaccine Pass. You must register for the 7am Sunday Mass by emailing office.manager@smoa.org.nz. Registrations open 3 days prior to each Mass.

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

Responsorial Psalm 79

R. Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel

O shepherd of Israel, hear us,
shine forth from your cherubim throne.

O Lord, rouse up your might,

O Lord, come to our help. **R.**

God of hosts, turn again, we implore,
look down from heaven and see.

Visit this vine and protect it,

the vine your right hand has planted. **R.**

May your hand be on the man you have chosen,
the man you have given your strength.

And we shall never forsake you again:

give us life that we may call upon your name. **R.**

Convert us O lord and show us thy face; and we shall be saved.

Registrations for Masses and Christmas Liturgies that DO NOT require a Vaccine Pass

After this Sunday 19 December the Archdiocese mass registration service will no longer be active. To register for the St Mary of the Angels 5pm Sunday Mass you must email office.manager@smoa.org.nz with the names of those you are registering and a phone number. Registrations will be open from Wednesday 9am until Friday 12pm the week prior to each Mass. A maximum of 50 people can register.

Registration for Christmas Liturgies that do not require a Vaccine Pass will open 3 days prior to each Mass.

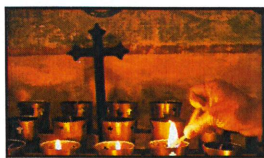
Please email office.manager@smoa.org.nz

Mass has been offered for:

Recently deceased: Talitiga Liuaana, Margaret Havell, Fr Barry O'Connor sm

Anniversaries: Phyllis Clifford, Ronald McDonald, Kura Turner, James Glover, Diana Bartram, Marie Giles, Natalie Duncan, Noel Scahill, Paul Giles

Prayers for the Sick: Denis O'Neill, Patricia O'Rourke, Noreen Kirwan, Peter Aldridge, Geoff Sweet, Dianne Sweet, Losalia Leo, John Mora, Kerry Barber, Pam Finlayson, Francisca Sparnaay, Barbara and Vic Stairs, Shirley Mahony, Samara Jamed, Bill Carroll, Barbara Jones, Mary Buchanan, Bill McLaughlin, John Moore, Barbara Sullivan



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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PARISH CENTRE APPEAL

Prayer for Parish Centre Project

Gracious God, Creator of the Universe, you made us in your own image and likeness.

You gave us wisdom and understanding, grateful hearts and creative minds.

We pray that our Parish Centre will be strengthened against the peril of earthquake through the generosity of parishioners, the community of Wellington and people throughout New Zealand.

We ask, Lord, that you abundantly bless those who have already donated funds, skill and expertise to this project.

May St Mary of the Angels Parish Centre be a symbol of a unified community that will gather to praise and thank you.

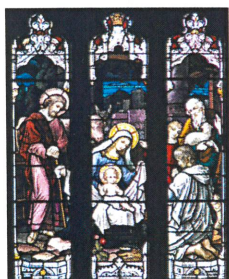
Mary our Mother, pray for us.

Advent Meditations

Please join members of the choir for a short meditation on the O antiphons for Advent in Our Lady's chapel after Thursday 12.05 mass.

St Mary of the Angels Christmas Cards

St Mary of the Angels Christmas Cards are now available for purchase from the Parish Office.
\$15 for a pack of 12



Office Closed over Christmas Break

The Parish Office will be closed from Friday 24 December until Thursday 6 January. For any urgent matters during this time, please email parish.priest@smoa.org.nz

Thank You

This is our last parish newsletter for the year 2021. It is a good time, then, to reflect briefly on this past year in which so much has happened within our community.

We are all aware of how the covid virus has impacted our life. But, whilst still overshadowed by this reality, we shouldn't forget the good things that have encouraged us and raised our spirits: we welcomed the St. Joseph's community into St Mary of the Angels parish; we embarked on an ambitious plan to strengthen and renovate the parish centre; we were chosen to be the National Shrine by the Bishops of Aotearoa New Zealand. These are realities that will shape us for years to come. We give thanks for them.

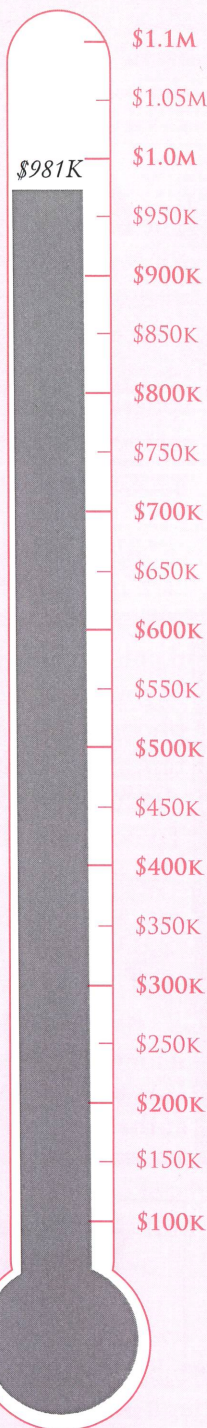
So, on behalf of the pastoral team and the Pastoral Council I thank you all for making the parish a sign of hope, a beacon of light here in the centre of Wellington - by your presence, your quiet prayer, your daily attentiveness to your neighbour. This is the beating heart of any parish and almost always remains hidden and unknown. I hope these few words of appreciation will go some way to acknowledge this great truth.

In particular, I want to thank those who have carried out the many ministries in the Parish over the past year with great dedication. Your commitment inspires and strengthens our commitment

A special thanks to our generous donors who have contributed so willingly to the Parish Centre project. Without your support we could not look forward with joy to the official opening of the centre in March, next year, when we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the opening of the present St Mary of the Angels Church.

May God bless you all with peace and joy this Christmas season and beyond,

Fr Kevin Mowbray sm



ST MARY OF THE ANGELS PARISH CENTRE FUNDRAISING APPEAL

I would like to help preserve the St Mary of the Angels Parish Centre.

Name:

Address:

Email:

Tel:

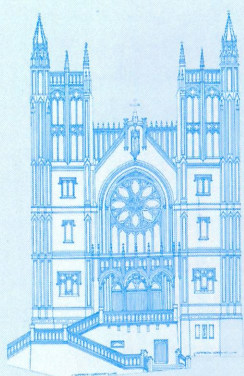
Bank Account Details:
SMOA - Parish Centre Upgrade
02-0536-0003242-50
BNZ, Lambton Quay, Wellington
Please provide your name and address (or Parish Planned Giving/Envelope number) as reference. All donations are tax deductible and a receipt will be issued.

I would like to make a regular payment of \$ to be paid each month year for 2 years.

I would like to make a one-off payment of:

\$50,000 \$20,000 \$10,000 \$5,000 \$2,000 \$1,000 \$500 \$200 Other \$ please specify

Please return your completed slip following your donation to ensure we have your details to issue a receipt.



Adult Rite of Christian Initiation (RCIA)

Perhaps you know someone who is curious about the Catholic faith? The Adult Rite of Christian Initiation (RCIA) is the process through which adults are gradually introduced to the Catholic faith and way of life. St Mary of the Angels Parish is currently holding the RCIA programme that is run once a year. The next meeting of the RCIA programme will be held on 1 February 2022. Parishioners, please continue to pray for the RCIA Candidates, Sponsors, and Leaders. If you would like more information please contact the parish office at 04 473 8074 or email office.manager@smoa.org.nz

Synod Timing

The bishops believe dioceses and parishes will be welcoming the Vatican's four-month extension for the local phase of the Synod process. The deadline of the first (local) phase of the two-year international synodal process has been extended from next April to next 15 August. NZCBC Secretary Bishop Steve Lowe says the original timeframe was difficult for Southern Hemisphere countries because of our summer holiday period, with the Covid-19 restrictions making face-to-face contact hard. More information: www.catholic.org.nz/news/media-releases/local-synod-timing/

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 Abby at the parish office.



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BREAKFAST

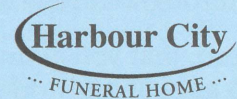
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A LEGACY OF FAITH



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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