

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

28 August 2022, 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

No one likes to be in debt

Often the direction of our lives is dominated by the removal of debts we have incurred. The dreaded student loan is often the first river to cross. Then comes the mortgage. Apty, mortgage comes from the French meaning 'death pledge.' But not all debts are monetary. The uncomfortable feeling of receiving a generous gift often stems from the felt obligation to pay them back. I have a tendency to resent long emails as I know I'll have to sit down and write them a reply of a similar length. Behind all of this is the sense that when we owe someone, we are never truly free. In our modern world, anything that restricts my individualism is evil and so all debt is looked on as unjust slavery.

In the classical understanding of the virtue of justice, being in debt is the usual state of life. Because our existence and survival depend on others, our life is a constant ebb and flow of debts. Coming to terms with this is part living of living in the truth. Humility is the recognition and acceptance of my dependency on others.

Related to this is the virtue of *religion* which is the recognition that by the creation and upholding of my being I am *indebted* to God in a way that cannot be paid back. The disparity between what God gives me and what I can return cannot be overcome. This lies behind the natural impulse to sacrifice and explains the tone of excess which characterises our worship of God. Similarly, the old virtue of *piety* is founded on the realisation that a child can never fully pay back the debt owed to parents. The duty and honour given to one's parents are the child's way of acknowledging this debt.

In both cases, there is no strict obligation to give back. We can ignore or reject our debts to God and others or submit to them. At this risk of being grandiose, this is the choice between heaven and hell. Satan in *Paradise Lost* makes this explicit:

The debt immense of endless gratitude,
So burdensome, still paying, still to owe;
Forgetful what from him I still received,
And understood not that a grateful mind
By owing owes not, but still pays, at once
Indebted and discharged; what burden then?

The latter part of our Gospel this Sunday, encourages us to accept our indebtedness. We should give generously without considering what we will get in return. We knowing that what we owe to God and others is far greater than what is owed to me.

We should also graciously accept the debt of asking for help. This can be a challenge for those growing older. After a life of self-sufficiency, it can be difficult to ask for help, that is, to incur a debt. Jesus reminds us that asking for help gives another the opportunity to receive repayment... when the virtuous rise again.'

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francisbird@gmail.com

Pastoral Worker

Sr Frances Gibbs CSB

Youth Minister

youth.minister@smoa.org.nz; 04 282 1746

Director of Music

William McElwee

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Parish Accountant

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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

ADORATION

Mon-Fri 6.30am - 7.20am

Friday 11am - Noon, 5.45pm-6.30pm

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

St Mary of the Angels Church

Baptisms; 2pm on 2nd and 4th Sundays each month

St Joseph's Church

Baptisms on 3rd Sunday of each month.

Please arrange through Parish Office.

This Week's Readings

First Reading: Sirach 3:17-20, 28-29
Humble yourself and you will find favour with the Lord.

Second Reading: Hebrews 12:18-19, 22-24
You have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God.

Gospel: Luke 14:1, 7-14
All who exalt themselves shall be humbled and all who humble themselves shall be exalted.

Next Week's Readings

First Reading: Wisdom 9: 13-18

Psalm: 89

Second Reading: Philemon 9-10, 12-17

Gospel: Luke 14:25-33



Last Sunday's Collection

Sunday Collection: \$2,234
 Automatic Payments: \$3,275
Total: \$5,509

Covid Alert Level Orange

While we are at Alert Level Orange ALL Masses and Reconciliation times are running per the normal timetable. Vaccine Passes are no longer required and masks are encouraged to be worn.

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

Thought for the Week

The best way to predict the future is to create it.

Mass has been offered for:

Recently Deceased: Fr Brian Cummings, Peter Aldridge, Joy Gaisford, Ivan Kasovch Patricia O'Rourke

Anniversaries: Michael Loftus, Simon Michael Lai, Fr Patrick O'Neill SM, Brett Gray, Louis Hannan, Brian Stempa, Patricia Smith

Prayers for the Sick: Denis O'Neill, Noreen Kirwan, Peter Aldridge, Geoff and Dianne Sweet, Losalia Leo,

John Mora, Kerry Barber, Pam Finlayson, Francisca Sparnaay, Barbara Stairs, Shirley Mahony, Samara Jamed, Bill Carroll, Barbara Jones, Mary Buchanan, Joe Haddow, Joan Wolland, William Sia, Kay De Barnardo, Bernadette Coup

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.



Responsorial Psalm 67

R. God, in your goodness, you have made a home for the poor.

The just shall rejoice at the presence of God, they shall exult and dance for joy.

O sing to the Lord, make music to his name; rejoice in the Lord, exult at his presence. **R.**

Father of the orphan, defender of the widow, such is God in his holy place.

God gives the lonely a home to live in; he leads the prisoners forth into freedom. **R.**

You poured down, O God, a generous rain: when your people were starved you gave them new life. It was there that your people found a home, prepared in your goodness, O God, for the poor. **R.**



Pa-ras-ti in dul-æ-di-ne tu- a pau-pe-ri De-us-

In thy sweetness O Lord, thou hast provided for the poor.

Social Justice Week Racism Workshop

The combined Social Justice group of SMOA and CPWS invites you to the workshop on 'Recognising racism and taking personal responsibility'. Held on Sunday 4 September from 2pm until 4.30pm in the St Anne's Hall. Our presenter Danielle Webb is a former Archdiocesan staff member and member of the Ecology, Justice and Peace Commission. To enrol contact CPWS office on 04 934 4099, John Feeney on 04 3864956, Elizabeth Julian on 3892553 or see them after Mass. You can also turn up on the day but an indication on numbers attending will be helpful.

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Nicola Young

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Music Co-ordinator/Leader Position

Sacred Heart Metropolitan Cathedral Parish, Wellington, seeks applications for the position of Music Co-ordinator/Leader. This is a part-time, 15-hours-a week, fixed-term contract until December 2023. The successful applicant will be responsible for co-ordinating the music requirements across all parish liturgies, including the establishment of a voluntary choir/singing group to regularly lead the congregation at the Sunday morning service. Please contact Debbie Matheson at d.matheson@wn.catholic.org.nz for a position description, enquiries, and to submit a written application enclosing a curriculum vitae. Applications close 30 August 2022.

Adoration on Friday Evening

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from 5:45pm until 6:30pm. This will occur on a weekly basis. All are welcome.

Joshua Wellington Men's One-Day Retreat

Held at the Home of Compassion, Island Bay on Saturday 29 October from 8:30am to 5pm. The themes are 'Peace, hope and healing through Jesus for our brokenness' Brendan Malone, Director of LifeNET NZ will be leading the retreat. If you want to know more contact Steve Ready on 027 356 955 or email joshua.wgtn@gmail.com

Keeping School Children Connected

Please let families with school aged children know that if they don't have internet connectivity at home, then the family needs to contact their child's school as soon as possible & let the school know their address & that they are not connected to the internet. Schools then contact the Equitable Digital Access team at the Ministry of Education before **Wednesday 31st August** if they have students living in households that are not connected to the internet. This access to free connectivity is not available after August.

Child Safeguarding Week

We're getting involved in Child Safeguarding Week 2022, 4-10 September to raise awareness on what you can do to safeguarding and protect children from abuse and neglect! Find out more at www.childsafeguardingweek.org.nz.

Synod

Parishes and dioceses around the country took part in the local phase of Pope Francis's synodal path to the Church's future, which will culminate in an Assembly of the Synod of Bishops in Rome in October next year. The NZ bishops have just published the National Synod synthesis document that emerged from the diocesan phase of the process and the national hui held in Wellington in June. The national document has been sent to Rome as one of the many such documents from around the Catholic world as part of the Synod process.

A copy of the National Synod document is attached. The document, a summary of its contents, and an outline of the Synod process are online here:

www.catholic.org.nz/news/media-releases/nz-synod-synthesis/

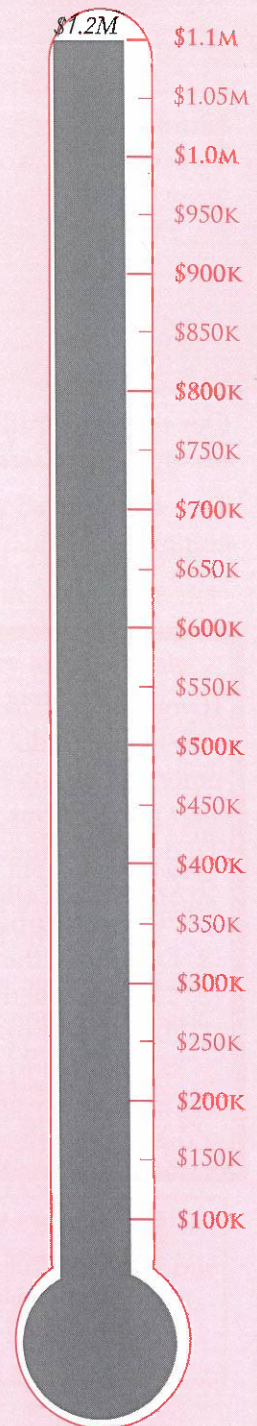
E-Waste Collection

E-Waste collection Saturday 3 September at St Catherine's College, Kilbirnie, 9am - 2 pm. \$2 - \$10 charged per item. No whiteware or CRT TVs. Further information see Wellington Host Lions on Facebook page.

SMAYACS - Theology on Tap: Obedient Discipleship (with Lawrence Peter)

This **Saturday 3rd September at 6:15pm at St. Mary's Parish Hall**, Lawrence will give a short talk on obedience and listening to the Holy Spirit in our daily lives. Reflecting on his own life, he will discuss how God can speak through others to nurture obedient discipleship. Lawrence will also explore how God allows some hardships to discipline us to become humble and obedient. The talk will be preceded by half an hour of Adoration in the Church. We'll then head off to a pub close by for more discussion (and beer).

PARISH CENTRE APPEAL



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:

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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

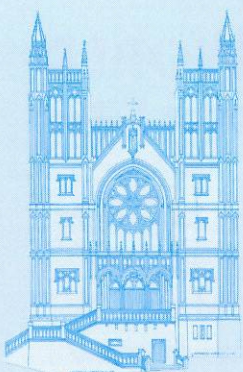
Please return your completed slip following your donation to ensure we have your details to issue a receipt.

Change in Bank Account Suffix

The suffix has changed on the Parish Centre Fundraising account. Please deposit donations into:

St Mary of the Angels Parish
02 0536 0003242 24

Please provide name and address in the reference for a receipt.



Marist Messenger

A monthly magazine of Catholic Spirituality in the Marist Tradition. Available for purchase at the back of the church. Subscription: \$60 a year 11 monthly issues posted to your letterbox. Catholic Spirituality, Daily Scripture Reflections Visit www.maristmessenger.co.nz, email secretary@maristmessenger.co.nz or phone 04 499 6546.



Catholic Enquiry Centre/Catholic Discovery Fundraiser

Father Stu Movie Tuesday 6 September 6pm at Light House Cinema Petone. Tickets (\$20 + processing fee) can be securely purchased online at www.catholicdiscovery.nz/stu or call the CEC office (04) 385 8518.

An improbable transformation. From small town boxer to being a struggling actor living in Los Angeles, Stu Long's life drastically changes when he miraculously survives a motorcycle accident. Stu aspires to use his second chance to help others find their way, and comes to a surprising realisation that he is meant to be a Catholic priest.

Our tour with Father Stu, the movie, returns to Petone, Lower Hutt. After two successful screenings we have decided to extend the tour.

To learn more about the movie, you can access a preview which includes comments made by our audience members on YouTube at https://youtu.be/Qj0m_iv5NvI.

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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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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