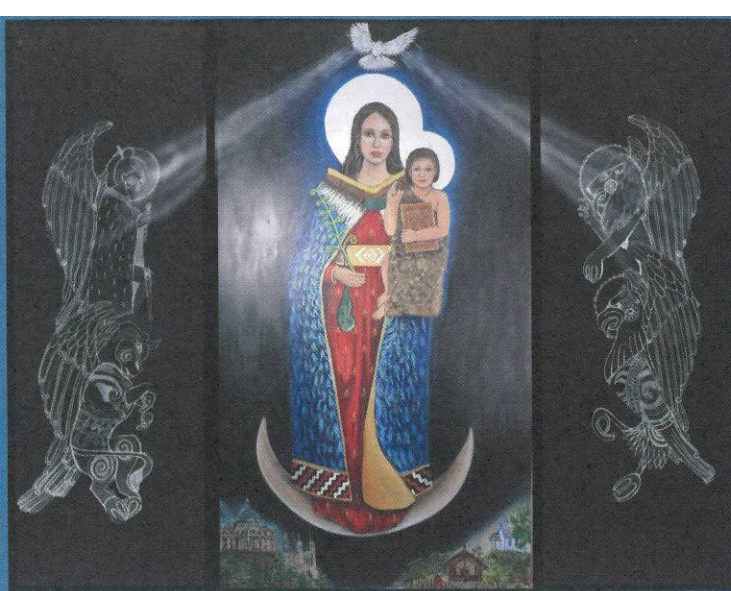


# The Angelus

St Mary of the Angels Parish  
The National Shrine of New Zealand  
Mary, Mother of God, Assumed into Heaven  
www.smoa.org.nz

St Mary of the Angels Church  
17 Boulcott St, Wellington Central (04) 473 8074

St Joseph's Church  
154 Brougham St, Mt Victoria, Wellington (04) 385 0915



Ko Hāia Maria, te Matua Wāhine o te Atua - Holy Mary, Mother of God

## 18 December 2022, 4th Sunday of Advent

### A Merry Messy Christmas

This Sunday we have the background Christmas story from Joseph's perspective in the Gospel of Matthew. Next week, we will experience how Jesus came to arrive at Christmas from Mary's perspective in the Gospel of Luke.

It can sound rather tidy in a book, but it's helpful to take the time to ponder the feelings and experiences of Christmas for Joseph and Mary. We can find the historical story of Christmas is much closer and personal for us today. Their story becomes our story too.

If your year has not worked out as planned; Mary and Joseph understand – all their plans were changed. If you are struggling with the faithfulness and commitment of your spouse; Mary and Joseph understand – they had difficult conversations but tried to respect each other's feelings and dignity (Mat 1,25). If you are not feeling accepted or welcomed by family; Mary and Joseph understand – they traveled pregnant for days to Jerusalem in the sun on a donkey and couldn't find a bed with family in Bethlehem (Mat 2,4). If you are struggling with money and finding accommodation difficult; Mary and Joseph understand – they could only afford an animal shelter among lowly animals and straw (Luke 2,7). If you are worried about how you can provide for and guide your children with all the challenges of today; Mary and Joseph understand – they realized they were only servants of the mystery of life with God and God was ultimately in control (Luke 2,51). If you are wary of government and laws that limit freedom; Mary and Joseph understand – they lived in the time of King Herod who was so fearful of the future he killed children (Mat 2,16). If you experience the hardships of migrant life in another culture and language; Mary and Joseph understand – they had to try and learn the new language and culture of Egypt as refugees (Mat 2,13). How did they make it through these experiences – they listened to God in prayer and in the depths of their heart and soul – and believed that trust in God and faithfulness to this inner voice of God would bring them through.

We may try and have a tidy Christmas, but let's not get too upset by the surprises of what really happens. The first Christmas was rather messy and yet God seems to be at home in our mess and our world. As we each respond YES to God in the spirit of Joseph and Mary's, we too continue to allow God to work powerfully in our world today. In a very real way, we continue the incarnation – putting flesh to God's words in prayer – and allow Christ to be birthed in our hearts and homes and community. A merry – messy - and prayer-full Christmas everyone.

Fr Frank Bird sm—Assistant Priest

#### Parish Priest

Fr Kevin Mowbray SM  
parish.priest@smoa.org.nz

#### Assistant Priests

Fr Joe Savesi SM  
dennys4life@hotmail.com  
Fr Hayden Powick SM  
haydenpowick@hotmail.com  
Fr Frank Bird SM  
francisbird@gmail.com

#### Pastoral Worker

Sr Frances Gibbs CSB

#### Youth Minister

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

#### 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

Mass of Anointing- 4th Saturday of the month

##### 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:** Isaiah 7:10-14  
*The virgin will conceive.*

**Second Reading:** Romans 1:1-7  
*Jesus Christ, a descendant of David, is the Son of God.*

**Gospel:** Matthew 1:18-24  
*Jesus was born of Mary, the betrothed of Joseph, a son of David.*


### Next Week's Readings

**First Reading:** Isaiah 52:7-10

**Psalm:** 97

**Second Reading:** Hebrews 1:1-6

**Gospel:** John 2:15-20



**Last Sunday's Collection**

Sunday Collection:	\$2,804
Automatic Payments:	\$3,396
<b>Total: \$6,200</b>	

### Guardians Needed for Four Time Slots

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. If you would like to consider being a part of this important service to the parish community please contact the parish office on [office.manager@smoa.org.nz](mailto:office.manager@smoa.org.nz) or 04 473 8074.

### Thought for the Week

Be the motivation, not the distraction.

### Responsorial Psalm 23

**R. Lett he Lord enter; he is king of glory.**

The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,  
the world and all tis peoples.

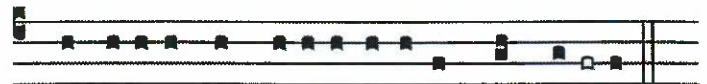
It is he who set it on the seas;  
on the waters he made it firm. **R.**

Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?  
Who shall stand in his holy place?

The man with clean hands and pure heart,  
who desires not worthless things. **R.**

He shall receive blessings from the Lord and reward  
from the God who saves him.

Such are the men who seek him,  
seek the face of the God of Jacob. **R.**



Intro- í-bit Rex gló-ri- ael ipse est Rex gló-ri- ae.

*Let the Lord enter! He is the King of Glory.*

### Covid Tests

If anyone is in need of covid tests, we have some available. Please visit the Parish Office during the week to pick up.

### Journey to the Holy Land with Bishop Steve Lowe

Watch the Gospels come alive as we set out on this true pilgrimage of faith and retrace the progressive stages of the life of Jesus from his Nativity in Bethlehem to his Passion on Calvary. Be deeply moved as we behold with our eyes what our minds for so long attempted to imagine. For more info visit [booking.harvestjourneys.com/nzd](http://booking.harvestjourneys.com/nzd)

### Mass has been offered for:

**Recently Deceased:** Dan Karehana, Frances Connolly, Barbara Jones, Joseph Ngoc Sinh Nguyen

**Anniversaries:** Phyllis Clifford, Ronald McDonald, Kura Turner, James Glover

**Prayers for the Sick:** Henry Prendergast, Denis O'Neill, Noreen Kirwan, Geoff and Dianne Sweet, Losalia Leo,



John Mora, Kerry Barber, Pam Finlayson, Francisca Sparnaay, Shirley Mahony, Samara Jamed, Bill Carroll, Mary Buchanan, Joe Haddow, Joan Wolland, William Sia, Kay De Barnardo, Edwin Ligeralde; Saturino and Magdalena Viloría

*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.*



**BUILDING CONTRACTORS**

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Email: [ltm@mcguinness.co.nz](mailto:ltm@mcguinness.co.nz)

**Councillor**  
**Nicola Young**  
representing Lambton ward

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

**021 654 844**  
[Nicola.Young@wcc.govt.nz](mailto:Nicola.Young@wcc.govt.nz)

**DEVINE LAW**  
**L I M I T E D**

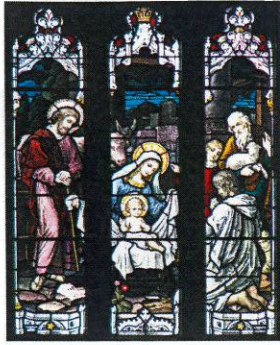
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For your legal requirements  
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Phone **Fintan Devine** on (04) 495 3747  
Email [fintan@devinelaw.co.nz](mailto:fintan@devinelaw.co.nz)  
[www.devinelaw.co.nz](http://www.devinelaw.co.nz)

## St Mary of the Angels Christmas Cards

St Mary of the Angels Christmas Cards are now available for purchase either after Mass on Sunday or from the Parish Office.

A6 \$15 for a pack of 12  
DLE \$15 for a pack of 12



## Accommodation Needed

Our lovely family of 3 young adult siblings (aged 16, 18, and 23) are looking for a 2 or 3 bedroom flat to rent. They are all at school or studying English. Originally from Ethiopia. Excellent reference from Fr Kevin. Please call John Kennedy-Good 027 246 0885 or Amanda Calder 027 443 2391 (Refugee Family Reunification Trust).

## International Student Hosts Needed

St Catherine's College have new students arriving in January 2023 for Term 1, so we are looking for homestay families now! There are students coming for short-term (2, 8 and 10 weeks) as well as two longer-term stays (44 weeks). If you're interested in building lifelong friendships, learning about other cultures and offering a Kiwi family experience to a young person, please email us at [international@scc.school.nz](mailto:international@scc.school.nz) for more information. Any other questions please get in touch! Yuko Homestay Coordinator St Catherine's College [international@scc.school.nz](mailto:international@scc.school.nz) or ph 04 9398988.

## Greenstone Aunties Needed

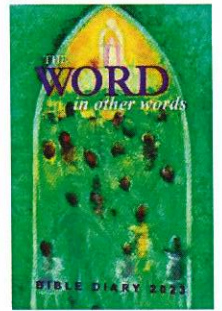
Greenstone Doors is urgently looking for volunteers to become part of a rostered team to help at a residence in Mt Victoria where two mothers will require support. The volunteer will need to have experience with the care of newborn babies. The role is to help parents build skills and confidence as first time mothers in a supportive environment. Hours are 9am-5pm and/or overnight. Commitment to at least one day or night a fortnight. For more information contact Wendy 0272549222 or email [manager@greenstoneddoors.co.nz](mailto:manager@greenstoneddoors.co.nz)

## The Word in other words—Bible Diary 2023

*A helpful companion for those who continually seek to encounter Christ in the Scriptures.*

The Bible diary 2023 is a decent, meaningful, and useful Christmas gift. A beautiful way to say "God loves you!" \$20 per book (postage us \$4.50 up to 3 books, bulk order postage will depend on the number of books).

Order now, limited supply. To order phone 09 4896549, 027 922 9902 during office hours (Monday to Thursday) or email [info@missio.nz](mailto:info@missio.nz).



## Friday Advent Vespers

For the season of Advent, we will be celebrating Vespers on Friday evenings after 5.15pm mass. We will sing the appointed psalms in English. Please join us in praying for the church and the coming of Christ in this beautiful liturgy each week, beginning Friday 9 December

## Columban Calendars

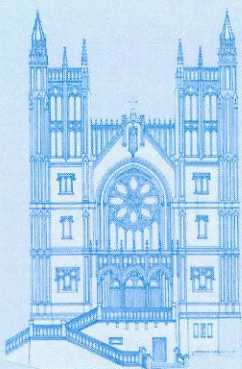
Columban Calendars are available to purchase from the Parish Office during the week for \$12.

## Invitation to contribute food for Christmas

Our St Vincent de Paul conference is supporting the work of the Wellington City Mission with food items this Christmas. We invite you to help make this Christmas special for everyone through the gift of giving. Food will go to the City Mission's Social Supermarket where people experience the dignity of choice. Christmas food treats and grocery basics are welcome. Please place your donations under our Christmas tree or in the food basket near the front door at SMOA on Sunday 18 or 24 December and they will be delivered to the City Mission.

## Urban Café—Help Needed!

Urban Café is hiring! They are in need of front of house staff, all rounders and chef/kitchen hands. Full and part time positions available. Please contact Angela on 04 801 8380, email [m.akelly@hotmail.com](mailto:m.akelly@hotmail.com) or pop into the café located at 2 Manners Street, just over the road from St Mary of the Angels Church.



## ST MARY OF THE ANGELS PARISH ONGOING MAINTENANCE APPEAL

I would like to help preserve St Mary of the Angels and St Joseph's Churches.

Name:

Address:

Email:

Tel:

My contribution will be made by:

Direct Credit

Cheque

Cash

PLEASE SPECIFY AMOUNT

\$

Donations can be sent to:

Ongoing Maintenance Fund

St Mary of the Angels Parish

17 Boulcott St, Wellington 6011

Bank Account Details:

SMOA - Parish Account

02-0536-0003242-24

BNZ, Lambton Quay, Wellington

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

## Passionist Family Group

The Mixed 4's Passionist Family Group enjoying our final catchup of 2022 at Island Bay Park. Great BBQ facilities for the yummy combo of sausage and onion wrapped in bread. A cafe across the road for an awesome takeaway coffee and of course great company. Looking forward to integrating Parishioners from St Mary's of the Angels into our PFGroups at St Josephs' in Feb/March 2023. Wishing everyone in the Parish a blessed and joyful Christmas Season.



### 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.



### Rachel's Vineyard Retreats New Zealand

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## A LEGACY OF FAITH



Remembering St Mary of the Angels or St Joseph's 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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## FINANCIAL UPDATE ON THE PARISH OF ST MARY OF THE ANGELS

The Finance Committee of the parish would like to share with you the current picture of the financial performance of the parish which, since August 2021, comprises two communities – St Mary of the Angels and St. Joseph’s.

We have two aims in mind. The first simply is **to inform**, i.e. to allow you to see how the parish has been performing since 2021. The second is to inform you of **the increasing weakness** of the financial performance of the parish.

Some points to notice:

1. The figures reported here represent the combined income and expenses of St Mary of the Angels and St. Joseph’s communities in the three periods covered.
2. The column for 2023 is a **forecast** of income and expenses only; whereas the columns for 2021 and 2022 are **actual** income and expenses for those periods of time.
3. The key line is the **“Net Operating Deficit”**. As can be seen this is increasing year on year and is likely to continue to do so in the future.
4. The major source of income for the parish are the Sunday and other mass collections.
5. The alternative sources of income that are available to the parish to help lessen the Net Operating Deficit are limited.
6. It is unlikely that we would be able to remove any of the expenses incurred regularly without damaging the ability of the parish to operate as you, no doubt, would wish.
7. The major expenses are diocesan levies for clergy support and archdiocesan support; salaries and wages; insurance premiums; and, local government rates.

In the New Year, 2023, it will be important for us to look together as a parish at ways and means we can improve our financial performance, either by increasing income, decreasing expenses or a combination of both.

Thank you for taking the time to understand the significance of this Financial Performance report. In difficult times we find ourselves facing yet another challenge!

Fr. Kevin Mowbray sm

**St Mary of the Angels Parish  
Statement of Financial Performance**

	<b>2023 Forecast</b>	<b>2022 Actual</b>	<b>2021 Actual</b>
Sunday and other mass collections	363,225	325,081	258,823
Less Support for the Clergy	(140,662)	(113,376)	(89,057)
Less Levy to the Diocese	(53,845)	(46,059)	(36,180)
<b>Net Collections</b>	<b>168,718</b>	<b>165,646</b>	<b>133,586</b>
Rental of properties	66,120	48,819	15,600
Parking	61,647	33,610	13,760
Votive Candles	18,308	16,330	20,171
Subsidy Brigidine Sisters	15,808	19,656	19,656
Hire of the hall	6,330	2,630	6,255
Baptisms, funerals, weddings	5,000	10,090	8,680
Bequests/donations	600	9,285	38,668
Covid-19 wage subsidy	-	-	11,230
Other revenue	4,218	6,302	6,491
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>346,749</b>	<b>312,368</b>	<b>274,097</b>
Salaries, wages and stipend	152,221	125,064	109,745
Insurance	97,828	90,312	77,500
Insurance rebate	(9,420)	-	-
Rates	48,177	49,065	25,844
Repairs and maintenance	35,955	26,430	20,024
Building Maintenance	20,000	26,130	27,650
Stationery, printing and other office costs	28,050	20,445	19,288
Light, heat and gas	18,842	14,789	10,873
Bread, wine, candles and other altar costs	12,143	12,029	9,817
Telephone, internet and website	5,313	5,150	5,654
Audit fee	4,300	8,100	4,300
Vehicle running costs	4,032	3,151	3,090
Music, pastoral and RCIA costs	3,642	3,148	4,062
Depreciation of fixed assets excluding building	459	2,027	8,630
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>421,542</b>	<b>385,840</b>	<b>326,477</b>
<b>Net Operating Deficit</b>	<b>(74,793)</b>	<b>(73,472)</b>	<b>(52,381)</b>
<b>Revenue for Capital Expenditure</b>			
Donations	16,667	384,506	352,056
Friends of SMOA Charitable Trust	-	300,000	-
Interest on deposits	417	2,309	1,037
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>17,084</b>	<b>686,815</b>	<b>353,092</b>
<b>Depreciation - Buildings and Organ</b>			
Depreciation - Buildings	158,900	142,600	165,835
Depreciation - Church organ	29,580	29,580	29,580
<b>Total Depreciation and Building Maintenance</b>	<b>188,480</b>	<b>172,180</b>	<b>195,415</b>
<b>Surplus for the year</b>	<b>(246,189)</b>	<b>441,163</b>	<b>105,297</b>