

# 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](http://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 Hāua Maria, te Matua Whānau o te Ariā - Holy Mary, Mother of God

## 25 December 2022, The Nativity of the Lord

There seems to be a lot of bad news these days. There is no need to make a list of everything, but if we let it, the bad news can overwhelm us with anxiety and darkness. This feeling is compounded if we struggle with suffering and misfortune in our own lives. Perhaps, we can feel like actors in a tragedy, part of a story "...told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, signifying nothing."

The word 'Gospel' has its origin in words 'God' and 'spell.' 'Spell' was the Old English word for 'news or story, and so Gospel literally means 'God's story.' At Christmas we celebrate the revelation of good news; today, God enters into the world to share His story of love with us.

The prologue of John's Gospel (John 1:1-18) is a summary of God's story. We hear that before creation, the Son and the Father shared a communion of love and being: *In the beginning was the Word: and the Word was with God and the Word was God.* This proximity continued in the arrival of the Son in the flesh: *No one has ever seen God; it is the only Son, who is nearest to the Father's heart, who has made him known.*

For this reason, Christ's coming into the world signifies *a light that darkness could not overpower* because it is God Himself who walks among us. The darkness of the world, all of the bad news, cannot overpower the light of Christ. I couldn't help think of Samwise Gamgee in the land of Mordor noticing a star through the smog and darkness.

There, peeping among the cloud... Sam saw a white star twinkle for a while. ...For like a shaft, clear and cold, the thought pierced him that in the end the Shadow was only a small and passing thing: there was light and high beauty for ever beyond its reach.

We too are gathered around a star of light.

The beginning and end of John's prologue journey towards the climatic centre of God's story: *But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God.*

The good news gets better: not only does God wish to make his love known, He invites us to become part of his story too. The catechism teaches that God, who "dwells in unapproachable light", wants to communicate his own divine life to the men and women he freely created, in order to adopt them as his children in his only-begotten Son (1 Tim 6:16, cf. Eph 1:4-5). By revealing himself God wishes to make them capable of responding to him, and of knowing him and of loving him far beyond their own natural capacity."

Let our gratitude to be part of God's story be the source of our joy this Christmas.

Fr Hayden Powick sm—Assistant Priest

### Parish Priest

Fr Kevin Mowbray SM  
[parish.priest@smoa.org.nz](mailto:parish.priest@smoa.org.nz)

### Assistant Priests

Fr Joe Savesi SM  
[dennys4life@hotmail.com](mailto:dennys4life@hotmail.com)  
Fr Hayden Powick SM  
[haydenpowick@hotmail.com](mailto:haydenpowick@hotmail.com)  
Fr Frank Bird SM  
[francisbird@gmail.com](mailto:francisbird@gmail.com)

### Pastoral Worker

Sr Frances Gibbs CSB

### Youth Minister

[youth.minister@smoa.org.nz](mailto:youth.minister@smoa.org.nz); 04 282 1746

### Director of Music

William McElwee  
[wmcelweemusic@gmail.com](mailto:wmcelweemusic@gmail.com)

### Parish Accountant

[accounts@smoa.org.nz](mailto:accounts@smoa.org.nz)

### St Mary of the Angels Church Office

[office.manager@smoa.org.nz](mailto:office.manager@smoa.org.nz); 04 473 8074

### St Joseph's Church Office

[st.josephs.office@xtra.co.nz](mailto:st.josephs.office@xtra.co.nz); 04 385 0915

### St Mary of the Angels Church

#### MASSSES

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

#### MASSSES

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 52:7-10  
*All the ends of the earth shall see the saving power of our God.*

**Second Reading:** Hebrews 1:1-6  
*IN our own time, God speaks to us through his Son.*

**Gospel:** John 1:1-18  
*The Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us, and we saw his glory.*

### Next Week's Readings

**First Reading:** Numbers 6:22-27  
**Psalm:** 66  
**Second Reading:** Galatians 4:4-7  
**Gospel:** Luke 2:16-21



### Last Sunday's Collection

Sunday Collection: \$3,091  
 Automatic Payments: \$2,728  
**Total: \$5,819**

### Columban Calendars

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

### Food for Faith

Food for Faith offers brief daily reflections for Advent. Sign up at [www.foodforfaith.org.nz](http://www.foodforfaith.org.nz).

### Thought for the Week

"When you see a person without a smile give them yours – especially at Christmas!"

### Mass has been offered for:

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

**Anniversaries:** Diana Bartram, Marie Giles, Natalie Duncan, Shirley Binks, Noel Scahill, Paul Giles

**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 Vilorio, Alphonse Xavier Thomas, Jim Meachen

*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 97

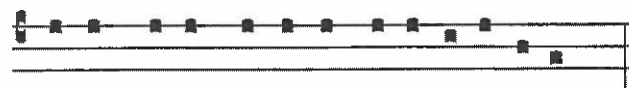
**R. All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.**

Sing a new song to the Lord  
 for he has worked wonders.  
 His right hand and his holy arm  
 have brought salvation. **R.**

The Lord has made known his salvation;  
 has shown his justice to the nations.  
 He has remembered his truth and love  
 for the house of Israel. **R.**

All the ends of the earth have seen  
 the salvation of our God.  
 Shout to the Lord all the earth,  
 ring out your joy. **R.**

Sing psalms to the Lord with the harp,  
 with the sound of music.  
 With trumpets and the sound of the horn  
 acclaim the King, the Lord. **R.**



No-tum fe-cit Domi-nus sa-lu-ta-re su-um.

*The Lord hath made known His salvation.*

### 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.

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

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](mailto:Nicola.Young@wcc.govt.nz)

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[www.devinelaw.co.nz](http://www.devinelaw.co.nz)

## Thank You from our St Vincent de Paul Conference

Warm thanks to our fellow parishioners who donated food to our St Vincent de Paul Conference Christmas appeal to help the Wellington City Mission's Social supermarket. Grateful thanks also to those who make contributions to the Poor Box in the church or give direct donations to support our year-round work of assisting people who are lonely or in need. St Vincent de Paul meetings resume in February at 6 to 7pm on the third Tuesday of each month.

## Faith Rosaries

We sell rosaries in the Parish Office designed and handmade by Ngaire Greger from Faith Rosaries. If you are looking for a rosary as a gift or for yourself, please contact the Parish Office to arrange a time to come in.

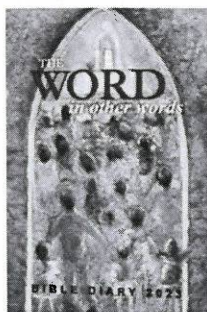
## Greenstone Aunties Needed

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).



## Thank You

This is our last parish newsletter for the year 2022. It is a good time, then, to reflect briefly on this past year in which so much has happened within our community.

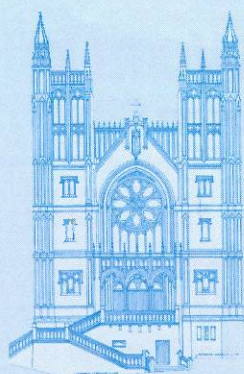
We are all aware of how the covid virus has impacted our life. But, whilst still overshadowed by this reality, we shouldn't forget the good things that have encouraged us and raised our spirits: the two communities which now form the one parish of St Mary of the Angels continue to work more and more closely with each other; we completed the strengthening and renovation of the parish offices and attached facilities, so welcoming and attractive now; "Te Ara a Maria" the image which identifies St Mary of the Angels as the National Shrine, completed her hiko around Aotearoa New Zealand and came to rest permanently in our midst; and our communications profile was markedly improved, through a new-look 'Angelus', reflecting the changed reality of the parish, and a refreshed and updated parish website, thanks to Michael van Es. These are realities that will shape us for years to come. We give thanks for them.

In particular, I want to thank those who have carried out the many ministries in the Parish over the past year with great dedication. I thought of listing all of the various committees, groups and individuals who work so hard to make sure that our parish is alive and so gives rest to the weary, comfort to those in need and kindles passion for the Word. But space does not allow me to do that! I hope I do justice to you all when I say, very thankfully, your commitment inspires and strengthens our commitment.

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.

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

Fr Kevin Mowbray sm



## 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:

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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.



### 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).

### 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)

### 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 program, please fill out one of our new parishioner forms available on our website—[www.smoa.org.nz/about/#new](http://www.smoa.org.nz/about/#new).

### 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.

### 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

"Healing the pain of abortion, one weekend at a time..."

Confidential and sensitive support for anyone whose life has been touched by abortion.

"Wipe the tears from your eyes....there is hope for your future." Jer31

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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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