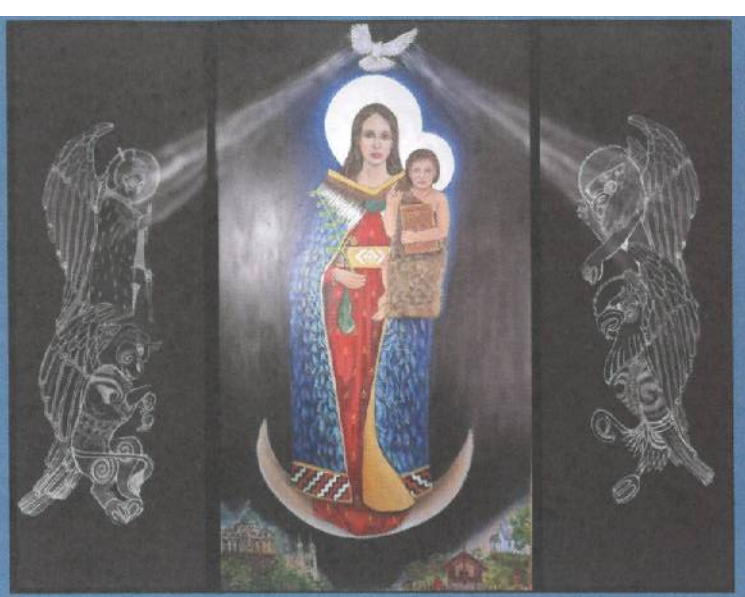


The Angelus

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

10 December 2023, 2nd Sunday of Advent—Year B

A shimmering vista hazed in heat, the inviting coolness of river water, the shiver of expectancy, the commanding voice of the preacher: “Someone is following me, someone more powerful than I am. I baptise with water. He will baptise with the Holy Spirit”. A veritable heightening of expectation! Such is the mood of Advent. There’s going to be a happening; a happening of something long foretold. So long ago that its promise has become a distant memory and, for some, more fable than reality. Who can blame the creeping unbelief from generations of storytelling of divine promises of surprise and foreboding? Such is the wariness of Advent. Dare we renew our hope and fan our longing into flame? Such is the challenge of Advent. Will the Son of Man find faith when he comes?

Are we simply baptised in water for the forgiveness of sins? No! That is the baptism of the Baptist! We are baptised in water and the Holy Spirit. It is the Spirit who forgives: the Spirit of God, the Spirit of Christ. We believe that the preacher’s “someone” has indeed arrived. He has walked among us; he, who “has existed since the beginning, that we have heard, and that we have seen...that we have watched and touched with our hands: The Word, who is life”. Now, we wait. We wait for his return. Will creeping unbelief seep into our veins from generations of telling, from generations of waiting? Do we hold his promise of return more a fable than with conviction? Will the Son of Man find faith when he returns?

The world has turned his first appearing into a market place of tinsel and Santas. If we are to resist the hype of worldly Christmases and smell again the scent of an earthy birth, can we resist creeping doubt in his return? Can we revive the voice of hope, surprise, foreboding and expectancy behind the herald’s cry “Prepare a way for the Lord! Make a straight highway for our God” as we wait his return? Such is the riddle of Advent; a riddle we are called to answer; an answer dependent first on our response to his question: “But, *you*, who do you say I am?”

Fr Michael Young sm—Assistant Priest

Parish Priest

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

Assistant Priests

Fr Joe Saveasi SM
dennys4life@hotmail.com

Fr Michael Young SM
mlyoungsm@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

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@extra.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

RECONCILIATION

Mon-Thurs 11.30am - Noon
12.30pm - 1pm
4.30pm - 5pm

Friday 11am - 11.50am
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	40:1-5, 9-11
<i>Prepare the way for the Lord.</i>		
Second Reading	2 Peter	3:8-14
<i>We wait for new heavens and a new earth.</i>		
Gospel Reading	Mark	1:1-8
<i>Make straight the paths of the Lord.</i>		

Next Week's Readings

First Reading	Isaiah	61:1-2, 10-11
Psalm	Lk 1: 46-50, 53-4; Isa 61:10	
Second Reading	1 Thess	5:16-24
Gospel Reading	John	1:6-8, 19-28



Last Sunday's Collection

Sunday Collection:	\$3,179
Automatic Payments:	\$5,192
Total:	\$8,371

Upcoming Feasts

- 13 December** —St Lucy, virgin, martyr
14 December—St John of the Cross, priest, doctor

Jerard Heffernan Piano Recital

Held in the Adam Concert Room at Victoria University of Wellington on Friday 15 December 15 at 3pm. Music by Beethoven, Schubert and Schumann. Free entry and all are welcome.

Thought for the Week

It's hard enough for a person to keep their own socks pulled up, let alone someone else's.

Mass has been offered for:

Recently Deceased: Jenny Lane, Michael Shanahan, Ida Bale, Peter McGuinness, Sr Mary Scanlon, Maurice Pratley

Anniversaries: James Coyle, Daniel McKone, Maurice O'Brien, Janina Knopp, Teresa Vital, Helen Parris, Shona Rippin, Fr George Duggan sm

Prayers for the Sick: Noreen Kirwan, Dianne Sweet, Losalia Leo, John Mora, Kerry Barber, Pam Finlayson, Francisca Sparnaay, Pat Mahony, Samara Jamed, Kay De Bernardo, Saturino and Magdalena Vilorio, Jim Meachen, Tony Mackle, Dr Bill Glass, Tracey Wernicki, Philippa & Raymond Fagg, Phillip Hickey, Joan Wolland, Stephen George, Archbishop Novatus Rugambwa, Roger Havell
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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with a City Council issue*

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Responsorial Psalm 84

R. Lord, let us see your kindness,
and grant us your salvation.

I will hear what the Lord God has to say,
a voice that speaks of peace,
peace for his people.

His help is near for those who fear him
and his glory will dwell in our land. R

Mercy and faithfulness have met;
justice and peace have embraced.
Faithfulness shall spring from the earth
and justice look down from heaven. R

The Lord will make us prosper
and our earth shall yield its fruit.
Justice shall march before him
and peace shall follow his steps. R



Ostende no-bis mi-se-ri-cordi- am tu- am: et sa-lu-ta-re tu-um da no-bis.

Show us thy mercy: and grant us thy salvation.

Healing Service

Fr John Rea will conduct a Healing Service on Tuesday 12 December 2023 at the North Porirua Baptist Church 69F Discovery Place Whitby at 7.30 pm in the downstairs meeting room. All are welcome. Bring all those who need Jesus` healing.

Taize Prayer Service

Sunday 10 December from 7pm to 8pm. St Joseph's Chapel at 152 Brougham Street, Mt Victoria John Dalgety johndalgety57@gmail.com

St Mary of the Angels Christmas Cards



St Mary of the Angels
Christmas Cards are now available
for purchase either from the Parish
Office during the week.
A6 \$15 for a pack of 12
DLE \$15 for a pack of 12

Christmas Timetable Correction

The Carols with the Angels time is incorrect in the Christmas timetables provided last week. **The concert is being held at 7pm.**

Passionist Family Group

A special thank you to you all for the wonderful items donated to the St Vincent de Paul Christmas shop. It was very much appreciated by the organisers. I'm hoping next year, we can expand on not only Passionist Family Groups gifting, but the whole Parish. Such a great event to be part of and it's such a joy to give at Christmas Time!
Wishing you Peace, Aroha and Joy to all and I look forward to seeing you in 2024 at our annual planning afternoon in February.
Mary-Ellen Leen

The Jesse Tree

During Advent we reflect on how God was revealed to people in Old Testament times before the coming of Jesus. Matthew's Gospel (1:1-17) links the Old and New Testaments. He sets out the genealogy or whakapapa of Jesus' earthly family through which history, knowledge, philosophies and spiritualities were handed down until the birth of Jesus.

The Jesse tree is a visual reminder of this. The name comes from Isaiah's prophecy (Isaiah 11:1) that the Messiah or Saviour would come from among Jesse's descendants.

The symbols on the tree are based on centuries of Christian tradition. The symbols vary between Churches and the St Mary of the Angels Church symbols are explained further in the Parish App under 'Links'.

Carols with the Angels

Our annual *Carols with the Angels* concert will be held on **Wednesday 13 December** at 7pm here at St Mary of the Angels Church. Please join us for this special event in our parish, which will feature the Salvation Army Brass Band, St Mary of the Angels Choir, Wellington Young Voices, organists David Trott and James Young, and your favourite carols. Free entry with a collection.

Thank You

A sincere thank you to all those that helped at the working bees at both Churches last Saturday. We are very grateful for your help in preparing the Churches for the Christmas season.

Columban Calendars

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

A Merry Vinnies Christmas

A Merry Vinnies Christmas offers a shopping style experience to families seeking help over the holiday period, giving them the dignity, ownership, and choice to choose the presents they receive from us. We need support to collect gifts for the Merry Vinnies toy shop. Gift criteria: Appropriate for 0-16 year olds, Unwrapped and new/near new condition. We are always short on gifts for teenage boys (12-16 years old) Other ways to support include, donating decorations, wrapping paper, Christmas food and spreading the word! Donations can be brought into any St Vincent de Paul Op Shop or to the main office, 207 Riddiford Street, Newtown.

Volunteers Needed!

Volunteers needed to run EasyWorship slides on a laptop for displaying Mass responses on Sundays at the 9am and 5pm St Mary of the Angel's Church Masses. Training given. Enquiries welcome.
Wes: wes.wernicki@gmail.com
Emma: ebickers@gmail.com

St Joseph's Mens Book Group

Tuesday 12 December at 7.30pm. Bill Pearce Room, St Joseph's Church, Mt Victoria. Christmas function and best item from Book(s), Magazines, movies, websites etc. John Dalgety johndalgety57@gmail.com.

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.

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Tel:

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\$

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.



Bach Choir—Tidings of Comfort and Joy

The Bach Choir of Wellington and the Wellington Brass Band present, *Tidings of Comfort and Joy*, a feast of festive favourites in a spirited afternoon of glorious harmony with Christmas music for choir and brass band. There is something irresistibly joyful about hearing the warm tones of choir and brass band coming together to perform your favourite Christmas classics. The Bach Choir and the Wellington Brass Band invite you to celebrate the season with joyful carols and jubilant works from across the ages. This family-friendly event is sure to delight the hearts of everyone. We wouldn't dream of a Christmas concert without inviting our friends to join in the merriment of a festive carol-sing!

Start your Christmas season with our whānau and yours!
2pm Saturday, 16 December at St Mary of the Angels, (Boulcott Street)
Tickets on Eventfinda: \$35/\$40; schoolchildren free

Plenary Indulgence Christmas at Greccio

Plenary Indulgence on the Occasion of the Eight Centenary of "Christmas at Greccio" as experienced by St Francis of Assisi
On Christmas night 800 years ago St Francis of Assisi was inspired to create the first live Nativity scene at Greccio. He desired to touch people's hearts with the depth of God's love revealed in the Incarnation. It was this event that popularised the Christmas creche.

This year to mark the anniversary a plenary indulgence is available for all the faithful between **8th December 2023 and 2nd February 2024**

For more information visit the [website http://www.secularfranciscans.nz/](http://www.secularfranciscans.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 Abby at the parish office.



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