

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

Parish Priest

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

Assistant Priests

Fr Joe Savesi 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
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

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.

17 December 2023, 3rd Sunday of Advent—Year B

The Third Sunday of Advent is called “Sunday of Joy” or “Gaudete Sunday”, and reminds us that, even in the midst of many doubts and difficulties, joy exists because God exists. He offers us salvation and sets us free from sorrow, emptiness and loneliness. The joy of Christ fills our hearts and our lives as we encounter Him. When God comes to us, to support us in the trials of life, He simply comes within us. The Prophet Isaiah reminds us that God’s love surrounds us, like putting on a warm coat on a winters day!

There is a difference between joy and pleasure. We can’t find joy through material things. We can’t find Joy through winning the lottery or gambling. We can’t find joy by spending the rest of our lives in “artificial paradise”. Pleasures have an expiration dates, whereas Joy endures.

On this Sunday with St. John the Baptist, we are invited to rejoice always, we are reminded that the works of Christmas focus on the joyful witnessing to Christ, the Saviour of the world, the Lamb of God who takes away our sins. Our witnessing may not reach the point of shedding blood in martyrdom, but we are invited to die to ourselves so that the life of Jesus may be made manifest through us in our humility and acts of love and service.

This week the Christmas Crib will be in place. Why does the Christmas Crib move us so deeply? First because it shows God’s most tender love, the Creator of the world lowered himself to take up our littleness. The gift of life, in all its mystery, becomes all the more wondrous as we realise that the Son of Mary is the source and sustenance of all life. In Jesus, the Father has given us a brother who comes to seek us out whenever we are confused or lost, a loyal friend at our side He gave us His Son who forgives us and frees us from our sins.

We see the figures of Mary and Joseph placed: Mary became Mother of God’s Son. In her we see the Mother of God who does not keep her Son only to herself, but invites everyone to obey His word and put it into practice. St Joseph at her side, protector of the Child and guardian of his family. He entrusted himself always to God’s will.

As we contemplate the Nativity scene, we are all called to reflect on the responsibility to spread the Gospel. We open our hearts to this simple grace, so that our humble prayer may rise, a prayer of thanksgiving to God, who wished to share with us all, and never leave us alone.

Sister Frances Gibbs—Pastoral Worker

This Week's Readings

First Reading Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11

I exult for joy in the Lord.

Second Reading 1 Thess 5:16-24

May you all be kept blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel Reading John 1:6-8, 19-28

There stands among you, unknown to you, the one who is coming after me.

Next Week's Readings

First Reading 1 Samuel 1-5, 8-12, 14, 16

Psalm 88

Second Reading Romans 16:25-27

Gospel Reading Luke 1:26-38



Last Sunday's Collection

Sunday Collection: \$3,311

Automatic Payments: \$3,259

Total: \$6,570

Upcoming Feasts

Faith Rosaries

We sell rosaries in the Parish Office designed and hand made 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.

Thought for the Week

I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples.

Mass has been offered for:

Recently Deceased: Magdalena Viloría, Jenny Lane, Michael Shanahan, Peter McGuinness

Anniversaries: Angelica Watanabe, Phyllis Clifford, Ronald McDonald, Kura Turner

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 Viloría, 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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Nicola.Young@wcc.govt.nz

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Responsorial Psalm—Luke 1

R. My soul rejoices in my God.

My soul glorifies the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour.
He looks on his servant in her nothingness,
henceforth all ages will call me blessed. **R**

The Almighty works marvels for me.

Holy his name!

His mercy is from age to age,
on those who fear him. **R**

He fills the starving with good things,
sends the rich away empty.

He protects Israel, his servant,
remembering his mercy. **R**



Gaudens gaudebo in Domi-no.-

Rejoicing, I rejoice in God.

2024 Bible Diaries

The Bible Diary can be your most treasured companion as you go through next year. Each day features the scripture readings and an inspirational reflection that can set the tone for your own personal conversations with God. Fundraising for the Mission in India the diaries are available to purchase from the Parish Office for \$20.

Medjugorje Pilgrimage

A Medjugorje group pilgrimage is planned to depart 19 May. Group leader and chaplain to accompany. See noticeboard for details. Visit www.pilgrimage.nz or phone 0274219064.

St Mary of the Angels

Parish Donations

To make a donation to St Mary of the Angels Parish please scan the QR code and follow the link to our website.



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



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 or in paper form available at the back of the Church.

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'.

Parish Offices Closing

A reminder that the Parish Offices will be closing over the holiday break.

St Joseph's Church Office is closing from Thursday 21 December until Tuesday 16 January 2024.

St Mary of the Angel's office is closing from Friday 22 December until Monday 15 January 2024.

For urgent enquires during this time, such as funerals, please contact parish.priest@smoa.org.nz or sisterfrancesgibbs@hotmail.com

Charitable Trust AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the St Mary of the Angels Charitable Trust for 2023 will be held in the parish offices at 5.00pm on Thursday, 21st December. The meeting will receive and consider the Annual Report of the Trust Board, the Financial Statements of the Trust for the year and the Auditor's report. Parishioners of St Mary of the Angels, who are regular financial contributors to the parish, are invited to attend.

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 old's, 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 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 *PLEASE SPECIFY AMOUNT*
 Cash \$

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.

Carol singing on Christmas Eve in Wellington Hospital

After an interruption of three years we are again able to host Christmas Eve Carol singing around the wards in Wellington Regional Hospital (Newtown). This is an old tradition once undertaken by the nurses. It is one that has great meaning to patients who are unable to be home with family and friends. Hearing the carols as well as knowing that a group of people have given up their time to come and sing on Christmas Eve can touch them deeply. It is also a treat to the staff who also go the extra mile for their patients at Christmas. If you are able to join us please come to the Hospital Atrium at 6.45pm on Christmas Eve for an hour and half approx.

Te Kupenga – Catholic Theological College

If you want to serve in the parish community, become a catechist, Christian or youth leader, or want to deepen your understanding of the Catholic faith, come and register at Te Kupenga – Catholic Theological College. We offer programmes that will help you build intellectual faith as you build faith communities. For more information, please visit our website at www.ctc.ac.nz, email us at office@ctc.ac.nz or call (04) 8198380. Scholarships and online options available.”

Achieving Pregnancy Naturally

The Billings Ovulation Method™ can help you to optimise your chances of conceiving naturally. Our Fertility Educators will teach you to recognise your body's natural signs of fertility and pinpoint the most fertile day in your cycle. The Billings Ovulation Method™ is effective, non-invasive and affordable! It is backed by over 50 years of medical research. For a free information leaflet, contact Billings LIFE 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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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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