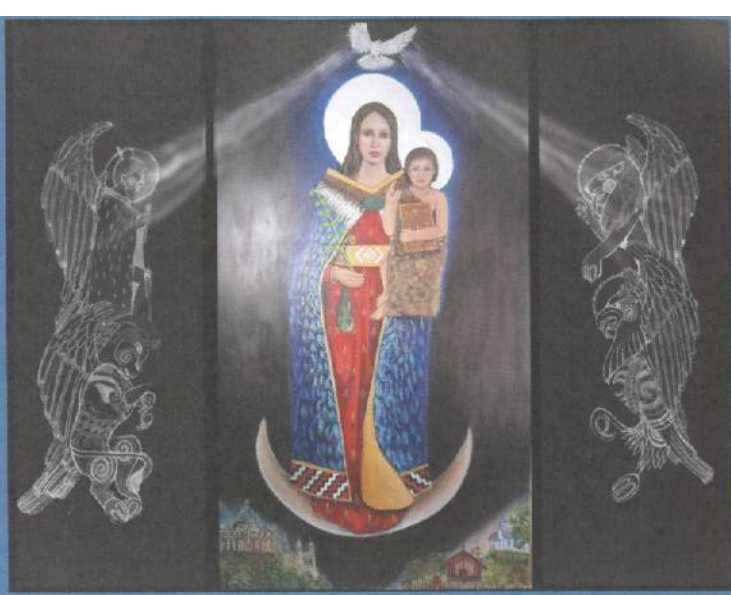


The Angelus

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 Hāua 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.

24 December 2023, 4th Sunday of Advent—Year B

Thank You

This is our last parish newsletter for the year 2023. It is a good time, then, to reflect briefly on this past year in which so much has happened within our community.

This was a year of consolidation for our parish. Both ends of our one parish grew to know and appreciate each other better through committee work, sacramental programs and such ministries as the Passionist Family Movement and the RCIA program. A lot of effort has been put into forming a co-ordinated ministry for Aged Care needs in the Wellington City area. A particular word of thanks to the choirs and musicians who help us enter more fully into our prayer and worship. Our newly renovated parish offices and hall, completed last year, have proven to be very popular and were used often for a wide range of activities. The image marking St Mary of the Angels as the National Shrine has been beautifully positioned and we are quietly working away both to complete this and to promote it throughout New Zealand. Important work has been done in the area of Finances: informing parishioners of the impossible challenge we face to continue paying for natural disaster insurance for the church; developing a plan for the future of the housing properties which form part of the St. Joseph's site; agreeing an investment plan for the funds held by the SMOA Trust.

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,
Parish Priest,
St Mary of the Angels

This Week's Readings

First Reading 1 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16
The kingdom of David will be established for ever in the sight of the Lord.

Second Reading Romans 16:25-27
The mystery kept secret for endless ages is now revealed.

Gospel Reading Luke 1:26-38
You will conceive and bear a son.

Next Sunday's Readings

First Reading Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3

Psalm 104

Second Reading Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19

Gospel Reading Luke 2:22-40



Last Sunday's Collection

Sunday Collection: \$3,544

Automatic Payments: \$5,389

Total: \$8,933

Upcoming Feasts

25 December—The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

26 December—St Stephen, the first martyr

27 December—St John, apostle, evangelist

28 December—The Holy Innocents, martyrs

31st December—The Holy Family

1st January—Mary, the Holy Mother of God

Responsorial Psalm 88

R. For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord;
 through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth.
 Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever,
 that your truth is firmly established as the heavens. **R**

'I have made a covenant with my chosen one;
 I have sworn to David my servant:
 I will establish your dynasty for ever
 and set up your throne through all ages.' **R**

He will say to me: 'You are my father,
 my God, the rock who saves me.'

I will keep my love for him always;
 for him my covenant shall endure. **R**



Mi-se-ri-cordi- as Domi-ni in aeternum can tabo.-

The mercies of the Lord, I will sing for ever.

Thought for the Week

Worry never robs tomorrow of its sorrow,
 but only saps today of its strength.

Mass has been offered for:

Recently Deceased: Cardinal Thomas Stafford Williams, Fr Tom O'Connor, Raymond Fagg, Magdalena Vioria

Anniversaries: James Glover, Diana Bartram, Marie Giles, Natalie Duncan, Shirley Binks,

Noel Scahill, Paul Giles, Helen McKone, Sr Margaret Mary Murphy, Fr Bryan Montgomery sm, Lois Palentine,

Mary Hutchens, Sheila Mahony, Euphemia Taylor, Maureen McDonald, Margaret Heister, Dorothy O'Brien,

John O'Brien, Fr Brian O'Connell sm, Mary Hutchins, Edward Haughey, Gordon Ashbridge, Bertrand Weir,

Xavier Reidy, Carol Armstrong, Margaret Philpott, Margaret Baxter, Alan Shapleski, William Lyons, Virginia Turner,

Veronica Reynolds, Patrick Darroch

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 Vioria, Jim

Meachen, Tony Mackle, Dr Bill Glass, Tracey Wernicki, Philippa 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*

021 654 844

Nicola.Young@wcc.govt.nz

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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.



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.

Thanks, from our St Vincent de Paul Conference

Wellington City St Vincent de Paul Conference wishes everyone the blessings of Christ this Christmas and New Year.

Warm thanks to all who make donations to support our work either through the Poor Box or via the QR code beside it. Grateful thanks too to those who have donated non-perishable goods to the food bank and children's gifts for the Merry Vinnies Christmas experience.

This year your generosity has enabled us to assist families in real need to clothe their children for school, and to provide basic food supplies or furnishings to those in difficult or emergency situations.

Our first meeting in 2024 is on Tuesday 20 February.



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.

Parish Offices Closed

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

Columban Calendars

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

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'.

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.

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.

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Tel:

My contribution will be made by:

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Cheque

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PLEASE SPECIFY AMOUNT

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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.

Catholic BnB

Catholic Hospitality in New Zealand and Australia, payment per night is \$50 for one guest and \$30 for each additional guest, e.g a couple would pay \$80 per. night for bed and continental breakfast. This is a wonderful way for Catholics to meet and enjoy the company of other Catholics . To purchase a book of details of hosts , contact Marie Anderson, 03 3595541 or email marie.ian@xtra.co.nz

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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Please contact the Parish Office for further details.

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