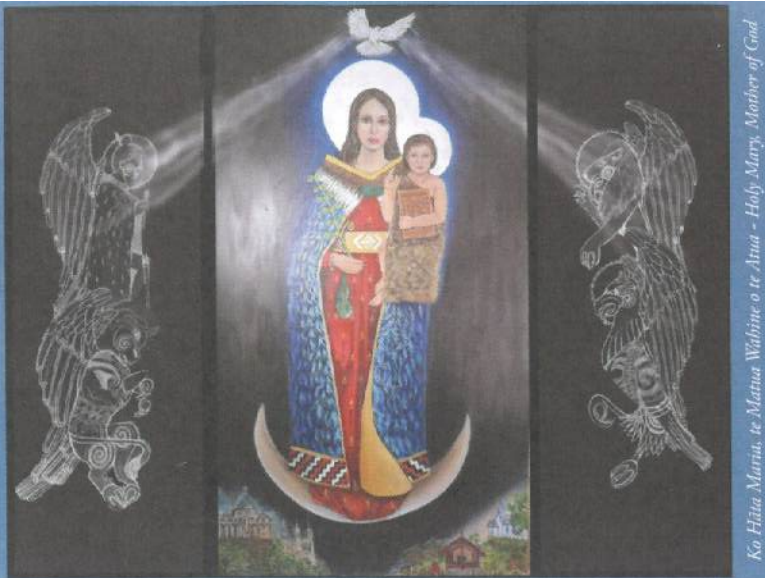


# The Angelus

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 Hina Maria, te Matua Wāhine o te Aina - Holy Mary, Mother of God

25 February 2024, 2nd Sunday of Lent

## Geography in the Scriptures

Mountains are not just mountains in the Scriptures! They tell us something important. This is where the people of Israel expected to find God. More crucially, there is a radical difference between God's appearance on mountains in the Old Testament and his appearance on mountains in the New Testament!

In today's readings mountains figure prominently. In the first Old Testament reading we find Abraham, our father in Faith, climbing a mountain, ready to make the supreme sacrifice of his only son's life. Before this can happen, God speaks to Abraham. He commends Abraham for his spirit of obedience, then mercifully enables Abraham to offer a different sacrifice which ensures that, through his son Isaac, the chosen people will spring forth.

In the Gospel Jesus takes his closest companions up the mountain. Unlike Abraham and Moses and others in the Old Testament, Jesus does not meet God on the mountain top. Rather, he is revealed to be God through his transfiguration and through the presence of Moses and Elijah who stand in attendance either side of him.

The lesson is simple: in the Old Testament whenever a mountain or a hill is mentioned we should be immediately alerted to what is happening – someone is about to meet God. But in the New Testament whenever Jesus climbs a hill or a mountain he is not meeting God but he is revealing something about himself as God. We should remember this as we journey through Lent towards Good Friday when Jesus carries his cross up the hill of Calvary to be executed there. The crucifixion is the revelation of who God is.

Mountains are not the only geographical features that carry hidden meanings in the Scriptures. The desert is a place where men and women are tested because there both good and bad, God and Satan, are present. It is a place where we make a fundamental choice for life or death.

Seas and lakes also carry hidden meanings about our need for God in our lives. When seas and lakes are disturbed, made dangerous by winds and storms, then they are threatening, just as are the 'monsters' that lurk in their deeps. At such moments they speak of a power which can destroy us; a power that only God can overcome.

The colour that such geographical details add to the sketches of the Old Testament patriarchs and prophets and to the ministry of Jesus deepen our understanding of who they are for us. They help us to imaginatively enter even more completely into the reality that God is revealing to us. They allow us to hear his Word resound more convincingly in our hearts.

Mountains and hills, deserts and wild spaces, seas and lakes, even trees and rivers – they are more significant than we may first think!

Fr Kevin Mowbray sm—Parish Priest

### 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.

## This Week's Readings

**First Reading**      **Genesis**      22:1-2, 9-13, 15-18  
*The sacrifice of Abraham, our father in faith.*

**Second Reading**      **Romans**      8:31-34  
*God did not spare his own Son.*

**Gospel**      **Mark**      9:2-10  
*This is my Son, the beloved; listen to him.*

## Next Week's Readings

**First Reading:**      **Exodus**      20:1-17  
**Psalm:**      18  
**Second Reading:**      **1 Corinthians**      1:22-25  
**Gospel:**      **John**      2:13-25



### Last Sunday's Collection

Sunday Collection:      \$4,528  
 Automatic Payments:      \$5,199  
**Total: \$9,727**

### Children's Day - 3 March

To celebrate Children's Day, the 9.30am Mass at St Joseph's on 3 March will be child friendly. We hope to see lots of children there.

### Thought for the Week

Sometimes we are tested not to show our weaknesses but to discover our strengths.

### Mass has been offered for:

**Recently Deceased:** Denis O'Neill, Gerald Hensley, Lydia Baltazar, Samara Jamed, Angela Y Jung

**Anniversaries:** Leslie Kriebel, Pauline Ritchie, Donald McIvor, Janis Horan, Fr Barry Edwards, Fr Michael O'Meeghan sm, Edward Hunt, John Morris, Nelson Nunns, Mary O'Brien, Joseph Pham Quang Viet

**Prayers for the Sick:** Noreen Kirwan, Dianne Sweet, Losalia Leo, John Mora, Kerry Barber, Pam Finlayson, Francisca Sparnaay, Pat Mahony, Kay De Bernardo, Saturino Viloría, Jim Meachen, Tony Mackle, Dr Bill Glass, Tracey Wernicki, Philippa Fagg, Phillip Hickey, Stephen George, Archbishop Novatus Rugambwa, Joan Wolland



*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 115

**R. I will walk in the presence of the Lord, in the land of the living.**

I trusted, even when I said:  
 'I am sorely afflicted.'  
 O precious in the eyes of the Lord  
 is the death of his faithful. **R.**

Your servant, Lord, your servant am I;  
 you have loosened my bonds.  
 A thanksgiving sacrifice I make:  
 I will call on the Lord's name. **R.**

My vows to the Lord I will fulfil  
 before all his people,  
 in the courts of the house of the Lord,  
 in your midst, O Jerusalem. **R.**



Pla-cé-bo Dómi-no in re-gi- ó-ne- vi-vó-rum.  
*I will please the Lord in the land of the living.*

### Envelope Planned Givers

With the end of the financial year coming up and cash being less readily available, now is the best time to switch to bank transfer if you are currently giving by planned giving envelopes. If you wish to know more or make the switch to bank transfer/automatic payment. Please contact Abby in the Parish Office to help set you up.

### Sunday Mass Parking

If you are interested in obtaining a carpark for Sunday Mass, please contact the Parish office for more information.

**L.T.**  
**McGuinness**  
 LIMITED  
 BUILDING CONTRACTORS

9 Francis Place,  
 PO Box 9639, Wellington  
 Phone (04) 384 8455  
 Email: 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**

**DEVINE LAW**  
 LIMITED

For your legal requirements  
 legal knowledge, human wisdom  
 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)



## The Eucharist in Scripture

Eucharistia Young Adults (EYA) is a Catholic community for young adults to grow deeper in the Catholic faith and journey together towards Heaven. The group will be starting a six week Bible Study called "The Eucharist in Scripture" by Scott Hahn to start on Wednesday 28 February and will end on 3rd April. The young adults group will meet weekly on Wednesdays at St Mary's of the Angel's hall. Doors open at 6:00pm and the session starts at 6:30pm. Refreshments will be provided but please eat dinner beforehand/bring your own dinner. For more information, contact [eucharistiawgtn@gmail.com](mailto:eucharistiawgtn@gmail.com) or visit our Facebook page Eucharistia.

## Genesis to Jesus Bible Study

The Symbolon Team bring you the 'Genesis to Jesus' bible study - a series designed to help ordinary Catholics grow in their knowledge of the Scriptures while deepening their understanding of the riches of our faith. 12 sessions in all, held every second Tuesday starting on the 27th Feb 6-7pm in the St Mary of the Angels' Parish Hall. Koha appreciated, supper provided.

## Holy Hour

You are invited to come to a Holy Hour on Tuesday 27 February at the Connolly Hall Chapel beginning at 7.30 pm to pray for vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life. Included in the hour will be prayers, praise and worship, scripture reading and silence, concluding with Benediction. All are welcome.

## Healing Service

Fr John Rea will conduct a Healing Service at St Teresa's Church Plimmerton on Tuesday 12 March at 7.30 pm. All are welcome. Please invite all those in need of Jesus' healing

## Welcome to University Students

We welcome all new and returning University students to the St Mary of the Angels Parish. We hope these next few years are successful in beginning the next journey. Please remember to touch base with our Young Adults Group and get involved with the many events coming up. You can find them on Face book— [www.facebook.com/smayacs1](http://www.facebook.com/smayacs1)

## 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.



## Lenten Reflection Programme "The Time is Now"

A reflection group using the Caritas material will be held each week during Lent beginning on Monday's at 7pm at St Josephs Church Mt Vic. All are very welcome. You can also work through the reflections which are based on the Sunday Gospels in Lent at home. Go to <https://www.caritas.org/parishes> and look up Lent. Contact John Feeny ph 04 386 4956 for more details.

## The Time is Now! Ko tenei tonu te Wā!

The time is now to empower vulnerable families to thrive. Lenten Giving Envelopes for the Bishops' Lent Appeal 2024 have been distributed today at Mass. This year, we are using a single giving envelope. By reducing costs, we ensure more of your donations go to those in need. You can give once or weekly, as is your preference. You may either return your donation envelopes during the parish offertory collection or send them to Caritas directly using the freepost option with the envelope. NZ Post specifies that cash must not be sent through the post. Donations received by Caritas in these envelopes by 31 March 2024 will be sent receipts for the 2023/2024 tax year. Donations received by Caritas after April 1st will be sent receipts for the 2024/2025 tax year. Thank you for your generous support.

## Video of NZ experiences of Synodality

Archbishop of Wellington Paul Martin, SM, Wairarapa parish Priest Fr Dennis Nacorda, and Auckland Vicar for Māori Manuel Beazley have shared their experiences of the Holy Father's Synod on Synodality in Rome last October. This YouTube video is a recording of a Zoom session they held with a live audience on Thursday 15 March 2023. Watch it here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=COKdE6mIojU>



## 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.

## 2024 Bible Diaries

The Bible Diary can be your most treasured companion as you go through this 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 (or contact Sister Frances).



## 40 Days for Life

Prayer and Fasting to end abortion, will take place again in Wellington, February 14th - March 24th. For further information, please phone Maria Hammond 0273547367.

## Catholic Women's League Wellington

The Catholic Women's League Wellington Archdiocese are celebrating 80 years of Faith, Service and Action in conjunction with their Annual Conference at St Bernadette's Parish Hall, Naenae on Saturday 16th commencing at 1pm and Sunday 17th March starting at 9am. Conference Mass is at 5pm Saturday, with the main Celebrant Monsignor Gerard Burns. One of the Keynote Speakers will be Joy Cowley on the subjects of "The Pros and Cons of Priests being able to Marry" and "Feminine Spirituality". Individual Registration Forms are available. For further information please contact Helen on [archdio.sec@gmail.com](mailto:archdio.sec@gmail.com)

## 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

[info@rachelvineyard.org.nz](mailto:info@rachelvineyard.org.nz)

027 254 9222

[www.rachelvineyard.org.nz](http://www.rachelvineyard.org.nz)

## Mahony Horner Lawyers



Know where you stand

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

## Everard & Antonella Aspell

for all your Real Estate Requirements

RayWhite

Licensed under REAA 2008

Everard Aspell  
0274 445 248  
[everard.aspell@raywhite.com](mailto:everard.aspell@raywhite.com)

Antonella Aspell  
0274 453 088  
[antonella.aspell@raywhite.com](mailto:antonella.aspell@raywhite.com)

## Harbour City

FUNERAL HOME



Serving the Archdiocese of Wellington for 34 years.

## Wellington

56 Onepu Road, Kilbirnie

Phone: 387 8301

[harbourcityfunerals.co.nz](http://harbourcityfunerals.co.nz)



## 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.



**NEW WORLD**  
Wellington City

Open 7 days 7am - 11pm

279 Wakefield Street

Ph 04 384 8054

[www.newworld.co.nz/wellingtoncity](http://www.newworld.co.nz/wellingtoncity)