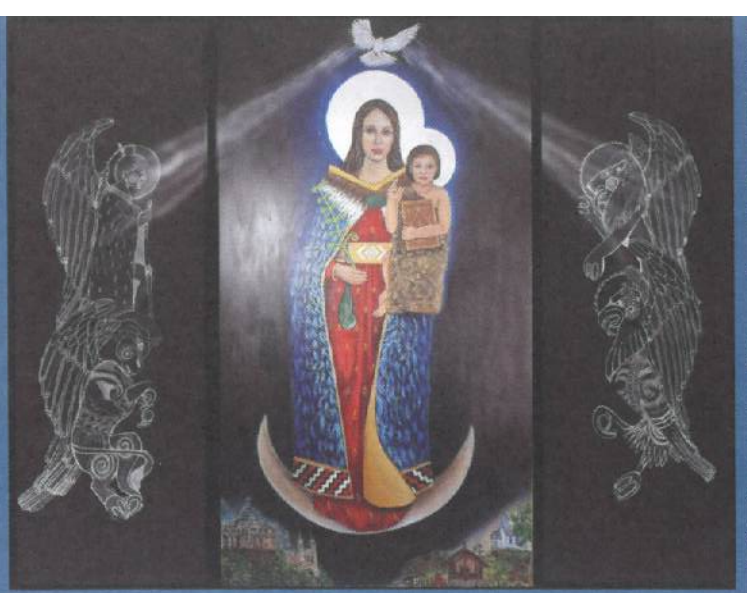


# The Angelus

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

## 8 December 2024, 2nd Sunday of Advent—Year C

### Parish Priest

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

### Assistant Priests

Fr Joe Savei SM  
[dennys4life@hotmail.com](mailto:dennys4life@hotmail.com)

Fr Michael Young SM  
[mlyoungsm@gmail.com](mailto:mlyoungsm@gmail.com)

### Pastoral Worker

Sr Frances Gibbs CSB

### 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

#### 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.

Christmas music and Christmas sales remind us of everything we must do to get ready for the 25<sup>th</sup> of December; decorating, preparing food, buying gifts, and sending cards. The list seems endless. Likewise, it may feel that, spiritually, we must get ready for Christmas. How are we observing Advent? How are we preparing to welcome Jesus? How are we waiting for the Incarnation?

Today's readings remind us that the emphasis on what we are doing is misplaced. God is constantly inviting us into a deeper and more loving relationship. God takes the initiative in our relationship. The Lord has already done great things for us. St Paul affirms "that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it".

God has already done everything. God's graces have already been gift wrapped and delivered to us with a bow on top. During the second week of Advent, the invitation is "to let go, and let God". Consider everything that God has done in your lifetime. Consider all the people who have already helped and shaped you into the person you are today. Just as John the Baptist helped prepare the way for Jesus, consider those people, events and circumstances in your life that have already helped you prepare for Jesus.

In listening to the words of John the Baptist, "prepare the way of the Lord make straight the paths". and reflecting on our own lives we often may find the paths we have travelled (and are still travelling) are very far from straight, but complex and indirect. This is almost an inescapable reality in our contemporary world. In John the Baptist's words, it is opportune to ask ourselves, "how could I make the path in my own life a little straighter"? What are the unnecessary things that I can let go of?

It is a time that we can reshuffle our lives and look at what is important and what is not important, to look at what perhaps more of a distraction than more of a life, to turn once again, to becoming the kind of people that Jesus has taught us to become, that God, has desired us to become: people who are self-sacrificing, those who reach out to their brothers and sisters.

The message of Advent is to prepare our hearts, straighten the pathways so that God Himself can embrace our hearts. What better way than Reconciliation before Christmas, not leaving it till the last moment!

*Sister Frances Gibbs—Pastoral Worker*

### This Week's Readings

**First Reading:** Baruch 5: 1-9

*Jerusalem—God will show you splendour.*

**Second Reading:** Philippians 1: 3-6, 8-11

*Show yourselves sinless and without blame in the day of Christ.*

**Gospel:** Luke 3:1-6

*All People shall see the salvation of God.*

### Next Week's Readings

**First Reading:** Zephaniah 3:14-18

**Psalm:** 12

**Second Reading:** Philippians 4:4-7

**Gospel:** Luke 3:10-18



### Last Sunday's Collection

Sunday Collection: \$3,319

Automatic Payments: \$4,789

**Total: \$8,108**

### Carols with the Angels

Our annual *Carols with the Angels* concert will be held on **Wednesday 18 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.

### Columban Calendars

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

### Responsorial Psalm 125

**R.** The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage, it seemed like a dream.

Then was our mouth filled with laughter, on our lips there were songs. **R.**

The heathens themselves said: 'What marvels the Lord worked for them!'

What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad. **R.**

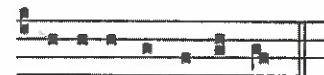
Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage as streams in dry land.

Those who are sewing in tears will sing when they reap. **R.**

They go out, they go out, full of tears carrying seed for the sowing; they come back, they come back, full of song, carrying their sheaves. **R.**



Magni-fi-ca-vit Domi-nus fa-ce-re no-biscum:



facti sumus laetentes.

*The Lord hath done these things for us: we are become joyful.*

### Food for Faith for Advent

Sign up at [www.foodforfaith.org.nz](http://www.foodforfaith.org.nz) to prepare for Christmas receiving daily email encouragements from Fr. John O'Connor's Food For Faith website.

### Mass has been offered for:

**Recently Deceased:** Kathleen Roskam

**Anniversaries:** James Coyle, Daniel McKone, aurice O'Brien, Janina Knopp, Teresa Vital

**Prayers for the Sick:** Kirwan sisters, Dianne Sweet, Losalia Leo, John Mora, Kerry Barber, Pam Finlayson, Francisca Sparnaay, Pat Mahony, Saturino Vilorio, Dr Bill Glass, Stephen George, Greg Hayward, Neni Beres, Yvonne D'Souza, Joan Wolland, Julia Choquette, João Pereira, Stephanie Butler, Maisie Sinclair, Pauline & Brian Wilkins, John Ellis, John Price



*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

*Please contact me if I can help  
with a City Council issue*

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**Nicola.Young@wcc.govt.nz**

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## Treaty Principles Bill Submissions

About 28 people attended a workshop "Stand up for Te Tiriti: Christian perspectives on the Treaty Principles Bill" last Tuesday evening at St Joseph's Church. After a video and discussions on the Articles and Principles of Te Tiriti and the meaning of the proposed rewrite of the Principles, attendees were invited to make their own submission to the Select Committee.

Anyone can make a submission up until 7 Jan 25. To do so go to [bit.ly/treatyprinciplesbill](http://bit.ly/treatyprinciplesbill) or [commongrace.nz/treatyaction](http://commongrace.nz/treatyaction) (includes prompts to consider when making your submission) or complete a paper form (copies at the back of St Anne's Church).

There are more resources about Te Tiriti on the Archdiocesan website under "Helpful videos and articles" at: [https://www.wn.catholic.org.nz/adw\\_community/hikoi-mo-te-tiriti/](https://www.wn.catholic.org.nz/adw_community/hikoi-mo-te-tiriti/)

Ngā mihi to St Joseph's Church Community for hosting this event.

## Thanks, from our St Vincent de Paul Conference

The Wellington City St Vincent de Paul Conference wishes everyone the blessings of Christ during Advent, Christmas, and the New Year.

Warm thanks to all who make donations to support our work. Grateful thanks to donors of donate non-perishable goods for the food bank. More families than ever are struggling to buy food.

This year your generosity has enabled us to assist families in real need to clothe and equip their children for school; to provide essential home furnishings for refugee families; and to provide emergency food parcels to people in our area.

Our first meeting in 2025 is on Tuesday 18 February, new members are always welcome.

## Advent Series Bible Study

The Genesis to Jesus teams brings you the "Advent Series" bible study – a series designed to help ordinary Catholics grow in their knowledge of the special Advent period while deepening their understanding of our rich faith. 4 video sessions in all, held every second Tuesday with the final session on TUESDAY 10 December from 6-7pm at St Mary of the Angels Parish Hall. Koha appreciated; light supper provided. If you need more information, please contact Donaldson @ [dlukose001@gmail.com](mailto:dlukose001@gmail.com)

## 2025 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.

## Annual Donation of Good to St Vincent de Paul Christmas Shop

Many thanks for the generosity of the Passionist Family Groups and Parishioners of our Parish. Your donations this year will go towards helping to provide gifts to 70 plus families in need in our community.

If you missed out on gifting and would still like to, all St Vincent de Paul stores are collection points for the Christmas Shop or you can donate money to bank account:

St Vincent de Paul Society Wellington  
02-0576-0017817-00

Reference: TOYS

Your money will be put to good use replenishing stock when required.



## Holy Smoke Candles

We have two new candles available in the office, Christmas Angels and Christmas trees. The Angels are \$15 for small, \$20 for large and, the Christmas trees are \$20. We still have Our Lady candles and Nativity candles available. Please purchase from the SMOA office or order online by emailing [holysmokecandlesnz@gmail.com](mailto:holysmokecandlesnz@gmail.com).



## Korean Catholic Community's 30th Anniversary

On 8 December the Korean community celebrate their 30th Anniversary in the St Mary of the Angels parish. We are blessed to have community members actively involved in parish activities and ministries including extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion, greeting, collecting, liturgy committee, and the community choir. We give thanks and pray for the community as they celebrate this special event.

## 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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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, Lambrton 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 (\$15) , contact Marie Anderson, 027 280 0611 or email [marie.ian@xtra.co.nz](mailto:marie.ian@xtra.co.nz)

## 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. They are explained further in the Parish App. We will add 4 symbols each week of Advent beginning with the Creation (Earth), Adam and Eve (tree), Noah's Ark, and Abraham and Sarah (stars).

## Carparks for Rent

The few church carparks have come up for rent Monday-Friday. If you are interested, please contact Abby in the Parish Office—04 473 8074

## 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

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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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