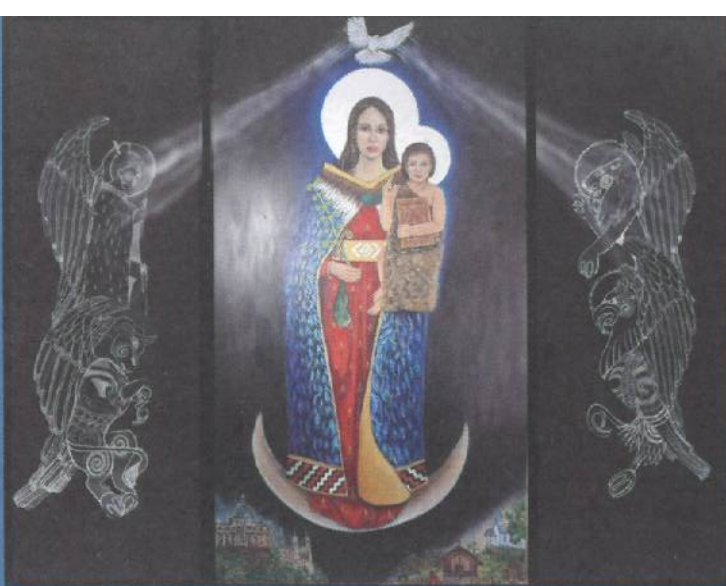


The Angelus

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 Māria, te Matua Whānau o te Atua - Holy Mary, Mother of God

22 December 2024, 4th Sunday of Advent—Year C

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

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 the last Sunday before Christmas. Our Gospel reading prepares us to witness Christ's birth by showing us how Jesus was recognized as Israel's long awaited Messiah even before his birth. The Gospel turns our attention from the ministry of John the Baptist to the events that preceded John the Baptist's birth. The story of John and his parents, Elizabeth and Zechariah, are reported only in Luke's Gospel.

Our Gospel reading recalls Mary's actions after the announcement of Jesus' birth by the angel Gabriel. Mary goes to visit her cousin Elizabeth who is with child. Elizabeth greets Mary with full recognition of the roles that they and their unborn children will play in God's plan for salvation. We hear Mary's response to Elizabeth, her prayer of praise, the Magnificat.

The Holy Spirit helps reveal Jesus' identity as God to those who believe. Elizabeth is filled with the Holy Spirit and sings Mary's praise because she bears the Lord. John the Baptist, the unborn child in Elizabeth's womb, recognises the presence of the Lord and joins in his mothers praise by leaping for joy. We continue to sing Mary's praise in the Hail Mary.

It is appropriate during the season of Advent that we consider the role of Mary in God's plan of salvation. Elizabeth describes Mary as the first disciple, as the one who believed that God's word to her would be fulfilled. Mary's faith enables her to recognize the work of God in her people's history and in her own life. Her openness to God allowed God to work through her so that salvation might come to everyone. Because of this, Mary is a model and symbol of the Church. May we be like Mary, open and cooperative in God's plan for salvation.

As we come to the end of another year, and on behalf of Frs. Kevin Mowbray PP, Michael Young, Joe Saveasi, Kevin Head, Jeff Drane and our office staff—Abby Cummins and Mary Crewdson and myself—we thank each of you for attending our liturgies as parishioners and for the various ministries that you are involved in. You are very much appreciated. Thank you.

We wish you every blessing for Christmas and the coming Year. Travel safely. Enjoy the holiday period. God bless.

Sister Frances Gibbs—Pastoral Worker



ARCHBISHOP OF WELLINGTON

18th December 2024

To the Parishioners in the Archdiocese

Dear brothers and sisters

This year has flown by, and you have all been in my prayers, particularly as we approach the birth of the Christ-child in just over a week's time. I hope and pray that your Advent has been graced; and that you have had an opportunity among all the busy-ness of Christmas preparations to ready your hearts to be filled with the wonder and hope that the birth of Jesus gives to each one of us.

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your witness to faith and for the life of our church communities this last 12 months. Thriving parishes and schools are signs of God in our midst, and as I have journeyed around the Archdiocese throughout 2024 I have been filled with gratitude for the ministry I have seen. I want to thank you also for your care of our priests and the support you give to them in their ministry.

I hope that during this Christmas season you may have an opportunity to rest and revitalise your spirits. Thank you to those of you who work during this time so that others may rest, it is very much appreciated.

I look forward to celebrating the Jubilee year of Hope with you in 2025 as we find ways to thank God for all we have and to grow in the virtue of hope.

May the joy and peace of this Christmas season be with and your families.

Yours in Christ

✠ Paul Martin SM
Archbishop of Wellington

This Week's Readings

First Reading: Micah 5: 1-4

Out of you will be born the one who is to rule over Israel.

Second Reading: Hebrews 10: 5-10

I am coming to do your will.

Gospel: Luke 1: 39-44

Why should it happen that I am honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord.

Next Week's Readings

First Reading: 1 Samuel 1: 20-22, 24-28

Psalm: 83

Second Reading: 1 John 3: 1-2, 21-24

Gospel: Luke 2: 41-52



Last Sunday's Collection

Sunday Collection: \$3,696

Automatic Payments: \$5,368

Total: \$9,064

2025 Appointments

Fr Barry Scannell sm will be joining St Mary of the Angels Parish in 2025 after Easter. Fr Barry has been Parish Priest of Napier for the last 6 years and will be joining us as an Assistant Priest. Sending a very warm welcome back to Fr Barry

Food for Faith for Advent

Sign up at www.foodforfaith.org.nz to prepare for Christmas receiving daily email encouragements from Fr. John O'Connor's Food For Faith website.

Responsorial Psalm 79

R. Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel

O shepherd of Israel, hear us,
shine forth from your cherubim throne.

O Lord, rouse up your might,

O Lord, come to our help. **R.**

God of hosts, turn again, we implore,
look down from heaven and see.

Visit this vine and protect it,
the vine your right hand has planted. **R.**

May your hand be on the man you have chosen,
the man you have given your strength.

And we shall never forsake you again:

give us life that we may call upon your name. **R.**

Convert us O lord and show us thy face; and we shall be saved.

Parish Office Closing

The Parish Office will be closed from Tuesday 24 December 2025 until Tuesday 21 January 2025. For emergencies during this time please email sisterfrancesgibbs@hotmail.com or parish.priest@smoa.org.nz

No St Joe's New Years Mass

There will be no Mass held on New Years eve at St Joseph's Church.

Mass has been offered for:

Recently Deceased: Maria Rose Mariam, Simon Taylor, Denia Nunns, Maisie Sinclair,

Anniversaries: Ronald McDonald, Kura Turner, 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

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



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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National Shrine Prayer

E te Atua, Creator of heaven and earth,
Source of all life, giver of all that is good,

We pray for Aotearoa New Zealand

And for all who come to her shores and make it their home.

We recall with gratitude our forebears in the Faith,

Who dedicated this country to the care of Mary,
Mother of God, assumed into heaven.

Pour out your Spirit upon us as we seek to respond to you,
Bringing your peace and harmony to this sacred land.

May we continue to praise you as we carry the Good News
of Jesus Christ to our brothers and sisters.

We make this prayer through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Mary, assumed into heaven; pray for us.



**Wishing you all a Merry Christmas from
the Parish Pastoral Team!**

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.

Dove Catholic Fellowship for Women

Dove Catholic Fellowship for Women, is excited to be launching a new initiative called Dovecotes. We invite you to prayerfully consider joining us by forming a Dovecote in your parish. All it needs is for two or more women, to support each other to deepen their personal relationship with Jesus Christ, through regular shared prayer. Our leaflet called 'Welcome to Dovecotes' available from your parish, contains all the relevant information. It's also on our website: www.dove.org.nz or email Gloria Stafford: dovenational.leader@gmail.com

Nga manaakitanga, Gloria

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.



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.

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.



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:

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Tel:

My contribution will be made by:

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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, Lambron 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

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).

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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