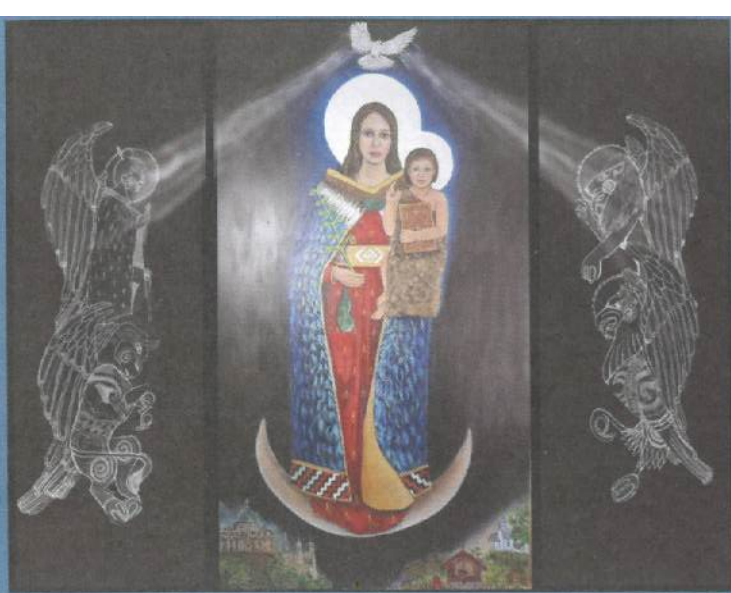


The Angelus

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 Whānau o te Aina - Holy Mary, Mother of God

9 March 2025, 1st Sunday of Lent

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

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.

Three great passions motivate our desire: 1. the passion to have; 2. the passion to manage or bring order into our lives; and 3. the passion to be valued. These passions are drives that move us to act for our well-being. In themselves, they are necessary if we are to achieve some sense of contentment. However – and this is the key lesson for this Sunday – if we are not in control of these passions, if we are blindly led by them, they become corrupting influences that distort our desire for happiness. To have becomes greed or a kind of resentful puritanism. To manage or order our lives becomes despotism or an obsessive-compulsive scrupulosity. To be valued becomes conceit or a desperate sense of inadequacy.

Our gospel reading this Sunday proclaims the “No” of Jesus to these three great passions *when they control us*; when these three passions have turned into corrupting influences.

When the devil tempts a hungry Jesus to turn stone into bread, Jesus answers: “Human beings do not live on bread alone”. This is his “No” to the rapacious need to hoard and to a suffocating form of prudery. When the devil tempts Jesus with domination over the kingdoms of the world, Jesus answers: “You must worship and serve God alone”. This is his “No” to oppression and to a fear driven anxiety. When the devil tempts Jesus to play Jesus’ divinity card, Jesus answers, “You must not put God to the test”. This is his “No” to a narcissistic self-regard and to an abject inferiority complex.

In many ways, the first two temptations are included in the final one. Here, the devil tempts Jesus to summon his divinity thereby renouncing or betraying his humanity, destroying the whole purpose of the Word of God becoming flesh which is to save humanity from that most primal of sin: humanity’s desire to play God!

Jesus turns the table on the devil and reveals to us how we are to direct our three passions to truly discover our well-being. To have becomes sharing and enjoying in moderation all that is good and life-giving. To manage or order our lives becomes acknowledging our need for others that gives rise to solidarity which, at the same time, enhances our self-confidence. To value becomes esteeming ourselves and others by recognising our limitations and fragility without denying the beauty and the giftedness that is ours as creatures made in the image and likeness of God.

Fr Michael Young sm—Assistant Priest

LOOKING BACK, LOOKING FORWARD

ST MARY OF THE ANGELS PARISH

2025

Compared to the recent past, and I am defining the 'recent past' as the five years since my arrival at St Mary of the Angels, 2024 was a quiet year or a year of consolidation. Just think on what has taken place since 2020 when I first became parish priest:

The Covid Epidemic, which first struck in 2020.

The renovation in 2021 of the parish hall and offices in Boulcott St, a \$1 million plus program.

The incorporation of St. Joseph's community into the SMoA parish in late 2021.

The naming of St Mary of the Angels as the National Shrine in August 2021.

The centenary of the St Mary of the Angels church in 2022.

Any one of these events would loom large in the history of a parish, community or organization. No wonder, then, that 2024 pales somewhat in comparison. However, good work was still being done in a number of key areas: catechetical programs for our younger parishioners were well-attended; promotion of the National Shrine continued; research into securing the financial future of the parish was accomplished (though increasing financial constraints on parishioners in a tough economic climate made it imprudent to follow through on the recommendations of the committee); research was also continued in addressing the future of the housing stock owned by the parish; the initiative to create an inter-parochial ministry to the aged, the sick and the dying slowly gathered strength; a small but dedicated ministry amongst young adults took root at SMoA. All these are signs of life and commitment in the parish community. There are no doubt others that I have failed to mention, such as the music ministry (there are 5 different choirs in the parish!), the hidden but sterling work of SVdeP and the Passionist Family Movement. I am sure the list is bigger than I have indicated.

More importantly there are also signs of vibrancy in the numbers attending regular Sunday liturgies (in 1996 the average mass count in November at SMoA was 577, in 2004 it was 604, in 2020, the year of Covid, it was 605 and in 2024 it was 750. For St Joseph's in 2022 it was 146 and in 2024 it was 162). Both churches were literally 'standing room only' in 2024 for the great Feasts of Christmas and Easter. And the RCIA program, averaging about 8-10 candidates a year, surprisingly continues to draw mature people into the Church at a time when our image may be considered tarnished!

In 2025 I would see the following pastoral areas as needing particular attention and effort:

Further raising of the profile of the National Shrine.

Nourishing the Residential Care Ministry.

Supporting the Young Adults ministry.

Increasing the number of parishioners involved as Ministers of the Word and the Eucharist.

Refreshing various parish committees.

The Jubilee Year

Educating the parish re. its weak financial position.

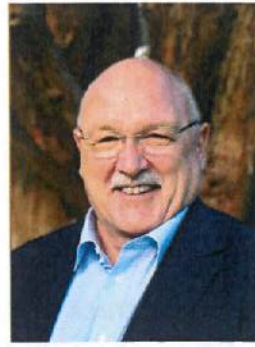
These are the areas the Parish Pastoral Council will be focusing on in 2025/2026. If you wish to talk about these priorities with any member of the council, you will find their photos on the other side of this page.

Fr. Kevin Mowbray sm

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEMBERS



Suzanne O'Rourke
Parish Pastoral Council
Current Chairperson



Nigel Prince



Suliana Savali



Rutger Keijser



Donaldson Lukose



Elizabeth Mathenge



Ainie Kwok



Bernardo Ngo



Fr Kevin Mowbray sm
Parish Priest



Esera Salz Agafli

Parish Office staff—Abby Cummins (St Mary of the Angels), Mary Crewdson (St Joseph's)

This Week's Readings

First Reading: Deuteronomy 26:4-10

The confession of faith of the elect.

Second Reading: Romans 10:8-13

The confession of faith of the believers in Christ.

Gospel: Luke 4:1-13

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus was led by the Spirit through the wilderness where he was tempted.


Next Week's Readings

First Reading: Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18

Psalm: 26

Second Reading: Philippians 3:17-4:1

Gospel: Luke 9:28-36



Last Sunday's Collection

Sunday Collection:	\$3,572
Automatic Payments:	\$6,573
Total: \$10,145	

St Patrick's Day Parade and Concert.

Sunday 16 March 12noon-4:30pm

Celebrate St Patrick's Day at the annual Parade and Concert on the Wellington Waterfront. Entertainment begins at 12pm at Kumutoto Square (Lady Elizabeth Lane) with the annual Parade starting from there at 1pm. At 1:30pm the Concert under the sails at Queens Wharf showcases Irish culture with Irish dancing and top local musicians. There's something for everyone with activities for kids and the popular 'best dressed in green'. More detail on Facebook @wellingtonirish

Thought for the Week

If you change the way you look at things,
the things you look at change

Mass has been offered for:

Recently Deceased: Francisca Sparnaay, Eugenie Frances Laracy (nee Carmody), Ellis Meachen, Georgina Young

Anniversaries: Trevor Randall, Merle Barnett, Frederick Brennan, Anne Brosnahan, Br Marty Williams, Donald Duerr, Coralie Leyland, Rita Kirwin

Prayers for the Sick: Terry Pohlen, Kirwan sisters, Dianne Sweet, Losalia Leo, John Mora, Kerry Barber, Pam Finlayson, Pat Mahony, Saturino Vioria, 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, Catherine Ravenhall



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 90

R. Be with me, Lord when I am in trouble.

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High.
And abides in the shade of the Almighty
says to the Lord: 'My refuge,
my stronghold, my God in whom I trust!' **R.**

Upon you no evil shall fall,
no plague approach where you dwell.
For you has he commanded his angels,
to keep you in all your ways. **R.**

They shall bear you upon their hands
lest you strike your foot against a stone.
On the lion and the viper you will tread
and trample the young lion and the dragon. **R.**

His love he set on me, so I will rescue him;
protect him for he knows my name.
When he calls I shall answer: 'I am with you.'
I will save him in distress and give him glory. **R.**



De-us me-us. sne-raho in e-um.

My God, in Him I will trust.

Dove Catholic

Dove Catholic Fellowship for Women is moving to small parish-based groups called Dovecotes, where women may experience the warmth of fellowship, the power of prayer and the joy of worship. If you feel a need for a Dovecote in your area, please contact Gloria: dovenational.leader@gmail.com or Ph 0272456742. Or see our website: www.dove.org.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.

A Night at the Paris Opera

TOUR OF NEW ZEALAND 2025

Featuring: **André Heyboer** (Baritone)

Chris Hainsworth (Organ & Piano)

Where: St. Mary of the Angels, 17 Boulcott Street

When: Tuesday March 11th at 7.30 pm

André Heyboer and Chris Hainsworth are touring Aotearoa in March 2025 with their stunning concert “A Night at the Paris Opera” and this will be their only concert in the Wellington region.

This event is promoted by the Wellington Organists Association – please contact the Treasurer, Peter Franklin for further details treasurer.woa@gmail.com.

There is no admission charge for attendance - suggested koha of \$20.

Caritas Lenten Reflection Programme.

The theme for Lent is “Restoring Hope: your compassion in action.” Each year in Lent Caritas provides a weekly reflection programme based on the Sunday Gospels. You can join our parish study group to work through the programme . Next Monday 10 March 7.30pm at St Joseph’s Church Mt Vic. You can also work through the programme at home by down loading the material from the website ... <http://www.caritas.org.nz/lent-resources>. Ph John Feeny 043864956 for more information.

St Joseph’s Men’s Book Group

Tuesday 10 March at 7.30pm in the Bill Pearce Room.

The Jubilee Prayer

Father in heaven,
may the faith you have given us
in your son, Jesus Christ,
our brother,
and the flame of love enkindled
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,
reawaken in us the blessed hope
for the coming of your kingdom.

May the grace of the Jubilee
reawaken in us, *Pilgrims of Hope*,
a yearning for the
treasures of heaven.

May that same grace spread
the joy and peace of our Redeemer
throughout the earth.

To you our God, eternally blessed,
be glory and praise for ever.
Amen

Join in a great Prayer for Life this Lent!

Ash Wednesday to Palm Sunday - pray for an end to abortion. Sign up and receive educational resources and daily prayer intentions. Join the peaceful prayer vigil near the abortion place on Wednesdays. Find out more at www.FLI.org.nz/prayerforlife

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.

Mass Cancellations

Due to the lack of Priests there will be no weekday 5.15pm Masses from 3 March to 21 March. Evening Masses will resume on Monday 24 March.

Joshua Wellington

Come and join other men at Joshua Wellington’s next meeting on Thursday 20 March 2025 from 7:00pm for a cuppa and a 7:30pm start in Connolly Hall (next to the Sacred Heart Cathedral). If Want to know more? Ring David Monastra 027-4477-280 or email: joshua.wgtn@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

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.

Passionist Family Group

You're all invited to a:

- 1) A classic night away on Fri the 21st of March featuring a shared meal, roaring fire and laughter. and/or
- 2) A tour/look, cuppa and shared lunch at Sacred Heart church in Greytown on Saturday the 22nd (at approx. 11am).

Everyone is invited to join for the Friday night and/or come to Greytown on Saturday.

Sacred Heart is now privately owned and recently restored. It has been retained as a church and is used by local Christian groups and for weddings. (Luckily for us the owner is my sister.) It will make a perfect all-weather venue for us to enjoy some fresh bread from a local baker (or whatever we all bring) and we'll put on a cuppa as well.

Contact Emmett for more info or to register— emmettandaimee@gmail.com

Catholicism Series Bible Study

The Genesis to Jesus team brings you the "Catholicism Series" - a series designed to help ordinary Catholics grow in their knowledge of key Catholic topics like Mariam, Lent, Angels & Saints, Catholic Art & Architecture and more while deepening their understanding of our rich faith. 10 Video sessions in all, held every second Tuesday with the next session on Tuesday 11 March from 6-7pm at St Mary of the Angels Parish Hall. Koha appreciated; light supper provided. If you need more information, please contact Donaldson at dlukose001@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.



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