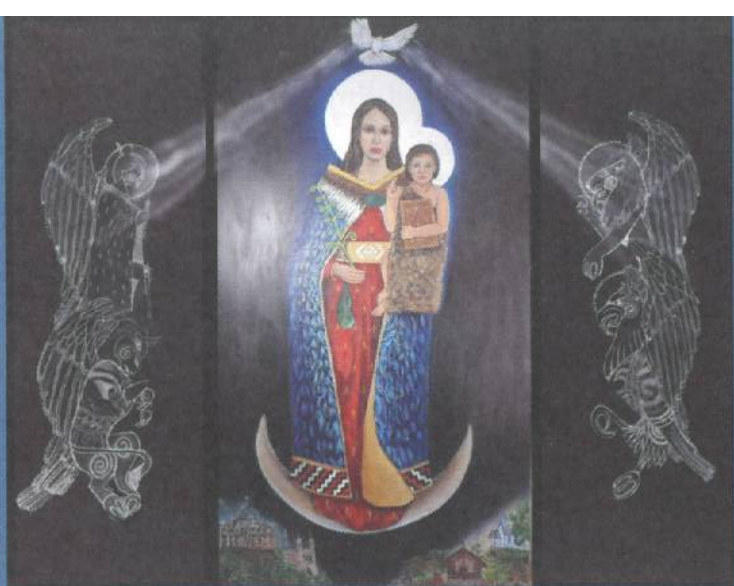


The Angelus

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 Whānui o te Atua - Holy Mary, Mother of God

30 March 2025, 4th Sunday of Lent

Parish Priest

Fr Kevin Mowbray SM
parish.priest@smoa.org.nz

Assistant Priests

Fr Michael Young SM
mlyoungsm@gmail.com

Pastoral Worker

Sr Frances Gibbs CSB
sisterfrancesgibbs@hotmail.com

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 Sat 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, 2nd and 4th Sundays each month

St Joseph's Church

Baptisms on 3rd Sunday of each month.
Please arrange through Parish Office.

Our Sunday gospel reading recounts that all too familiar parable of the prodigal son. More often than not the focus is on the prodigal, who only comes to his senses after he had squandered his portion of his father's inheritance on a life of debauchery and now, being destitute, decides to return to his father's holdings to beg his father's forgiveness. This frequent focus on the prodigal should not surprise us. After all, at the root of his Gospel message Jesus reveals the immense love of God for each and every one of us, and how there is more joy in heaven over one repentant sinner than for the many who have never strayed from that love (cf. Luke 15:7). It's an incredibly heart-warming and touching focus.

But heart-warming and touching the focus on the prodigal may be, what is less remarked upon is the *sting* in the parable, namely, the dutiful son! He had not squandered his portion of his father's inheritance. He had not disobeyed his father's wishes. He had not been a wastrel, even though there were times he had wanted to let loose with his friends. No! He was always the dutiful one! It's this kind of *sting* in the parable that dampens down the warm fuzzies generated by an all too blinkered focus on the father-prodigal son relationship. The dutiful son spikes the warm fuzzies of the father-prodigal rapprochement with a good dose of 'reality TV'. How so? Because the father-dutiful son relationship reveals the heart of the dutiful son who, for all his protestations of respectful obedience not only expects more from his father for having laboured years for him but also reveals beneath that life of duty a smouldering resentment.

We could fob off the resentful, dutiful son as Jesus' symbol for the hard-nosed scribes and Pharisees against whom he was directing his parable within the larger context of Luke's gospel, but really?! If truth be told, there is something of the expectation and attitude of the dutiful son in each of us whenever we feel 'passed over', while recognition is given to those whom we consider less deserving! This Lent, we should give time to reflect on the symbol of the dutiful son in each of us, especially when Christian duty belies a smouldering resentment. God's unconditional love will always stick in the craw of those who consider themselves more deserving!

Fr Michael Young sm—Assistant Priest

Support for Lent Appeal is an ‘act of generosity’

A statement from the Catholic Bishops of Aotearoa New Zealand

Every year in this sacred time, the New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference asks Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand to run a six-week fundraising campaign on their behalf called **the Bishops’ Lent Appeal**.

The money raised during this time is essential to the mission of Caritas. It provides much of the funding necessary for them to continue their life-changing work in Aotearoa, the Pacific and beyond.

This year’s appeal is even more urgent than usual. The US government recently stopped almost all foreign aid. France, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Germany and the UK have also cut their overseas development aid budgets. These decisions will cause significant suffering for those facing poverty, conflict, disasters and the effects of climate change. Your support is needed so Caritas can step in across the Pacific as donor governments withdraw.

Every year, individuals and parishes across New Zealand demonstrate great generosity by donating to this appeal. We hope that this will continue for this Lenten season.

The theme for the Lent appeal in 2025 is **Restoring hope: Your compassion in action / Kia puawai te Tūmanako**. Caritas’ mission, as the Catholic agency for justice, peace and development, is of vital importance to us all. The **Bishops’ Lent Appeal** is the best way to directly fund Caritas’ work – supporting vulnerable communities around the world.

For the Catholic community, Caritas is how we help our brothers and sisters in need, upholding their human dignity through local partnerships grounded in Catholic social teaching.

Over the last few years there has been a drop in giving to Caritas, putting pressure on their ability to fund the programmes that serve those most in need. We ask that during this time of preparation, prayer and almsgiving, you make a special donation to the **Bishops’ Lent Appeal 2025** at caritas.org.nz/lent or by using the envelopes provided at Mass.

This act of almsgiving is an act of generosity. It will mean so much to the people Caritas serves across our region.

In Christ,

- ✠ Stephen Lowe, Bishop of Auckland
- ✠ Richard Laurenson, Bishop of Hamilton
- ✠ John Adams, Bishop of Palmerston North
- ✠ Paul Martin SM, Archbishop of Wellington
- ✠ Michael Gielen, Bishop of Christchurch
- ✠ Michael Dooley, Bishop of Dunedin

This Week's Readings

First Reading: Joshua 5: 9-12
The people of God went to the promised land and there kept the passover.

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5: 17-21
God reconciled us to himself through Christ.

Gospel: Luke 15: 1-3, 11-32
Your brother here was dead and has come to life.

Next Week's Readings

First Reading: Isaiah 43: 16-21

Psalm: 125

Second Reading: Philippians 3: 8-14

Gospel: John 8: 1-11



Last Sunday's Collection

Sunday Collection: \$3,962

Automatic Payments: \$4,536

Total: \$8,498

One in our Midst

A new book by Fr James Lyons, features titles of Mary in the Litany of Loreto and the national shrine Te Ara a Maria.

Copies are available from the Parish office or Sister Frances for \$20 each. All proceeds support the mission of the Sister of Our Lady of Compassion.

Thought for the Week

A ship is safe in harbor.
 But that is not what ships are for.

Mass has been offered for:

Recently Deceased: Paul Gini, Francisca Sparnaay, Georgina Young

Anniversaries: Lucie Halberstan, Fr Mark Beban sm, Fr Jim Beban sm, Margaret Hyland, Gerard O'Brien

Prayers for the Sick: Terry Pohlen, Kirwan sisters, Dianne Sweet, Losalia Leo, John Mora, Kerry Barber, Pam Finlayson, Pat Mahony, Saturino Vilorio, 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 33

R. Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

I will bless the Lord at all times,
 his praise always on my lips;
 in the Lord my soul shall make its boast.
 The humble shall hear and be glad. **R.**

Glorify the Lord with me.
 Together let us praise his name.
 I sought the Lord and he answered e;
 from all my terrors he set me free. **R.**

Look towards him and be radiant;
 let your faces not be abashed.
 This poor man called; the Lord heard him
 and rescued him from all his distress. **R.**



Gustá-te et vi-dé-te quó-ni- am su- á-vis est Dó-mi-nus.

O taste and see how sweet the Lord is.

Rite 2 Reconciliation

Held on Tuesday 8 April at 7pm in St Joseph's Church. All are welcome.

Faith Rosaries

We sell rosaries in the Parish Office designed and hand made by Ngaire Greger from Faith Rosaries. If you are looking for a rosary as a gift or for yourself, please contact the Parish Office to arrange a time to come in.

Food for Faith for Lent

Fr. John O'Connor offers brief daily encouragements for those seeking greater maturity in relationship with Jesus Christ. Sign up to receive daily emails at www.foodforfaith.org.nz

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 with a City Council issue*

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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.

Planned Giving

Donation envelopes for the new financial year are available for you to collect at the back of the church, listed by surname in alphabetical order. Please check that the number on your envelopes is the same as on your label. If any details are incorrect please contact the Parish Office on Monday 04 473 8074.

Please let us know if you would like to join our planned giving programme, or if you would like to opt to donate by internet banking instead of donation envelopes this year. End of financial year tax receipts will be available by the end of April.

St Mary of the Angel's Church Working Bee

Working Bee on Saturday 12 April, 9am to 10.45am.
We need volunteers to help tidy up at St Mary of the Angels church so we are ready for our Easter ceremonies. Please save the date and come along to help. Dusting equipment welcome!

Caritas Lenten Reflection Programme.

Parish Group meeting Mondays in lent. 7.30pm in St Joseph's church, Mt Victoria. If you would like to follow the programme at home, please visit www.caritas.org.nz
Lent Communities 2025 for a link to download the programme. .

Chrism Mass

Held on Wednesday 16 April, 7.30pm at Sacred Heart Cathedral. All are welcome

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.

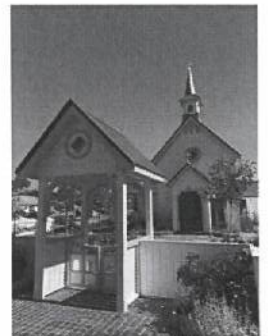
May that same grace spread
the joy and peace of our Redeemer
throughout the earth.

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

Amen

Passionist Family Group

Sacred Heart Church Greytown was visited by members of SMOA Passionist Family Groups last Saturday after having their annual overnight stay at the Magnificat in Featherston on Friday night. A special thanks to the Geoghegan Family for organising the event.



St Joseph's Working Bee - 9am Saturday 12 April

Please come along and help to-clean the church and tidy the grounds in readiness for Easter. Many hands make light work! Please bring garden tools - hedge trimmers would be especially welcome, as are vehicles to help take refuse to the dump. We'll take a pause for the usual magnificent morning tea so please bring a plate if you are able.

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



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.

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 8 April 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

Carparks for Rent

The few church carparks have come up for rent Monday-Friday for \$86.25 inc. GST. If you are interested, please contact Abby in the Parish Office—04 473 8074

Guardians Needed

Each day our church is looked after by Guardians who take it in turn to spend an hour in the church ensuring that the many visitors feel welcome and that they respect our sacred place. If you would like to consider being a part of this important service to the parish community please contact the parish office on office.manager@smoa.org.nz or 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.



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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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