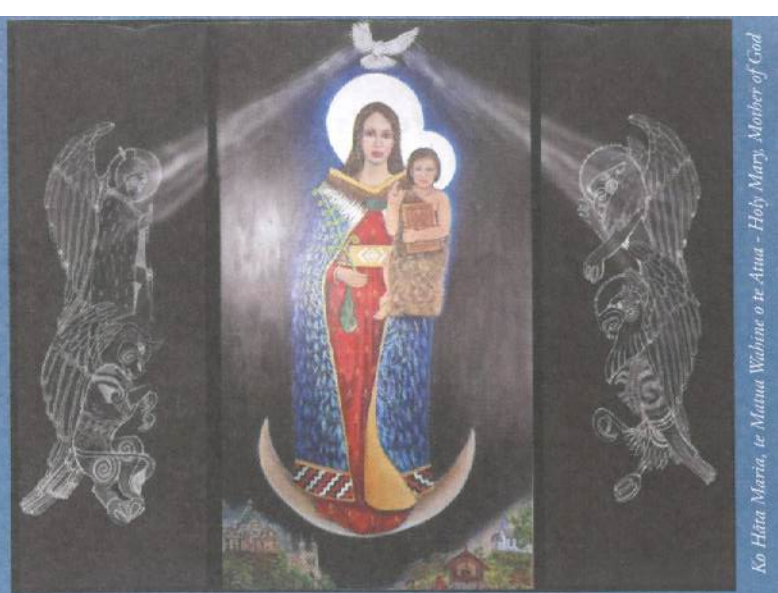


The Angelus

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



3 August 2025, 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

MASSSES

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

MASSSES

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.

"Like sands through the hourglass, so are the days of our lives". Who would have thought that the preamble from a well-known soap opera could open our reflection for this Sunday! But wisdom sometimes takes what is the most banal to express a truism we would rather choose to ignore, namely, "Vanity of vanities, all is vanity".

For all our work and toil, the sleepless nights of worry and the sapping energies spent clinging on to and fighting for what seemed so important, but (with hoary heads we look back at the way we were, or "as mourners... already walking to and fro...before the dust returns to earth from whence it came, and with closing sigh to God revert) now wonder why we bothered: "Vanity of vanities...All is vanity" (cf. Ecclesiastes 12:5, 7-8).

"What do we gain for all our efforts?" asks the sage (cf. Ecclesiastes 3:9). Whether we be "full many a flower...born to blush unseen and waste its sweetness on the desert air" or among "All that beauty, all that wealth e'er gave, awaits the inevitable hour. The paths of glory lead but to the grave" (cf. poem by Thomas Gray), humanity's unremitting hunger ends in death; our lives an epitaph etched in stone or on a plaque to say for a time we had passed this way, but now, "Vanity of vanities, all is vanity and the chasing of the wind" (cf. Ecclesiastes 2:11)!

This is the wisdom that spills over into our gospel reading today, contained in God's rebuke that is both prophetic, but all too crushing: "Fool! This very night the demand will be made for your soul; and the hoard that is yours, whose will it be then?" For all is vanity and the chasing of the wind.

But all is not lost. There is hope. For in God's rebuke there is also a promise if we are wise; a secret which has been made known: that life is changed, not ended; that what is mortal will put on immortality and what is perishable, perishability (cf. 1 Corinthians 15:51-53). After all, in the words of our second reading, we "have been brought back to true life with Christ"; that when he is revealed we will be revealed in all our glory with him, since "There is only Christ: he is everything and he is in everything". To him, then, be glory for ever.

Amen.

Michael Young S.M.

This Week's Readings

First Reading: Ecclesiastes 1:2; 2:21-23
What do people gain by all their work?

Second Reading: Colossians 3: 1-5, 9-11
Seek the things that are above, where Christ is.

Gospel: Luke 12: 13-21
To whom will all this wealth of yours go?

Next Week's Readings

First Reading: Wisdom 18:6-9

Psalm: 32

Second Reading: Hebrews 11: 1-2, 8-19

Gospel: Luke 12: 32-48



Last Sunday's Collection

Sunday Collection: \$3937
 Automatic Payments: \$4194
Total: \$8131

Thought for the Week

Lord God, may your Word and your Eucharist deepen our Faith in your Son and so may we become more like him - ready to serve and ready to give. May His Spirit strengthen us to share our time, our treasure and our talents, according to our ability to offer them, for the good of our parish and our archdiocese

Responsorial Psalm 89

R. In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge.

You turn men back into dust
 and say: 'Go back, sons of men.'
 To your eyes a thousand years
 are like yesterday, come and gone,
 no more than a watch in the night. **R.**

You sweep men away like a dream,
 like grass which springs up in the morning.
 In the morning it springs up and flowers:
 by evening it withers and fades. **R.**

Make s know the shortness of our life
 that we may gain wisdom of heart
 Lord, relent! Is your anger for ever?
 Show pity to your servants. **R.**

In the morning, fill us with your love;
 we shall exult and rejoice all our days.
 Let the favour of the Lord be upon us:
 give success to the work of our hands. **R.**



Domi-ne, re-fu-gi- um fac-tus es no-bis-
Lord, thou hast been our refuge.

MASS Cancelled

Due to the shortage of priests, we regret to announce that the 12.05 pm **Wednesday** Mass until **August 13th** has been cancelled. There will be a Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion
 Thank you for your understanding.

Mass has been offered for:

Recently Deceased Christopher Clayton., Donna Philpott

Anniversaries: John L'Estrange, Zita Outtrim, Joan Ciurlionis, Aiden McLean, James Baird, Paul Veltman, Scott Fraser, Kenneth Bates, Barbara Ross, Rosina Walker, Fr John Goulter sm



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, Yvonne D'Souza, Joan Wolland, Julia Choquette, João Pereira, Stephanie Butler, Pauline & Brian Wilkins, 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

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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

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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.

**Join Us To Celebrate
THE FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION OF MARY!**

On August 15th at 6.00pm all the Bishops of Aotearoa New Zealand will gather here at St Mary of the Angels to celebrate the feast of ‘Mary, Mother of God, Assumed into Heaven’.

This is the patronal feast of our country and the feast of our church, the National Shrine. Everyone is invited to attend this special occasion. Through the intercession of Mary, we will ask God, our Father, to continue to shelter our country from dissension and discord, from violence and from war, to protect us and watch over us.

After the mass there will be an opportunity to meet our Bishops in the church hall where light refreshments will be provided.

Extra car parking will kindly be made available for us by the Baptist community in their parking building opposite their church in Boulcott St.

Please mark this date and time in your calendars.

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

**Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults
Program**

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) programme will commence again on the 4th of September for anyone who is interested in joining our Catholic Community.

This programme runs from September to April and involves weekly group meetings to learn about and discuss our Catholic Faith.

If anyone is interested in joining this programme please make contact with Fr Michael on mlyoung@gmail.com for a meeting before the programme starts.

Registration closes on 28 August 2025.



ST MARY OF THE ANGELS PARISH ONGOING MAINTENANCE APPEAL

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St Mary of the Angels Parish
17 Boulcott St, Wellington 6011

Bank Account Details:
SMOA - Parish Account
02-0536 0003242-31
BNZ, Lambton Quay, Wellington

St Mary of the Angels is registered with the Charities Commission. All donations are tax deductible and 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 29 July 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.

Novena

On Wednesday 6th of August, before the 12.05pm mass, the parish will begin a simple novena as part of our preparation for the Feast of the Assumption of Our Lady into heaven. The novena will consist of a prayer theme and the recital of the Angelus. It will be streamed live, and also posted later, on our parish social media.

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Please contact the Parish Office for further details.

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