

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 Hāu Maria, te Matua Whānau o te Ariā - Holy Mary, Mother of God

7 September 2025, 23rd Sunday of Ordinary Time

We live in a computerized society we stress the value of planning and calculation. The computer helps the human mind to make quick and prudent decisions. Does calculation have a place in human relationships or on a way people decide to style their lives as related to God and religion?

It is not an easy religion that Jesus sets before the 'great crowds' that accompanied him on the way. 'Great Crowds' this means the ordinary people of every day life who have been willing to follow Him to the end. Most people have found His Gospel full of divine wisdom and human tenderness. But what can be said about the blunt language, demanding radical change? To prefer nothing to the love of Christ, not even the most legitimate bonds of affection, to take up one's cross and renounce everything in order to be His disciple, is that really reasonable? Certainly not! If we wish to be reasonable we shall never have those evangelical deeds of daring which mark the true disciple of Jesus. A world dominated by materialism, contemporary idols of power, sex, money, there is often need of heroism just to be Christian.

Jesus lays down clearly the conditions of becoming his disciples. He demands that we love him above everyone else and above anything in this world. We cannot serve both God and wealth, for we will love one and despise the other. Is it not true that many try to serve and love God and their wealth? God and their selfish ambitions? Some use God in order to attain material prosperity. Some preach so well that they can convince people to turn over to them a significant portion of their wealth. There are lukewarm disciples who might love Jesus but not whole heartedly. These are still attached to themselves and their prized possessions. They love Jesus a little for fear of having to lose themselves and the things they most value. They end up building their own kingdoms and not the kingdom of God, which Jesus zealously proclaimed in word and deed, even to the expense of his own life. The lukewarm love of disciples towards Jesus makes it difficult for them, if not impossible to carry their own crosses to follow him. We know for certain that those who are unwilling to suffer and die with and for Jesus cannot hope to share in His everlasting glory in Heaven.

Following Jesus is tough! There are lots of hassles along the way, but the blessings always outnumber them a hundred times. You think the yoke is heavy until you find out its easy. That is the grace.....and the joy of discipleship.

Sister Frances Gibbs
Pastoral Worker

Parish Priest

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

Assistant Priests

Fr Michael Young SM
mlyoungsm@gmail.com

Fr Barry Scannell SM
b.j.scannell@xtra.co.nz

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.

This Week's Readings

First Reading: Wisdom 9:13-18
Who can comprehend the will of God?

Second Reading: Philomen 9-10,12-17
Receive him, not as a slave anymore, but as a very dear brother..

Gospel: Luke 14: 25-33
All who do not renounce their possessions cannot be my disciples.

Next Week's Readings

First Reading: Numbers 21: 4-9

Psalm: 77

Second Reading: Philomen 2:6-11

Gospel: John 3: 13-17



Last Sunday's Collection

Sunday Collection: \$3,433
 Automatic Payments: \$5,104
Total: \$8,537

St Joseph's Tuesday Mass

There will be no Mass on Tuesdays at St Joseph's until 28 October because of priest unavailability. There will be a Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion at 8.30am each Tuesday.

Thought for the Week

SOCIAL JUSTICE WEEK | 7-13 September.

The New Zealand bishops have published their annual Social Justice Statement. The theme for this year's week is "Let's Build Peace Together". In their message, the bishops explain that the work of building peace is "the vocation of every Christian".

Responsorial Psalm 67

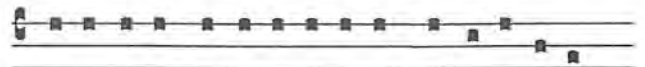
R. In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge.

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 us away like a dream, like grass that springs up in the morning. In the morning it springs up and flowers: by evening, it withers and fades. **R.**

Make us 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.**



Pa-ras-ti in dul-æ-di-ne tu- a pau-pe-ri De-us.-
In thy sweetness O Lord, thou hast provided for the poor.

Angelus Prayer for Peace

The Angelus Prayer will be said each day at the Midday Mass. for Peace in Gaza.

Children's Sacramental Programme

Children who are Year 4 and above are encouraged to receive the Sacraments of Confirmation, First Reconciliation and First Communion. The next programme begins on Tuesday, 7 October 2025. Please contact the Parish Office at office.manager@smoa.org.nz or phone 04 473 8074 for more information and to enrol your child.

Mass has been offered for:

Recently Deceased: Joseph Scanlon, Lutka Krzanic

Anniversaries: Tom Kennard, Shan Fonseka, Marie McWilliams, Fr Regis O'Reilly, Gerry Zuccollo, Pip Baxter, Noeline Stewart, Francis Renouf

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, Gillian Dudfield, Patricia Gurleyen., Fr Joe Savesi sm

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*

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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.

Jubilee of Migrants

Mass will be celebrated by Archbishop Paul Martin, SM on
Sunday 14 September at 2pm at Sacred Heart Cathedral. This
will be followed by a Multicultural Meal, Fellowship, and Mini-
Concert, with some communities singing songs of hope from
their homelands. All are welcome! Koha appreciated and
will be donated for the renovation of the Cathedral. Welcome to
bring a plate to share. Email m.bernardo@wn.catholic.org.nz
for enquiries.

St Vincent de Paul

We at Wellington City St Vincent de Paul want to thank
everyone who supports us with prayers, volunteering on
foodbank collection days, gifting food, and making donations
through our QR code. This helps to reflect Christ in our world.
Here's a short summary of our past year's work.
Our core activity is visiting and spending time with people who
are lonely, hospitalised, or housebound in our area. In the last
twelve months we made 311 visits. In addition, we delivered
234 food parcels to people in need; furnished and provided
moving assistance for 31 households, mostly for refugee
families; provided financial support for schools to assist
students in need with the cost of uniforms, school supplies,
and school activity fees (an increased need with job-losses in
our area); collected 90 boxes of food donated by customers at
the Newtown New World supermarket; hosted 25 morning
teas for residents of social housing; provided clothing,
household goods, and bedding for many people in need.
Your support helps to make a difference in our city, especially
in these cold days of winter.

Joshua Men

Come and join other men at Joshua Wellington's next
meeting on Thursday 18 September from 7:00pm for
7:30pm start in Connolly Hall (next to Sacred Heart
Cathedral) followed by supper.

Rainer Hensel will be speaking on "Discovering your
spiritual gifts"

If you want to know more, ring David Monastra
027 4477 280 or email: joshua.wgtn@gmail.com

Social Justice Week

Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand has produced resources
to support Social Justice Week, including in schools
and parishes. Find the bishops' message and the
resources at: <https://bit.ly/2025SJW>

Retro Fair

A Retro Fair with a bake sale being held at St
Joseph's Church on Saturday 13 September from
9.30am-2pm for Palestine.

Pastor from Gaza

St John's is collaborating with Central Baptist Church
to host a Pastor from Gaza who will share about
being the Church amidst conflict.

Born and raised in Gaza, he now ministers across the
Gaza and Middle East, providing pastoral support
and practical aid to persecuted Christians, refugees,
orphans, and widows.

This tour is not political—it is about the Body of
Christ. The Pastor will share his own testimony, speak
to the ongoing challenges faced by Christians in Gaza,
and highlight his wider ministry in the Middle East. It
is a message of hope, forgiveness, and
perseverance—one that will challenge the Church in
Aotearoa.

This event is to raise awareness of the spiritual and
practical needs of believers in Gaza and the Middle
East, as well as invite us to give in support of his
ministry, with funds going directly to help persecuted
Christians with food, shelter, and outreach.

**Tuesday 16 September from 6.30pm-8.30pm at St
John's Presbyterian Church, 170 Willis Street,
Wellington**



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 9 September 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

Tudor Consort

On Saturday 13 September at St Mary of the Angels, The Tudor Consort will present Monteverdi's choral masterpiece Vespers for the Blessed Virgin, accompanied on instruments of the period. The concert starts at 7:30pm, with a pre-concert talk by conductor Michael Stewart at 7pm. Tickets are available from <https://www.tudor-consort.org.nz>.

Exposition

Exposition is held each morning Monday-Friday at 6.30am—7.20pm and every Friday from 11am until 11.50am. The Friday Exposition is followed with Benediction. We invite you to come.

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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