

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

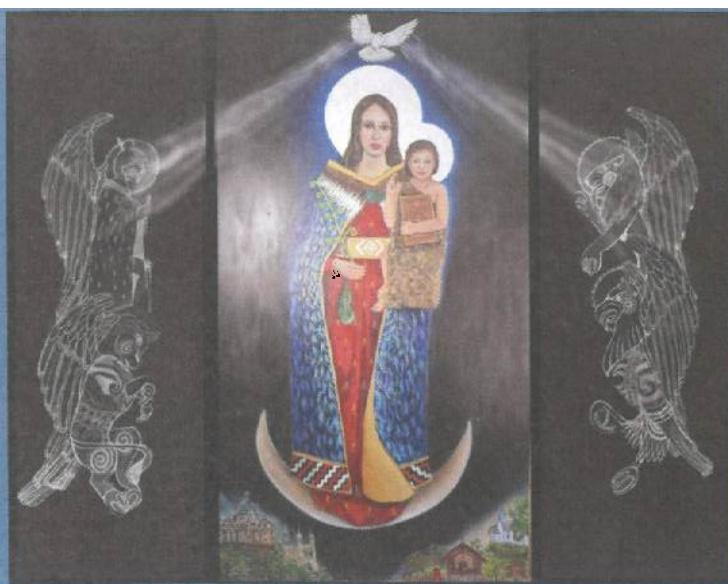
17 Boulcott St, Wellington Central

(04) 473 8074

St Joseph's Church

154 Brougham St, Mt Victoria, Wellington

(04) 385 0915



14 September 2025, The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Parish Priest

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

Assistant Priests

Fr Michael Young SM
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Fr Barry Scannell SM
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Pastoral Worker

Sr Frances Gibbs CSB
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Director of Music

William McElwee
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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.

The word mystery does not refer to something we know nothing about. Rather, mystery refers to something we know, but the more we know of it the more there is to know.

For us, the cross of Christ is just such a mystery. It shows how God's thoughts are not our thoughts, God's ways not our ways (cf. Isaiah 55:8) when, to save humanity, the Word of God made flesh chose "to empty himself to assume the condition of a slave and became as we are, and being as we all are, he was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross" (cf. Philippians 2:7-8).

After centuries of Christianity, it is easy to 'dumb down' the ignominy and brutality of crucifixion which, in the Roman world, was a death sentence reserved for rebellious slaves and criminals guilty of the most heinous crimes. The scandal associated with crucifixion was a major stumbling block in the early evangelising mission of the Church attested by Paul when he said, "And so, while the Jews demand miracles and the Greeks look for wisdom, here are we preaching a crucified Christ; to the Jews an obstacle that they cannot get over, to the pagans madness, but to those who have been called...a Christ who is the power and wisdom of God" (cf. 1 Corinthians 1:22-24).

In his book, *The Universal Christ*, Richard Rohr writes, "The crucifixion of Jesus – whom we see as the Son of God – was a devastating prophecy that humans would sooner kill God than change themselves. Yet the God-Man suffers our rejection willingly so something bigger can happen". And what is this "something bigger" that is to happen? Nothing short of humanity's salvation with the added bonus of eternal life with God. This is the mystery of the cross, the cross of Christ which, today, we exalt because, in order to save us, God not only willingly underwent death, but would die in abject humiliation as the lowest of the low to cauterise the cancer of sin and death that have bedevilled humanity since its fall from grace.

This is the mystery of the cross, which we as Catholics continue to ponder by affixing the figure of the one crucified to the cross reminding us of God's love for us, namely, that Christ should die "for us while we were still sinners...to make us righteous" (cf. Romans 5:8-9).

*Fr Michael Young
Assistant Priest*

This Week's Readings

First Reading: Numbers 21: 4-9

When those that were afflicted looked upon it, they were healed

Second Reading: Philomen 2:6-11

He humbled himself, therefore God had exalted him.

Gospel: John 3:13-17

The Son of Man must be lifted up

Next Week's Readings

First Reading: Amos 8:4-7

Psalm: 112

Second Reading: 1 Timothy 2:1-8

Gospel: Luke 16:1-13

Responsorial Psalm 77

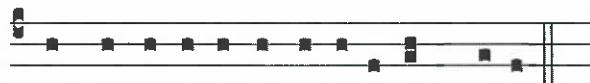
R. Do not forget the works of the Lord!

Give heed, my people, to my teaching; turn your ear to the words of my mouth I will open my mouth in a parable and reveal hidden lessons of the past R.

When he slew them then they would seek him, return and seek him in earnest. They would remember that God was their rock, God the Most High their redeemer. R.

But the words they spoke were mere flattery; they lied to him with their lips. For their hearts were not truly with him; they were not faithful to his covenant. R.

Yet he who is full of compassion forgave their sin and spared them. So often he held back his anger when he might have stirred up his rage R



Ut non obli-viscantur one-num De- i.

That they may not forget the works of God.

Care for Creation and Catholic Social Teaching - Save the date!

During September Christians reflect on the need to care for the earth, our common home. In our Archdiocese the Commission for Ecology, Justice, and Peace is asked to reflect on church and society in light of this tradition. The Commission extends an invitation to everyone interested in reflecting on ecology, justice and peace to gather on **Saturday 4 October**, the feast of St Francis of Assisi, from 9.30am to 12.30pm at St Joseph's Church, Mt Victoria. We will celebrate Mass and take time to share and reflect on issues of concern. We hope this will be a time of sharing and of making connections. A plate of food to share would be appreciated. Enquiries to Jim McAloon - jmcaloon@xtra.co.nz

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.

Holy Hour

For vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Join us for an hour of adoration, reflection and prayer. From 7.30-8.30pm at Sacred Heart Cathedral, Thorndon on Tuesday 23 September and every 4th Tuesday of the month.

Angelus Prayer for Peace

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

Mass has been offered for:

Recently Deceased: Peter Menzies

Anniversaries: Peter Feenan, Gillian Lescher, Joan Lynch, Helen Havasi, Freda Fernie, Mary Dysart, Fr John Aitken sm, Pepe Va'a, Mary Chinnock, Betty Mary Compton, Mary Frawley

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

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.
Mary, assumed into heaven; pray for us.

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 starts on Tuesday, 7 October 2025. Please contact the Parish Office at office.manager@smao.org.nz or 04 473 8074 for more information and to enrol your child.

St Vincent de Paul

Would you like to put your faith into action by helping needy people in the community through personal contact? If so, please join us. The next meeting of the City group of the St Vincent de Paul Society (Vinnies) will be held in the Mahony Room of the St Mary of the Angels Presbytery on September 16 at 6pm. New members are very welcome.

Living Wage (LW) update-

SMOA is now a member organisation. The parish supports the Living Wage (LW) Movement. The official NZ minimum wage is \$23.50 per hour. The LW set at \$27.95 is promoted to better help workers to receive sufficient to support their families. The values of the movement align with Catholic Social Teachings and Rerum Novarum. Reflecting the moral obligation of respect for the dignity of work and that all workers should receive a just and fair wage. Currently the LW movement has initiatives in place encouraging the University of Wellington and Resene paints to move towards ensuring all staff are paid a minimum of the Living Wage.

-Parish Social Justice Group

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 on 027 4477 280 or email: joshua.wgtn@gmail.com

Exposition

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

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.

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

Inside the Conclave with Cardinal John Dew:

Invite your friends, family and coworkers to a very special morning event on **Tuesday 7 October 2025** at 6.30am at The Wellington Club (88 The Terrace, Wellington) to find out what happens inside the Conclave, from the only living New Zealander who's been inside. Cardinal John Dew will talk about his time at the Vatican during the funeral of Pope Francis and then taking part in the Conclave that elected Pope Leo XIV. Tickets are \$40 per person. There will be light breakfast nibbles, tea and coffee available from 6.30am, with the presentation commencing at 7.00am. Tickets can be booked at: <https://www.trybooking.com/nz/YVJ>

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.

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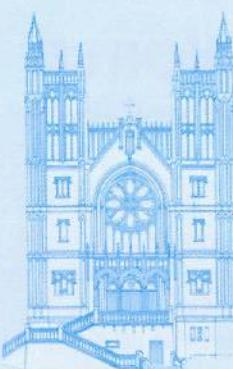
My contribution will be made by:

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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 23 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

My Chains Are Gone - XLT Youth Worship 19th September

At Our Lady of Fatima Church, Tawa, 7.00-9.00pm. Come before Christ, the righteous and merciful chain-breaker, in a night of adoration, worship, and fellowship! Tell your friends, whanau, colleagues, and classmates - see you there!!

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. Hall. 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.

Jubilee of Justice Webinar—September 19

Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand is hosting a 30-minute webinar to celebrate the Jubilee of Justice. This will include an update on the progress of the global "Turn Debt Into Hope" campaign focusing on debt justice, and expert advice on how to advocate for justice in your local community. The webinar will feature guests from NZ and Australia with specialist expertise. Mark your diaries for 12.30pm on Friday, September 19. Find out more and learn how you can get involved at www.caritas.org.nz/season-of-creation-2025



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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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