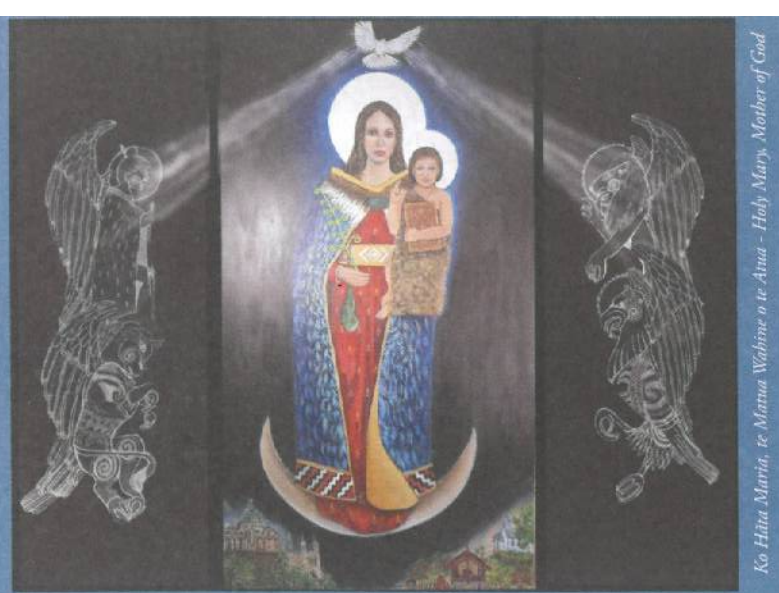


# The Angelus

St Mary of the Angels Parish  
The National Shrine of New Zealand  
Mary, Mother of God, Assumed into Heaven  
[www.smoa.org.nz](http://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 Wāhine o te Atua - Holy Mary, Mother of God

## 30 November 2025, First Sunday of Advent

### Parish Priest

Fr Barry Scannell SM  
[parish.priest@smoa.org.nz](mailto:parish.priest@smoa.org.nz)

### Assistant Priests

Fr Michael Young SM  
[mlyoungsm@gmail.com](mailto:mlyoungsm@gmail.com)

Fr Ben D'souza sm  
[a.priest@smoa.org.nz](mailto:a.priest@smoa.org.nz)

### Pastoral Worker

Sr Frances Gibbs CSB  
[sisterfrancesgibbs@hotmail.com](mailto:sisterfrancesgibbs@hotmail.com)

### Director of Music

William McElwee  
[wmcelweemusic@gmail.com](mailto:wmcelweemusic@gmail.com)

### Parish Accountant

[accounts@smoa.org.nz](mailto:accounts@smoa.org.nz)

St Mary of the Angels Church Office  
[office.manager@smoa.org.nz](mailto:office.manager@smoa.org.nz); 04 473 8074

### St Joseph's Church Office

[st.josephs.office@xtra.co.nz](mailto: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

### Sung Advent Vespers

This evening at 7pm we celebrate the beginning of Advent by joining with our neighbouring Christian churches, St John's Presbyterian and St Peter's Anglican, with sung Advent Vespers. This year St Mary of the Angels are hosts for this liturgy.

Please come and join with our ecumenical brothers and sisters to prepare for the birth of the child Jesus at Christmas. Afterward we will provide supper in the Parish Hall. If you are able to bring a plate of food it would be much appreciated.

### Carols with the Angels

The annual Carols with the Angels will be held on Wednesday 17 December at 7pm in St Mary of the Angels Church. This is always a 'highlight' in the Parish for the Christmas Season. Please put this date in your diary and invite your family and friends.

### Thank you

A sincere thank you for so many of you who have welcomed me back as Parish Priest. It is a real privilege to return to St Mary of the Angels and to greet old friends and introduce myself to the many new parishioners who have made this Parish their place of worship.

It is almost 8 years since I left Wellington to take up my appointment in Napier in 2018. It has been an interesting few years not only for faith communities but also for society in general, especially during the period of COVID-19. We were unable to gather as faith communities for three months during the first lockdown. Following the lockdown it has taken some considerable time for us to once again gather in the numbers that we had pre COVID-19.

However, this is now happening and I am so delighted to witness the large number of people who attend Mass in both St Mary of the Angels and St Joseph's churches. We also have a good number of people in the Adult Rite of Christian Initiation (RCIA) programme. This is a reflection of the strong faith life of the Parish.

During the past couple of years many of my fellow Parish Priests have commented that they have a real sense that people are beginning to re-engage with the Church. Many families who may not been involved for some years are returning to the practice of their faith. We need to realise that these families need a friendly face and a welcome when they come.

I look forward to getting to know more people as time goes on. Sometimes I may struggle to remember names so please forgive me if I don't remember the first time we met.

Father Barry Scannell sm

Parish Priest

### This Week's Readings

**First Reading:** Isaiah 2:1-5  
*The Lord will gather all nations in eternal peace in the kingdom of God.*

**Second Reading:** Romans 13:11-14  
*The time has come, our salvation is near.*

**Gospel:** Matthew 24:37-44  
*Stay awake, you must be ready.*

### Next Week's Readings

**First Reading:** Isaiah 11:1-10  
**Psalm:** 71  
**Second Reading:** Romans 15:4-9  
**Gospel:** Matthew 3:1-12



### Last Sunday's Collection

Sunday Collection: \$4,233  
 Automatic Payments: \$5,332  
**Total: \$9,565**

### Advent: a hīkoi for Pilgrims of Hope

In this new book, *Bringing the Word to Life*, Fr James Lyons and other Catholic leaders and writers, including Cardinal John Dew, offer timely reflections for each day of Advent and Christmas. Connecting Biblical truth with modern-day examples, they provide valuable spiritual nourishment for Catholics as this Year of Jubilee comes to a close – and a new year begins. As Archbishop Paul says, "I highly recommend it, and I know that you will find the reflections by fellow Catholics relevant and reflecting our faith experience within the context of this beautiful country we live in." If you are interesting on purchasing for \$8.00, please contact the Parish Office to make an order.

### Responsorial Psalm 121

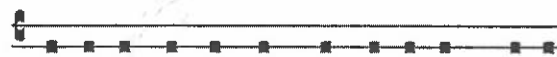
**R. Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.**

I rejoiced when I heard them say:  
 Let us go to God's house.  
 And now our feet are standing  
 within your gates, O Jerusalem. **R.**

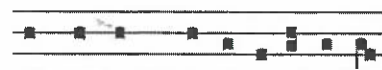
It is there that the tribes go up,  
 the tribes of the Lord.  
 For Israel's law it is,  
 there to praise the Lord's name.  
 There were set the thrones of judgement  
 of the house of David. **R.**

For the peace of Jerusalem pray:  
 Peace be to your homes!  
 May peace reign in your walls,  
 in your palaces, peace! **R.**

For love of my brethren and friends  
 I say: 'Peace upon you!'  
 For the love of the house of the Lord  
 I will ask for your good. **R.**



Laeta-tus sum in his quae dicta sunt mi-hi:



in domum Domi-ni i-bimus.

*I rejoiced at the things that were said to me:  
 we shall go into the house of the Lord.*

### Columban Calendars

Columban Calendars are available to purchase from the Parish Office during the week and at Sunday Masses for \$12

### Mass has been offered for:

#### Recently Deceased:

**Anniversaries:** Peter McGuinness, Fr Peter Kiley sm, Veronica Rigby, Marjorie Feitsma, Fred Scoon, William Jenkins

**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, Fr Joe Savesi sm, Irene Reeve



*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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**Nicola Young**  
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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.

### **Living Wage Alliance Group**

Recently representatives from our Parish joined the Living Wage Alliance group to celebrate successes in 2025, elect officers, and participate in planning for 2026. The alliance includes representatives from faith communities, unions, and community organizations. Father Jeff Drane and Rona were elected to the steering committee as representatives of faith communities across the wider Wellington area. If you want to be part of our parish support for the Living Wage contact John Feeney - Social Justice Group.

### **A Merry Vinnies Christmas**

The Passionist Family groups of the Parish annually help to collect items donated by the PFG's and other Parishioners who wish to donate.

There are baskets in each of the two Mass Centre's foyers. Please see the Parish Noticeboard with the list of items St Vincent de Paul are looking for. This is a great way to help those in need over the Christmas Season.

Thanking you in advance for your kind generosity..

### **St Mary of the Angels Working Bee**

**8.30am—10am, Saturday 6 December**

Please come along and help tidy our Church ready for Christmas.

If possible, bring soft cloths or rags or long handled dusters.

All helpers welcome.

### **The Jesse Tree**

During Advent we reflect on how God was revealed to people in Old Testament times before the coming of Jesus. Matthew's Gospel (1:1-17) links the Old and New Testaments. He sets out the genealogy or whakapapa of Jesus' earthly family through which history, knowledge, philosophies and spiritualities were handed down until the birth of Jesus.

The Jesse tree is a visual reminder of this. The name comes from Isaiah's prophecy (Isaiah 11:1) that the Messiah or Saviour would come from among Jesse's descendants.

The symbols on the tree are based on centuries of Christian and Old Testament tradition. They are explained further under "Links" in the Parish App. We will add 4 symbols each week of Advent beginning this week with the Creation (Earth), Adam and Eve (tree), Noah's Ark, and Abraham and Sarah (stars).

### **2026 Bible Diaries**

The Bible Diary can be your most treasured companion as you go through next year. Each day features the scripture readings and an inspirational reflection that can set the tone for your own personal conversations with God. Fundraising for the Mission in India the diaries are available to purchase from the Parish Office for \$20.

### **Holy Land Update:**

#### **Christian Voices; Kairos Documents**

As we approach Christmas, what are Christian voices saying from within the Holy Land? What reflection has the displacement of people in Gaza and the West Bank brought (including the Kairos documents)? Mons. Gerard Burns will offer some historical and theological reflections at 7.15pm, Sunday 30th Nov, in St Francis of Assisi Parish Church, 37 Dr Taylor Tce, Johnsonville. All welcome.

### **Thank you**

Many thanks to those of you who donated plants and came to the Missionary Sisters of St Peter Claver Plant Sale. A total of \$1,400 was raised for the Missions. God bless you all.



## **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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Email:

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My contribution will be made by:

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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 2 December 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](mailto:dlukose001@gmail.com)

### World Youth Day 2027

Interested in going to South Korea? Come join us for World Youth Day 2027 in Seoul! Please fill out the expression of interest form below and email Regina Fernandes at [r.fernandes@wn.catholic.org.nz](mailto:r.fernandes@wn.catholic.org.nz) for any questions.

### Catholic Kiwi Podcast

The New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference has launched a new podcast series, sharing stories of faith, ministry and mission of Kiwis and visitors to our shores. The first episodes have been released, with new episodes scheduled as part of Season 1 leading up to Christmas. Search "Catholic Kiwi Podcast" on YouTube or Spotify now.

### The Archdiocesan Marriage Preparation Love is a Decision

Register online on the Archdiocesan website for the next course, consecutive **Sundays, 1 and 8 March 2026**. Please note that couples attend both Sundays together in person to complete the course. Courses are offered four times a year - they will run in March, June, September and November 2026. For queries please email: [marriage@wn.catholic.org.nz](mailto:marriage@wn.catholic.org.nz)

### Preparing Hearts for Advent

Looking for a prayer practice to draw closer to Christ this Christmas? [Livingtheword.org.nz](http://Livingtheword.org.nz) provides the Sunday readings and some reflection questions to help individuals and prayer groups. Be encouraged to download, pray, reflect and grow with the Sunday Readings. At [www.livingtheword.org.nz/pray](http://www.livingtheword.org.nz/pray)



### Harbour City Christmas Remembrance Service

As the Christmas Season approaches we are mindful that the loss of a loved one during the year can make it a challenging time. We invite all to gather strength from each other at our annual 'Christmas Remembrance Service' being held at Old St Paul's on Friday December 12th at 6:30pm.



### Rachel's Vineyard Retreats New Zealand

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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.

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