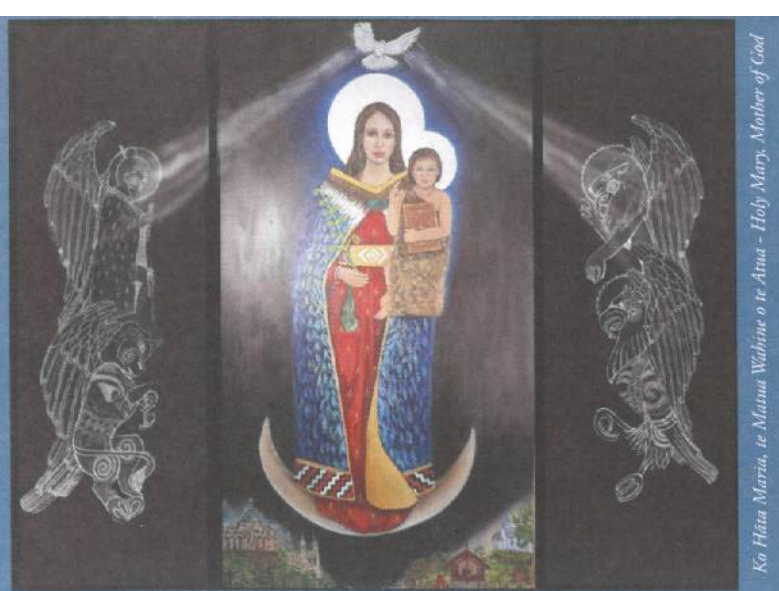


The Angelus

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 December 2025, Third Sunday of Advent

Parish Priest

Fr Barry Scannell SM
parish.priest@smoa.org.nz

Assistant Priests

Fr Michael Young SM
mlyoungsm@gmail.com

Fr Ben D'souza sm
a.priest@smoa.org.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@extra.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

Carols with the Angels

The annual 'Carols with the Angels' will be held this coming Wednesday 17 December at 7pm in the Church. This is a wonderful occasion not only for our Parish but also for the wider city community.

There are many different groups leading us in the singing including the St Mary's of the Angels Gregorian choir, the Salvation Army Brass Band, Wellington Young Voices, the Parish Korean community and our organists David Trott and James Young. You are welcome to attend this wonderful time-honoured event in our beautiful Church.

We always host supper for our visiting musicians so if you are able to provide a plate just leave it in the Hall either earlier on Wednesday or before the carols begin.

Distribution of Holy Communion

Today we are returning to our traditional way of distributing Holy Communion from the centre aisle of the Church. Parishioners will come up the centre aisle of the Church, receive Holy Communion from the ministers who will be standing just in front of the altar rails and then return via the side aisle.

This means that parishioners sitting on the side aisles facing the altars of Mary and Saint Joseph are to remain seated until those in the main body of the Church have received the Body of Christ. These parishioners will then join the main aisle of the Church from the side aisle and go forward for Holy Communion.

We will have people to guide you as this change takes place.

An Afternoon in Rome

On Saturday 21 February 2026 from 2pm - 4pm Anna Maksymova and Julian Knap will be hosting 'An Afternoon in Rome' in Sacred Heart Cathedral. The afternoon will begin with the piano concert of Italian composers followed by the unveiling of Julian's epic cityscape painting of Rome.

Anna is from the Ukraine and is an accomplished pianist based in Christchurch. Julian is an old boy of St Patrick's College in Wellington and an artist whose city landscapes have received wide acclaim. His cityscape painting of Rome has taken the last seven years of his artistic endeavour.

Everyone is welcome to this very special afternoon. Entry is by donation. For more information visit www.exhibitions-gallery.co.nz

Father Barry Scannell sm

Parish Priest

This Week's Readings

First Reading: Isaiah 35:1-6,10
God himself will come and save us.

Second Reading: James 5:7-10
You also must be patient; do not lose heart, the Lord's coming will be soon.

Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11
Are you the one who is to come, or must we wait for someone else?

Next Week's Readings

First Reading: Isaiah 7:10-14

Psalm: 23

Second Reading: Romans 1:1-7

Gospel: Matthew 1:18-24



Last Sunday's Collection

Sunday Collection: \$3,626

Automatic Payments: \$6,213

Total: \$9,839

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.

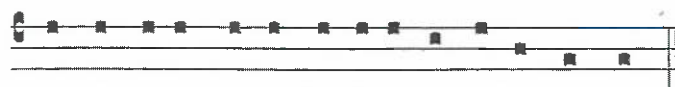
Responsorial Psalm 145

R. Lord, come and save us.

It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,
 who is just to those who are oppresses.
 It is he who gives bread to the hungry,
 the Lord, who sets prisoners free. **R.**

It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,
 who raises up those who are bowed down,
 the Lord, who protects the stranger
 and upholds the widow and orphan. **R.**

It is the Lord who loves the just
 but thwarts the path of the wicked.
 The Lord will reign for ever,
 Zion's God, from age to age. **R.**



Ecce De-us noster ve-ni- et et salvandos nos.-

Behold our God will come and save us.

Food For Faith for Advent 2025

Daily reflections for those seeking greater maturity of Christian Faith in preparation for Christmas. Sign up to receive daily emails during Advent at www.foodforfaith.org.nz.

Columban Calendars

Columban Calendars are available to purchase from the Parish Office during the week and at Sunday Masses for \$13

Mass has been offered for:

Recently Deceased: Irene Reeves

Anniversaries: Teresa Vital, Helen Parris, Shona Rippin, Fr George Duggan sm, Phyllis Clifford

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



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.

The Jesse Tree

A crown represents David, son of Jesse. As a poet and musician he wrote psalms praising God. As King he gave in to the temptations of political manipulation, lust, and violence. But, when he repented and asked for forgiveness, God was merciful to him. (Samuel 1; 2)

Fire represents the fire that destroyed the people's worldly things and false gods after they ignored the prophet Elijah's warning against placing too much value on these things. (Kings 1)

A whale represents Jonah, the reluctant prophet who showed that God can work through imperfect people. While trying to avoid doing God's will Jonah was caught in a storm at sea. After God used a whale to save him from drowning he repented and did what God asked. (Jonah)

A teardrop represent the prophet Jeremiah who was heartbroken that people had turned away from God

St Mary of the Angels Christmas Cards

St Mary of the Angels
Christmas Cards are now
available for purchase either
after Mass on Sunday or from
the Parish Office.

A6 \$15 for a pack of 12
DLE \$15 for a pack of 12



Carparks for Rent

We have a Church carpark for rent from Monday-Friday. If you are interested, please contact the Parish Office.

St Vincent de Paul Food Bank

Thanks from our St Vincent de Paul Conference to everyone who has generously donated to the collection basket for our Food Bank. To help us meet the growing need for emergency food parcels we invite you to donate long-life, bottled, or canned foods and things that help cooks on a very tight budget to make interesting dishes, such as cooking oil, stock, lemon juice, dried herbs and spices. We are not able to store fresh or refrigerated foods. Personal care items such as shampoo, toilet paper, nappies, deodorant, and laundry products are also welcome.

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.

Called & Equipped Formation Programme

Places still available! Email:

l.hensel@wn.catholic.org.nz for an application today.

Closing of the Jubilee Year of Hope

The Jubilee Year of Hope comes to a close in dioceses around the world on **Sunday, 28**

December 2025, feast of the Holy Family. All are welcome to the closing Mass for the Archdiocese of Wellington, which will be celebrated at **10.00am, Sunday 28 December 2025** at Sacred Heart Cathedral.

Save the Date -

St Valentine's Day Mass 2026

Saturday, 14 February 2026, Mass at 5.30pm, Sacred Heart Cathedral in Hill Street - a special celebration for married couples.



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 16 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

Job Opportunities at the Catholic Enquiry Centre

The Catholic Enquiry Centre is expanding its digital outreach in 2026 and is seeking passionate, faith-filled people to join the team:

- Digital Ministry Specialist (Content & Platform)—oversee CEC's website and social media, creating content that helps people explore faith.
- Digital Ministry Specialist (Media Production)—create short videos, testimonies, and reels introducing Catholic faith and traditions.
- Resource & Enquiry Support Officer – respond to enquirers and coordinate the dispatch of printed resources across Aotearoa. All roles are **part-time (0.4 FTE)** and may be remote or Wellington-based. Expressions of interest to carly@catholicenquiry.nz by **Friday, 9 January 2026**. Roles may be filled sooner for the right candidates.

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

Preparing Hearts for Advent

Looking for a prayer practice to draw closer to Christ this Christmas? 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



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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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