

# 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

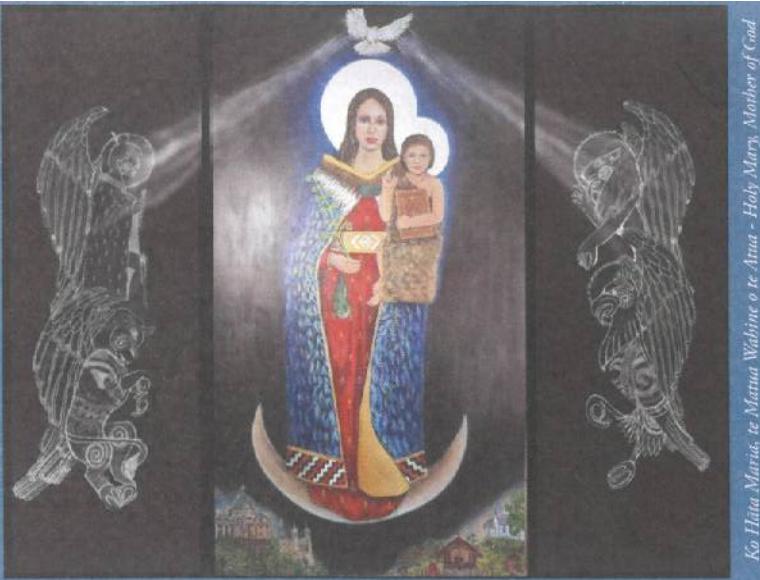
17 Boulcott St, Wellington Central

(04) 473 8074

## St Joseph's Church

154 Brougham St, Mt Victoria, Wellington

(04) 385 0915



21 December 2025, Fourth 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

### Thank You

This is the final newsletter for the year. I wish to take this opportunity of sincerely thanking all the parishioners and friends who have helped so much in the Parish over the past year. During my short time as your newly appointed Parish Priest, I have been impressed by the generosity of so many people who have helped to ensure our liturgies are well celebrated, that our Churches and grounds are kept in pristine condition so that we could minister to the people of Wellington.

There are so many people to thank that it would be impossible to name you all. On behalf of all members of the Pastoral team I sincerely thank you as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ. I hope you enjoy a very blessed Christmas and New Year with your family and friends.

### Distribution of Holy Communion

The distribution of Holy Communion now takes place from the centre aisle of the Church. We ask that all parishioners come up the centre aisle of the Church, receive the Eucharist and then return to their places via the side aisles.

Parishioners seated in the side aisles facing the altars of Mary and St Joseph are to remain seated until those in the main body of the Church have received Holy Communion. These parishioners will then join the main aisle and go forward to receive the Eucharist.

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

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

### An Afternoon in Rome

Exhibition and concert with Wellington artist Julian Knap & Anna Maksymova Knap. 2-4pm 21st February 2026 at Sacred Heart Cathedral, 40 Hill Street, Wellington. Artist Julian Knap and his wife Anna present *An Afternoon in Rome - a piano concert of Italian composers followed by the unveiling of Julian's epic cityscape painting of Rome*. Concert entry by Donation. For more information visit [www.exhibitionsgallery.co.nz](http://www.exhibitionsgallery.co.nz).

### No Tuesday Mass at St Joseph's Church

There will be no Mass at St Joseph's Church on Tuesday 23 December.

Fr Barry Scannell sm  
Parish Priest

## This Week's Readings

**First Reading:** Isaiah 7:10-14  
*The virgin will conceive.*

**Second Reading:** Romans 1:1-7  
*Jesus Christ, a descendant of David, is the Son of God.*

**Gospel:** Matthew 1:18-24  
*Jesus was born of Mary, the betrothed of Joseph, a son of David.*

## Next Week's Readings

**First Reading:** Sirach 3:2-6

**Psalm:** 127

**Second Reading:** Colossians 3:12-21

**Gospel:** Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23



## Last Sunday's Collection

Sunday Collection:	\$3,777
Automatic Payments:	\$2,325
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$6,102</b>

### 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



## Mass has been offered for:

**Recently Deceased:** Donna Finlayson, Hamish Price

**Anniversaries:** Diane Bartrum, Ronald McDonald, Kura Turner, James Glover, Diana Bartram, Marie Giles, Natalie Duncan, Shirley Binks, Noel Scahill, Paul Giles, Helen McKone, Sr Margaret Mary Murphy, Fr Bryan Montgomery sm, Lois Palentine, Mary Hutchens, Sheila Mahony, Euphemia Taylor, Maureen McDonald, Margaret Heister, Dorothy O'Brien, John O'Brien, Fr Brian O'Connell sm, Mary Hutchins, Edward Haughey, Gordon Ashbridge, Bertrand Weir, Xavier Reidy, Carol Armstrong, Margaret Philpott, Margaret Baxter, Alan Shapleski, William Lyons, Virginia Turner

**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, 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](mailto: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.

## Vacancy: Hospital Chaplain – Wellington Regional Hospital

Catholic Social Services is looking for a compassionate, culturally responsive chaplain to provide spiritual and pastoral care to patients, whānau, and staff. This permanent, part-time role (15 hrs/week) is part of the Ecumenical team at Wellington Hospital with a particular focus on supporting Catholic patients while respecting and supporting all faiths. For information about the role and how to apply go to: <https://mclaren.co.nz/vacancies/?ja-job=4400348>

## Carparks for Rent

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

## Christmas Crawl

Discover the meaning of Christmas in Wellington City Churches through stories and activities. Held on Monday 22 December until Wednesday 24 December. Visit [www.christmascrawl.org.nz](http://www.christmascrawl.org.nz) for more info.

## 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.

## 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 *PLEASE SPECIFY AMOUNT*
- Cash \$

The Jesse Tree

A shell represents John the Baptist the prophet who prepared people for the coming of Jesus, the Messiah promised by God. John urged people to change their priorities in life even if this meant making sacrifices. (Luke 3)

A white flower represents Mary, a young girl. The experience of God's messenger appearing to her must have been alarming. But she showed courage in accepting God's will that she be the mother of Jesus. (Luke 1)

A carpenter's saw represents Joseph a caring man descended from King David. He married Mary at a difficult time and protected her and the infant Jesus by taking them as refugees to safety in Egypt. His care was shown again in his concern when Jesus was lost in the temple. (Matthew 1; Luke 2)

A manger represents Jesus' birth in a humble place where lowly shepherds were the first people to be told of our Saviour's birth. (Luke 2)

## Called & Equipped Formation Programme

Places still available! Email: [l.hensel@wn.catholic.org.nz](mailto:l.hensel@wn.catholic.org.nz) for an application today.

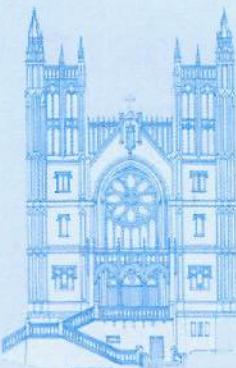
## Save the Date -

## 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 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.



St Mary of the Angels is registered with the Charities Commission. All donations are tax deductible and a receipt issued.

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

## 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. There are ten video sessions held every second Tuesday. The next session on Tuesday 10 February 2026 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)

## 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](mailto: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](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)



Serving the Archdiocese of Wellington for 35 years.

## Wellington

56 Onepu Road, Kilbirnie  
Phone: 387 8301

[hcfh.co.nz](http://hcfh.co.nz)



## 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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