

The Parish of Our Lady of the Valleys
2nd Sunday in Advent 2017
10th December 2017



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THE DEEP END

The beginning of the good news ...

The second Sunday of Advent turns our attention to John the Baptist. John was an interesting individual. We are told he dressed a bit strangely, had an odd diet and spent a lot of time in the desert. Yet it seems he was very popular with the whole of Judaea and 'all the people of Jerusalem' went out to hear him. John must have been a dynamic speaker and one in whom people found hope and inspiration. Who are these attractive messengers for us today? Who brings us good news and hope? Whose message makes sense for us? Who do we flock to hear?

Today we might also reflect on the messengers in our own lives. Who did God send to you while you were in your own wilderness? Perhaps they brought with them a moment of grace reassuring you that you would not be drifting aimlessly forever. Perhaps the evidence at that moment in your own life stated the contrary, yet these words of encouragement or comfort gave you reason to hope and to hang in there. These 'John the Baptists' are messengers of the light. They are all around us. Sometimes we are the ones called upon to be a messenger of light for someone else. The good news of the gospel today is that even in times of desolation there is a hope, a promise that urges us on. How we prepare for this journey determines our experience. See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you ...

Jane Mellett

We have a new email address which is: office@olov.org.nz and a new website which is: www.olv.org.nz. Please visit the new website and let us have your feedback. Please change old email address as this will soon be no longer available.



The meeting for the Altar Servers training session is taking place today after the 10.30am Mass at Our Lady of Grace



Thank you to the people who have offered their talents for the Christmas Eve Masses and the Christmas Day Masses. No more people are required for St Francis Xavier but we do need more people at Our Lady of Grace. For the Christmas Eve Mass we need one more Minister of the Eucharist but need a Leader and four Ministers of the Eucharist for the Christmas Day Mass. Also Altar Servers are required for all four Masses so please volunteer if you are going to be at any of these Masses. There is a clip board in the foyer of Our Lady of Grace so please fill in your name and thank you for your help.



Calling all Angels and Shepherds of all ages, please dress appropriately for the occasion, to gather at the Christmas Eve, 5.30pm, Mass at Our Lady of Grace and join Father on the Altar.



Adoration - The last day for 2017 will be 15th December and will start back early February, date to be advised early in the New Year. During the holidays would **all** parishioners think about how you can help fill in the gaps in many of the Rosters (Cleaning of our Churches, Altar Society at OLG, Adoration and many more) for 2018 – many hands make light work. Please contact the office if you need information regarding any of the Rosters.

Meetings in the Parish

- 10th December – Reconciliation at OLG at 4pm
- 14th December – Parish Finance Meeting at 7.30pm
- 17th December – Reconciliation at St Joseph's at 4pm
- 19th December – St Brendan's School - End of Year Mass at 11.30am
- 20th December – Healing Mass at OLG at 11.00
- 21st December – Healing Mass at Stokeswood, Stokes Valley at 1.30pm
- 24th December – Christmas Eve at OLG at 5.30pm Carol Singing from 5pm
- 24th December – Midnight Mass at SFX – Carol Singing from 11.30pm
- 25th December – Christmas Morning Mass at 8.30am at SFX
- 25th December – Christmas Morning Mass at 10.30am at OLG

Sacramental Preparation Programme 2018 - Enrolments for the 2018 Sacramental Preparation Program are now open for those candidates who would like to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Confirmation and First Eucharist. Enrolment forms are available in the foyer of both churches. Though enrolments close on 9th February 2018 please endeavour to enrol before the 18th December as this allows time over the January period to undertake preparation work. The Programme starts on 18th February and the Reconciliation portion happens over Lent. Any enquiries please contact Fr Tony or Louise Peirce the Sacramental Programme Co-ordinator.



Pilgrimage to the Holy Land and Jordan - planned for 29th April – 19th May 2018. For full brochure and itinerary, contact Pukekohe Travel Phone: 09 237 0013 or toll free: 0800 785 386. Email: tours@pukekohetravel.co.nz.

Food for Faith - Through his website www.foodforfaith.org.nz Fr John O'Connor of Christchurch is offering an opportunity for Advent reflection. Every day in December those who sign up will receive a short reflection by email. Visit the website and look for the purple sign-up box.

Message from Fr Rick Loughnan – Diocesan Administrator - It is with great joy that I can announce that Pope Francis has appointed Father Paul Martin SM as the tenth Bishop of the Diocese of Christchurch. Let us join together as a Diocesan family to pray for Bishop-Elect Paul. The Bishop's ordination will take place early in 2018 at a date yet to be decided by Bishop Elect Paul. Let us remember with fondness Bishop Barry Jones as we rejoice in the appointment of a new Bishop for our diocese

The Vicariate for Catholic Social Services is the social outreach agency of the Archdiocese of Wellington –

<https://wn-catholicsocialservices.org.nz/> was launched last month and contains information about our counselling and social work, prison and hospital chaplaincy, support for refugee resettlement and community advocacy. All our services are available to people of all backgrounds and beliefs. Please note, our office will close for the Christmas break from Midday, Friday 22nd December and reopen on Wednesday 3rd January 2018.

Receiving Communion At Home - Do you know of someone who is unable to attend Mass and would like to receive Communion? If you do then please contact the office 972 4282.

Newsletter by Email - If you wish to receive the weekly parish newsletter by email please advise Marilyn in the Parish Office of your email address: office@olov.org.nz



2018 Columban Art Calendars – These are now available from Parish Office or Margaret at SFX -\$12.00 a calendar. The Calendars will be available for purchase after the 10.30am Mass at OLG.

Christmas Cards are now available at St Francis Xavier church after Mass on Saturday and Sunday's. A new supply of Christmas Cards have arrived but unfortunately the price has raised up to \$4.50 per pack of 8 Cards. Similar designs as last year. Please leave money in the box or give it to Margaret Lanigan. All proceeds go to the St Vincent de Paul Society.



Pettit Centre Use - A reminder to all parishioners of Our Lady of the Valleys Parish community.

The Pettit Centre current policy provides this venue free of charge for any Parish Community events, however a hire fee will be incurred for all personal activities, such as birthday parties or private functions. To ensure fairness to all users of the Pettit Centre a booking system operates for people wishing to use the Pettit Centre for private and parish functions. To ensure space is available please ring the office for booking. The Parish is very lucky to be able to offer this venue for functions. Maintenance is a part of any venue, this comes at a cost, therefore contributions from private functions assist in ensuring this can be achieved. When booking the centre please ask Marilyn at the Parish office if you are unsure whether your occasion is considered to be a private or community event.

Please remember in prayer, all who are sick and unwell and those who are lonely and worried. We pray also for those who have died recently (Kelvin Raxworthy, James Worthington – son of Gaye Worthington, Cha-Huk-Um and Norma Harris) that they may rest in peace and those whose anniversary occur around this time.



Weekly Collection: \$1,435.80 

Our Lady of Grace Church 5 Palmer Crescent, Heretaunga

Mass Times Sunday –10:30am
Samoan Community - Mass 3rd Sunday – Church 12 noon
Weekdays Wed, Sat 9:00am Mass, Fri 9:30 am
Reconciliation – Please ring for an appointment
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament Friday (during school terms) 10.00 am – 6pm

St Francis Xavier Church 152 Stokes Valley Road, Stokes Valley

Mass Times Weekends 5.30pm Vigil (Saturday) and 8.30am (Sunday)
Samoan Community - Mass 4th Sunday – Church 11.30am
Weekdays – Tues, Thurs, 9.30am Mass – Mon, Wed, Fri, Sat 9.30am Liturgy of the Word
Reconciliation - Please ring for an appointment
Pastoral Council Chairperson John Benvenuti 563 8775
St Vincent de Paul – Heretaunga Terry 528 6313
 Petone Shop 568 6408
St Vincent de Paul – Stokes Valley Gordon 938 2750
 Stokes Valley Shop 563 9278

Sunday Readings		Sunday Readings	
10 th December – 2 nd Sunday in Advent		17 th December – 3 rd Sunday in Advent	
First Reading	Isaiah 63: 16-17, 64: 1, 3-8	First Reading	Isaiah 61: 1-2, 10-11
Second Reading	1Corinthians 1: 3-9	Second Reading	1Thessalonians 5:16-24
Gospel	Mark 13: 33-37	Gospel	John 1:6-8, 19-28