

The Parish of Our Lady of the Valleys
5th Sunday in Ordinary Time 2018
4th February 2018



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THE DEEP END: - Jesus the Healer

In today's gospel we read about Jesus' first healing in Mark's Gospel. Jesus hears of the illness of the mother of Simon's wife and goes to her. Due to the purity laws of his time this scene would have been considered controversial. His first healing is of a woman and we are told that he touches her, raises her up; he completely restores her to health. Many of his actions here would be considered taboo.

The 'whole city' was crowded around the door as people wanted to also be healed. What a commotion! Jesus, very early on in his ministry, is clearly a very popular, attractive figure. Jesus is the healer. We might ask ourselves today: who do we know who is in need of healing of any kind? This week, how can we reach out to them?

Another important aspect of this story is that Jesus does not remain comfortable in this house. He keeps moving, keeps going outward. This requires so much energy and an outpouring of love for those in need. Jesus shows us in today's gospel what it takes to stay connected, to re-energise ourselves for our various tasks: quiet time and space for real encounter with God. Even then, the people hunted for him. 'Everyone is searching for you', and still today, everyone is searching. It is up to all of us to help those on this journey, the seekers, the lost and those in need of healing. We cannot break new ground unless we are inwardly free and connected to that divine presence within us and in our world.

Jane Mellett - mellettj@gmail.com

Meetings in the Parish

6th February – Men's Group – 5.30pm

7th February – Catholic Women's League – 1.30pm

8th February – Parish Finance – 7.30pm

Parish Picnic – 11th February at midday at Trentham Memorial Park, next to the children's play area, entrance off Brentwood Street. Last year was a great success but let's make this year even better. This is a good way to meet up with new and old parishioners in a relaxed atmosphere.



Ash Wednesday 14th February 2018 Timetable for Our Lady of the Valleys

6.30am Our Lady of Grace Church
9.30am Our Lady of Grace Church (with School)
7.30pm St Francis Xavier Church

The 9:30 am will also be the Opening School Mass for St Brendan's School.

On each Wednesday in Lent there will be an additional Mass at Our Lady of Grace Church at 6:30 am for those who might like to choose this as a Lenten Observance.



Ashes for Ash Wednesday – parishioners are invited to bring their Palms from last year's Palm Sunday service to leave in the basket in the foyer of the Church ready for this coming Ash Wednesday. These will be burnt to provide the Ashes used to mark the beginning of Lent on 14th February. Thank you.

Cash Flow Report for 3 months from October to December 2017



	Cumulative
Operating Income	43,150
Less Expenditure	
Pastoral	(17,209)
Property	(14,426)
Administration	(7,028)
Total Operating Expenditure	(38,663)
Net Operating Excess (Deficit)	4,487
Balance Sheet Inflows	7305
Extraordinary	
Balance Sheet Outflows	(12,871)
Excess (Deficit) for Quarter	(1,080)



Catholic Women's League – Garden Party to be held in the Pettit Centre at 1.30pm on the 7th February – a party plate for members and a decorated sun hat if you wish – all visitors welcome



Walking group will resume on Thursday evening at 7pm February 8th. We meet in front of the church, and anyone interested is most welcome to join us for a leisurely stroll of up to one hour in our local area.

Silver Swallows Extension and Movement Classes – come along and see if you enjoy these simple dance steps in the Pettit Centre every Wednesday at 9.30am after Mass – very gentle exercise. Gold coin donation

The Fundraising Committee are having a Garage Sale on Saturday the 17th March so hopefully you did a big clean out during the Christmas break and have lots of great things for us to sell. Please remember no TV's, computers etc as these do not sell. More information in the coming weeks.

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. Enrolments close on 9th February 2018. 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.



David Seymour's "End of Life Choice" bill – David Seymour's "End of Life Choice" bill seeks to legalise euthanasia and assisted suicide in New Zealand for those over 18 years with a terminal illness or an irremediable condition. The bill passed the first reading just Christmas and is now in the Select Committee. The process of the bill going to Select Committee the second time offers a final opportunity for New Zealanders to have their say on Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide, prior to the bill going to parliament for the final vote by parliamentarians. Our Parish will be holding information sessions at masses the weekend of 3rd and 4th February, outlining the process of writing submissions to the Justice Select Committee. It would be helpful if you could put a pen in your bag when you come to mass that weekend. Catholic bishops have prepared a fact sheet for you and the Nathaniel Centre has prepared a flier reminding us that our voice counts as well as steps in writing a submission.

In the meantime, if you wish to submit an on line submission you can do so by going to "notoassistedsuicide.nz" for a quick link to place your submission. Follow the instructions. You can enter text directly or upload a document in pdf or doc format. Legalising euthanasia or assisted suicide would endanger the lives and well being of people who are vulnerable, including those suffering from mental health issues, our elders, and the disabled. You can check out information on the Nathaniel Centre website: www.nathaniel.org.nz/euthanasia. In the meantime if you have any questions feel free to contact Prue von Keisenberg 021 252 0226 or 976 3960



Friday Adoration - will start again on the 16th February after the 9.30am Mass on Friday. Please give some thought to filling in a time to a very worthwhile time with the Lord. If interested please contact the Parish office.

Sister of Peter Claver – are holding their annual Gala on 17th February 2018 and are asking for donations of costume jewellery for a stall. Please ring Win 528 5926 if you are able to help.

Mature couple involved in Church Pastoral Ministry require accommodation for two nights during the week in the Hutt Valley area. A variety of possibilities would be considered. For further information please contact Fr Tony 972 4282

Welcoming Former Refugees to Wellington - Over the past two years, the parishes and organisations of the Catholic Archdiocese of Wellington, working in partnership with the Anglican Diocese and the Red Cross, have worked to stock and prepare 168 homes for 559 former refugees being resettled in the Wellington region. 15 refugee households will be arriving in Wellington in late February. We are again looking for groups able to assist: Collecting household and pantry items: House set-up groups: Checking and sorting: If you can help please contact Catholic Social Services (04 385 8642) or email refugees@wn-catholicocialservices.org.nz If you wish to help please check out the Notice Board for more information.



Want to be part of the local solution to end abortion? Join 40 Days For Life: 14th Feb to 25th March. For 40 days we will lift up prayers on the footpath outside Wellington Hospital asking that abortion providers, workers and abortion-minded mums and dads will choose life for babies in the womb. By participating you will be a prayerful, peaceful witness for life. Typically, participants commit to pray weekly at a particular day and hour during the 40 Days campaign. However, you can select just one or a few hours to pray during the 40 days. Pray as a family, as an individual, with friends, or as a group. Learn more ph. 237 8343 or go to fli.org.nz/40daysforlife.

Opening Event: Sunday 11th February 2 pm in Knox Hall, 574 High St., Lower Hutt. Come and hear about the importance of protecting unborn children, mothers and families from abortion in our community.

Mass for Life: Tuesday 13th February 7 pm St Anne's Church, Emmett St., Newtown. Join Cardinal Dew in A Mass to pray for the protection of life from conception to natural death and the success of this Lent's 40 Days for Life campaign.

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 (Gordon MacDonald, Sheryl Morgan and Sister Mary Gallagher) that they may rest in peace and those whose anniversary (Nora Abancio) occur around this time.



Weekly Collection: \$1,399.40

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	
4 th February – 5 th Sunday in Ordinary Time		11 th February – 6 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	
First Reading	Job 7: 1-4, 6-7	First Reading	Leviticus 13: 1-2, 44-46
Second Reading	1 Corinthians 9: 16-19, 22-23	Second Reading	1Corinthians 10: 31-11:1
Gospel	Mark 1: 29-39	Gospel	Mark 1: 40-45