

The Parish of Our Lady of the Valleys
6th Sunday in Ordinary Time 2018
11th February 2018



Father Tony Kearns
Parish Office and Presbytery (04) 972 4282
Residence: 5 Palmer Crescent, Heretaunga
Parish Secretary: Marilyn Keating
Office hours: Monday – Friday 9:00 am -1:00 pm
Email: office@olov.org.nz
Email: pp@olov.org.nz
Website: www.olov.org.nz
St Brendan's School - 939 1909



THE DEEP END: - 'Stretched out his hand...'

Jesus, in today's gospel, cures a leper by the healing touch of his hand. A leper was completely outcasted from society, and still today there are many people in our own society who are completely alienated and stigmatised. Jesus is moved with pity for this man. What moves you with pity? Who do you pity?

What alienates you from others? Who is alienated in our communities? Who is it that we need to reach out to? Jesus' 'pity' also conveys anger at the leper's situation. Jesus sends the man to the priests, as a testimony to them. It is the religious of Jesus' time who have alienated this man. What they are incapable of doing, Jesus has done by 'stretching out his hand' in love.

Jesus, in Mark's Gospel, is forever asking people to keep quiet and not tell anyone about what he does. Yet, after such a radical encounter with God which frees this man from all that keeps him trapped, of course he would be shouting from the roof tops. Why would Jesus want his miracles to be kept a secret? Jesus wants to be able to fulfil his mission without attracting the wrong kind of attention. Eventually those who are against him will compile evidence but, for now, the less they know the better. We might think today of those who bravely speak out, even if it means they are punished in some way. May all of us have the courage, like the man who is healed in the gospel today, to proclaim the truth, even if it costs us.

Jane Mellett

Meetings in the Parish

15th February – Parish Council – 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 9:30am 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 6:30am for those who might like to choose this as a Lenten Observance.

Mass of Anointing in Stokes Valley – Thursday 15th at 1.30pm at “Stokeswood” Rotary Lounge, Glen Road, Stokes Valley. Afternoon tea will follow Mass. If anyone needs transport please ring Gordon or Linda Holmes on 938 2750.



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.

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 Fund Raising Committee is holding a Garage Sale on Saturday the 17th March We are looking for items to sell. Please remember we are not able to accept electronic equipment such as TV's, computers and printers as these items do not sell. Your Items can be left at the Presbytery 5 Palmer Crescent Monday to Friday between 9:00am – 1:00pm, outside of these hours or if you need items to be picked up please contact Mike Dench on 971 8385 to arrange a pick up time.



The 2018 Sacramental Program will be starting on the 18th of February with the first children's meeting on Sunday the 25th during 10:30am mass. In past years we have invited the children who participated in the program from the previous year to attend this mass and to hand the candle over to the current year's class. If you and your child can make it to mass on the 25th at 10:30am that would be wonderful. God Bless. Louise Peirce

Father Tony will be away on Friday 16th February so there will be a Liturgy of the Word at 9.30am to replace the scheduled Mass.

Catholic Women's League Fun Quiz Evening - This will be held on Monday 12th March, 7.30pm in St. Joseph's Parish Hall. \$10 per ticket. Start thinking about getting a group of 6-8 people together. People not able to fill a table will be allocated with those in a similar position. Enquiries to Christine at Parish Office between 9.30am – 12.30pm 528 2028. Also Committee members will have tickets.



Help required – I have had a call in the office from Margaret Morris who has asked if anyone in the Parish is able to give her a ride to 10.30am Mass each Sunday. She is in a wheelchair and would need a little help getting in and out of the car plus being able to put her wheelchair in your boot. Margaret lives at 326 Fergusson Drive, Flat 4. Please give her a call on 528 7522 if you can help.

Submissions on “End of Life Choice” Bill: Thank you to parishioners who wrote their submissions opposing the above bill last week. Thank you also to those who took the fliers home and have completed writing a submission. You may either bring the completed submission to mass and put them on the plate or drop them into the parish office **(by Thursday 15th February)** and we will courier them to Wellington. If you want us to make the second copy of your submission please leave your envelope unsealed. Should you post them directly to the Select Committee, please ensure that you put a stamp on the envelope as submissions are **not free post**.

Committee Secretariat
Justice Committee
Parliament Buildings
Wellington

Please share the fliers, you have, with friends and family and ask them to make a submission. Remember that this is a numbers game and we need as many people as possible to oppose this Bill. A copy of all the information shared with you is on the parish website: www.olv.org.nz. If you have any questions feel free to contact Prue von Keisenberg 021 252 0226 or 976 3960.

Engaged Encounter is a weekend experience for couples intending to be married. Weekends scheduled for 2018 are: 17 - 18 March, 14 - 15 July, 3 - 4 November 2018. Registrations close 2 weeks before. Venue: Presbytery, 301 Karori Road, Karori, Wellington. For more details go to the website at <http://www.cee-wellington.co.nz> or phone Kate & Simon Olsen Telephone 801 6192, or email Simon and Kate at simonolsen@gmail.com



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.

Mature couple involved in Church Pastoral Ministry requires 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



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 2pm 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 7pm 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 occur around this time.



Weekly Collection: \$1580.90

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	
11 th February – 6 th Sunday in Ordinary Time		18 th February – 1 st Sunday in Lent	
First Reading	Leviticus 13: 1-2, 44-46	First Reading	Genesis 9:8-15
Second Reading	1Corinthians 10: 31-11:1	Second Reading	1Peter 3:18-22
Gospel	Mark 1: 40-45	Gospel	Mark 1:12-15