

**The Parish of Our Lady of the Valleys**  
**1st Sunday of Lent**  
**18<sup>th</sup> 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: Operation Transformation**

The first Sunday of Lent – I love Lent, it's a great season where we can get in 'transformation' mode. Regardless of whether or not someone is still 'practicing' their faith, people still seem to get on board with Lent. We usually give something up, but remember it's not simply about weight loss or getting fit. By doing these things we are trying to make room for something deeper. It's a spring cleaning sort of time. What needs clearing out in my life so that I can make more room for God? Or often do we need to make more room for what God has planned for us? We can get stuck, especially when we are comfortable and don't really want too much to change. But without change we can't grow and things fast become stale in our lives. God is always urging us on because God knows just what possibilities there are for each of us. So Lent might be a time where in giving up something or taking on something, we make space for something new. The gospel today is short and sweet – Jesus is sent into the desert and we too are invited into a desert time. Deserts are interesting places which can allow us to reflect, give ourselves space and we should not be afraid because as the gospel tells us clearly today, it is a Spirit led desert. God is with us in this desert. So enjoy Lent, embrace it. How we make use of this time determines what will be.

*Jane Mellett*

**Meetings in the Parish**

22<sup>nd</sup> February – Parish Liturgy at 7.30pm

**Sacramental Programme – First Reconciliation**

18<sup>th</sup> February – Parents Session in the Pettit Centre at 7.00pm

25<sup>th</sup> February – Children's group session at the 10.30am Mass

4<sup>th</sup> March – Parents Session in the Pettit Centre at 7.00pm

11<sup>th</sup> March - Children's group session at the 10.30am Mass

18<sup>th</sup> March – Rite II Reconciliation in St Francis Xavier Church at 3.00pm



**Parish Picnic** – This will now be held on the **4<sup>th</sup> March** 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.

**Stations of the Cross** will be on each Friday of Lent at St Francis Xavier Church at 7.00pm. This will be lead by the Samoan Community. Books with English translation will be available.

**Lenten Giving Packs** are available in the Church Foyer. You can either use the weekly donation envelopes or use a single donation envelope. You may either return your donation envelopes during the parish offertory collection, or send them to Caritas directly. A freepost envelope is available for this option. NZ Post specifies that cash must not be sent through the post.

Donations received by Caritas in these envelopes by 31<sup>st</sup> March will be sent a receipt for the 2017/2018 tax year. Donations received by Caritas after April 1<sup>st</sup> will be sent a receipt for the 2018/2019 tax year. Your generous support enables Caritas to help poor and marginalised communities around the world.

**Mass with Anointing Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February at 11am** - Please come and join us in the Pettit Centre next to Our Lady of Grace Church for this Mass, followed by a shared lunch this Wednesday. Extra helping hands are always welcome. There will be no Mass at 9am at Heretaunga on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February as this is replaced by the Anointing Mass at 11am.



**The Fund Raising Committee** is holding a Garage Sale on Saturday the 17<sup>th</sup> 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 18<sup>th</sup> of February with the first children’s meeting on Sunday the 25<sup>th</sup> 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 25<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am that would be wonderful. God Bless. Louise Peirce

**Catholic Women’s League Fun Quiz Evening** - This will be held on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Teaching Night at St Anne's Hall, Emmett Street, Newtown.** Hosted by Catholic Charismatic Renewal, Wednesday 28th February, at 7:30pm.

Speaker: Gordon Copeland

Theme: The gift of Wisdom.

Evening includes Praise & Worship, group discussion and fellowship.

**Everyone is welcome!**

**Archdiocesan Commission for Justice, Peace and Development:**

*I urge the members of the Church to take up the Lenten journey with enthusiasm, sustained by almsgiving, fasting and prayer. If, at times, the flame of charity seems to die in our own hearts, know that this is never the case in the heart of God! He constantly gives us a chance to begin loving anew* To see the full text visit our website.



*Pope Francis: Message for Lent 2018*



**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER** – Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> March - This annual event will be celebrated on the day at Our Lady of Grace at 10.30am and at the Wesley Centre at 1.30pm. This year's service has been composed by Christian Women of Suriname (in South America) with the theme - "ALL GOD'S CREATION IS VERY GOOD" We are combining with parishioners of St. Margaret's and St. Mary's of Silverstream to present the service. The collection will support projects in Nicaragua, Suriname and New Zealand. Morning Tea will be served in the Pettit Centre before the service. Please come (men, women, and children) and support this chance of fellowship with local Christians.

**A Caring Space** - We offer this breathing space for all who care for a loved one, a chance to step away for a few hours. It is an opportunity to gently explore, together with God, the way this role is changing your life, hopes, dreams and perspectives and above all the relationship with the one you care for. Led by Gill Schaap and Veronica Parton at the Home of Compassion, 2 Rhine St., Island Bay, Wellington on Monday 19th March Time: 11am - 2pm. Cost \$10. Please register with Veronica Parton 021 238 6675 or email [vjpdap@gmail.com](mailto:vjpdap@gmail.com). See noticeboard for more details.

**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.



Do you enjoy Singing? - Hutt Valley Singers rehearse on Monday nights at the Pettit Centre in Heretaunga. We are currently learning the Deutsche Messe (German Mass) by Schubert for our next concert which will be held at St Pat's on 20<sup>th</sup> May. For more information about the choir contact Sue 976 7176 (evenings) or email [info@huttvalleysingers.org.nz](mailto:info@huttvalleysingers.org.nz)

**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:**



**14<sup>th</sup> Feb to 25<sup>th</sup> 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](http://fli.org.nz/40daysforlife).

**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 (Ness (Vanessa) Ellin, Kerry Thomas and Sister Mary Gallagher) that they may rest in peace and those whose anniversary occur around this time.



Weekly Collection: \$1409.50

**Our Lady of Grace Church 5 Palmer Crescent, Heretaunga**

**Mass Times Sunday –10:30am**

**Samoan Community - Mass 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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**

**St Vincent de Paul – Heretaunga**

John Benvenuti 563 8775

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	
18 <sup>th</sup> February – 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent		25 <sup>th</sup> February – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent	
First Reading	Genesis 9:8-15	First Reading	Genesis 22:1-2,9-13,15-18
Second Reading	1Peter 3:18-22	Second Reading	Romans 8:31-34
Gospel	Mark 1:12-15	Gospel	Mark 9:2-10