

**The Parish of Our Lady of the Valleys
2nd Sunday of Lent
25th February 2018**



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THE DEEP END: Transfiguration

Can you recall a time when you had an 'aha moment'? One of those moments when something suddenly makes perfect sense to you. It may have been a long time coming, a combination of various pieces of a jigsaw fitting together or it may be an insight you received from prayer or spiritual practice. These are really special moments. We are never quite the same afterwards, something changes, even a small thing, but something in us changes. These 'aha' moments even move us outside of ourselves or beyond ourselves in some way. They are moments of transfiguration. This is what is happening to the disciples in today's gospel: a very deep and significant 'aha moment'.

Peter is desperate to stay on the mountain in that blissful moment with Jesus, so much so that he offers to build tents. One can understand Peter's request, after such an occurrence of course he would want to stay there. What moments of encounter in your own life do you recall? An encounter where you simply did not want it to end? It may be something very deep and meaningful which gave you a glimpse of God or a moment of complete contentment?

As with all blissful moments, the disciples must come down from the mountaintop. Jesus' way involves walking a very different path, a path that will not be so easy. Jesus' way is different to what Peter may have had in mind. No doubt these moments of transfiguration strengthen us all for walking the more difficult paths.

Jane Mellett

Meetings in the Parish

27th February – SVdP – OLG at 7.00pm

Sacramental Programme – First Reconciliation

25th February – Children's group session at the 10.30am Mass

4th March – Parents Session in the Pettit Centre at 7.00pm

11th March - Children's group session at the 10.30am Mass

18th March – Rite II Reconciliation in St Francis Xavier Church at 3.00pm

Submissions to the Justice Select Committee regarding the End of Life Choice Bill - The deadline for submissions on the End of Life Choice Bill has been extended until **Tuesday 6 March 2018**. If you haven't already done so, please make a submission opposing the Bill either by post or online at https://www.parliament.nz/en/pb/sc/make-a-submission/document/52SCJU_SCF_BILL_74307/end-of-life-choice-bill/. For more information, please visit www.nathaniel.org.nz.



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.

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 31st March will be sent a receipt for the 2017/2018 tax year. Donations received by Caritas after April 1st 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.

Newsletter work sheet

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 Reflection - Fr John O'Connor of the Christchurch Diocese has produced this excellent series of daily reflections for Lent. They come by email each day – www.foodforfaith.org.nz



Easter - Preparation is underway for all the liturgies relating to Easter. Please have a think about how you might be able to contribute. Thanks.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER – Friday 2nd 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.



Circle of Friendship Ladies Gathering - All ladies of the parish are invited to join us next Saturday 3 March for fellowship and a cuppa, in the Pettit Centre between 2.00pm – 4.00pm. Rita David, from our group, will be speaking to us about living in South Africa. Everyone is welcome. If

you need transport, please ring Melinda on 234 1271. A gold coin donation towards our Parish expenses would be appreciated.



Parish Picnic – This will now be held on the **4th 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.

24 hours of Prayer - Pope Francis has once again asked us during Lent to participate in 24 Hours of Prayer. This year the 24 Hours of Prayer will take place from **6pm Friday 9th March until 6pm Saturday 10th March**. We encourage you people to come to St Peter and Pauls, Knights Road, Lower Hutt at some stage over those 24 hours



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.

St Mary's College Second hand uniform Shop - As a service to our school community, St. Mary’s PTFA have set up a second-hand uniform shop. As you may be aware new school uniforms are very expensive. We aim to assist families to meet their costs by providing access to reasonably priced second-hand garments. To do this we need donations of uniform items. We would also be happy to sell old junior maths calculators.

All proceeds of the sales will be used to fund improvements at the school. If you have any SMC clothing in a reasonable condition, which you no longer require, we would be very keen to hear from you, and we can collect! Please contact Marie, marieheff@gmail.com if you can help us out. Thanks.

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.



40 Days for Life is under way: Please keep the prayers up for the abortion vulnerable, the abortion wounded and those promoting and providing abortions in our city. Vigil Hours outside Wellington Hospital: Tuesday to Friday 8.00am to 4.00pm; Mondays and Saturdays 8.00am to Noon and Sundays 1.00 to 4.00pm. Please come out and show your support for life. Sign up for an hour at www.fli.org.nz/40daysforlife or Txt:

0275112205

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.

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. See noticeboard for more details.



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 20th May. For more information about the choir contact Sue 976 7176 (evenings) or email 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

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.



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 and Kerry Thomas that they may rest in peace and those whose anniversary (Zita Pellizzari) occur around this time.



Weekly Collection: \$1168.70

Our Lady of Grace Church 5 Palmer Crescent, Heretaunga

Mass Times Sunday –10:30am

Weekdays Wed, Sat 9:00am Mass, Fri 9:30 am Mass

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	
25 th February – 2 nd Sunday in Lent		4 th March – 3 rd Sunday in Lent	
First Reading	Genesis 22:1-2,9-13,15-18	First Reading	Exodus 20:1-17
Second Reading	Romans 8:31-34	Second Reading	1Cor 1:22-25
Gospel	Mark 9:2-10	Gospel	John 2:13-25