

The Parish of Our Lady of the Valleys
3rd Sunday of Lent
4th March 2018



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THE DEEP END: Who do you think you are?

'A certain fiery and starry light shone from his eyes and the majesty of Godhead gleamed in His face.' St Jerome
What gives you the right? Who do you think you are? In our world, it can be difficult to work out who has authority to speak on certain issues. There are 'experts', both qualified and unqualified, at every turn, telling us how we should spend or invest our money, how we should bring up our children, how we should eat, exercise or dress. We usually manage to tune a lot of it out. But when unsolicited advice or criticism is aimed directly at us, we can feel under attack and react accordingly. 'What gives you the right to tell me how to live my life?' is a common response. We sometimes need to hear someone's credentials before we are willing to give them a fair hearing.

The Temple scene in today's gospel sparks a debate about Jesus' authority. When the Jews question him, asking for a sign to justify what he has done, it is as if they are saying 'Who do you think you are, coming in here, criticising our activities and telling us how to run things?' In calling the Temple 'my Father's house,' Jesus has already identified the source of his authority, but his interrogators do not seem to understand, nor indeed do his disciples. This scene offers much more than an angry Jesus and a clueless audience. It is a public revelation by Jesus that he is the authoritative Son of God, and a foreshadowing of his death and resurrection.

Triona Doherty

Meetings in the Parish

6th March – Men's Group – 5.30pm

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

8th March - Parish Finance – 7.30pm

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

Sacramental Programme – First Reconciliation

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



Parish Picnic – Sunday 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. Postponement date if 4th March is wet will be 11th March.

March Rosters - have been emailed out. Copies are also available in the foyer of both Churches and on our website.



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.

Men's Group - The Men's Group will meet on Tuesday March 6th at the Silverstream Bowling Club at 5.30pm. All are welcome to attend this social event as it is an opportunity to get to know other men in the parish. Any enquires please call Roger Wasson on 528 7847



MEN'S GROUP



Catholic Women's League - is meeting on Wednesday March 7th at 1.30pm in the Pettit Centre – all welcome to join in the warm fellowship and a great afternoon tea.

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 are holding 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 9718385 to arrange a pick up time.

We are looking for assistance on Friday evening to help sort items and also on the day of the garage sale. We need help with: BBQ, Cafe, Selling etc, so if you are able to help in any way, please add your name to the list at the back of the church.

Upper Hutt Housing Trust - St Joseph's Social Justice group formed the Upper Hutt Housing Trust to address the problem of homelessness in Upper Hutt. We now have five stand alone transitional houses for families and a 9 bedroom emergency housing facility. We are in urgent need of finance and one of our supporters is holding a stall to raise some money for us at the March Madness Craft Fair in Upper Hutt on March 17 2018. If anyone is willing to donate jams, preserves, or handmade articles we would be very grateful. If these could be collected on Sunday 11 March I could come and collect them. Thank you very much, Judy Dixon 970 7169 022 043 4703

Upper Hutt Aglow - All are welcome to attend the Upper Hutt Aglow meeting on Monday 5th of March, starting with a cuppa at 9.45. Our speaker this month is Pastor Laurie Coetsee one of the pastors at the Upper Hutt Baptist Church. Laurie has a lovely way about her, and is an excellent teacher. We look forward to meeting everyone who can make it.



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.

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.



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



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

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.

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

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, Araceli Domdom, Tolofa'i Launiuvao, Ness (Vanessa) Ellin and Kerry Thomas that they may rest in peace and those whose anniversary (Zita Pellizzari) occur around this time.



Weekly Collection: \$1336.80

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

Gordon 938 2750

St Vincent de Paul – Stokes Valley

Stokes Valley Shop 563 9278

Sunday Readings		Sunday Readings	
4 th March –3 rd Sunday in Lent		11 th March –4 th Sunday in Lent	
First Reading	Exodus 20:1-17	First Reading	2Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23
Second Reading	1Cor 1:22-25	Second Reading	Eph 2:4-10
Gospel	John 2:13-25	Gospel	John 3:14-21