

The Parish of Our Lady of the Valleys
4th Sunday of Lent – Year B
11th March 2018



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THE DEEP END:

Rejoice!

Today, the 'middle' Sunday of Lent, is known as Laetare Sunday. The name comes from the opening words of the entrance antiphon of the Mass, 'Laetare Jerusalem' or 'Rejoice, O Jerusalem'. We tend not to think of Lent as a time to rejoice, but a few small signs of joy are permitted at Mass today, such as the use of flowers on the altar and rose-coloured vestments for the priest instead of the Lenten purple. The shadow of the cross still looms large, but we look forward with hope to Easter, when light will conquer the darkness.

We are offered an opportunity today to pause and reflect on our Lenten journey. Listen to the words of St Paul: 'You are God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the beginning he had meant us to live it.' Many of our efforts during Lent are aimed at improving ourselves, being more generous with our time or resources, more patient, more attentive to the needs of others – living as true followers of Jesus. What changes do I need to make to be 'God's work of art'?

And in John's Gospel we hear: 'The [person] who lives by the truth comes out into the light, so that it may be plainly seen that what he does is done in God.' One question we might ask this Lent is: Am I living a truthful life? Am I honest in my dealings with others, trying always to choose what is right and just, or are there things I think or do in secret that are unkind or dishonest? How might I step out into the light this Lent?

Triona Doherty

Meetings in the Parish

15th March – Healing Mass at Stokeswood Rest Home, Stokes Valley at 1.30pm
18th March – Rite II Reconciliation - St Francis Xavier Church at 3.00pm

Sacramental Programme – First Reconciliation

11th March - Children's group session at the 10.30am Mass
18th March – Rite II Reconciliation in St Francis Xavier Church at 3.00pm



Morning Tea on Sunday - We would like to encourage you to stay and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee after Mass on Sunday. Take this time to talk to someone you haven't met before and enjoy time with others in the Parish. To keep building community we need to reach out and not be afraid to say hi – but we need you to come along to get to know you. Morning tea usually offered each Sunday after the 8:30 am Mass at St Francis Xavier Church and after the 10:30am Mass at Our Lady of Grace.



You are invited to join with Cardinal John Dew and the Priests of the northern part of the Archdiocese as they renew their commitment to their priestly service at the Chrism Mass at 7:30pm on Tuesday 27th March at St Francis of Assisi Church.

At this Mass the Holy Oils are blessed in a moving ceremony. The Oil of Catechumens will be used in Baptism; the Oil of Chrism in Confirmation and the Oil of the Sick for the anointing of the elderly, and those who are seriously ill. Attending the Chrism Mass is a wonderful way to begin Holy Week.

We are sad to advice that Marilyn, our Parish Secretary, has decided to retire and her letter of retirement was accept by the Finance Committee. Next week we will be advertising this position.

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



Catholic Women's League – Congratulations to the CWL Lotto Bonus Winners – Melanie Avery – Number 3 \$20, Therese Anstiss Number 2 \$10 and Margaret Carson Number 4 \$10.

Catholic Women's League Easter Raffle on sale after Mass this weekend and next. Drawn on 25th March. There are two raffles one for each Church. Large Fruit Cake and Easter Eggs. Tickets \$2 each or 3 for \$5.



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.

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.



Flowers for Easter - If you have flowers - colours white, yellow or pastel colours - and they will be out at Easter, and you would like to donate them to decorate the Church for the Altar of Repose and Easter Sunday, could you please bring them to the Church or Church Office on Thursday morning, 28th March (Holy Thursday). They would be very gratefully received.



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 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.



The Archdiocesan Commission for Justice, Peace and Development - From the certainty that God's grace is with us comes the strength to take courage in the present moment: the courage to carry forward what God asks of us here and now, in every area of our lives; courage to embrace the vocation which God reveals to us; courage to live out our faith without hiding or diminishing it. Pope Francis: [Message for World Youth Day 2018](#)

February refugee intake – thanks to all who contributed! - Wellington Catholic Social Services would like to thank all the groups and individuals in parishes and the community who contributed to the recent house set-up for refugees arriving in Wellington in February. With your assistance, we were again able to set-up homes for 43 former refugees in 15 households. Many thanks to all who contributed household and pantry items; set-up homes; and assisted with sorting, packing and transporting goods. For more information about this work, or to contribute to the April refugee intake, please see our website: phone 04-385 8642 <https://wn-catholicsocialservices.org.nz/Supporting+refugee+resettlement> or contact CSS: email refugees@wn-catholicsocialservices.org.nz

Greenstone Doors - On the 2nd Monday of every month, there is a short Prayer Evening at Greenstone Doors, 15 Dudley St, Lower Hutt at 7pm, which is an opportunity to pray for the work of the Trust, the clients and the volunteers. Everyone is welcome and if you cannot attend but would like to be part of our Prayer Team, please email Wendy at info@greenstonedoors.co.nz



World Day of Prayer 2018 – Thanks to all who supported this. It was good to be involved with our neighbouring churches. The collection of \$139.10 was forwarded for support of programmes in Guyana, Nicaragua and New Zealand. – Geraldine Sims – local organiser.



Sacrament of Anointing

Mass of Anointing in Stokes Valley – Thursday 15th March 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 9382750.

St Mary Uniform Notice - Address Correction - Email contact details if you have any unneeded St Mary’s uniform items, marieheffnz@gmail.com

Lenten Booklet – The Little Black Book has been used by some of our parishioners since the beginning of Lent – the next book in this series is called “The Little White Book” which is for Easter. These books will be here the week beginning of the 19th March and the cost is \$6.00 a copy and if you are interested in buying a copy would you please put your name on the list in the foyer of both churches. Many thanks



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

The Prison Chaplaincy Service of Aotearoa New Zealand is seeking a fulltime Office Manager. See their website www.pcsanz.org/vacancies.php

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 and Tolofa’i Launiuvao, that they may rest in peace and those whose anniversary occur around this time.



Weekly Collection: \$1,238.50

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 – Wed, 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 March – 4 th Sunday in Lent		18 th March – 5 th Sunday in Lent	
First Reading	2Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23	First Reading	Jeremiah 31: 31-34
Second Reading	Eph 2:4-10	Second Reading	Hebrews 5: 7-9
Gospel	John 3:14-21	Gospel	John 12: 20-33