

The Parish of Our Lady of the Valleys
4th Sunday of Easter – Year B
22nd April 2018



Father Tony Kearns
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THE DEEP END

The Good Shepherd

In Jesus' time, being a shepherd was not a pleasant job. Sheep became easily lost and the shepherd's job was to guide them back to safety. There were many dangers and the sheep were totally dependent on the shepherd.

Shepherds would round up their sheep in the evening and guide them into their pen. But it had no gate so the shepherd would have to lie across the space in case the sheep were attacked in the night. The shepherds literally laid down their lives for their flock. John compares the sacrifice of the shepherd to the 'hired hand' who is not really committed to the flock. He does what he has to but flees at the first sign of trouble.

This Good Shepherd Sunday, the gospel describes Jesus as the 'genuine' Shepherd who wants a personal relationship with each one of us and who would lay down his life for us. The gospel emphasises the importance of relationship as the shepherd knows his flock and cares for them. They 'follow him' and it is not a Facebook or Twitter type of following, rather it is a genuine relationship. Everyone matters to the Good Shepherd, regardless of their situations. We are told 'I know my own and my own know me'. We are called today to follow Jesus in a more personal, more intimate way. Even when we stray off the path and get lost, it is then – especially – that the Good Shepherd comes looking for us.

'We think we are fleeing from God, but in fact we are running into his arms.'
Meister Eckhart

Jane Mellett
mellettj@gmail.com

Weekly Collection: \$1,291.10

Meetings in the Parish

24th April – Saint Vincent de Paul – Heretaunga – 7pm

26th April – Parish Liturgy – 7.30pm

Sacramental Programme – Confirmation

13th May – Pettit Centre at 7pm

27th May – Group Session at Our Lady of Grace at 10.30am

10th June – Pettit Centre at 7pm

24th June – Group Session at Our Lady of Grace at 10.30am

24th June – Rehearsal in Our Lady of Grace, Church at 11.30am

1st July – Confirmation ceremony at Our Lady of Grace Church at 10.30am

Family group events for April

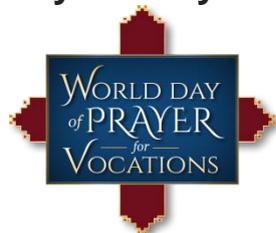
Sunday 29th April - **Holmes Group Bus Trip** Contact John Spavin
5639033

Sunday 29th April - **O'Leary Group** Movie and coffee afternoon contact
Christine 021518971



Tuesday Mass at St Francis Xavier Church - Due to Father Tony's commitment of having a meeting with the Diocesan committee next week the Mass at St Francis Xavier for Tuesday 24th April will be replaced by a Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion.

Day of Prayer for Vocations: Sunday 22 April - The 4th Sunday of Easter



is a special Day of Prayer for Vocations. Please pray for our seminarians Jovanie and Alfred and those discerning the call to priesthood. Could someone you know become tomorrow's priest? Pray for this person. Invite him to consider priesthood. Affirm his gifts and qualities. Encourage him to be open to the possibility of priesthood.

Pope Francis: *"Today the Lord continues to call others to follow him. We should not wait to be perfect in order to respond with our generous "yes", nor be fearful of our limitations and sins, but instead open our hearts to the voice of the Lord. To listen to that voice, to discern our personal mission in the Church and the world, and at last to live it in the today that God gives us."*

Fr David Dowling, Vocations Director - email: frdavidd@gmail.com



A note from Cardinal John - Please remember **Fr David Dowling** in prayer. Fr David suffered a small stroke a few days ago and will be having some time to rest and recuperate. Please note that visitors are restricted



ANZAC Day Commemoration 25th April - As ANZAC Day falls on a Wednesday this year the Parish will remember the day during the 9:00am Mass at Our Lady of Grace Church in Heretaunga. All Parishioners are invited to come and remember those who have lost their lives at war and pray for peace. There

will be **No Liturgy of the Word** at St Francis Xavier Church that morning. In the spirit of ANZAC if you wish to bring your families medals along and put them on the steps in front of the Altar – you are most welcome to do so but please remember to take them with you after Mass.



Tax receipts for 2018 – I have been rung asking about the tax receipts and when they will be available. In the past we have given out the tax receipts along with the new planned giving envelopes. We are still awaiting the arrival of the envelopes and as soon as these arrive the tax receipts will be collated with the envelopes and then they will be available as usual at the back of each Church. This year the parishioners on Automatic Payments will also receive, with their tax receipts, a pack of envelopes for Special Collections eg Christmas, Easter etc.



Living Waters Café - Sundays after 10.30am Mass at the Pettit Centre. All parishioners are welcome. The café is held in the Pettit Centre behind the church and operates most Sundays from 11.30 until 12.30. The café is run by volunteers. Tea, coffee and a light snack are served. Children are catered for also. Gold coin donation is welcome

Check out
this week's
bulletin

Newsletter/Bulletin by Email - If you wish to receive the weekly parish newsletter by email please advise Marilyn in the Parish Office of your email address: office@olov.org.nz



Greenstone Doors is holding a Movie Night Fundraiser 23rd April 5:30pm \$20 per ticket. Join us at the The Lighthouse Cinema in Petone to see "**The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society**" - Greenstone Doors is holding a Peace Retreat for single mothers 4th - 6th May, this is fully sponsored and is being held at the Magnificat Retreat Centre. We are taking registrations now. - If anyone would like to be on a prayer list for Greenstone Doors please email us and we will add you to the list. - This is to pray for any special intentions that may arise.

To register for any of these or for more information please email greenstonedoors15@gmail.com or phone 0272549222

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 Saturday 5th May, Time: 11am - 2pm. Cost \$10. Please register with Veronica Parton 021 238 6675 or email vjpdap@gmail.com



St Bernard's College - Calling all Old Boys! An informal gathering called 'Beersies' will be held at the Angus Inn from 5:30pm on Friday 27th April, 2018. See you all there, please spread the word!



From the 13th Synod outcome - **Go, you are sent...to the peripheries of society 1(k) Parishes are encouraged to develop a project approach to service and justice needs.**

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, Joanne Rich, Nic Shanahan and Judith Curry and those whose anniversary occur around this time –may they rest in peace



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	
22 nd April – 4 th Sunday of Easter		29 th April – 5 th Sunday of Easter	
First Reading	Acts 4: 8-12	First Reading	Acts 9: 26-31
Second Reading	1John 3: 1-2	Second Reading	1 John 3: 18-24
Gospel	John 10: 11-18	Gospel	John 14: 21-26