

The Parish of Our Lady of the Valleys
6th Sunday of Easter – Year B
6th May 2018



Father Tony Kearns
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THE DEEP END

A brief history of love

God does not have favourites, Peter tells us. You wouldn't think that was the case sometimes, listening to some of the people who purport to speak on his behalf.

When Professor Stephen Hawking passed away earlier this year, people from all walks of life paid tribute to his brilliance, his scientific legacy, his courage and his sense of humour. Professor Hawking's work taught the world so much about the boundless mysteries of the universe. Though he considered himself an atheist, he believed that life had meaning, and that we should always be curious about how the universe came into existence. He believed in love, and is quoted as saying 'It would not be much of a universe if it wasn't home to the people you love.'

And yet, after his death, there were some who couldn't resist the opportunity to ask: where is he now, this man who did not believe in God? The judgement and lack of compassion was staggering, coming as it did from 'Christian' commentators. Where is the love in such attitudes?

Today we bring everything back to one word: love. There are more than 20 references to love in today's readings. God's love does not discriminate. In the second reading we hear that 'everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God', while 'anyone who fails to love can never have known God, because God is love.' That love that God showed by sending his Son for us, is the same generous, wholehearted, self-sacrificing love we are called to show others – whether their beliefs align with ours or not. God does not have favourites.

Tríona Doherty

Weekly Collection: \$1,307.40
Vocations Appeal: \$ 135.00

Meetings in the Parish

10th May – Finance Meeting 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



Tax receipts for 2018 – These are now available, along with the envelopes, in the foyer of both churches.

Roster's for May – are now available either by email, which you should have received if you have indicated that you wish to receive the Roster this way, or visit www.olv.org.nz to download a copy or a small quantity are in the foyer of both churches.



New Parishioner Administrator – We welcome Jovena Fernandez who will be starting on 14th May to this position. Please make Jovena feel welcome just as you all have made me very welcome.



Can you help? – We are looking to have a morning tea after the 8.30am Mass every Sunday at St Francis Xavier. At the moment the Samoan Youth Group have taken this position on but the old saying “many hands make light work” is very true.

This is a good way to get to know your fellow parishioners. Please contact the office, 972 4282, if you are able to help.

We are also looking for parishioners to help at the 5.30pm Mass on a Saturday night at St Francis Xavier as: Collectors, Offertory Procession and Greeters. If you are willing to help please ring the office 972 4282 and I will add your name to the list. Many thanks in anticipation



CWL – Mother's Day Raffle – for the following two weekends CWL will be selling tickets for a Mother's Day Raffle at both churches. The raffle will be drawn after the 10.30am Mass on Mother's Day, Sunday 13th May.



Synod Outcome - Go, you are sent ...to find leaders (3f) Formation and mentoring for leadership roles is provided at the parish level and throughout the Archdiocese.



Archdiocesan Commission for Justice, Peace and Development

- If I encounter a person sleeping outdoors on a cold night, I can view him or her as an annoyance, an idler, an obstacle in my path, a troubling sight, a problem for politicians to sort out, or even a piece of refuse cluttering a public space. Or I can respond with faith and charity, and see in this person a human being with a dignity identical to my own, a creature infinitely loved by the Father, an image of God, a brother or sister redeemed by Jesus Christ. That is what it is to be a Christian!

Pope Francis: Gaudete et Exsultate #98, 2018

Vigil for the Unborn: Saturday 19th May 2018. St Anne's Catholic Church, Emmett Street, Newtown. 10 am Mass. Followed by Exposition and Rosary Procession to front of Hospital. Ends at Noon with a shared lunch. Join in this persevering prayer effort for our most vulnerable - unborn children - and those suffering from the tragedy of abortion. Five abortion workers around the world had a change of heart and left their work during the last 40 Days for Life campaign. Peaceful prayer and witness works. For more information contact Family Life International NZ PH: 237 8343

Don't Miss these Dynamic Workshops! - Family Friendly Liturgies on Saturday 19th May, 2.15pm-4.30pm at Ss Peter and Paul's Church Lower Hutt Time and The Purpose and place of music in the liturgy on Sunday 20th May, 1.45pm-4.00pm at St Theresa's Church, Plimmerton. Michael is from overseas so a Koha would be appreciated but not compulsory. Michael Mangan, an Australian composer, teacher and music liturgist will be presenting these interactive workshops. Everyone is welcome. They will be of special interest to members of Liturgy teams, Children's Liturgists, Musicians and Directors of Religious Education. Please register with Ann Williams by Monday 14th May, specifying which workshops you are attending at a.williams@wn.catholic.org.nz



Housing Sought for Refugee Families - Rental housing is needed urgently for two Wellington families: a family of eight and a family of six. Both are in temporary living situations right now, while a number of agencies are urgently seeking permanent homes for them. Can you help find an affordable rental home? Please contact l.beech@wn-catholicsocialservices.org.nz if you can assist.



Dove Catholic Fellowship for Women - Our meeting is on Saturday 19th May at Connolly Hall, at 1.15pm, Guilford Terrace. Thorndon. Speaker: Shura Price, President Dove Wellington - "My journey guided by the Holy Spirit". All women welcome for fellowship, prayer ministry available. Enquiries: Shura 04 3899938

The Christian Brothers Past Pupils' Association, Wellington, is holding its Annual Past Pupils' Mass on Sunday, 20th May at the 10.30am Mass in the Sacred Heart Cathedral in Hill Street, Wellington. Mass will be followed by lunch at 11.45am in Connolly Hall. Our guest is Dave Olivier who will speak about his time as Principal of Christian Brothers College at Mount Edmund in Pretoria, South Africa. Dave's wife, Jenni, will also be attending. Those interested in attending please contact Kevin McCormack on 478-6792.



Receiving Communion At Home - Do you know of someone who is unable to attend Mass and would like to receive Communion? If you do then please contact the office 972 4282.



Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament - A wonderful opportunity to meet the King of Kings. Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament! Every Friday from 10am to 6pm. He waits patiently for YOU to come and visit Him. Tell Him your problems; request His help in any situation, ask for strength and courage in your difficulties. He is always there for you! Love and Adore Him. Please contact the office for available time slots. 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, Nic Shanahan, Judith Curry, Jim Hanson, Shirley McGrail, Audrey Wearne and Rosemary Downey 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	
13 th May – The Ascension of the Lord		20 th May – Pentecost Sunday	
First Reading	Acts 1:1-11	First Reading	Acts 2: 1-11
Second Reading	Ephesians 1: 17-23	Second Reading	1Corinthians 12: 3-7, 12-13
Gospel	Matthew 28: 16-20	Gospel	John 20: 19-23