

**The Parish of Our Lady of the Valleys
The Ascension of the Lord – Year B
13th May 2018**



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**THE DEEP END
Forgotten feast**

Sandwiched between Easter and Pentecost, the feast of the Ascension can sometimes tend to be overlooked. It can be hard to make sense of the artistic images we see of Jesus disappearing into the clouds as the disciples stand and stare after him. But the Ascension does more than simply mark the culmination of Jesus' earthly life; it opens up for us a path to God. Where Jesus has gone, we hope one day to follow.

As Pope Francis puts it, 'the Ascension does not point to Jesus' absence, but tells us that he is alive in our midst in a new way. He is no longer in a specific place in the world as he was before the Ascension. He is now ... present in every space and time, close to each one of us. We are never alone: the Crucified and Risen Lord guides us.'

It is this very presence of Jesus that gave the disciples, and gives us, the strength for mission. Immediately before he is taken into heaven, Jesus issues his final and most important instruction: 'Go out to the whole world; proclaim the good news to all creation.' And after he goes, the disciples straight away set about the task. Far from being suddenly absent, we are told the Lord is now working with them in a new way. The Ascension is less a loss than a transition, a promise that Jesus will always be with us.

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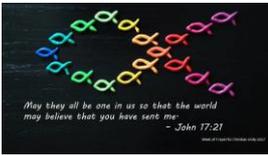
Weekly Collection: \$1,297.90

Mother's Day – We acknowledge that today is Mother's Day and we wish those who fulfil the role of mother in this world all a very happy day. God bless each and everyone

Meetings in the Parish

16th May – Healing Mass at OLG at 11am
17th May – Healing Mass at Stokeswood at 1.30pm

17th May – Parish Council at 7.30pm



Week of Prayer for Christian Unity - This Sunday begins the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. It is an 8 day preparation time leading to the celebration of Pentecost Sunday on 20th May. Cardinal John has asked all in the Archdiocese to join in as they

can to this time of prayer, making Jesus words 'may they be one in us so that the world may know that it was you who sent me'. Copies of a booklet giving reflections for the 8 days of prayer are available in the foyer or can be downloaded from the Parish website www.olv.org.nz

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.

Cash Flow report from January 2018 – March 2018

Operating Income	45,514
Less Expenditure	
Pastoral	(16,629)
Property	(7,548)
Administration	(8,879)
Total Operating Expenditure	(33,056)
Net Operating Excess (Deficit)	12,458
Balance Sheet Inflows	11,341
Extraordinary	
Balance Sheet Outflows	(22,320)
Excess (Deficit) for Quarter	1,479

Mass with Anointing Wednesday 16th May at 11am - Please come and join us in the Pettit Centre next to Our Lady of Grace Church for this Mass, followed by a shared lunch this Wednesday. Extra helping hands are always welcome and transport can be provided please contact Patricia on 972 8043. There will be no Mass at 9am at Heretaunga on Wednesday 16th June as this is replaced by the Anointing Mass at 11am.



Sacrament of Anointing

Mass of Anointing in Stokes Valley – Thursday 17th May 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.

Altar Society at St Francis Xavier – help is required on a regular basis to organise the flowers and the cleaning of the brass. If this sounds like something you would like to help with please either ring Linda on 938 2750 or Marilyn on 972 4282



CWL – Mother's Day Raffle – CWL is 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.



Circle of friendship - On this Month of May, Mary's month and Mothers Day, we gathered to share memories of our mothers. We prayed and gave thanks for all mothers, for their unique gifts, talents and devotion. We remembered single mothers, mothers-to-be, and those who may not have had the honour of bearing children themselves, but selflessly nurture and mother the poor and needy. Our 'sharing time' covered a wide range of topics, from their hardships and history to keepsakes, favourite plants, and humorous stories. An enjoyable afternoon followed by our customary chatter over afternoon tea. Thank you and Many blessings to all who attended. It was a very special afternoon. Our gold coin donation was given to our hard working Vinnies Society.



Synod Outcome - Go you are sent to manage your assets wisely (4f) The Archdiocese continues the Stewardship programme after reviewing it in the light of the Synod outcomes.



Archdiocesan Commission for Justice, Peace and Development - When we allow ourselves to be caught up in superficial information, instant communication and virtual reality, we can waste precious time and become indifferent to the suffering flesh of our brothers and sisters. Yet even amid this whirlwind of activity, the Gospel continues to resound, offering us the promise of a different life, a healthier and happier life. Pope Francis: *Gaudete et Exsultate* #108, 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

The Sisters of Compassion and the Catholic Parish of Wellington South invite you to celebrate the 183rd anniversary of Suzanne Aubert's birthday. Mass will be celebrated at 6pm on Tuesday 19 June 2018 at St Anne's Church, Newtown. Hospitality will follow in the church hall following mass.



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-catholic-social-services.org.nz if you can assist.

April refugee intake – thanks to all who contributed! - Wellington Catholic Social Services would like to thank everyone who contributed in April to preparing homes for 39 former refugees in 11 households, plus providing bedding to two additional family reunification households. *For more information about this work, or to contribute to preparing homes for 10 households arriving in June, please see our website: or phone 04 3858642*

<https://wncatholic-social-services.org.nz/Supporting+refugee+resettlement> or contact CSS: email refugees@wn-catholic-social-services.org.nz

St Bernard’s College Open Day - St Bernard’s College will be holding an Open Day on Saturday 26th May 2018 from 10.00am until 2.00pm. Prospective students and their parents are invited to visit during these hours to find out more about St Bernard’s College and what it can provide. St Bernard’s College is a Year 7-13 Catholic boys’ college. For further information please see our website: www.sbc.school.nz or contact the office at: 183 Waterloo Rd Lower Hutt Ph 560 9250 Email: office@sbcschool.nz

Pentecost Sunday 20th May – the Sunday 7pm Mass at the Cathedral is the annual Mass to welcome new Catholics to the Archdiocese. All are encouraged to accompany to the Cathedral those who were baptized or received into the Church at Easter.

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, Jim Hanson, Shirley McGrail, Audrey Wearne, Rosemary Downey and Annette Wells 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