

**The Parish of Our Lady of the Valleys
The Nativity of St. John the Baptist - Year B
24th June 2018**



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THE DEEP END - Nativity of John the Baptist

Today we celebrate the birth of John the Baptist and listen to Luke's account of his nativity. John's story is one of sacrifice and humility. His parents know there will be something very special about this child. The circumstances surrounding his birth already have people amazed. Jewish historians account that John was a preacher around the time of Pontius Pilate who went around calling people to renewal! He spent a lot of time in the wilderness, eating wild things and wearing sackcloth. He must have been a very interesting and attractive figure as we are told in the gospels that people flocked to the River Jordan to be baptised by him; a sign of their repentance or renewal of relationship with God. John gathered so many followers around him that he was considered a threat to Herod Antipas who feared he might begin a rebellion. John was a preacher, a prophet, a signpost pointing people in the right direction: towards Jesus of Nazareth.

We can pray today for all those people who acted as signposts in our lives and brought us closer to God in some way, those who guided us and pointed us in the right direction when we needed it. We too are also called to be signposts for others.

'Lord, we thank you for people who guided us, but did not try to possess us: parents, teachers, spiritual guides, friends. For a time we stood with them. Very simply, like John the Baptist, they said to us, "Look, there is the one you should follow," and hearing this we followed that person.'

Michel de Verteuil

**Jane Mellett
mellettj@gmail.com**

Weekly Collection: \$1,378.10

Meetings in the Parish

Tuesday 26th June – St. Vincent De Paul Meeting at 7 pm at Heretaunga. Contact Terry on 528 6313

Thursday 28th June 7.30 to 9.30pm – Parish Liturgy Meeting

Sacramental Programme – Confirmation

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



Parish Lunch 15 July

The annual parish lunch, hosted by the Family Groups, will be held at mid day on Sunday 15 July at the Stokes Valley RSA, Hawthorne Cres.

Cost is \$18 pp. Please pay to Group Coordinators or church office in named envelope.

We will be celebrating thirty years of Passionist Family Groups in New Zealand.



Nomination of New Parish Councillors



With an eye of the upcoming Annual General Meeting, a number of current Parish Councillors' term of appointment have come to an end. Currently Parish Councillors stand for a two year term with the right of renewal for two more terms. We are therefore opening nominations for new Parish Councillors on 1st June. With this bulletin there is a nomination form that should be filled in and returned

back to the Parish Office by 30 June. Forms are also available in the foyer of both churches. This time frame allows time for the nominated candidates names to be advised to the Parish before the Annual General Meeting. Please take the time to prayerfully discern who you think might be a suitable person to serve our Parish on the Parish Council. If you would like more on the role of Parish Councillors and the function of the Parish Council please feel free to speak to one of the existing Parish Councillors or Father Tony.

Grief Support Meeting

On Thursday 31st May a meeting was called in the Presbytery in Heretaunga to look at the idea of setting up a Grief Support gathering in Our Lady of The Valleys Parish. There was a positive response to the idea and a number of suggestions around the purpose and format of the group were discussed. The group identified that there were a variety of diverse situations that entail grief, from the loss of a loved one through death, the breakup of marriages and families, the distress that occurs when employment of ceased from redundancy or injury/sickness and the rites of passage that we all experience in growing to maturity. Each needs to be sensitively approached and each requires a different level of type of support. The motto SEE/JUDGE/ACT was seen as a good use as a model.



Two major themes of the discussions were that suggested. Firstly, the need for broad but supportive and co-ordinated approach to the topic of grieving and the resources that could called upon both inside the parish and beyond to provide support. The second was the idea of the need to perhaps provide direct support either one-on-one or in a group environment to assist those who attend address the issues of grief in a caring, compassionate way from both suitably trained and supported parishioners and if necessary those with professional expertise.

To allow for further exploration of these topics another meeting has been called on Thursday 5th July at St Francis Xavier Meeting Room at the rear of 152B Stokes Valley Road, next to St Francis Xavier Church. If you would like to find out more about the group please contact Fr Tony on 972 4282

Women's Refuge Annual Appeal 6-8 July. We are desperate for collectors at local outlets over this time. If you can spare an hour, please contact Anne on 04 5861488 or kooges@gmail.com

Prayer Rally with ICPE Mission @ St Anne's Hall, Emmett Street, Newtown

Hosted by Catholic Charismatic Renewal on Wednesday 27th June 7:30pm - 9pm

Speaker: Fritz Mascarenhas Theme - "Awaken" (Eph 5:14)



Dove Women's Retreat Weekend - 27 to 29 July

Come and join us for a weekend to be "Refreshed - Renewed - Restored".

The theme for 2018 is "Harvest" with guest speakers Wilma Conroy and Anne Claessens.

Venue: Willow Park Christian Camp, Eastern Beach, Auckland

There are optional weekend registrations for residential or non-residential.

To register or for further information visit our website www.dove.org.nz or phone Shona Williams 07 543 0101 email shonawilliams58@gmail.com



Holy Hour

You are invited to a Holy Hour on Tuesday 26 June beginning at 7.30 pm in the Cathedral chapel, on Hill Street, Thorndon to pray for vocations to priesthood and consecrated life. This hour will include prayers, Scripture, times of silence, singing and conclude with Benediction followed by

supper. All are welcome.



Music Practice On Saturday, 30th June, at 2.30 p.m. there will be a music practice in the Pettit Centre. The Music Group will be practising for the Confirmation Mass as well as learning some new songs. We would like anyone who is interested in coming and spending an hour of singing in the warmth of the Pettit Centre to come and join us. Or if you want to come and sit and enjoy, you will be most welcome.

The June 17 – 30 issue of NZ Catholic is out now. Some headlines are: Jesuit ordained in Christchurch. Daughter of modern saint to visit NZ. Child forgoes birthday gifts to help Wgtn cathedral. Migrant communities fear for kids in secular NZ.



The next issue of NZ Catholic will be published on July 1.

Caritas Emergency Appeal for the Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh Since August, 700,000 Rohingya have fled from Myanmar to Bangladesh. Caritas is working with Caritas Bangladesh and others to build retainer walls, stronger shelters and to meet the needs of the Rohingya people.



As Pope Francis said, “embrace all those fleeing from war and hunger, or forced by discrimination, persecution, poverty and environmental degradation to leave their homelands.” The Rohingya are an example of his message. Caritas invites you to support the Rohingya by supporting our emergency appeal. **Right now, each donation is doubled (up to \$250,000) by the New Zealand Aid Programme.** To give call 0800221022 or go online to www.caritas.org.nz/donate.



CWL Fun Quiz Evening – Fundraiser for Te Omanga Hospice – 29th June doors open at 7:15pm to start at 7:30pm at St. Joseph’s Hall Pine Ave/Royal Street, Upper Hutt. Make up a team of 6-8 people or come along and join a table and enjoy a lovely supper. Tickets \$10.00 per ticket. No door sales. Contact Maria # 5288674

CWL National Conference is being held in Wellington from the 25th to 28th July, the Catholic Women’s League of Aotearoa New Zealand will gather in Wellington for their biennial National Conference.

Highlights of these days of Conference will be Opening Mass by Cardinal John Dew /- Keynote Speaker Anne Dickinson reflects on “Women welcoming change”. / An Art Exhibition of NCEA Art students from the Catholic Colleges of the Archdiocese. / A “Pilgrimage” by bus to the Home of Compassion to visit the Venerable Suzanne Aubert All enquiries to Christine Paterson, CWL, phone 479 6274. For more information please see the notice board.



For Engaged Couples

A wedding is a day. Marriage is a lifetime. Prepare for your lifetime together by attending an Engaged Encounter marriage preparation weekend. Your next opportunity to attend a weekend is 14th and 15th July. For more information phone Simon and Kate on 8016192.

Life in the Spirit Seminar

This seminar will be conducted at the Church of Sts. Peter and Paul, Lower Hutt on seven consecutive Tuesday evenings beginning on 5 June till the 17 July except for the 4th week which will be on Monday 25 June. Do you want to encounter Jesus on a deeper level? Come and be blessed. Further information on the notice board.

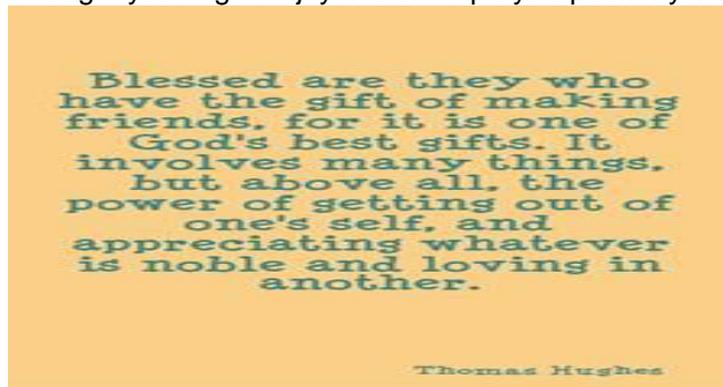


Sacred Heart College, Lower Hutt welcomes enrolments for Year 9, 2019 from Monday 14 May and forms are to be completed online or returned to the College Office by Monday 2 July 2018. See noticeboard for more information



Synod Outcome – Go you are sent to accompany one another 10(e) Intergenerational ministry by young people and with young people is encouraged in parishes.

I thought you might enjoy this short prayer/ poem by Thomas Hughes! ☺



QuoteFixel.com

Red Cross refugee support volunteer training Thanks to everyone who assists with the preparation of homes for former refugees If you are interested in taking your involvement further to assist former refugee families directly, the next Red Cross refugee support volunteer training begins in July. Group interviews are on 25-27 June, with six weeks of training beginning on 4 July.



For more information please phone 048050304 or see their website: <https://www.redcross.org.nz/what-we-do/in-new-zealand/refugee-programmes/volunteer-help-former-refugees/>

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, Leo Maher, Annette Carvalho (Jennifer Rodricks mother), Pauline Robertson, Theodora Zois, Kenneth Edgar Mosley and Maria Helen Fernandez 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) 10.00am – 6:00pm

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	
24 th June Birth of St. John the Baptist		1 st July Thirteenth Week Ordinary Time	
First Reading	Isaiah 49:1-6	First Reading	Wisdom 1:13-15, 2:23-24
Second Reading	Acts 13:22-26	Second Reading	2Corinthians 8:7-9,13-15
Gospel	Luke 1:57-66,80	Gospel	Gospel Mark 5:21-43