

The Parish of Our Lady of the Valleys
30th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year B
28th October 2018



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THE DEEP END – Who is blind?

Who is blind in today's gospel? The obvious answer, of course, is the blind man! Bartimaeus is blind and desperate. He has not been blind all his life, so he knows about the wonderful gift of sight he is now missing. His faith is strong, and his courage is stronger still; no matter how much he is scolded and silenced, he calls to Jesus all the louder. Though he is physically blind,

he sees plenty.

Who sees Bartimaeus? Certainly not the followers of Jesus. They do not think of Bartimaeus as someone worthy of meeting Jesus. To the extent that they think about him at all, he is an irritation, a poor beggar to look down on, hardly a person. They are utterly blind to his needs.

I'm struck by the irony of the crowds summoning Bartimaeus with the word 'Courage'. He has already shown tremendous courage. Minutes previously Jesus' followers had been content to pass him by and silence his cries for help, but their master has given an order and they must obey. How they must have squirmed, calling him over.

The blind man sees Jesus, and Jesus sees the blind man. Everyone else is blind to both of them. Everyone else fades into the background of the story, just as Bartimaeus was pushed to the back of the crowds.

Perhaps it is time for an eyesight test. Do we see Jesus for who he really is? Do we pay attention to those around us, or are we blind to their needs? Do we hear the cry of the poor, or are we complicit in silencing them?

Triona Doherty
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Weekly Collection: **\$1,940.70**

THANK YOU!



IN THE PARISH

Thursday 1st Nov
Friday 2nd Nov

Grief Ministry – SFX meeting room – 7:30 pm
All Souls Day Mass at OLOG at 9:30 am (with School)
SFX at 7.30 pm

Saturday 3rd Nov
Sunday 19th Nov

Circle of Friendship – Pettit Centre 2:00 -4:00 pm
Family and Children's Mass 10:30 am OLOG

COLUMBAN CALENDARS FOR 2019 – In **Limited** numbers are out now and available at the Parish Office or foyer of both churches for \$12 each.



ST VINCENT DE PAUL HERETAUNGA now have Christmas cards for sale which will be available at the 10:30 mass on Sundays and priced at \$3 per packet of five. They will also be available at the Parish Office.



BIG THANK YOU

Last Monday a group of parishioners had a working bee gardening, cleaning, and doing various maintenance jobs at both St Francis Xavier and Our Lady of Grace properties. Thank you for the effort you put in to making the grounds and churches a wonderful space for us all to gather at.

Finance Committee on behalf of OLOV Parishioners

GRIEF COMPANIONSHIP MEETING A reminder of the meeting on 1st November at 7:30 pm of this group at St Francis Xavier meeting room. Anyone interested in this is warmly welcome to attend.



SYNOD OUTCOME Go you are sent to develop a spirituality of service 2(b) Language in liturgies, including hymns, is inclusive.

QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORT June to September 2018 from the FINANCE COMMITTEE

Operating Income	42,626
Less Expenses	
Pastoral Costs	(15,615)
Property Costs	(12,191)
Administration Costs	<u>(8,882)</u>
Operating Surplus	5,959
Balance Sheet Outflows	<u>(8,886)</u>
Overall Deficit for the Quarter	(2,927)



While the **OVERALL deficit** for the quarter is less than the first quarter (\$5,114) it is still a concern of the Finance Committee that the **total overspending** for the financial year to date is just over \$8,000. This means that on average \$1,200 per month more is being spent than received. This level of overspending is of course in the long term unsustainable.

We are all aware costs are going up all the time and the Parish is not immune from this. Petrol prices have gone up for \$2.21 in June almost \$2.50 in September. Power prices are going up too and we have been hit with large power bills over the winter months. Rates increase affect the Parish on our land holdings both in Stokes Valley and Heretaunga (over \$4,000 in the six months to September)

The way forward for us is two-fold. The Finance Committee is therefore looking at ways to reduce the spending of the Parish. This will however only go some way towards turning the overall cash deficit into a surplus. The Committee looks to you the parishioners for assistance. Firstly if you are not contributing financially to the Parish we ask that perhaps you consider seeing if you can provide any assistance. A contribution of any size when added with others all helps to lower the deficit.

To those who already give, we, the Finance Committee, thank you for your generosity and support. We would appreciate it if you could review your level of giving with the possibility of increasing financial support given to the working of the Parish.

While not dire yet, the Parish has limited savings to cover future overspending

Thank you from the Finance Committee

CIRCLE OF FRIENDSHIP LADIES GATHERING - All ladies of the parish are invited to join us next Saturday 3 November for fellowship and a cuppa, in the Pettit Centre between 2 – 4 pm. We encourage those interested to share their hobbies, past times or sports interests. Everyone is welcome. If you need transport, please ring Melinda on 234 1271. A gold coin donation towards our charities would be appreciated.





FR PAUL FINLAYSON SSC – COMING TO THE PARISH

Following a request from Cardinal John Dew the parish will be providing accommodation in the Heretaunga Presbytery for Father Paul Finlayson SSC. Fr Paul is a Columban Missionary Society priest associated with the community in Lower Hutt who has

recently returned from working in the Philippines for the past 20 or so years. He will be moving into the presbytery soon.

Fr Paul's time with the Parish will be chance to take a breather from full time ministry. He will have some duties outside of the Parish, including filling in for priests on leave, or courses etc, in the South Island part of the Archdiocese and possibly around the Wellington area. There may also be the opportunity in the time he is with us to provide some pastoral ministry in Our Lady of the Valleys Parish. Please make Fr Paul feel welcome when he arrives. Fr Tony

ST VINCENT DE PAUL, STOKES VALLEY requires volunteers to help in their shop either mornings 10 to 1 or afternoons 1 to 4 pm. Could you spare a morning or afternoon to help us out. If you are able to help us please phone Jan 027 916 5609, Win 528 5926, or Gordon on 938 2750.



CAN YOU HELP? Do you have an aptitude for accounting and can spare approximately 2 hours per month? Our Lady of the Valleys Finance Committee is looking for you and your skill set to be part of their team in the role of Treasurer. The role involves oversight of the Financial position of the Parish and providing assistance with forecasting income and spending as well as assisting in the preparation of reports to the monthly meeting, the annual budget etc. The Committee meet on the second Thursday of each month, at the Parish Meeting room. The position does not necessarily require qualifications in accounting practices but a flair for financial forecasting would be a great help to the committee. If you are interested, please contact Fr Tony at the OLOV Parish office.

NOVEMBER – REMEMBERING THE BELOVED DEAD

During the month of November, it is our custom to remember those God has called through the gates of death to eternal life. Pages are available in the foyer to record those family and friends whom you would like to pray for at each Mass celebrated in the Parish during November

On All Souls Day, **November 2nd**, a Special Mass of Remembrance will be celebrated in **St Francis Xavier Church, at 7:30pm** for the deceased, and especially for those who have died in the last twelve months. All are welcome to attend.



ST BRENDAN'S SCHOOL Gala the school's biannual gala is taking place next weekend on November 4th. We are asking for help from our Parish community with our mystery bottle stall. If you're able to help us, we are asking for donated bottles (which are in date and unwrapped) to be brought to mass this Sunday, 28th Oct or dropped to school sometime between now and

Nov 1. Some examples might be body wash, olive oil, sauces, cleaning, soft drinks (Please no alcoholic drinks). We are very grateful for any and all support.

STEWARDSHIP BREAKFAST and talk by **Cardinal John**. Saturday 10th Nov. 7:15am for 7:30(start) to 9:00am. Venue: Angus Inn 5 Cornwall St. Lower Hutt. Cost \$22.50. Registrations a.williams@wn.catholic.org.nz by Tues. 6th Nov. Please specify any dietary requirements.



