

The Parish of Our Lady of the Valleys
31st Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year B
4th November 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
Athlone, Co Roscommon
Email trionad@gmail.com

Weekly Collection: **\$1,743.80**

THANK YOU!



IN THE PARISH

Tuesday 6th Nov Men's Group – Silverstream Bowling Club – 5.30 pm

Wednesday 7th No CWL – Pettit Centre at 1.30 pm

Notice – there will be no Café at OLOG on 4/11/18

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.

SYNOD OUTCOME Go you are sent to find leaders 3(b)



Understanding of leadership roles is broadened beyond those traditionally found in parishes, and appropriate formation is provided.



MASS ON ARMISTICE DAY 11th November, at the 10.30 am Mass, at Our Lady of Grace, we will remember Armistice Day by observing 2 minutes of silence at 11 am. You are asked to bring a hand bell to ring at the end of the 2 minutes silence, as we rejoice in the 100 year anniversary of the



ending of World War 1 in 1918.



WELCOME FR PAUL FINLAYSON SSC – We welcome Fr. Paul who has been with us from the past week and wish him a happy and fruitful ministry. Please extend a helping hand and your cooperation to making Fr. Paul’s stay a pleasant and enjoyable one.

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



Catholic Women's League Christmas Lunch on Tuesday November 27 at 12 pm at Temarua Golf Course. \$ 30 per head to be paid on that day. All parishioners are welcome. Transport available – please contact Trish Leahy on 528 5161



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.

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.

THE CHRISTIAN BROTHERS PAST PUPILS' ASSOCIATION, Wellington, is holding its Annual Christmas dinner on Friday, 9 November, at the Angus Inn, Waterloo Rd, Lower Hutt, commencing from 6.30pm. Our guest is Bro Bill Dowling who will speak about his life and the work of the Christian Brothers. Those interested in attending please contact Kevin McCormack on 478-6792.



World day of the Poor outreach St Joseph Parish, Upper Hutt, Friday 16th November. The Parish will host Hutt Valley Benefit Education Service trust who will provide benefit and housing advice to Parishioners and the wider community. There will also be an invitation to lunch from 12:30 to 2pm for all; we will supply a sausage sizzle, tea coffee and sandwiches. It is also hoped that we can give people in need who visit us this day a meat pack of around \$20 to \$30. To do this we need volunteers to provide sandwiches, to operate the barbeque and to offer hospitality. We also need money to buy meat packs or you could supply the actual meat pack. If you can help provide food or time or have a financial donation for meat pack please phone Judy 9707169 or Teresa 5279061.



The Nov. 4 – 17 issue of NZ Catholic is out now. Some headlines are: Bishops not backing off abuse inquiry position. Youth synod report. Abortion both a health and a justice issue. Vatican star man returning to NZ. The next issue of NZ Catholic will be published on November 18.



PFG COMBINED GROUPS NOVEMBER EVENT. - Melbourne Cup Night Saturday 10 November 7.30 pm Pettit Centre All Family Group members are invited to our Melbourne Cup night. Please bring a small plate for supper (tea and coffee supplied) and your own nibbles/ drinks if desired. To prepare "punter's bags" we need numbers before

Thursday 8th Nov. We would love to see the ladies in their hats. Please RSVP to Heather 0276427158 (text), Phone 5286976 or email thobrien@outlook.com

ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON - POSITION OPEN Young Church Ministry coordinator 20-30 hours per week (negotiable). We are looking to employ a dedicated person to join a passionate, creative and qualified pastoral ministry team working to support and grow ministry with young people in the Archdiocese of Wellington. For more information about the role and to apply head to seek.co.nz and search for 'Young Church' or contact i.mccafferty@wn.catholic.org.nz Applications Close 15th November 2018.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER all who are sick and unwell and those who are lonely and worried. We pray for those who have died recently, Dick Ives, Ann Schrader, Maria LaGrutta, and Lyn Burt. We pray also for those whose anniversary occurs 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

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	
4 th Nov Thirty First week Ordinary Time		11 th Nov Thirty Second week Ordinary Time	
First Reading	Deuteronomy 6:2-6	First Reading	Kings 17:10-16
Second Reading	Hebrews 7:23-28	Second Reading	Hebrews 9: 24-28
Gospel	Mark 12: 28-34	Gospel	Mark 12: 38-44

ST BRENDAN'S SCHOOL GALA ON SUNDAY NOVEMBER 4TH COME ALONG THERE IS A LOT OF FUN TO BE HAD ALONGWITH DELICIOUS FOOD.



SEE YOU THERE