

**The Parish of Our Lady of the Valleys
First Sunday of Advent - Year C
2nd December 2018**



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THE DEEP END – Be prepared ...

Have you ever heard the story of the ant and the grasshopper? It tells the tale of a grasshopper who has spent the summer singing and so is not prepared when winter comes, whereas the ant has been working hard all summer and has stored up enough food for winter. Like many of Aesop's Fables, it has a stark moral lesson, in this case about the virtue of hard work and being prepared for the future.



Of course, Advent is about looking forward to Christmas and our celebration of the birth of Jesus. It is a special time of preparation to welcome him anew into our lives. But today's readings remind us that Advent is also about looking ahead to another time, the second and final coming of Jesus at the end of time. 'Advent' comes from the Latin word adventus, meaning 'coming'.

The problem, of course, is that we have no idea when this will happen. Unlike the ant and the grasshopper, we have no way of knowing when the seasons will change. We don't even know when the sun will set on our own individual lives. All we can do is to be prepared and to 'stay awake' – to live now in such a way that when we meet Jesus, we will be ready. This readiness is less a practical skill than a condition, or a way of life. Look at how St Paul describes it: he talks about increasing our love for one another, and continually making progress in living the life that God wants. That is how we store up treasures here on earth to make sure we are ready for the heavenly things to come.

Triona Doherty
Athlone, Co Roscommon

Weekly Collection: **1,819.60**



IN THE PARISH

7th Dec Men's Night Christmas Function in Presbytery
 CWL Advent Reflection Evening in the Pettit Centre
9th Dec 4:00pm Rite II Reconciliation at OLOG

COLUMBAN CALENDARS FOR 2019 – Are **almost gone** few are available at the Parish Office or foyer of both churches for \$12 each.



ST VINCENT DE PAUL Stokes Valley The Christmas cards for St Francis Xavier Parish have finally arrived. Designs similar to previous years and still the same price, a pack of 8 cards for \$4. These will be available from church at weekend Masses, at the Parish Office or contact Margaret Lanigan, 971-7564. All proceeds go to St Vincent de Paul

Volunteers There is a clip board in the foyer of both Churches, asking for volunteers for all ministries for the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses. Please fill in your name and thank you for your help.



Calling all Angels and Shepherds of all ages, please dress appropriately for the occasion, to gather at the Christmas Eve, 5:30pm, Mass at Our Lady of Grace and join Father on the Altar.

PRESBYTERY OPEN DAY 16th December 2018

All parishioners are invited to the Presbytery in Heretaunga for a Christmas Open Home hosted by Fr Tony and Fr Paul. This is a chance for the priests to say a thank you to those in the Parish who have shown them hospitality in the past, for those who have worked during the year to make our Parish a welcoming and expanding Family of God. Come along between 2:00pm – 4:00pm. Look forward to seeing you there.



BURGLARY UPDATE As previously advised the Parish experienced a couple of break-ins at the Presbytery, Our Lady of Grace Church and the Pettit Centre over the last 18 months. In the Dominion Post this week it was reported that a conviction has been successfully made against the perpetrator of the burglaries. He was sentenced to 2 years 3 months imprisonment. The Parish was involved in a Restorative Justice process with the offender at the time of the conviction.

Sacramental Preparation Programme 2019 - Enrolments for the 2019 Sacramental Preparation Program are now open for those candidates who would like to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Confirmation and First Eucharist. Enrolment forms are available in the foyer of both churches and the School. Though enrolments close on 8th February 2019 please endeavour to enrol before the 18th December as this allows time over the January period to undertake preparation work. The Programme starts on March and the Reconciliation portion happens over Lent. Any enquiries please contact Fr Tony or Louise Peirce the Sacramental Programme Co-ordinator.



Go you are sent to fellow Christians 9(c) The Archdiocese engages in listening to interchurch couples to draw on their experience and address their needs. "Father, may they be one in us" (John 17:21)



Rite II Reconciliation

At our Lady of Grace Church on Sunday 9th December at 4 pm
And on Sunday 16 December at 4pm in St. Joseph's Church.

THANK YOU – FRUITCAKES FOR KAIKŌURA Many thanks to the parishes and groups of the North Island part of the Archdiocese of Wellington for your generosity in supplying 145 fruitcakes, which were sent as a gesture of love and solidarity to our brothers and sisters in Kaikōura for the second anniversary of the Marlborough earthquake. These were distributed by local groups in Kaikōura, and acknowledgement has been received for the love and goodwill with which they were sent. Huge thanks to the Society of St Vincent de Paul who supplied a van and driver, and covered the costs of transporting the cakes to Kāikoura.

FINANCES As you are aware, we are currently running a deficit budget and are relying on our reserves to pay our expenses. We need to increase our income urgently. For every \$1 that is received 50c goes to the Diocese/Clergy Trust Fund. A cup of coffee - \$5.00 increase in your plan giving would be greatly received.



If you are not currently supporting the parish financially, would you please consider doing so. Thank you.



MEN'S GROUP

MEN'S GROUP CHRISTMAS FUNCTION – Friday 7th December at the Presbytery A meal \$15.00 per head will be available, bring your own drinks. For catering purposes please place your name and phone number on the clip board in the foyer. **NOTE THERE IS NO GATHERING ON 4th December**

GREENSTONE DOORS Annual Christmas Party is being held on 5th Dec 6:30pm-8:30pm at 106 Park Road, Belmont.

Join us for an evening of music, entertainment, wine, nibbles and rolling raffles. Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased from eventbrite.co.nz or contact us on 566 5037.



The National March for Life NZ Mark your calendars and prepare to join others on **Saturday 8th December** to celebrate the gift of life and send a message of love and hope to our community. Be a beacon of light for Kiwi families, mothers and the unborn! Gather at 2 pm in Civic Centre, 101 Wakefield St., ready to begin to walk to Parliament grounds. marchforlifenz.org.nz or phone Michael 021 825 955



Carols in Parliament – The Council of Wellington Churches invites you to attend Carols in Parliament on Sun. 9 Dec. at 7pm. RSVP is essential (for Parliamentary Security reasons) by 1 December to e-mail cwc1449@gmail.com



CWL Christmas Cake Raffle Thank you to all who supported our raffle which was won by Stephanie with Ticked No. 33

CHARISMATIC MASS to be held on Wednesday 5 December at 7.30pm, in St Theresa's church, St Andrew's Road, Plimmerton. Celebrant Fr Kevin Connors. Prayer teams and Supper to follow. Any queries please phone: Anne Dodds 027 311 0551



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, Pat Gallaher, Merle Taggart, Mary Fouhy, David Wanden, Kelvin Barlowe, and John Carson 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

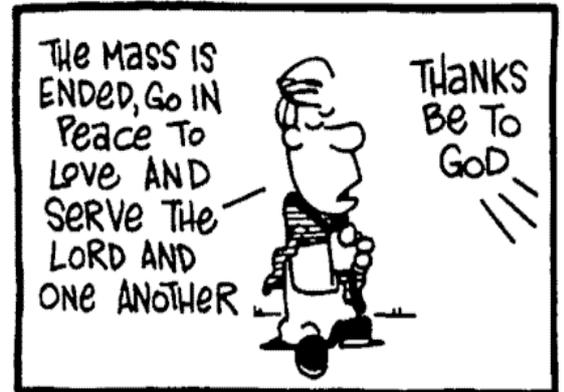
Terry 528 6313

Petone Shop 568 6408

St Vincent de Paul – Stokes Valley

Gordon 938 2750

Stokes Valley Shop 563 9278



Sunday Readings		Sunday Readings	
2 nd December First Sunday of Advent		9th December Second Week of Advent	
First Reading	Jeremiah 33:14-16	First Reading	Baruch 5:1-9
Second Reading	1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2	Second Reading	Philippians 1:3-6,8-11
Gospel	Luke 21:25-28, 34-36	Gospel	Luke 3:1-6

