

**The Parish of Our Lady of the Valleys  
Second Sunday of Advent - Year C  
9th December 2018**



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**THE DEEP END – Make his paths straight**

Preparing for the arrival of someone important takes care and attention. Think of a family preparing to welcome a loved one home from abroad, perhaps a son or daughter who lives in Australia or someone who has been off travelling the world.

They get their bedroom ready, buy their favourite foods, perhaps put up banners or even organise a 'welcome home' party. It is all done with great excitement and love, and is a way of easing the path home for the traveller. Or imagine new parents preparing for the arrival of a baby. There are practical considerations such as buying nappies and clothing and getting a cot ready, and of course the nerves and excitement as they prepare to welcome the new arrival.

On a larger scale, when an important dignitary visits a venue or a country there is also a flurry of activity in preparation. We saw it in the painstaking arrangements made for the visit of Pope Francis to Ireland earlier this year. Such high profile visits often involve a literal preparation of the way – organising a welcome reception, planning the best route from the airport, clearing the streets of traffic, as well as much chatter and anticipation.

Today's Gospel brings these two types of welcome to mind. During Advent, we prepare for the coming of Jesus by our actions, when we are generous with our time, patient with our families, and help those in need. And we do all these things with excitement and love, so that Christ will find the warmest of welcomes and a clear route into our hearts.

Triona Doherty  
Athlone, Co Roscommon  
Email trionad@gmail.com

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Weekly Collection: **1,742.30**



**IN THE PARISH**

9<sup>th</sup> Dec 4:00pm Rite II Reconciliation at OLOG  
10<sup>th</sup> Dec 7 pm St. Vincent de Paul – Stokes Valley  
13<sup>th</sup> Dec 7.30 pm Parish Finance Committee



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

## Rite II Reconciliation

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

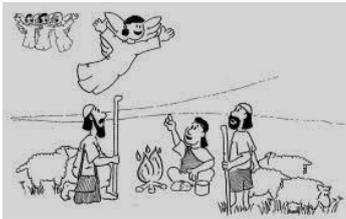


**ST VINCENT DE PAUL** The Christmas cards for St Francis Xavier Parish have finally arrived. Designs similar to previous years and still the same price, a pack of 8 cards for \$4. These will be available from church at weekend Masses, at the Parish Office or contact Margaret Lanigan, 971-7564. All proceeds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

Anyone who would like to donate Christmas presents for the needy children of Stokes Valley we would appreciate if you could drop them at mass next Saturday or Sunday or drop them off at the SV.D.P. shop Stokes Valley. If you want to wrap the gift could put age group and boy or girl on outside of parcel. Many thanks in anticipation and God bless you all. Gordon.

Also we need to remember those parishioners in need of non perishable food and household goods to provide their families during this Christmas season. These can be dropped in the basket in the Church foyer anytime.

**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 16<sup>th</sup> 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.



**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 8<sup>th</sup> February 2019 please endeavour to enrol before the 18<sup>th</sup> 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 accompany one another 10 (f) The Archdiocese enables groups involved with young people to collaborate with one another and with the Archdiocese.

**Charismatic Mass Naenae** at St Bernadette`s Church Naenae Tuesday 11th December at 7.30 pm. A time of prayer ministry for healing will follow this Mass. Fr John Rea`s latest book, 'Wonders Still Abounding' will be available to buy. Everyone welcome.

**Circle of Friendship** Our final gathering for 2018 was thoroughly enjoyed by 45 women who attended our Christmas High tea last Saturday. We were very blessed by the trio of musicians "The Dahlias" from our local St Mary's Anglican church,(a talented singer, cellist/violinist, and a pianist.) They played 6 items for us including carols, Brooke Fraser's "What a beautiful Name", and finally "Lord of the Dance" which we all couldn't stop from joining in. The friendships developed over this year in our Parish and St Mary's have been truly special, and will continue to build next year.



Many thanks and blessings to all attendees and committee members who made this such a happy occasion.

Our next gathering will be on Saturday 2nd February 2019.



**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](mailto:cwc1449@gmail.com)

**The Cardinal's Care Appeal 2018** As we approach the miracle of Christmas, we as Christians are reminded and inspired again and again that Jesus Christ comes to meet us in our poverty and brokenness. He comes in humility, as a helpless infant, in an unkempt stable and is welcomed by the lowly shepherds. We too can make this our mission at Christmas – to meet the poor, to help the broken, to care for those on the peripheries. Together, as a Church, we must make haste, as the shepherds did, to find the helpless in our own neighbourhoods and cities.

Please join me in generously supporting the Care Appeal. With many more refugees coming to NZ we will be asked to welcome and resettle those who have nothing into our communities. But the work of Catholic Social Services goes further, looking to provide food, housing, counselling security and support to men, women and children who need our support. Together as an Archdiocese we can make a big difference in the lives of so many people in need.

+ John A. Cardinal Dew Archbishop of Wellington

**Bach Choir of Wellington** To St Cecilia and Music  
2pm Sunday 16 December St Mary of the Angels, Boulcott Street. Tickets available from Eventfinda, choir members, and at the door on the day.



**Oberammergau 2020 Passion Play** Fr Chris Friel from Christchurch will lead this tour to Germany in June of 2020. The famous play has been performed every 10 years since 1634. The tour includes a 6 day cruise down the Danube through Austria, Germany, Slovakia and Hungary. Ph 0800 356 728 for further info.



**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, Aroha Ayres, Rebecca Wilson, Pat Gallaher, Dick Ives, Merle Taggart, Mary Fouhy, David Wanden, Kelvin Barlowe, and John Carson. We pray for Brent McCauley 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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	
9th December Second Week of Advent		16th December Third Week of Advent	
First Reading	Baruch 5:1-9	First Reading	Zephaniah 3:14-18
Second Reading	Philippians 1:3-6,8-11	Second Reading	Philippians 4:4-7
Gospel	Luke 3:1-6	Gospel	Luke 3:10-18

