

**The Parish of Our Lady of the Valleys
Third Sunday of Advent - Year C
16th December 2018**



Father Tony Kearns
Parish Office and Presbytery (04) 972 4282
Residence: 5 Palmer Crescent, Heretaunga
Parish Administrator: Jovena Fernandez
Office hours: Monday – Friday 9:00 am -1:00 pm
Email: office@olov.org.nz Email: pp@olov.org.nz
Website: www.olov.org.nz
St Brendan's School - 939 1909



THE DEEP END – The reason for the season

In his encyclical *Evangelii Gaudium* (The Joy of the Gospel), Pope Francis issues a warning that might resonate with us as we continue our Advent journey. Caught up in consumerism, he says, it is easy for us to forget what is truly important:

‘The great danger in today’s world, pervaded as it is by consumerism, is the desolation and anguish born of a complacent yet covetous heart, the feverish pursuit of frivolous pleasures, and a blunted conscience. Whenever our interior life becomes caught up in its own interests and concerns, there is no longer room for others, no place for the poor. God’s voice is no longer heard, the quiet joy of his love is no longer felt, and the desire to do good fades.’

In the lead-up to Christmas we often get caught up in a flurry of ‘interests and concerns’. True, much of the joy of Christmas comes from giving to others, but there is so much focus on material goods and spending money that it can be difficult to remember the good news at the heart of the season. It is so easy to become distracted by the bright lights and advertising.

This Sunday is Gaudete Sunday – Gaudete means ‘Rejoice’. It’s the perfect time to recapture some of the ‘quiet joy’ that Pope Francis talks about. ‘The joy of the gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus,’ he reminds us. It is this personal encounter with Jesus that we celebrate at Christmas, God becoming man, the Good News announced by John the Baptist in today’s Gospel. This is the reason for our joy – the reason for the season!

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

Weekly Collection: **1,794.40**



**COMING
UP**

IN THE PARISH

19th Dec 11 am Mass with Anointing at the Pettit Centre. There will be **no** 9 am Mass at OLOG on that day

20th Dec 1.30 pm Mass with Anointing at Stokeswood Rest Home, SV

20th Dec 7.30 pm Parish Council Meeting

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



Healing Mass Wed 19th December at **11am** in the Pettit Centre, followed by a shared lunch. All welcome.

Request parking in front of the Pettit Centre be kept for those who have difficulty in walking. There will be no 9am Mass in the church on that day.

Rite II Reconciliation Sunday 16 December at 4pm in St. Joseph's Church.



ST VINCENT DE PAUL Christmas cards for St Francis Xavier Parish are available 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.

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 Thanks to all who have volunteered for the services on Christmas Eve and Day. We are **in need** of Eucharistic Ministers for the **10.30 am** Mass on the 25th and also a reader for the children's service at **5.30 pm**. Request those going for those Masses who would like to volunteer to kindly inform the office.



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.



NZCatholic The Dec. 16-22 issue of NZ Catholic is out now. Some headlines are: 1200 in March for Life in Wellington. Translation wars running out of steam? Mary comes back to her Tuakau grotto. Abrahamic faiths deepen understanding.



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.

Thank You We had an incident after the 10.30am mass last Sunday. Thanks to all who came to the aid of Graham and to all those who called to enquire about his health. We are happy to inform you'll that Graham's condition is said to be satisfactory and we pray for his speedy recovery.



Archdiocesan Commission for Justice, Peace and Development



This Third Sunday of Advent draws our gaze towards Christmas, which is now near. The coming of the Lord must fill our hearts with joy. The prophet in whose very name — Zephaniah — is inscribed the content of this announcement, opens our hearts to trust: “God protects” his people. In a historical context of great tyranny and violence, especially by men of power, God makes it known that he will reign over his people, that he will no longer leave them at the mercy of the arrogance of their leaders, and that he will free them from all anguish. *Pope Francis*

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

Go you are sent to support marriage and families 11(a) The Archdiocese engages with parents, including single parents, to determine how best to support them in educating and involving their children in the faith, and acts on the outcomes.



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.



CONGRATS The CWL Stokes Valley Christmas Cake Raffle ticket no. 80 was won by Denzel Karam.



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, Neville Ross Win, Rebecca Wilson, Pat Gallaher, Merle Taggart, David Wanden. We pray for 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	
16th December Third Week of Advent		23rd December Fourth Week of Advent	
First Reading	Zephaniah 3:14-18	First Reading	Micah 5:1-4
Second Reading	Philippians 4:4-7	Second Reading	Hebrews 10:5-10
Gospel	Luke 3:10-18	Gospel	Luke 1:39-44

