

**The Parish of Our Lady of the Valleys
Fourth Sunday of Advent - Year C
23th December 2018**



Father Tony Kearns
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St Brendan's School - 939 1909



The celebration of Christmas and the miracle of Emmanuel (God-with-us) is a day away now and then 7 days later we will reach the end of another calendar year. Reflecting back on the last twelve months I remember with delight the celebrations we have had of God coming to us, calling new members to our parish family through baptism and by people moving into the parish. We have marked significant events in parishioners' lives, with weddings, Confirmation, First Eucharist, birthdays, wedding anniversary, etc along with various other events in the St

Brendan's School calendar.

We have gathered too during the year to say farewell to people, called home to God and those called to lives lived in other parts of the country and the world. In all of these I look back on all these movements of life and see the gentle hand of God nurturing and supporting us all.

In the celebrations we have had over the past year, whether large or small, there are always people working behind the scenes to make them encounters of grace and love for those who attend. To all those who have helped our parish experience the grace and care of God over the past twelve months may I express the thanks of all.

My prayer and blessing for you all at this Christmas time as we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ is that you may also experience the joy, the peace, the grace and the love of God brought to birth in our lives today.

God bless you all and his richest blessings for 2019.

Father Tony

Weekly Collection: **2,101.60**



COLUMBAN CALENDARS FOR 2019 – Are **almost over** just 3 more are available at the Parish Office for \$12 each.



CHRISTMAS 2018 TIMETABLE

Services for Christmas Eve/Day for the Parish are as follows:

24th December – Christmas Eve

5:00 pm Carol Service at Our Lady of Grace Heretaunga preceding

- 5:30 pm Family Mass at Our lady of Grace Heretaunga
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- 11:30 pm Carol Service at St Francis Xavier Church Stokes Valley
preceding:
- 12:00 pm Midnight Mass at St Francis Xavier Church Stokes Valley
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- 25th December – Christmas Day**
- 8:30 am Morning Mass at St Francis Xavier Church Stokes Valley
-
- 10:30 am Morning Mass at Our Lady of Grace Church Heretaunga

NOTE: With Fr Paul being resident in the presbytery the regular Mass timetable will continue through all of January.

This timetable is also available on our webpage www.olv.org.nz



THE DEEP END – Reaching out

Have you ever wondered why Mary travelled to visit Elizabeth? At first it is the excitement that comes through. Caught up in her wonderment at being pregnant and the news that her cousin is also expecting, Mary hurries off as quickly as she can. Perhaps the journey gives her time to reflect on everything that is happening. The precious moment when Elizabeth greets her is a lovely glimpse of the close friendship between the two women.

We know that Elizabeth is advanced in years, and that she and her husband Zechariah had not expected to ever have a child. After this encounter, we are told that Mary stays on with Elizabeth for three months; as a younger woman, it is fair to assume that she is there to help and support her cousin.

Pope Francis has described the visit as a lesson in service and joy, as well as demonstrating great courage. 'Being of service and reaching out to others both require going out from themselves: going out to serve and meet others, to embrace another person. Through Mary's service towards others, through that encounter, our Lord's promise is renewed and makes it happen now, just as it did then.'

With just two days to go until Christmas it is a busy time. But it is also a time that offers many opportunities to reach out, whether it is to build bridges with family members, offer our time to someone who is lonely, or support a friend or neighbour who finds this time of year difficult.

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



Thanks A big thank you to all our volunteers who work in our shop in S.V. Many thanks to all who have gifted food, clothing, toys cash and furniture this year. This Christmas we have provided 31 families with food and treats and 131 children with Christmas presents. Grateful thanks to all who have contributed to our cause. Wishing all a safe and Happy Festive season. God Bless

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.



Archdiocesan Commission for Justice, Peace and Development

Once Mary has received the message of the angel and said “yes” to the call to become the Mother of the Saviour, she sets out in haste to visit her cousin Elizabeth, who was in the sixth month of her pregnancy. Mary is very young; what she was told is a great gift, but it also entails great challenges... Yet Mary does not shut herself up at home or let herself be paralysed by fear or pride. Mary is not the type that, to be comfortable, needs a good sofa where she can feel safe and sound. She is no couch potato! If her elderly cousin needs a hand, she does not hesitate, but immediately sets off. 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



Challenge 2000 Marist Gap and Internship Year 2019 Aged 18-24? Finished School or University We have the perfect opportunity for you! The Marist Challenge Gap year programme, starting mid February enables you to make a difference, serve others and learn about youth work and different career paths while getting paid! The programme offers many opportunities to grow professionally, personally and spiritually and to gain a wide range of employment and life skills and experience. The applications are still open for 2019, for more information go

to <https://www.challenge2000.org.nz/> or contact Anna on 0278421280 or Kitty on 021491459.

House for rent urgently needed: former refugee family of 9 urgently need accommodation. If you can assist or know of any accommodation about to becoming available in the Wellington area, please contact Catholic Social Services at reception@wn.catholic.org.nz



The Dec. 23 – Jan. 26 issue of NZ Catholic is out now. Some headlines are: Papal medal awarded in recognition of decades in Maori mission. Wellington has new pro-cathedral. First Baptism at Otago Corrections Facility. Pope's year in review. The next issue of NZ Catholic will be published on January 27.



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 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

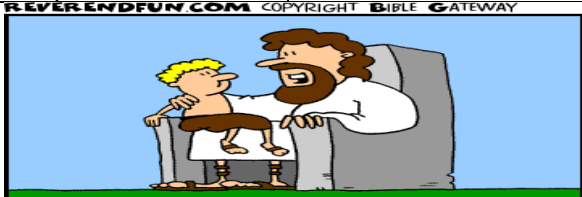
Reconciliation Please ring for an appointment

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	
23rd December Fourth Week of Advent		30th December Holy Family	
First Reading	Micah 5:1-4	First Reading	Ecclesiasticus 3:2-6,12-14
Second Reading	Hebrews 10:5-10	Second Reading	Colossians 3:12-21
Gospel	Luke 1:39-44	Gospel	Luke 2:41-52



Thanks to Christopher Huffrnan 12-24-1998
 HOW ABOUT IF INSTEAD OF GIVING YOU EVERYTHING THAT YOU THINK YOU WANT FOR CHRISTMAS I GIVE YOU WHAT YOU NEED?

