

Our Lady of the Valleys Parish



Annual Report
2018

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Agenda for Annual General Meeting

29th July 2018 2:00pm

Pettit Centre Heretaunga

- † Welcome
- † Opening Prayer
- † Present / Apologies
- † Tabling / Acceptance of the Annual Reports
(including Annual Financial Returns)
 - Matters Arising from Annual Report
- † Elections of New Parish Councillors
- † General Business
- † Closing Prayer
- † Afternoon Tea

Opening Prayer

Reader: Lord as we prepare to begin our meeting
We recall your promise to be present
When two or three are gathered in your name.
We know that without you here among us
And within each one of us
We will labour in vain.

All: Unite us, Lord, in your Spirit

Reader: We rejoice that we are blessed and called together
To work in your name.
We pray that we will respond generously
To this opportunity to serve you
And that we will grow in our Christian calling.

All: Unite us, Lord, in your Spirit.

Reader: Inspire us with your Spirit of wisdom
Plant seeds of your vision in our hearts and minds
Give us humour and give us humility
In our working with one another
So that we may know the privilege of participating
In the coming of your kingdom

All: Unite us, Lord, in your Spirit

**All: It is our hope that the business of this meeting
will be our spiritual transformation
and the transformation of others through us
and not simply the accomplishment
of tasks and projects.
We ask this of you as we now begin
In the name of the Father, and of the Son
And of the Holy Spirit.**

Parish Council 2017-18



Dear Parishioners

The Parish Council year started with the commissioning of our new Parish Council and Councillors at a special Mass at Our Lady of Grace followed by a morning tea at the Pettit Centre café.

During the year we covered topics of great importance, bringing together fundraising, the Parish logo and Mission Statement, a new Parish website, and email address system. Two big topics we dealt with were the Euthanasia debate and participation and action around the Synod called in 2017 by Cardinal John Dew.

This year we found it great working with other committees in our Parish, the Liturgy Committee and Finance Committee and St Brendan's School. Working together enabled us to keep a general awareness of what was going on. The Council also worked with youth issues, such as youth Masses. We also arranged the annual Mass count to keep an eye on parishioner movements.

Over the last year we have had two major fundraisers: a Quiz Night at St Brendan's School Hall on 1st September which raised great funds, and fun, and a few months ago a very successful Garage Sale raising approximately \$3,500. A car boot sale is planned in the next few months being held at the St Francis Xavier site in Stokes Valley.

The sad part of the year was the two burglaries, one at Our Lady of Grace Church and the other at St Francis Xavier. Although both churches were insured the parish lost money through the insurance excesses.

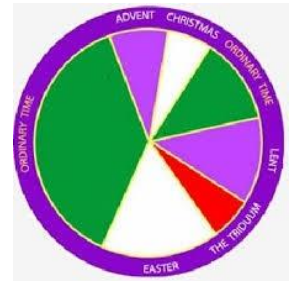
Wel-com, the Archdiocesan free newspaper, featured our Parish at part of its series of Hikoi of Faith, which covered a number of aspects of parish life in and around the two communities that make up our one Parish. It gave stories not only from the Parish perspective but also for a number of the groups that work within our Parish family.

I would take this opportunity to thank Father Tony for his guidance, my Deputy Chair Prue von Keisenberg and the other Parish Councillors who volunteered to work on some difficult issues that came up throughout our term. Thank to you all. God bless.

John Benvenuti

Chairperson,
Parish Council

Liturgy Committee Report 2017-18



Dear Fellow Parishioners,

The Liturgy Committee meets every fourth Thursday of the month in St. Francis Xavier or Our Lady of Grace meeting rooms. Along with Father Tony Kearns, our Parish Priest, we plan for the special feast days and celebrations that are an integral part of the calendar year of the Catholic Church in New Zealand.

The Catholic Centre provides a wide variety of courses and workshops to support our own spiritual knowledge and development, as well as providing specialised musical, visual and liturgical related resources which help us to plan for these special events.

The main Liturgical Events during the year are Easter, Pentecost and Christmas. The Liturgy Committee seeks the assistance from our fellow parishioners to take on the many roles and ministries within the parish. These include: Sacristans, Greeters, Leaders, Readers, Writers of Prayers of the Faithful, Children's Liturgy Leaders, Altar Servers, Extra-ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, music groups and choirs, etc

We are very aware of the special character of each of the two parish churches. There are times when we come together as one parish, in one location to celebrate special feast days such as: All Souls Day, All Saints, Assumption, or special Liturgical Celebrations such as: Easter and Christmas Reconciliations, Confirmation, 1st Reconciliation and 1st Holy Communion. At these times every attempt is made to allocate the liturgical events in an equitable manner between the two churches.

The Liturgy Committee plans the Sunday Masses, and we also provide opportunities for training the various parish ministries in their roles. At times this has involved inviting experts to present workshops or fellow parishioners who have experience and expertise in targeted areas for further development.

Last October, John O'Malley led the special reflective Lectio Divina session in all three parish churches. We are grateful to John who attended workshops in preparation for this weekend.

Our Lady of the Valleys Liturgy Committee is a very small group of committed parishioners, who would like to take this opportunity to thank our fellow parishioners for their generous support that we receive from those who share their talents, time and treasures for our liturgical celebrations. We would welcome anyone who would like to join us in planning and delivering these important liturgical celebrations or the other parish ministries who also serve the parish.

God Bless,

Liz McCaul,

**Chair
Liturgy Committee**

Finance Committee 2017-18

The Finance Committee of the Parish is made up of Roger Wasson (Chairman), Alan Thom (Treasurer), Jennifer Rodricks (Secretary), Fr. Tony Kearns, Terry O'Brien, Debby Morgan, Colin Braddock, Tony Conder Tara Quinney



This committee is charged with ensuring that our Parish of Our Lady Of The Valleys is properly funded in terms of facilities and staff. We work with the Parish Council to provide financial advice where required and safe guard and maintain the parish assets.

The committee over the last year has continued to oversee the maintenance at our two church properties and also the hall at Stokes Valley that is leased to the Koranui Marae. We also continue to employ a Parish Administrator and a Groundsman.

As you are probably aware, there was a burglary of the Heretaunga site in October 2017 which a substantial amount of money was taken and damage caused to the property. Because of this the Committee recommends that any money given for the collection or for other reason, is made by an automatic payment or a direct credit to the Parish bank account thus reducing any cash held on the premises.

The financial year is from the 1st of April to the 31st of March and the Annual Financial Report for this year is included as part of this report.

Highlights from this report include

(Excess of Income over Expenditure)	2,475
This Gain includes a non-cash charge for Depreciation on Fixed Assets of \$19,413 for the year	
Net Cash Inflows/(Outflows)	(8,645)
Nett Assets	1,120,409
This is total assets owned by the Parish less the amount of liabilities owed by the Parish	
CDF Loan	57,367
This is remaining balance outstanding that was borrowed to cover the cost of refurbishing the Presbytery at Heretaunga and earthquake strengthening of Our Lady of Grace Church	

Total Funds gifted by Parishioners	139,930
Insurance Costs	14,049
Archdiocesan Levies	18,830
These provide funding to the Archdiocese of Wellington to cover costs of running the Archdiocese	
Clergy Support	46,351
This is the amount the Parish pays to support the Clergy of the Archdiocese both those in active ministry and those who have retired from active ministry	
CDF Loan repayments made	29,7911
Interest Paid on CDF Loan	5,347

Roger Wasson

**Chairman
Finance Committee**

Catholic Women's League 2017-18



Heretaunga Branch of Catholic Women's has had a busy year with interesting speakers, numerous fundraising ventures and many beautiful social and spiritual occasions. While maintaining our membership at thirty-four, one of our valued life members, Judith Curry, died in April. Judith was a woman who certainly lived the CWL motto of Faith and Service and will be greatly missed by us all. All that we do greatly relies on support both from our members and from our parish of Our Lady of the Valleys.

Several of the parishioners and our own ladies knitted and donated over 300 pairs of slippers, scarves and fingerless gloves to send to Holy Family School in Porirua and St Michael's School in Taita. This project is ongoing. Another combined project is the Voice for Life Appeal. Voice for Life is hoping to display 1200 pairs of booties in Parliament Grounds as a memorial to the unborn babies aborted in New Zealand in 2017. The booties will then be distributed to maternity wards and birthing centres around New Zealand.

Also in the past year some of our ladies helped with the Street Day Appeal for Women's Refuge. We have enjoyed some interesting speakers in the past twelve months, such as Gavin Murphy from Gee and Hickton, Bob Raal from the Glass Shoppe, an interesting and informative woman from EarthLink, Janice Hansen from Te Omanga Hospice and just recently Veronica Sawers, Principal of St Brendan's School.

Last month Sister Therese McConway talked to us of the plight of those in prison, particularly the women. She asked if we could support some of these women by donating toiletries to be given to them when they are released--a small way of making them feel loved.

One of our initiatives this year has been to work more closely with Upper Hutt Branch so that, when possible, we can share resources. One such opportunity is the upcoming Quiz Evening fundraiser for Te Omanga Hospice to be held on 29th June. We also share special occasions with the newly formed Hutt Valley Region, which includes Hutt City, Upper Hutt and Heretaunga.

In December last year we hosted a combined Advent reflection, both a beautiful social and spiritual preparation for Christmas. Stations of the Cross for our March meeting is special too, as we reflect on the Lenten season.

Our annual Christmas lunch at Te Marua Golf Club is a time to invite parishioners and friends to join us.

Last year's celebration was even more special as it was preceded by Mass, remembering the lives of our deceased members and families.

With thanks to you all for your support and prayers, from Heretaunga Catholic Women's League.

In faith and service

Chris Wasson

President

Filipino Community

(Community for the Holy Family)



As a community, we are relatively new in our involvement with the Our Lady of the Valleys Parish. We still remember when we first approached the parish in 2015 and expressed our desire to be a choir for one of the Sunday masses at the Our Lady of the Grace Church. With the parish's support, encouragement and prayers we felt confident that we could play a part, no matter how small, in the life of the parish. We were given the opportunity to initially sing for the 5th Sunday of May that year. Eventually, we were rostered at the fourth Sunday Masses. It has been three years since. We are grateful for the support given us, specifically allowing us to use the Pettit Centre for our community prayers and choir practices.

We are a small community composed of families who originally come from the Philippines. The community is very informal. What bind us as a group is our Catholic Faith in the context of being migrants, our experiences in settling in this country, and a desire to do some form of service for the church. We all have had some spiritual connection with the parish. When we were new arrivals in New Zealand a decade or so ago, the Our Lady of Grace church had been a spiritual refuge for most of us. Intentions for jobs, for families back home then, for friends who could be struggling or facing similar difficulties and prayers for strength and peace were offered on this church's altar along with the intercessions of Our Lady. It is a privilege to serve. It is a way of being grateful for God's providence and guidance.

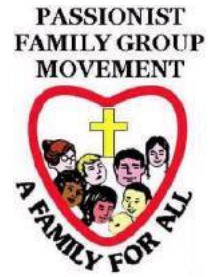
We can become a link between the parish and wider Filipino community in Wellington. Some of us are involved in the Filipino Chaplaincy Pastoral Council which provides opportunities for the migrants to express their Catholic faith as Filipinos within the parish. We are aware there is a growing number of Filipino families within the boundaries of the Our Lady of the Valleys Parish. There will always be people who would take part if invited, felt welcomed and given the opportunity to serve— many of them may have already been involved in their own parishes and organisations in the Philippines. We are always thinking and praying that we can draw them towards the parish, be involved and be a part of the life of the community. We would like to see ourselves contributing and celebrating the diversity in the parish, for that is the Church as a whole.

We would like therefore to invite anyone who would like to join us in our service. We have our community prayers and choir practices every 4th Saturday of the month at the Pettit Centre from 5:00-7:00 pm.

John Domdom

Leader

Passionist Family Groups



Passionist Family Groups were started in Terry Hills, Sydney over thirty years ago, by Passionist priest Father Peter McGrath who saw them as a way to bring greater caring and friendship and belonging amongst his church attendees.

Family Groups are a great way for parishioners in our wider church family to meet regularly with others in a smaller "family" group.

The motto is "A family for all" where anyone is welcome to share in the monthly or bi-monthly gatherings. People get to know each other as they meet for meals, quizzes, walks, plays, house masses, cultural exhibitions, bowling, fishing, car rallies etc. Networks develop through care and friendship and that sense of belonging to our parish also develops.

Over the last year, as well as the groups enjoying many of the above events, we have all combined, and included the wider Parish at the summer church picnic at Trentham Memorial Park and the winter lunch at Stokes Valley RSA rooms.

As Parish coordinators, and also Hutt Valley Regional coordinators, we meet regularly with our group coordinators and with the wider Wellington region and also the National coordinators.

We also attend the annual Formation days or weekends (to which any parishioners are warmly invited.)

Each July we help as cooks at the Young Adults camp at Featherston Magnificat Retreat Centre. Any of our young people are encouraged to register for the youth or young adults' camps through the PFG website or our Parish Office.

Our thanks to Father Tony for his support and attendance at Family Group events.

We currently have six groups in the parish and invite you to attend any of the events or contact us or the Parish Office if you would like to join a group.

Terry and Heather O'Brien

Passionist Family Group Co-ordinators

Samoa Community



Our Lady of the Valleys Parish is fortunate in that we have not one but two Samoan communities operating within the Parish, one based in Stokes Valley and the other in Heretaunga. These groups provide a rich and supportive cultural environment for the Samoan families in the Parish and share their cultural gifts and talents with the wider Parish family.

Heretaunga Samoan Community

This group centred around Our Lady of Grace Church supports a number of Samoan families in the Heretaunga/Trentham area of the parish. It provides a meeting place and space for the expression of Samoan culture and practices.

The Samoan culture and faith expression is shared with the wider parish as the Community leads the singing one a month at Our Lady of Grace Church, introducing Samoan hymns and songs to the wider parish. The Community also is actively involved by providing Readers at Masses and liturgical celebrations such as the Easter Vigil, and bringing the Samoan ifoga to the Parish's celebration of Good Friday.

Our Samoan community also provides hospitality to the Parish by taking part in the Living Waters Café that is run after each Sunday Mass in the Pettit Centre in Heretaunga.

Tamalíi and Kamalío Nasalío

for Heretaunga Samoan Community

St Brendan's School



The past year has been a busy one for the school including significant changes in leadership. The cornerstone has however remained being a full focus on our students learning together with school charisms, Catholic character and participation in the wider Parish community.

We had the opportunity to showcase the positive journey our school has been on when the Education Review Office visited in Term 1. The visiting team was able to evaluate how well St Brendan's School promotes the achievement, progress, engagement and well-being of all students. The reviewers acknowledged feeling the warm welcome and Catholic culture that permeates throughout all aspects of school life.

We have been delighted to have so many opportunities to interact with our Parish community. We list just some of these key activities:

Beginning and End of School Year Masses.

Ash Wednesday and Assumption of Mary Masses.

Commissioning Mass celebrated by Cardinal John.

St Brendan's Day Mass.

Introduction of the regular Friday Mass schedule.

Weekly Religious Education in class sessions supported by Fr Tony.

Easter candle drawing competition.

School-wide Stations of the Cross.

Fundraising for Caritas.

Connecting with local retirement villages.

Student Council initiatives to connect with our community.

Pastoral care review.

Sacramental programme.

Special prayers for Mary.

Strengthening links with our neighbouring Catholic schools.

As we move forward we continue to look to grow and develop. The Synod has provided rich outputs with recommendations that relate to schools and we will look to create specific plans around these.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of those members of the Parish community who volunteer their time to help our school and share with our students. I would also like to thank Fr Tony for giving so much of his time to our students, staff, and school.

Veronica Sawers

Principal

St Vincent de Paul Society

Our Lady of the Valleys Parish is blessed to have two St Vincent de Paul Conferences working in the Parish, one centred in Heretaunga and the other in Stokes Valleys.



Each in their own way strive to follow the ideals of the Society to provide support for the less fortunate members of our Parish family and also the wider civic community.

St Vincent de Paul Society – Heretaunga

Members of our conference continue to put their time and energies into a variety of activities ranging from visitations to the lonely and sick, providing transport to the elderly and helping in the Vinnies shop at Stokes Valley.



We have maintained our links with the St John's Anglican food bank; providing non-perishable goods kindly donated by parishioners at 10.30 Mass. This year we arranged 25 Christmas parcels containing suitable items plus vouchers for groceries and children's toys. These cost about \$1,800. Our thanks to parishioners and St Brendan's School for their donated items.

Our conference continues to respond to requests for financial assistance from families or individuals who need a "hand up" or a fresh start. A total of \$1,500 was paid out.

We reimbursed families for school expenses totalling \$1,300.

This year, we lost the services of our secretary, Ann Rice, due to work commitments. She contributed over 10 years on the committee and will be sorely missed not only as secretary but for her valuable input as a member. She is happy to assist the conference as an associate member.



The St Vincent de Paul Society in New Zealand celebrated its 150 year's anniversary this year and both Parish Conferences took a full role in a Mass set aside for the celebration.

I would like to thank the Stokes Valley Conference for their financial support. I am very grateful for the full support of our committee members - Brenda Lister (Secretary), Kevin von Keisenburg (Treasurer), Marion Conroy, Leola Kelly, Josette Gibbs and Ben Perera. Unfortunately, our numbers continue to dwindle and new faces around the committee table would be most welcome.

Terry Kavanagh

President

St Vincent de Paul Society – Stokes Valley



We at the St Vincent de Paul have had another good year at the shop thanks to the wonderful volunteers and to the generous people who donate clothing, furniture etc to the shop in Scott Court Stokes Valley.

Jan Fletcher has joined our team as co-ordinator. Jan has introduced a better system in pricing and stock control and the shop is looking neat and tidy. We always need more volunteers to help in the shop.

The shop helps us to assist many needy people, especially in our support of the Hutt Valley St Vincent de Paul Particular Council Food Bank operating valley wide. Stokes Valley St Vincent de Paul Conference operates from the garage behind St Francis Xavier Church from where the food is distributed. We again have donated to the Catholic Student Assistance Fund. We also donate to countries who have experienced natural disasters such as Tonga. We take communion to Stokeswood Rest Home once a week and have a Healing Mass once a month.

From March 2017 to March 2018 we have carried out,

Ministering Holy Communion	309
Home visits	61
Delivery of Meals	11
Hospital Visits	24
Support at/for Funerals	11
Food Parcels	1,593
Furniture Deliveries	369
Transportation to church and shops	138
Christmas hampers	43 families
Children's Christmas presents	128

I would like to acknowledge the work of Tony Packer Treasurer, Francis Cummings Secretary, Jan Fletcher Shop Co-ordinator, Frank Vaillini Food Bank and Furniture

Deliverer, our Committee members Win Lewer, Chris Henley, Francis Williams and all our wonderful volunteers at the shop and on the food run. Many thanks and God bless you all.

Gordon Holmes

President

"Let us do without hesitation whatever good lies at our hand"
(Frederic Ozanam) Founder of our SVdPS 1833

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father
as we come to the end of our time together
we thank you for what has been accomplished here today.

May the matters discussed
serve as a catalyst to move us forward
and cause us to advance
and see growth in all areas of our lives.

May we leave here
recognizing you are the God of all wisdom
and you are willing to lead us forward.

This we pray in the name of the Lord Jesus

Our Father

