

**The Parish of Our Lady of the Valleys
First Sunday of Lent Year C
10th March 2019**



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.olv.org.nz
St Brendan's School - 939 1909



THE DEEP END – Into the Wilderness

Lent is a great season where we are called to fasting, almsgiving and prayer. While our motivations may vary from weight loss to genuine spiritual journeying, this is a season where we take time to stop and take stock of our lives. What's there? What's there that shouldn't be there? Are there things in my life that I need to change, to move around, to let go of? Are there obstacles in the way of my relationship with Jesus and with the world around me?

Given the extent of the climate crisis that the world now finds itself in, and Ireland's dismal record on climate action, Lent would be an excellent time for each of us to examine our relationship with the earth in the hope that we might recognise the interconnectedness of all things. We might fast from our cars when we can, or look at how much food, clothes and energy we consume. How are our recycling habits? You might pledge to read Laudato Si, Pope Francis' encyclical on the environment, during Lent, and perhaps to ask a few friends to join you.

Whatever you decide to do, embrace this very special time. In the Gospel we are given encouragement as we read that Jesus is being led by the Spirit into the wilderness. The wilderness is not a place to be feared: it can be a place of transformation; a place where God is ultimately in control. We might encounter our demons and temptations there, but that is part of the journey. As with all things, we will get out of Lent what we put in. The more we put in, the greater the celebration on Easter Sunday morning.

Jane Mellett
mellettj@gmail.com

Weekly Collection: \$1,521.30



IN THE PARISH

Tuesday 12th March Men's Saint Vincent de Paul – Stokes Valley 7pm
Thursday 14th March – Parish Finance Committee 7.30pm

WEDNESDAYS OF LENT - MASS

On each Wednesday in Lent there will be an additional Mass at Our Lady of Grace Church at 6:30 am for those who might like to choose this as a Lenten Observance.





The Little Black Book provides the framework to enjoy one of the Church's oldest traditions of prayer called Lectio Divina - sacred reading. We take a short Scripture passage and simply let God speak to us through the words, guiding us to reflections that sometimes seem to come from nowhere.

People are often surprised at how easy it is to pray this way, and how deep such prayer can be. It can change your day or your life. Six minutes a day. That's what you're asked to give during these next 40 days of Lent. They are priced at \$6 per book and if more are required please put your name down and we shall order some more.

Music Because of commitments to work, our Samoan community are taking a break from playing music at the second Sunday Masses, hopefully returning next year. We always appreciate their beautiful music and singing and they will be missed. Their commitment to serving us in this way is very much appreciated. This leaves a music gap for the second Sunday. Is there someone who is new to the Parish or someone who plays a musical instrument, or a group who play together, who would like to commit themselves to playing music for the second Sunday Masses. Could you please ring the Office if you have a gift or gifts to share with us.



MARAMING
SALAMAT
PO!

Fr. Paul Finlayson – Thank You

It is with sadness that we have to report that Fr. Paul has left the Parish to provide supply work to the Parish of Te Awakairangi in Lower Hutt, while some of the Priests in that Parish are away. Fr. Paul takes up his placement on Tuesday 5th of March. Currently Fr. Paul is away visiting family and will head directly to Lower Hutt in the coming days. He thanks the Parish for its welcome and support over the last 5 months.

Fr. Tony and the Parish wish Fr. Paul all the best for his new placement and thank him for the work he has undertaken amongst us.

Sacramental Preparation Programme 2019 – The 2019 Programme begins this Sunday 3rd March with a Parent Meeting at 7:00pm in the Pettit Centre, Heretaunga. **At least one parent per candidate is expected to attend so that the family can receive their material and understand the commitment they are making on behalf of their child.** Any enquiries please contact Fr Tony or Louise Peirce the Sacramental Programme Co-ordinator.



FAMILY MASS – 17th MARCH

The Parish Council is initiating a family mass at the 10.30 a.m. service at Our Lady of Grace church once a term. This terms family mass will be held on the 17th March followed by a social time on the lawn. We are inviting all our young parishioners to become involved in the following ministries of the mass:

Greeters *Leaders* *Reading* *Prayers of the faithful* *Offertory Procession*
You will be provided the readings and the prayers of the faithful well in advance. Please contact/email Conor Healy to register interest or for further information (conorhealy26@gmail.com or 04 528 7395) Thank you and we look forward to your support in enabling our young people to become more involved in our liturgies

Archdiocesan Commission for Justice, Peace and Development

Let us not allow this season of grace to pass in vain. Let us ask God to help us set out on a path of true conversion. Let us leave behind our selfishness and self-absorption, and turn to Jesus' Pasch. Let us stand beside our brothers and sisters in need, sharing our spiritual and material resources with them.

Pope Francis: [Message for Lent 2019](#)

SYNOD 2017 – PARISH SELF REVIEW

Don't forget to complete the Parish Self Review. The process being undertaken will seek to get your input on the area(s) of concern that you would like the Parish to focus on in the upcoming year(s).

A survey has been prepared and is available on line at the Parish website (www.olv.org.nz) on the homepage or <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc5Pwlud1w7eGPGSGTEZgNzFN54RiGp3GucZtjf-Gjd0dv30w/viewform>. Printed copies of the survey are also available in the foyer of each church. This part of the Self-Review will run until 10th March so please take the time to reflect and prayerfully consider your responses and comments.

Written submissions can be placed in the collection baskets over the next few weeks, dropped into the Presbytery Office, scanned and emailed to the Office (office@olv.org.nz) or placed in box provided in each church foyer. Thanks

Voices to MP's Rally: Everyone is invited to join and support **Pacific People say NO to the End of Life Choice Bill**. The Select Committee is due to report back to Parliament at the end of the month so it is time to gather together and urge Members of Parliament to vote against this Bill. Tuesday 19th March from 11 am to 2 pm at Parliament Grounds.

Lenten Prayer for Life: From Ash Wednesday to Good Friday join us in daily prayer, fasting and reparation for the cause of life. Register your prayer fli.org.nz/lenenprayerforlife and receive a free pro-life prayer book. If possible, please also join the prayerful witness to life outside Wellington Hospital on all or any of these Wednesdays March 6, 13, 20, 27 and April 3 and 10. To sign up for an hour txt 021 2317954 or email clare.fli@xtra.co.nz



The Mar. 10 – 23 issue is out now. Some headlines are: Radical Reforms and Catholic Schools. Abuse summit tough but needed says Cardinal Dew. Healthcare Mass in Christchurch. Two Catholics react to Jordan Peterson. The next issue of NZ Catholic will be published on March 24.

About to get Married?

Could you successfully run a marathon without preparing for it? Of course not! So too marriage. Engaged Encounter Weekends this year are heavily booked.

Weekends are 30 - 31 March 2019 (one vacancy and then waiting list); 3 - 4 August 2019; 9 - 10 November 2019, all at St Teresa's Presbytery, 301 Karori Road, Karori, Wellington For more information phone Kate/Simon on 801 6192 or visit our website at www.cee-wellington.co.nz



UK Pilgrimage - join Msgr David Tonks on a spiritual journey to Ireland, Scotland & England: 25-days departing Sunday 23 June 2019.

For further details, please contact Laura on phone +64-9-921 5106 or 0800-277 477 or email: laura@skytrain.co.nz.

A Caring Space We offer this breathing space for all who care for a loved one, a chance to step away for a few hours. It is an opportunity to gently explore, together with God, the way this role is changing your life, hopes, dreams and perspectives and above all the relationship with the one you care for.

Led by Veronica Parton and Christine Walkerdine at All Saints Church, 6 Norfolk St. Belmont, Lower Hutt. On Tuesday 2nd April, Time: 11am - 2pm. Cost \$10. Please register with Veronica Parton 021 238 6675 or email vjpdap@gmail.com



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, Brian Davis, Frank Hayes, Dennis McGough, Janice Browne, and Margaret O'Neill, and 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 - 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	
10th March First week of Lent		17th March First week of Lent	
First Reading	Deuteronomy 26:4-10	First Reading	Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18
Second Reading	Romans 10:8-13	Second Reading	Philippians 3:17-4:1
Gospel	Luke 4:1-13	Gospel	Luke 9:28-36