

The Parish of Our Lady of the Valleys
Second Sunday of Lent Year C
17th March 2019



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THE DEEP END – St Patrick

Happy St Patrick's Day! – a day when we remember the roots of the Christian faith in Ireland. There is no doubt that to be a Christian in Ireland today is difficult. Often it is easier to hide our faith, to avoid ridicule, arguments and debates which can wear us down. However, today we should take example and energy from St Patrick. His story was not a walk in the park either. We celebrate our Christian identity today and celebrate the Gospel message that a courageous Patrick brought to us, a message that was preserved and passed on; a message that is very relevant to today's world and which continues to nourish and sustain us.

Take heart from the parable of the Mustard Seed in the Gospel today. The mustard seed plant is sometimes wild and out of control. Author and activist, Shane Claiborne, compares it to kudzu, a wild vine that could blanket entire mountain areas, smother trees, even crack stone buildings and footpaths. The shrub was banned in certain areas of Palestine because of how it could completely take over gardens. When we are struggling with being a Christian in modern Ireland, feeling excluded in a world that wants to forget God, we can take courage from the parable of the mustard seed. It grew in places where it was not wanted. You might recall the people in your own life who nourished your faith and who guided you along your spiritual path.

'I arise today, through God's strength to pilot me, God's might to uphold me, God's wisdom to guide me, God's eye to look before me, God's ear to hear me, God's word to speak for me, God's hand to guard me, God's shield to protect me.' (St Patrick's Breastplate)

Jane Mellett
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Weekly Collection: \$2,032



IN THE PARISH

20th March 11:00am
21st March 1:30 pm
21st March 7:30 pm

Anointing Mass at Pettit Centre Heretaunga
Anointing Mass at Stokeswood Resthome
Parish Council 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.



Synod Go you are sent to use your assets wisely(4) Cooperate with other entities in the community to share/utilize resources.

Anointing Mass, Pettit Centre, 20th March 2019 at 11 am.

Please come and join us for Mass and the Sacrament of Anointing followed by a shared lunch. We all need healing of one kind or another and there is a friendly supportive atmosphere and an enjoyable chat over lunch. See you there!



Anointing Mass, Stokeswood Rest Home, 21st March 2019 at 1:30pm

Please come and join us for Mass and the Sacrament of Anointing followed by a shared afternoon tea. We all need healing of one kind or another and there is a friendly supportive atmosphere and an enjoyable chat over a cuppa and bite to eat! All welcome.



Stations of the Cross held at St. Francis Xavier, Stokes Valley at 7pm every Friday. It's usually said in the Samoan language but there is an English translation book for those who would like to join. The Stations of the Cross are said in English from time to time.

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. 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.



Worship night open to all (charismatic) Theme 'Seek and You shall be found We are well underway in our Lenten journey and the youth would like to invite you, family and friends to come and seek the Lord together in Worship and song. Let us lift our voices and offer our hearts as we seek and grow in our relationship with our loving Father. Saturday 30th of March 7.30pm @ St. Francis Xavier Church followed by refreshments and fellowship. (Also seeking people who would like to offer being in a prayer team for this night please contact Barbara on 0273514620)

Passionist Family Group

Saturday 16th March 11.30am the **Holmes Group** meet for a picnic lunch at Kaitoke Waterworks everyone welcome lets have fun.

Sunday 24th March 2 pm the **O'Leary Passionist Family Group** activity for March is a visit to Expressions Upper Hutt to view the exhibitions followed by afternoon tea.



SYNOD 2017 – PARISH SELF REVIEW

Thanks to all those who completed forms for the Parish Self-Review. The responses are being collated and it is hoped presented to the Parish Council meeting later this week.

Safeguarding Workshop

Cardinal John invites all parishioners for a workshop to be held at the Pettit Centre, Heretaunga, on Thursday 4th April 2019 at 6.45pm for a cup of tea, workshop to start at 7 pm and will finish by 8.30pm. Flyers about the same are available at the foyer of the church

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

The communal celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation (**RITE II**) will be celebrated at St Francis Xavier Church on Sunday 7th April at 3:30pm. An invitation is offered to all in the Parish who wish to experience God's loving grace and forgiveness to join us at this celebration. We will be joined at this liturgy by the twenty-five young candidates who will be receiving the Sacrament for the first time.



If you would like prefer to have the Sacramental privately under the **RITE I** format, Father Tony is usually available after the weekday Masses at St Francis Xavier or Our Lady of Grace Church or you can ring him at the Presbytery (972 4282) to arrange a time at your convenience.



Friendship Circle

We have been blessed with well- attended meetings of friendship and fun this year. We extend our thanks to Brenda Lister, who spoke to us this month about her lifelong involvement with the show dog world, both here and abroad. Her impersonation of the 'Basset hound walk' and sound effects, caused much laughter.

We are interested in any hobbies, pastimes and special interests of fellow parishioners, and would welcome anyone willing to share their 'story' at our (friendly and supportive) meetings held on the first Saturday of every month .Please contact Pauline (5284881) if you know of any suitable speakers for our future meetings.

QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORT October to December 2018 from the FINANCE COMMITTEE

Operating Income	48,669
Less Expenses	
Pastoral Costs	(20,916)
Property Costs	(9,380)
Administration Costs	<u>(7,295)</u>
Operating Surplus	11,078
Balance Sheet Inflows	6,309
Balance Sheet Outflows	<u>(10,997)</u>



Overall Deficit for the Quarter 6,390

The year to date Cash deficit as at 31st December was recorded at (\$1,651)

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 11:00am to 2:00pm at Parliament Grounds.

Fun Quizz Evening

Monday, 8th April at St Joseph's Hall, Pine Avenue/Royal Street at 7.15pm for a 7.30pm start. \$10 per ticket 6-8 at a table. Supper will be provided. Lucky Door Ticket Draw. Tickets available from Susan on 970 3730 or from the School Office. Proceeds to St Joseph's School. Raffle donations gladly accepted.

Greenstone Doors Volunteers Wanted!

Do you have a heart for women and children? Greenstone Doors is looking for volunteers who can help us with duties such as reception, sorting baby clothing, pregnancy testing and overseeing our playgroups.



Greenstone
Doors

If this is something you would like to do please contact Wendy at info@greenstonedoors.co.nz or 027 254 9222

5th Birthday Celebration Saturday 13th April 11:30am-1:30pm. Join us for lunch, drinks and a special guest speaker (Founder of Greenstone Doors, Wendy Hill) Tickets \$25 at [eventbrite.co.nz](https://www.eventbrite.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 viptdap@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, Kathleen Little, Nigel Nickalls, Brian Davis, Frank Hayes, and Dennis McGough, 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	
17th March First week of Lent		17th March First week of Lent	
First Reading	Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18	First Reading	Exodus 3:1-8, 13-15
Second Reading	Philippians 3:17-4:1	Second Reading	1Cor. 10:1-6, 10-12
Gospel	Luke 9:28-36	Gospel	Luke 13:1-9