

**The Parish of Our Lady of the Valleys  
Third Sunday of Lent Year C  
24th March 2019**



Father Tony Kearns  
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**THE DEEP END – 'It may bear fruit next year'**

Today's Gospel brings a thorny question for Jesus, as the people ask why a number of Galileans were killed by the Romans as they made sacrifices to God. The basic question is why do bad things happen to certain people? Some Jewish leaders at the time viewed the Galileans as second-class Jews, and so they are raising more than a question about meaningless suffering here. They want to know if the Galileans suffered because they were not really 'Jewish enough.' Jesus responds with a sharp question about a recent tragedy involving those killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them. Were they worse offenders than others in Jerusalem? No. Jesus responds further by focusing on those who are still living. In the parable of the fig tree we hear that the tree is not producing any fruit and probably should be cut down. However, the owner of the vineyard agrees to one more year, during which it is given special attention.

Jesus' response to the difficult question on suffering is to focus on the living. We are still alive and therefore should be producing much fruit. Perhaps those who are questioning Jesus need, like the fig tree, much fertiliser, nourishment and growth so that they can focus on producing fruit for the world. The fig tree is blessed, and has received much grace in terms of time and care. The parable is a reminder to all of us of the nourishment and time we have been given; it is a call to examine the fruits that we produce in this world, in our communities, our families and in our church.

Jane Mellett  
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**Weekly Collection: \$1,896.30**



**IN THE PARISH**

26<sup>th</sup> March 7:00 pm  
27<sup>th</sup> March 10 am  
28<sup>th</sup> March 7:30pm

Saint Vincent de Paul , Heretaunga  
Silverstream Bakery for Coffee/Tea all welcome  
Parish Liturgy Meeting



**Please note the Euthanasia in Canada has been changed to 2<sup>nd</sup> April – 7-8.30pm at Pipitea Campus, Victoria University**



**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.

## FAMILY MASS 17TH MARCH

We had a very special Family Mass last Sunday. Great to see so many involved in our celebration which also included a baptism and prayerful reflection on the events of March 15th. (A slight hiccup with the cafe :) but we are already looking forward to making the next one even more special!



You are invited to join Cardinal John Dew and the Priests of the northern part of the Archdiocese as they renew their commitment to their priestly service at the Chrism Mass at 7:30pm on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April at St Teresa's Church Karori. Oils are blessed in a moving ceremony. The Oil of Catechumens will be used in Baptism; the Oil of Chrism in Confirmation and the Oil of the Sick for the anointing of the elderly, and those who are seriously ill. Attending the Chrism Mass is a wonderful way to begin Holy Week.

## MINISTRY VOLUNTEER'S FOR HOLY WEEK EVENTS

In the upcoming week members of the Liturgy Committee will be looking for people to assist in the celebration of the various services during Holy Week. The services range from Palm Sunday (where additional readers for the Passion Gospel; representatives to attend the Chrism Mass to receive the Holy Oils for the Parish; people to have their feet washed on Holy Thursday; Readers and Eucharistic Minister for Good Friday. through to more decorators and readers for the additional reading at the Easter Vigil; To try to make it easier for these people (and to save some of the ringing around that happens to cover all the events/ministries) lists of the ways that parishioners can assist have been placed in the foyer of both Churches. If you are a minister and know that you will be at a certain ceremony please indicate your willingness to assist.



**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.

**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)



## Safeguarding Workshop

Cardinal John invites all parishioners for a workshop to be held at the Pettit Centre, Heretaunga, on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> 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



**Children's Liturgy at St Francis Xavier at 8.30 a.m. mass.** We are seeking parents to assist in running a children's liturgy programme during term time. Resources will be supplied to assist you. Please contact the parish office [office@olov.org.nz](mailto:office@olov.org.nz) or Prue von Keisenberg [pruevk@yahoo.com](mailto:pruevk@yahoo.com)

### Passionist Family Group

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.

**Grace Family Group** meet on Sunday 24th March at Williams Park Days Bay at 3pm for afternoon tea (or ice creams!) / and optional short walk in the bush or along beach weather permitting. We need numbers to book a table at the cafe as Sunday afternoons are popular there. For anyone wanting to stay on for an easy tea, we can recommend the pizzas they make there, and a live band plays from 6pm but a table booking is required for that too (probably for 5pm.). Please let Frank and Pauline know if you wish to come on 5284881/021 02453070



### SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

The communal celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation (**RITE II**) will be celebrated at St Francis Xavier Church on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> 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 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.

In these days, to the pain of wars and conflicts that do not cease to afflict all humanity, there has been added that for the victims of the horrible attack on two mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand. I pray for the dead and wounded, and for their relatives. I am close to our Muslim friends and to all the community. I renew my invitation to unite with prayer and gestures of peace to counter hatred and violence. Let us pray together for our Muslim friends who were killed.

Pope Francis: [Angelus](#) 17 March 2019



**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, 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2019 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.

**"Humanity Of The Unborn"** Upcoming legislation intends to allow ABORTION UP TO BIRTH - If you're willing for your Name and Area (only) to accompany a letter against this to all MPs please email: [tonybrebner@hotmail.com](mailto:tonybrebner@hotmail.com) URGENTLY"

**St Pats Old Boys AGM** Calling all 'Town' and 'Stream' Old Boys, I would like to invite you to attend our Annual General Meeting which will be in the staff room of St Patrick's College, Wellington, Evans Bay Parade on Tuesday 26th March 2019 at 6pm. Mass in the Chapel will commence at 5.30pm. The AGM will be followed by refreshments and a chance for attendees to catch up with other Old Boys.

The Mar. 24 – Apr. 6 issue of NZ Catholic is out now. Some headlines  are: Faiths come together after terror attacks. Tears at Christchurch Mass for Peace. Reactions from other nations to terror attacks. March for Life in Hamilton.



**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, Sr. Sarto, Stephen Murray, Kathleen Little, Nigel Nickalls, and Brian Davis, 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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	
24th March Third week of Lent		31st March Fourth week of Lent	
First Reading	Exodus 3:1-8, 13-15	First Reading	Joshua 5:9-12
Second Reading	1Cor. 10:1-6, 10-12	Second Reading	2Corinthians 5:17-21
Gospel	Luke 13:1-9	Gospel	Luke 15:1-3, 11-32