

**The Parish of Our Lady of the Valleys
Fourth Sunday of Lent Year C
31st March 2019**



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THE DEEP END – The Elder Son

Sometimes we can be so familiar with a Gospel passage we tend to switch off after the first few sentences. That would be a shame, especially when the Gospel is one of the great blockbuster parables. The real challenge in today's Gospel is what happens after the lost son returns. The elder brother has 'worked like a slave' all those years and is understandably upset. The Father's welcome of the younger son would have been considered extremely foolish by those listening to this story. However, the Father makes it clear that his outreach to the younger brother will not change his love for the older brother. It will cost the elder brother nothing to reach out. We have nothing to lose in welcoming home the lost.

Today, we can try to place ourselves somewhere in this narrative: where do you stand? This Gospel shows us that God returns the lost to the community, regardless of the boundaries that we might put in place. Jesus teaches us a lesson in radical hospitality. No matter how far we wander from home, God is still a loving God. The elder brother has a choice: to come to the party or to sulk in the corner. Luke, excellent story-teller that he is, leaves the reader to decide the outcome.

'God of love, show us our place in this world as channels of your love for all the creatures of this earth, for not one of them is forgotten in your sight. Enlighten those who possess power ... that they may love the common good, advance the weak, and care for this world in which we live' (Pope Francis, Laudato Si, 246)

Jane Mellett
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Weekly Collection: \$1,507.50



IN THE PARISH

Tuesday 2nd April Men's Group Silverstream Bowling Club 5.30pm

Wednesday 3rd April Catholic Women's League Pettit Centre 1.30pm

Saturday 6th April – Circle of Friendship Pettit Centre 2pm

Please note the Euthanasia in Canada has been changed to 2nd April – 7-8.30pm (see notice in Church foyer for more details)



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.



Circle of Friendship Ladies Gathering - All ladies of the parish are invited to join us next Saturday 6 April for fellowship and a cuppa, in the Pettit Centre between 2 – 4 pm. We are fortunate to have the Dahlias music group from St Mary's Church to entertain us again, with a music quiz to be held as well. As usual we will be continuing our book swap table if you have books to spare that someone else can get some enjoyment from. If you need transport, please ring Melinda on 234 1271. A gold coin donation towards our charities would be appreciated.

ARCHDIOCESAN CHRISM MASS



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 16th 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 7:00pm 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. Saturday 30th 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)

Planned Giving – IRD Charitable Donation Receipts The New Tax year begins on Monday the 1st of April. Over the next couple of weeks the Parish Office will be preparing and checking the tax Inland Revenue charitable donation receipts for 2018-19. These will be available by end of April early May.



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



Children's Liturgy at St Francis Xavier at 8:30 am. 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 or Prue von Keisenberg pruevk@yahoo.com



SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

The communal celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation (**RITE II**) will be celebrated at St Francis Xavier Church next Sunday - 7th April at 3:00 pm. 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.

This year St Brendan's school has made a commitment to support St Vincent de Paul. Each week a class takes responsibility for a basket to which they add grocery items throughout the week. We are grateful to the students and families for their generous donations and presentation of the St Brendan's St Vincent de Paul basket at Mass each Sunday. Everyone is welcome to make donations at any time during the year.



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 URGENTLY"

IMPORTANT: There is a CHANGE OF DATE for 'Voices to MPs' Rally. Come and help Pacific People Say NO to End of Life Choice Bill. Come and support our brothers and sisters from the Pacific who feel they have not had their voice heard by their MP's. They recognise the threat and understand that the very fabric of our nation will change if euthanasia becomes law. Parliament needs to hear from us ALL one more time. **9th April 11 am to 2 pm at Parliament Grounds.**

Home of Compassion, Island Bay Copies of the latest edition of the Voice of Compassion are available in the church foyer. A permanent exhibition of the history and ideals of the Sisters of Compassion has been opened. It captures the enduring sacrifices made by the sisters in following in the footsteps of their founder, Suzanne Aubert. Suzanne's remains lie in a crypt at the Home where she can be venerated on her journey to sainthood. The exhibition is open each day from 10am to 3pm except Mondays and on Sundays from noon to 3pm.

Receptionist Catholic Centre We're looking for a warm, energetic and approachable problem solver who is very customer focused. Has attention to detail, with a calm demeanour and a mature outlook on life. If you are interested in this 20 - 30 hour a week role, please send your resume and covering letter to hr@wn.catholic.org.nz to receive a job description and application form. Applications close on 9th April 2019.



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 Afoa Tualata, Vince Russell, Annette Byrne, Sr. Sarto, Stephen Murray, and Kathleen Little 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	
31st March Fourth week of Lent		7th April Fifth week of Lent	
First Reading	Joshua 5:9-12	First Reading	Isaiah 43: 16-21
Second Reading	2Corinthians 5:17-21	Second Reading	Philippians 3: 8-14
Gospel	Luke 15:1-3, 11-32	Gospel	John 8: 1-11