

**The Parish of Our Lady of the Valleys
Fifth Sunday of Lent Year C
7th April 2019**



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THE DEEP END – Don't look back

'No need to recall the past,
No need to think about what was done before
See, I am doing a new deed...'

(Isaiah 43: 18-19)

'All I can say is that I forget the past and I strain ahead...'

(Phil 3:13)

These poignant words taken from today's first and second readings provide the perfect preamble to our dramatic Gospel reading. Perhaps the line that is most often quoted from the story of the woman caught in adultery is Jesus' challenge to the crowd who bring her before them: 'If there is one of you who has not sinned, let him be the first to throw a stone at her.' It is a challenge to all of us to look inward before we 'cast stones' to judge others.

But there is another equally powerful statement here by Jesus, this time to the woman herself. It is delivered quietly, when she is left alone with Jesus after all her accusers have drifted away: 'Neither do I condemn you. Go away, and don't sin anymore.' We notice that Jesus doesn't rake over the woman's past. He doesn't ask her about the claims of her accusers. He does not condemn or criticise her. Instead he accepts her, loves her, treats her with the respect and dignity that was so lacking in the mob, and gently nudges her forward into a new way of living.

Triona Doherty
Email trionad@gmail.com

**HOLY WEEK TIMETABLE OF SERVICES FOR OUR LADY OF VALLEYS PARISH
ARE AVAILABLE ON THE WEBSITE AND PRINTED COPY IS AVAILABLE IN THE
FOYER OF THE CHURCH**

Weekly Collection: \$1,716



IN THE PARISH

Tuesday 9th April

St. Vincent de Paul Stokes Valley 7 pm

Thursday 11th April

Parish Finance Committee 7.30pm

Thursday 11th April – Mass with Anointing at Stokeswood Rest home, Stokes Valley at 1.30 pm. Please **note** there will be **NO** mass at St. Francis Xavier Church on that day.

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



Worship Night

Last Saturday evening the young people of our Parish led a very prayerful worship night at St. Francis Xavier Church. The event was attended by over 50 people both from within the parish and surrounding parishes. We thank the young people for their time and dedication put into this event. All who attended commented on the atmosphere that had been created. The evening concluded with a shared supper. We look forward to more such events being offered in the future.

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. If you need transport, please ring Melinda on 234 1271. A gold coin donation towards our charities would be appreciated.



We welcome **Seminarian Alfred Tong** who will be with us from 9th April to after Easter. Some of you may remember him from last year when he spent some time with us. Please make Alfred feel welcome when he arrives.



The Little White Book is meant to help you enjoy six minutes of prayer each day during the 50 days of the Easter season. Reflections will be based on the Acts of the Apostles and the early Church. This Little Book has been carefully crafted to help you explore the depths of Scripture and deepen your relationship with Christ. There are 15 copies available in the Church foyer at \$6 per book

Passionist O'Leary family group This months outing is a train trip and lunch in Waikanae on Saturday 13th April departing Upper Hutt at 10am stopping all stations.

The **Holmes family group** will be meeting at 12 Zeala Grove on the 24th of April at 7pm

PASSIONIST
FAMILY GROUP
MOVEMENT



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. Attending the Chrism Mass is a wonderful way to begin Holy Week.

MINISTRY VOLUNTEER'S FOR HOLY WEEK EVENTS 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.



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.



St Brendan's fundraiser for Senior Camp 2020 we are collecting excellent quality second hand clothing for our clothing extravaganza. All clothing including shoes are welcome. Drop off at the school office or call lisa 0211503297 or Kathryn 0278599601.

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. Everyone is welcome to make donations at any time during the year.

"Humanity Of The Unborn" Overseas experience indicates that will be the forerunner to debate on even worse atrocities for the unborn child, including "partial-birth" abortions, "after- birth" abortions, and infanticide. If you wish to add your name to an Inter-Denominational "Open Letter to all members of Parliament" email donbrebs@kinect.co.nz you will receive a copy of the Letter by return.

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.



The **NZ Catholic** is out now. Some headlines are: New Apostolic Nuncio for NZ. Grief at sudden death of principal. Students speak out for planet earth. Pontifical Academy urges parents to vaccinate children. The next issue of NZ Catholic will be published on April 21.

IMPORTANT: There is a CHANGE OF DATE for 'Voices to MPs' Rally. Come and support our brothers and sisters from the Pacific who feel they have not had their voice heard by their MP's. Parliament needs to hear from us **ALL** one more time. **9th April 11 am to 2 pm at Parliament Grounds.**

The Euthanasia bill sponsored by MP David Seymour is about to get its 2nd reading and vote in parliament. Check out the dangers of this Bill by visiting www.carealliance.org.nz or www.defendnz.co.nz We encourage every one of you who will be of voting age to sign the Care Alliance Petition to let your MP know your opposition to this Bill. There will be opportunities to do this at Masses in the parish the weekends of 6-7 April and 13-14 April.



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.

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, and Stephen Murray, 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