

The Parish of Our Lady of the Valleys
2nd Sunday of Easter Year C ALLELUIA
28th April 2019



Father Tony Kearns
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St Brendan's School - 939 1909



THE DEEP END

A Saint for dark times

It's perfectly understandable: Thomas is having trouble believing that Jesus has returned to be with his friends again. The disciples, who witnessed Jesus' arrest, torture, death and burial, are now talking about having seen Jesus in the flesh again. It sounds impossible. Thomas was not there when Jesus first appeared to the disciples, so of course he is doubtful. Thomas' moment of doubt earned him the nickname 'Doubting Thomas', and I sometimes think this is a little unfair. Or rather, I feel that Thomas' wobble of faith does not necessarily cast him in a negative light – it makes him easier to relate to. He is grieving after the death of his master and friend. He is not ready to hear the words of comfort and consolation offered by the others, when they tell him 'We have seen the Lord.' His pain is too deep. He can't believe it, or won't believe it, until he experiences it for himself. And when he does finally encounter Jesus, an agonising eight days later, his declaration of faith is swift: 'My Lord and my God!' We can almost hear the relief and joy in this exclamation.

We all know that life can be painful and messy at times. It can be hard to hang onto our faith when we are in pain, or grieving, or anxious. It might be difficult to accept the assurances of others that God is with us and will help us through it. We might also struggle to pray. In dark times, sometimes we just can't see the light. Thomas is a saint for those times of darkness and doubt. In our darkest days, may we, like Thomas, encounter the healing presence of the Risen Christ.

Tríona Doherty
Email trionad@gmail.com

Weekly Collection: \$2,129.80

Thank You!

Thanks goes out to all who helped organize and assisted in the Holy Week/Easter ceremonies.



IN THE PARISH

Wednesday 1st May 1.30pm Catholic Women's League at the Pettit Centre

Saturday 4th May 2 pm Circle of Friendship at the Pettit Centre

Planned Giving – IRD Charitable Donation Receipts

The New Tax Receipts are now available at the foyer of both churches. Kindly ensure that you pick up your receipts and the new envelopes. If your Donation Receipt/Envelopes are not in the foyer of the church please advise the Parish Office who can arrange for it to be relocated for you.



CWL Raffle

Thanks to all who so generously supported our Easter Raffle – we raised \$380 for the Missions. Congrats to all who won the raffle.

The cake was won by Caryl Robinson No. 96

The box of goodies won by Frank Quinn Blue B5

The Easter Bunny won by Lauren Bruce Orange E41

Passionist Family Group Regional Connections Day

Sat 4th May 3:30 pm at Uniting Church Johnsonville \$5pp. All family group members are invited from the Wellington region for a pizza, salads and dessert tea after a short programme with Fr Brian Traynor. Contact O'Brien's if you would like to attend on 528 6976

PASSIONIST
FAMILY GROUP
MOVEMENT



Circle of Friendship Ladies Gathering - All ladies of the parish are invited to join us next Saturday 4th May for fellowship and a cuppa, in the Pettit Centre between 2 – 4 pm. As it's the weekend prior to Mothers' Day, we would like you to share stories or memories of your mothers. 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.

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



QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORT January to March 2019 from the FINANCE COMMITTEE

Operating Income	50,388
Less Expenses	
Pastoral Costs	(16,782)
Property Costs	(12,578)
Administration Costs	<u>(6,968)</u>
Operating Surplus	14,060
Balance Sheet Inflows	3,093
Balance Sheet Outflows	<u>(14,883)</u>
Excess for the Quarter	2,270



"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.

Say No to the Euthanasia Bill – Care Alliance Petition

The Care Alliance has started a nation-wide petition to all MP's urging them to vote 'NO' to the End of Life Choice Euthanasia Bill. There is now an on line version at this link for those who have NOT signed the petition and wish to do so. Here is the link to the online petition: <https://www.gopetition.com/petitions/protect-vulnerable-people-say-no-to-the-euthanasia-bill.html>



Healing Service

There will be a Healing Service with Fr John Rea at Sacred Heart Church, Petone, 41 Britannia St. on Wednesday 1 May beginning at 7.30 pm. Everyone is welcome. Please bring those who need Jesus` healing.



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 027 859 9601.

St. Brendan's are now on the journey of being an enviro school. A school enviro group will meet every Friday from 1:00- 2:00 to work on mini projects around the school. We are requiring adult support to complete these projects. On Monday 29th April at 3:30pm in Room 7 a meeting will be held to share what this would involve. We welcome as many mum's dads, and grandparents to support this group. If you would like to support the group please email Chris Pullan c.pullan@stbrendans.school.nz or Heather Campbell h.campbell@stbrendans.school

Go you are sent to fellow Christians (9) Have shared events on neutral territory e.g. picnics, BBQ's



NZ Catholic The Apr. 21– May 4 issue is out now. Some headlines are: New NZ Medical Association to meet. Cardinal suggests stopping calling priests 'Father'. Integrated schools have say on reform report. NZ reactions to Pope's youth exhortation. The next issue of NZ Catholic will be published on May 5.

Receiving Communion At Home - Do you know of someone who is unable to attend Mass and would like to receive Communion? If you do then please contact the office 972 4282.

Are You New to the Parish? - We warmly welcome you to our Parish; please make yourself known to Father Tony our parish priest. We also invite you to fill in a new parishioner's form which is located on the table in the church foyer.

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 victims of the Easter attack in Sri Lanka, Arthur Newell, Phyllis Riley, Afoa Tualata, and Sr. Sarto, and for those whose anniversary occurs around this time especially - May they rest in peace.

Our Lady of Grace Church 5 Palmer Crescent, Heretaunga

Mass Times Sunday-10:30am

Weekdays Wed, Sat 9:00 am 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 - 11:30 am

Weekdays- Tues, Thurs, 9:30am Mass - Wed, Sat 9:30 am Liturgy of the Word

Reconciliation Please ring for an appointment

St Vincent de Paul - Heretaunga

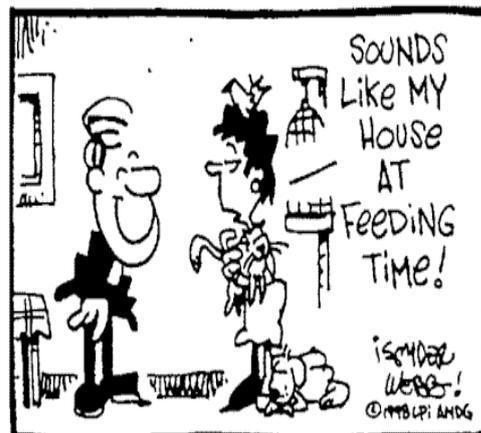
Terry 528 6313

Petone Shop 568 6408

St Vincent de Paul - Stokes Valley

Gordon 938 2750

Stokes Valley Shop 563 9278



Sunday Readings		Sunday Readings	
28th April 2 nd Sunday of Easter		5th May 3rd Sunday of Easter	
First Reading	Acts 5:12-16	First Reading	Acts 5:27-32,40-41
Second Reading	Apocalypse 1:9-13, 17-19	Second Reading	Apocalypse 5:11-14
Gospel	John 20:19-31	Gospel	John 21:1-19

