

**Our Lady of the Valleys Parish**  
**21st Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C**  
**25<sup>th</sup> August 2019**



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### THE DEEP END



#### Curiouser and curiouser

'Alice opened the door and found that it led into a small passage, not much larger than a rat-hole: she knelt down and looked along the passage into the loveliest garden you ever saw. How she longed to get out of that dark hall, and wander about among those beds of bright flowers and those cool fountains, but she could not even get her head through the doorway.' (Lewis Carroll, Alice's Adventures in Wonderland)

In the opening chapter of Alice's Adventures in Wonderland, Alice is having a bit of bother with doors. She finds herself in a hall in which the doors are all locked. When she finds a key, it doesn't fit the locks. When she manages to find a door to match the key, she herself won't fit through; the doorway is too narrow. How frustrating!

The parable in today's Gospel also features a narrow door and a locked door, as well as an unsympathetic doorkeeper – it's almost as if the master wants to keep everyone out! People knock on the door and expect to be admitted, but it's not that simple. The master turns them away, claiming not to know them, despite protestations that they are acquainted.

Jesus is trying to teach his followers about discipleship. What does he mean when he says we must 'enter by the narrow door'? Is it almost impossible to enter the kingdom of God? One thing is sure: a passing acquaintance with Jesus will not be enough. The plea of 'We once ate and drank in your company' is feeble. It is not enough to know Jesus only on the surface – to attend Mass every Sunday or to turn to him only when we are in need. To really know Jesus, one must walk the narrow path of the Gospel.

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**Weekly Collection: \$1,466.10**



#### IN THE PARISH

Wed 28<sup>th</sup> Aug 10 am

Coffee morning at Silverstream Bakery all welcome

**Saint Vincent de Paul Society**, Stokes Valley need a secure off street park for our van. Height of van 2.4 metres. Ring GORDON HOLMES on 9582750 if you can help.



## MAORI PASTORAL CARE COLLECTION

This collection provides support for the initiatives in providing pastoral care for our Maori parishioners in the Archdiocese, and the country. For those on Planned Giving an envelope for this appeal is included in the pack of giving envelopes provided to you. For those not on Planned Giving, Special envelopes for this Appeal are available in the foyer of both churches for you to support this appeal.



## Upcoming Training for Proclaimers of The Word And Leaders

The Liturgy Committee is committed to providing ongoing training for those who provide ministries in our Parish. To this end in August a **TRAINING SESSION FOR PROCLAIMERS OF THE WORD and LEADERS** is being provided and ALL those who undertake this ministry are requested to attend one of the two sessions. The last session is scheduled for Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> August at 2:30 at Our Lady of Grace Heretaunga. Please put some time aside even if you have been undertaking the ministry for a while as it will help you more effectively undertake LEAD and PROCLAIM THE WORD.



## Parish Quiz Evening

Due to popular demand we have organised another Parish Quiz evening. The date has been set for Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October at St. Brendan's School Hall. It's time to start planning and get a team together so book this date in your calendar. Tickets will be on sale from Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2019. Keep an eye out for the poster, more details to follow.

We always run a few raffles at this event and this year we are looking for support from the parish, such as scratchies, groceries, jams, wine or anything that would be great to include into a raffle. If you can help and support us, please contact either Chris Wasson on 528 7847 or Mike Dench 021 123 3211

## QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORT April to June 2019 from the FINANCE COMMITTEE

Operating Income	40,742
Less Expenses	
Pastoral Costs	(18,890)
Property Costs	(10,223)
Administration Costs	( 8,679)
<b>Total Operating Expenditure</b>	<b><u>(37,793)</u></b>
<b>Net Operating Excess (Deficit)</b>	<b>2,949</b>
Balance Sheet Inflows	5,461
Balance Sheet Outflows	<u>(11,955)</u>
<b>Excess Deficit for the Quarter</b>	<b>(3,545)</b>



Go you are sent to care for creation (8) Get involved with "Transition Churches" (a network of Christian churches-including Catholic -in New Zealand who are working on local faith community responses to energy, climate, food and financial challenges).



## Time and Talents Survey

Thank you for your response last week. The sheets are being collated and names will be given to the appropriate leaders. The co-coordinators the upcoming weeks should contact those who have offered to help to discuss the ministry and likely roster changes to accommodate the new volunteers. Your patience and understanding as this process takes place is appreciated. Extra copies of the Survey sheets will be available in the foyer for the next few weeks.



## 2017 Synod GO YOU ARE SENT...

As mentioned in previous newsletters the Parish Council has spent time over the past few months looking for ways to make the recommendations of the Synod part of the life of the Parish, especially around the area of **Building Community**. While this is still important because of the workload on the Council as it focuses on the Presbytery/Church Review, it has decided to defer new initiatives on the area of Building Community area until the completion of the building review which is to be submitted to Cardinal John by 31<sup>st</sup> October 2019.

## Ecology, Justice and Peace

The door of God's mercy is narrow but is always open to everyone! God does not have preferences, but always welcomes everyone, without distinction. A narrow door to restrain our pride and our fear; a door open wide because God welcomes us without distinction. The door is narrow but always open wide: do not forget this. Pope Francis, [Angelus 21 August 2016](#)



**Stewardship Network Meeting** at Sacred Heart School Hall, Petone. 1-4pm on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> September. Three dynamic speakers including Cardinal John Dew, Afternoon Tea followed by small group discussion. Please register by September 18<sup>th</sup> with Chris Walkerdine at [c.walkerdine@wn.catholic.org.nz](mailto:c.walkerdine@wn.catholic.org.nz) or telephone 04 496-1706.

## "Humanity Of The Unborn"

The current Labour-led Government has proposed an alternative abortion law to our parliament. That Bill, being promoted by the Justice Minister, Andrew Little, passed its first reading last week and has now been referred to a Special Select Committee for further consideration and to give the public of New Zealand a chance to comment through the parliamentary submission process. The Bill: <http://legislation.govt.nz/bill/government/2019/0164/latest/whole.html#LMS237550> All Catholics are encouraged to have their say. The Submission process closes on 19<sup>th</sup> September [https://www.parliament.nz/en/pb/sc/make-a-submission/document/52SCAL\\_SCF\\_BILL\\_89814/abortion-legislation-bill](https://www.parliament.nz/en/pb/sc/make-a-submission/document/52SCAL_SCF_BILL_89814/abortion-legislation-bill)

**The Cardinal's lunch** will be held at The Intercontinental Hotel on Wednesday 28 August at 12 noon. Our lunch will feature Cardinal John Dew, sharing his vision for the future of the church being young, transformed and transformative. To register on line <https://cl2019.lilregie.com> For more information phone Robyn 027 2018766



## Holy Hour

You are invited to a Holy Hour on Tuesday 27 August beginning at 7.30 pm in the Cathedral chapel to pray for vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life. This Holy Hour will include prayers, Scripture, singing, times of silence and conclude with Benediction followed by supper.

**Parenting Faith Seminar** Thurs 29 August, 7.30pm-9pm Connolly Hall, Thorndon. Nurturing your child's Catholic faith at home. Parents are children's first educators in faith. An interactive and informative evening to equip parents with ideas and resources to 'do' faith at home. Come and join the discussion! Presented by Dr Chris Duthie-Jung. Entry by KOHA. To book your place go to <https://parentingfaith.eventbrite.co.nz> or contact Felicity Giltrap on [f.giltrap@wn.catholic.org.nz](mailto:f.giltrap@wn.catholic.org.nz) or (04) 496 1719.

**NZCatholic**

**The NZ Catholic** Aug. 25 – Sept. 7 issue is out now. Some headlines are: Revitalising parishes Monday to Saturday. Fr Martin Wu ordained in Auckland. Bishop Stuart O'Connell was approachable and encouraging. Soup for southern souls – and bodies. The next issue of NZ Catholic will be on Sept. 8.



**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 including Murray Gray, Dennis Cody, Ray McCormack, Joanne Beckers, Oka Vili, Ray Hurlle, Felice Benvenuti, and especially Peter

Dillon and Michael Dillon 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 9:00 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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	
25th August – 21 <sup>st</sup> week in Ordinary Time		1 <sup>st</sup> September – 22 <sup>nd</sup> week in Ordinary Time	
First Reading	Isaiah 66: 18-21	First Reading	Ecclesiasticus 3:17-20, 28-29
Second Reading	Hebrews 12: 5-7, 11-13	Second Reading	Hebrews 12: 18-19, 22-24
Gospel	Luke 13: 22-30	Gospel	Luke 14: 1, 7-14

