

**Our Lady of the Valleys Parish  
First Sunday of Advent Year A  
1st December 2019**



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## THE DEEP END

### Living transparently

How many of us can truly say that our lives are an open book? 'Transparency' is a bit of a buzz work in the media these days. With every scandal that hits the headlines uncovering the corrupt practices of some public figure or another, our trust is shaken. When it is a person from whom we would have expected better, or whose actions have hurt countless others, we are left to ponder the whys and hows of it all – How could they live a double life for so long? Why did they feel the need? And how on earth did they think they would get away with it?

But when we think about it, how many of us are living truly transparent lives? Do our outside selves always match our inner selves? We may be harbouring grudges or nasty thoughts about family members, friends, colleagues or acquaintances. Maybe we are cheating or being dishonest in some small way, or cutting corners in our work. It is likely that we have built up some habits or practices that we would rather no one knew about.

In our second reading today, Paul talks about the 'things we prefer to do under the cover of the dark' and urges us to 'arm ourselves and appear in the light'. As we enter into Advent, it is the ideal time to examine our own lives – to come out into the light

Triona Doherty  
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**Weekly Collection: \$ 1,532.50**



**COLUMBAN CALENDARS FOR 2020** – Just a **few** are available at both churches and the Parish Office for \$12 each please hurry and secure a copy for yourself or a loved one.



**CHRISTMAS CARDS** - Are now on sale and are available at the Parish Office and at both churches on Sunday. Hurry and get yours today.

### CWL CHRISTMAS CAKE RAFFLE

The winner was number 41. Congratulations Alesana Launiuvao from St Francis Xavier. \$452 was raised, many thanks to all who purchased tickets.

IN THE PARISH		
Wed 4 <sup>th</sup> Dec	1.30 pm	Catholic Women's League in the Pettit Centre
Fri 6 <sup>th</sup> Dec	5.30 pm	Men's Group X'Mas Dinner at the Presbytery
Sat 7 <sup>th</sup> Dec	2.00 pm	Circle of Friendship Christmas High Tea in the Pettit Centre
Sat 7 <sup>th</sup> Dec	7:30 pm	Holmes Passionist Group Christmas Dinner at Traditional Thai, Upper Hutt
Sun 8 <sup>th</sup> Dec	4.00 pm	Rite II Reconciliation at OLOG



**CHURCH AND PRESBYTERY REVIEW**  
 The collation of responses for Cardinal John's Review has now completed and the Review Document has been delivered to Cardinal John. As mentioned last Sunday more detailed explanation of the next part of the process is mentioned in the December copy of Welcom page 14



**MEN'S GROUP CHRISTMAS FUNCTION** – Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December at 5.30 pm in the Presbytery. **A meal \$12.00 per head will be available, bring your own drinks.** For catering purposes please place your name and phone number on the clip board in the foyer. **NOTE THERE IS NO GATHERING ON 3rd December.**



MEN'S GROUP



**Circle of Friendship Ladies Gathering** - All ladies of the parish are invited to join us next Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December for our Christmas high tea in the Pettit Centre between 2 – 4 pm. Please bring your own fancy cup, saucer and small plate (if you have one), plus a small plate of finger food to share (about 6 - 8 items). We will have fun, friendship, music and lovely food. Everyone is welcome. If you need transport, please ring Melinda on 234 1271. A gold coin donation towards our charities would be appreciated.

**CARDINAL'S CARE APPEAL**

Starts this week and envelopes will be available for individual donations in both churches. A video promoting this appeal is available for viewing/download at



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**PASSIONIST FAMILY GROUP**

Holmes Family Group Christmas Dinner on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30 pm. The venue is Traditional Thai, Upper Hutt. An evening of fun and good cheer.

**PRESBYTERY OPEN DAY 15<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2019**

All parishioners are invited to the Presbytery in Heretaunga for a Christmas Open Home hosted by Fr Tony. This is a chance to say thank you to those in the Parish who have shown hospitality in the past, and for those who have worked during the year to make our Parish a welcoming and expanding Family of God. Come along between 2:00pm – 4:00pm. Look forward to seeing you there.



## SAINT VINCENT de PAUL CHRISTMAS APPEAL



It's that time again Christmas presents for our needy children. We would be pleased to receive gifts for Christmas age range from 6 months to 14 years, boys and girls. Please state age and gender on outside of parcel. You can leave presents at masses at both Churches or S.V.D.P. shop Scotts Court Stokes Valley hours 10am to 4pm Monday to Friday by December 12th mid day or ring Gordon 9382750 or Terry 5286313. Cut off day 8th December.



### CARDINAL JOHN ADVISES OF CHANGE IN 2020

As you are aware Cardinal John has been appointed as Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Palmerston North until they appoint a new bishop and also taken responsibility as the bishop on the Catholic response to the Royal Commission on Sexual Abuse in State and Faith Based Care. This latter task is already a heavy task and the gathering pace will make this workload increase.

This has promoted Cardinal John, along with the increasing workload of his Wellington Archdiocese based calendar to look at changes to his calendar and workload.

After discussions with the Council of Priests Cardinal John decided, for 2020, to give Parish Priests, the faculty to confer Confirmation. This is given to all Parish Priests of all Parishes in Wellington and the Palmerston North.

Please pray for Cardinal John as he continues to lead our Archdiocese and pastor and chief shepherd



**Sacramental Preparation Programme 2020** - Enrolments for the 2020 Sacramental Preparation Program are now open for those candidates who would like to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Confirmation and First Eucharist. Enrolment forms are available in the foyer of both churches and the School. The

Programme starts on February 23rd and the Reconciliation portion happens over Lent. Any enquiries please contact Fr Tony or Louise Peirce the Sacramental Programme Co-ordinator.

**MASS FOR LIFE** You're invited to pray for babies, mums, dads and families at a Mass for Life on Friday 6 December, 7pm at St Mary of the Angels, 17 Boulcott Street, Wellington. Cardinal Dew will be the principal celebrant. Eucharistic Adoration will follow for one hour after Mass to pray in readiness for the National March for Life. For more information please visit [fli.org.nz/prolifeevents](http://fli.org.nz/prolifeevents) or phone Clare 021 231 7954.

**NATIONAL MARCH FOR LIFE** You're invited to love them both by attending the third annual National March for Life in Wellington on Saturday 7 December. Join Kiwis from all over NZ in a family-friendly celebration of life which also peacefully protests the practice and legality of abortion. Gather at Civic Square from 12pm for family-friendly entertainment, sausage sizzle and stalls. March to Parliament Grounds begins at 2pm. Concludes at 4pm. Learn more about this important event at a critical moment in NZ's history: [marchforlife.nz](http://marchforlife.nz)

**ROSARY FOR LIFE AND FAITH** is on Sat. 7th Dec. at 3 pm. This Pro-Life Rosary supports the March for Life in Wellington on the same day. Please try and go on the March. If you can't, please organise or join a Rosary group in your parish.



**ST BRENDAN'S SCHOOL**

2019 Gratitude Liturgy will be held on Monday, 2 December at 10.30am in the St Brendan's School Hall. We invite you to our Liturgy to thank you for your continued support throughout the year. Following our Liturgy, groups of students will perform and then you are welcome to join us for morning tea.

**NZ CATHOLIC**



The Dec. 1-14 issue is out now. Some headlines are: Church fronts at royal commission. Dame Kiri visits old school. People have say on Chch plan. Details awaited on Tomorrow's Schools reset. The next issue of NZ Catholic will be published on December 15.



**PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER** all who are sick and unwell and those who are lonely and worried. We pray also for those souls in purgatory and who have died recently including, Greg Quinn, Antonia Delorenzo, Andre Gaudal, Beverly Lal, Graham Carr, Jenny Goodman, and Ella McLennan, and those whose anniversary occurs at 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**

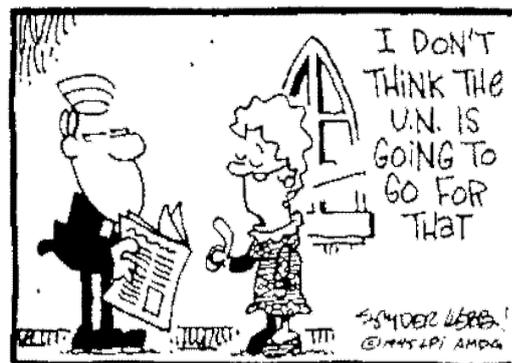
Terry 528 6313

Petone Shop 568 6408

**St Vincent de Paul – Stokes Valley**

Gordon 938 2750

Stokes Valley Shop 563 9278



Sunday Readings		Sunday Readings	
1 <sup>st</sup> December – First Sunday of Advent		8 <sup>th</sup> December – Second Sunday of Advent	
First Reading	Isaiah 2:1-5	First Reading	Isaiah 11:1-10
Second Reading	Romans 13:11-14	Second Reading	Romans 15: 4-9
Gospel	Matthew 24:37-44	Gospel	Matthew 3:1-12