

Our Lady of the Valleys Parish
2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A
19th January 2020



Father Tony Kearns
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THE DEEP END

The Lamb of God

In today's Gospel, John the Baptist is inviting us to *look* at Jesus. He calls Jesus the '*lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world*'. We say these words often at mass and today we are invited to meditate on them more closely. What does it mean? In Jesus' time, two lambs were sacrificed in the Temple in Jerusalem each day. It was a ritual that invoked purity. Jesus will preach a love that is radical for many, in a world that was, and still is, broken. John refers to Jesus as the *lamb* as he knows that if one loves in such a way, they will suffer at the hands of unjust systems and institutions.

When we look at the 'sins' of our world today – broken relationships, crisis, can we also see those who, like Jesus, 'take away' the sins of the world? Christ's love was not passive, he actively challenged systems that were oppressive and which prevented people from living life to the full. Whether it be the climate crisis or the homelessness crisis or any number of issues we face, '*look*' where Jesus walks and is actively working to ease this suffering. When we hear these words at mass, let us be reminded of all those who sacrifice much to ease the sufferings of others. This is Christ, the 'lamb of God' active in our world today.

'The descent into the waters of our spirit, is a journey into the presence of divinity all human beings are children of God but not all live in the awareness that there is 'that of God' within them'

W.L. Wallace

Weekly Collection: \$ 1,212.50



PARISH PICNIC

On the 16th February at midday at the Presbytery grounds of Our Lady of Grace Church the Parish will be holding its **ANNUAL PARISH PICNIC**. Last year a fun time was had by all let's make this year even better. This is a good way to meet up with new and old parishioners in a relaxed atmosphere.

WELCOME BACK FR. TONY





PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES

We received two envelopes last week both of which the numbers are no longer in use. Could the person who has given these envelopes please contact the Parish Office on 04 972 4282. The first envelope is from January 2012 No 077. The second is from July 2015 No. 274

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.



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, Yvonne Avery, Fr. Patrick Greally, Michal George Petrus and Sister Mary Patricia Kraus. We also pray for 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 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	
19 th January – 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time		26 th January – 3 rd Sunday in Ordinary Time	
First Reading	Isaiah 49:3, 5-6	First Reading	Isaiah 8: 23-9:3
Second Reading	Corinthians 1: 1-3	Second Reading	Corinthians 1: 10-13, 17
Gospel	John 1: 29-34	Gospel	Matthew 4: 12-23