

Our Lady of the Valleys Parish
The Presentation of the Lord Year A
2nd February 2020



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THE DEEP END

The Presentation of the Lord

Unexpected moments:

It was an important day for this little family, when Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem. Did they expect everything to go smoothly, or had they already had to let go of some of their dreams and plans? After all, the story of Jesus' birth had already been unusual, not to mention the shepherds turning up to visit the newborn Messiah. Still, they could not have expected two elderly people to suddenly appear in the Temple with a message about their child – that he was going to do great things but also would be rejected and cause great pain to his mother. Was it at this moment that they realised life would never be the same again?

The most important messages can come from unexpected sources. Anna and Simeon were advanced in years, wise and devout people who had lived well, and still hoped and trusted in God's plan. This encounter was unexpected for them too, taking place close to the end of their lives; but they were ready, willing and able to recognise its significance. Their call was to be among the first people to encounter the Messiah and to share the Good News. What is our call? The story of Anna and Simeon shows us the value of being open to an encounter with Jesus. Despite what we have been through, or what stage we are at in life, there are good things to come. Each of us has something unique to offer. We pray that we will recognise the unexpected opportunities to encounter God that come our way.

Triona Doherty
Email trionad@gmail.com

Weekly Collection: \$ 1,178.80



FAMILY MASS AND PARISH PICNIC

On the 16th February at the 10:30 am Mass will have its first **FAMILY MASS for 2020**. All families are invited to come to this celebration *If your family would like to be involved in the Family Mass please contact Liz McCaul on 527 3211 or Father Tony*

After Mass please stay on for the **ANNUAL PARISH PICNIC** at midday in the Presbytery grounds of Our Lady of Grace Church the Parish. 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. Feel free to come in picnic attire to the Mass with your lunch to save going home. There will be **NO Morning Tea** in the Pettit Centre that day.



IN THE PARISH		
Sat 1 st Feb	2:00 pm	Circle of Friendship at the Pettit Centre
Tue 4 th Feb	5:30 pm	Men's Group at Silverstream Bowling Club
Wed 5 th Feb	9.30 am	Opening School Mass at OLOG
Wed 5 th Feb	12:30 pm	Catholic Women's League at the Pettit Centre



PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES

We received two envelopes 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**

THE LITTLE BLACK BOOK provides the framework to enjoy one of the Church's oldest traditions of prayer called Lectio Divina - sacred reading. People are often surprised at how easy it is to pray this way, and how deep such prayer can be. It can change your day or your life. Six minutes a day. That's what you're asked to give during these next 40 days of Lent. There are 15 copies available in the Church foyer at \$6 per book and if more are required please put your name down and we shall order some more.



PARISH CDF LOAN FOR EARTHQUAKE STRENGTHENING

The Finance Committee is pleased to advise parishioners that the final Loan repayment for the CDF loan was made this week. The Loan was taken out in 2010 for almost \$200,000 to provide funding for remedying the 'leaky building' issues in the Heretaunga Presbytery and the Earthquake Strengthening of OLOG Church. The Finance Committee and Parish Council thanks all those who over the last 9 years have supported the Parish with their financial contributions and also the various "Fun and Fund Raising" efforts undertaken to repay the loan.



CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE

Ladies of the Parish are invited to the CWL Garden Party at the Pettit Centre on the 5th of February 2020. Theme "Wearable Arts Show" you may wish to come at 12.30pm for lunch bring a small plate, or at 1.30pm for the Wearable Arts Parade.



You may wish to wear something you have created out of recyclables.

MEMBERS just a reminder subs are now due.

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.

ASHES FOR ASH WEDNESDAY

Parishioners are invited to bring their Palms from last year's Palm Sunday service to leave in the basket in the foyer of the Church ready for this coming Ash Wednesday. These will be burnt to provide the Ashes used to mark the beginning of Lent on 26th February. Thank you.



SILENT MEDITATION/CONTEMPLATION

A Christian Meditation Group meet every Monday afternoon from 1.30 to 2.30 p.m. at Marian Court (on the corner of 1 Perry St. next to the Home of Compassion). Meetings resume on Monday February 3rd. We welcome those interested to join us. Contact Sr. Annette at Marian Court Ph 5271216 Or 5270190

OPENING SCHOOL MASS

St Brendan's School will be holding its Opening Mass on Wednesday 5th February in Our Lady of Grace Church. All parishioners are invited to attend this celebration, that ask for God's help for staff and students as they spend time this year learning about God – Father, Son and Spirit, and the wonderful world that he has given us. **NOTE this Mass will begin at 9:30 am.**



QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORT October to December 2019 from the FINANCE COMMITTEE

Operating Income	48,008
Less Expenditure	
Pastoral	(20,755)
Property	(7,794)
Administration	(7,694)
Total Operating Expenditure	(36,243)
Net Operating Excess(Deficit)	11,764
Balance Sheet Inflows	6,583
Extraordinary	
Balance Sheet Outflows	(14,348)
Excess (Deficit) for Quarter	3,999



The Year to Date Cash deficit as at 31st December was recorded at **(\$9,983)**

ECOLOGY, JUSTICE AND PEACE

Simeon sees the Child and he sees salvation. He does not see the Messiah who works miracles, but a small child. He does not see something extraordinary, but Jesus with his parents, who bring a pair of turtledoves or two pigeons to the temple, which is the most humble offering. Simeon sees God's simplicity and welcomes his presence. He is not looking for anything else, is not asking or wanting for something more; it is enough to see the Child and take him in his arms. God, as he, is enough for him.

Pope Francis: [Homily for the Feast of the Presentation of our Lord](#), 2019



ST VALENTINE'S DAY

We are excited to once again invite all couples to the Annual St Valentine's Day Mass with Cardinal John Dew. The Mass will be celebrated at St Joseph's Church, Mt Victoria on Friday 14th February 2020 at 7pm. This is always a wonderful occasion to celebrate the Sacrament of married love. We invite you and your parishioners to join with us on this wonderful day.

WAITANGI DAY MASS:

Nau mai, haere mai! The customary Waitangi Day Mass to pray for this land and all who dwell here under the guardianship of the Treaty will be celebrated on Thursday, 6th February, 9am at St Mary of the Angels, Boulcott St, Wellington. This Mass combines the choirs of St Mary of the Angels and Te Ngākau Tapu parish for Māori in Porirua. Languages used will be Māori, English and Latin with prayers in various other languages. Celebrant: Mons. Gerard Burns, Vicar-General and PP of Te Ngākau Tapu parish. Inquiries to the parish secretary, St Mary of the Angels (04) 473 8074.



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, Lenny Naidoo, Yvonne Avery, and Fr Patrick Greally. 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 (Sat) and 8:30am (Sun)

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	
2 nd February Presentation of the Lord		9 th February Fifth week in Ordinary Time	
First Reading	Malachi 3; 1-4	First Reading	Isaiah 58: 7-10
Second Reading	Hebrews 2: 14-18	Second Reading	Corinthians 2: 1-5
Gospel	Luke 2: 22-40	Gospel	Mathew 5: 13-16