

**Our Lady of the Valleys Parish**  
**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time**  
**9<sup>nd</sup> February 2020**



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**THE DEEP END**

This little light of mine ...

I'm gonna let it shine! Perhaps you are familiar with this popular hymn. It is often used in children's liturgies, and was in fact written as a gospel song for children in the 1920s. It later became something of an anthem for the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 60s, associated in particular with civil rights leader Fannie Lou Hamer. The song was seen as a way of expressing unity, as people fought for equal rights and freedom.

'This Little Light of Mine' is based on the words of Matthew's Gospel that we hear today: 'No one lights a lamp to put it under a tub... your light must shine in the sight of men.' Without the light of those who were part of the civil rights movement, our world would be a very different place. There are good people everywhere who continue to fight for justice and freedom, who use their 'light' to help others and make sure people are treated fairly and with dignity – both those who campaign and speak out about injustice, and the people on the ground who support the sick, the homeless, refugees and others experiencing difficulties. Witnessing so much suffering, it might be tempting for these 'people of light' to become disheartened, but they carry on, using their compassion and skills to bring about change, shining their light in the darkness. As followers of Christ, we are called to light up the world. Take some time this week to think about how you can let your light shine.

'A community of Jesus which seeks to hide itself has ceased to follow him.'

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

**Weekly Collection: \$ 1,354.00**



**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

COMING  
UP

Tue 11 <sup>th</sup> Feb	7.00 pm	St Vincent de Paul meeting – Stokes Valley
Wed 12 <sup>th</sup> Feb	7.15 pm	St Vincent de Paul meeting - Heretaunga
Thur 13 <sup>th</sup> Feb	7.30 pm	Parish Finance Committee



### 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.

### 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 23<sup>rd</sup> 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

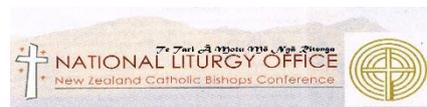
Parishioners are invited to bring their Palms from last year's Palm Sunday service to leave in the basket in the foyer of the Church ready for this coming Ash Wednesday. These will be burnt to provide the Ashes used to mark the beginning of Lent on 26<sup>th</sup> February. Thank you.



### 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 14<sup>th</sup> February 2020 at 7pm. We invite you and your parishioners to join with us on this wonderful day.

## CORONAVIRUS AND LITURGY



The National Liturgy Office has sent out a letter regarding the Corona virus and its possible impact in New Zealand in relation to the reception of Holy Communion. Should an outbreak be recorded in New Zealand up to date information and clear procedures will be implemented but at this time it is sufficient to remind parishioners that:

- ✘ the reception of the Body and Blood of Jesus, while it is a more complete sign of communion is not necessary in order to receive all the fruits of Eucharistic grace.
- ✘ Many parishioners will be aware of their own vulnerability of health or perhaps have been in contact with someone recently returned from overseas. These may want to restrict bodily contact or to refrain from taking Holy Communion under both forms.

The full text of the communication from the National Liturgy Office is available in the foyer of both churches

## SPIRITUALITY OF SERVICE

Arising from the 2017 Synod, Sr Elizabeth Julian RSM PhD, has developed a programme on “Spirituality of Service”.

This Lenten journey will be presented locally by way of 10-15-minute videos, prayer, scripture, Pope Francis writings, and questions for shared discussion. For more information see Church notice Board or phone John O’Malley on (04) 970 6392, or 0274 370 130.



## CIRCLE OF FRIENDSHIP

It was great to welcome 21 friends back for our first gathering last Saturday!

With a NZ theme as a nod to Waitangi Day, we enjoyed sharing some kiwi icons, stories and a brief history of the Treaty.

The popular 'book swap table' continues, and our collection of small toiletry items for women in need is appreciated. A gold coin donation covers expenses and gifts to charities.

Mark your diaries for our next gathering, (Parish hall, Saturday March 7th at 2pm) when our guest speaker Jill Birkett, will share her experiences of her recent Camino walk.

## PĀ MARIA MARIST SPIRITUALITY CENTRE

The programme for 2020 is now available - if you would like a copy, please contact Brian Cummings SM at [bgcumplings@xtra.co.nz](mailto:bgcumplings@xtra.co.nz)

## 40 DAYS FOR LIFE

From February 26 through April 5, you’re invited to join other Christians for 40 Days for Life – 40 days of prayer and fasting for an end to abortion. You’re also invited to stand and peacefully pray during a 40-day vigil on the public footpath outside Te Mahoe in Wellington Regional Hospital. Six babies are known to have been saved at previous vigils in New Zealand. If you’d like more information – and especially if you’d like to volunteer to help, please contact: 021 231 7954 and [fli.org.nz/40daysforlife](http://fli.org.nz/40daysforlife)



**ECOLOGY, JUSTICE AND PEACE**

We want to kindle a flame of hope... Christians are the light of the world not only when everything is bright around them, but also when, in dark moments of history, they refuse to be resigned to the encircling gloom but instead feed the wick of hope with the oil of prayer and love.

Pope Francis: Prayer Meeting with Heads of Churches and Christian communities of the ME,



**NZ CATHOLIC** Feb. 9-22 issue is out now. Some headlines are: Filipino-Kiwis made papal knight and dame. 250 years since first Mass in NZ waters. Three bishops bless West Coast memorial. Wellington Compassion Sister awarded QSM. The next issue of NZ Catholic will be published on February 23.

**“LET THE CHILDREN COME TO ME”**

‘Parents must not worry about their young children disrupting church services, as a baby’s cry is a “beautiful homily” said **Pope Francis**’. Speaking as he baptised 32 children in the Sistine Chapel on Sunday he pointed out that children are “choral”, and if one is making a noise “they all begin and a concert will take place”.



**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, and Yvonne Avery, 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 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday – 11:30 am**  
**Weekdays–** Tues, Thurs, 9:30am Mass – Wed, 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	
9 <sup>th</sup> February Fifth week in Ordinary Time		16 <sup>th</sup> February Sixth week in Ordinary Time	
First Reading	Isaiah 58: 7-10	First Reading	Ecus. 15:15-20
Second Reading	Corinthians 2: 1-5	Second Reading	Corinthians 2: 6-10
Gospel	Mathew 5: 13-16	Gospel	Mathew 5: 17-37