

**Our Lady of the Valleys Parish**  
**7<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**23<sup>rd</sup> February 2020**



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## THE DEEP END

### Day of Prayer for Temperance

The power of forgiveness 'I bear no ill will. I bear no grudge. Dirty sort of talk is not going to bring her back to life. She's in heaven and we shall meet again. I will pray for these men tonight and every night.' These words of Gordon Wilson echoed across the world in 1987, just hours after his 20-year-old daughter Marie was killed in an IRA bomb in Enniskillen. Very few words in the history of the Northern Ireland conflict had such a powerful impact. His extraordinary capacity to forgive the people who had caused him so much pain helped to move along the slow process.'

Gordon Wilson was the personification of the words of Jesus: 'love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.' It is one of the most difficult and challenging passages in the Gospels; one commentator calls it 'Jesus' most unreasonable command.' Living under oppressive Roman rule, with torture and murder not uncommon, the disciples knew what it was to hate their enemies. As we read and listen to the news today, the cruelty of people continues to astound and upset us. But Jesus reminds us that everyone is human. All are children of God, who 'causes his sun to rise on bad men as well as good.' While we clearly don't accept or excuse the terror and evil in the world, we cannot dehumanise those who carry out despicable actions. It is much easier said than done, but we must strive to meet hatred with love. With God, there is always forgiveness; there is always hope.

'Returning hate for hate multiplies hate, adding deeper darkness to a night already devoid of stars. Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.'

Martin Luther King Jr

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**Weekly Collection: \$ 1,368.50**



### CAN YOU HELP?

The S.V.D.P. Society are desperate for volunteers for VINNIES shop at 3 Scott Court Stokes Valley. We work 4hour shifts, 10am to 1pm and 1pm to 4pm Monday to Friday, We would love to hear from you if you are able to help. Please ring Gordon Holmes on 04 938 2750

IN THE PARISH		
Wed 26 <sup>th</sup> Feb		ASH WEDNESDAY Mass times below
Wed 26 <sup>th</sup> Feb		Coffee morning at Silverstream Bakery after 9.30am Mass. All welcome.
Thur 27 <sup>th</sup> Feb	7:30 pm	Liturgy Meeting



**ASH WEDNESDAY**

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> February is the start of Lent for 2020. Masses will be offered in the Parish as follows

- 6:30 am Mass at Our Lady of Grace Church, Heretaunga
- 9:30 am Mass at Our Lady of Grace Church (with School)
- 7:30 pm Mass at St Francis Xavier Church Stokes Valley



**WEDNESDAYS OF LENT - MASS**

On each Wednesday in Lent there will be an additional Mass at Our Lady of Grace Church at 6:30 am for those who might like to choose this as a Lenten Observance.



**FAMILY MASS AND PARISH PICNIC 16<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY**

What a wonderful time we all had at last week's Parish picnic. The weather was perfect and the BBQ was in full force as we gathered together to relax, mix, mingle, catch up with old friends and make new ones. The lawn beside the church proved to be a great venue, with the leafy trees providing shade from the hot sun. Numerous chairs and rugs were nestled under the trees as groups socialised, enjoying each other's company.

Games for the children were thoroughly successful, as were the running races. Cricket was a favourite game for all ages, as was mini golf. The tug of war provided the usual fierce competition. The winning team is yet to be named. Thank you to the Parish Council for organising another successful event in our parish.

**THE LITTLE BLACK BOOK**

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 a few 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.



**SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION PROGRAMME 2020 – The Sacramental Programme for 2020 starts this Sunday 23rd Feb with the Parents' Meeting at 7:00pm in the Pettit Centre Heretaunga.**

At least one parent needs to come to this meeting as the material for the Reconciliation Programme will be handed out. The first session for the children is scheduled for 10:30 am Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March at Heretaunga. The candidates will be sent out at the beginning of the Mass.

Enrolment forms are still available in both Churches. Any enquiries please contact Fr Tony or Louise Peirce the Sacramental Programme Co-ordinator.

## WORSHIP NIGHT AT ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

OVERFLOW warmly welcomes all to the first Worship night of the year - FORGIVE AND OVERCOME. As we are starting our journey of preparation during lent, we invite everyone to join us on Saturday March 7 2020, 7pm at St Francis Xavier Church, Stokes Valley for praise, worship and fellowship! See you there!



## 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.



## 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, please contact 021 231 7954

## WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

This year the Ecumenical World Day of Prayer has been composed by the women of Zimbabwe and takes place on Friday March 6th.

The local celebrations will be at the Salvation Army Centre on Fergusson Drive at 10am and at St. Mary's Anglican Church in Silverstream. at 1p.m.

Our Lady of Grace members will take special part in the latter one and all parishioners are invited to attend. If you would like to be there please contact Geraldine ([mgsims@xtra.co.nz](mailto:mgsims@xtra.co.nz)). If you have any items from Africa or mats from any country please bring them. There will be a rehearsal on Friday Feb 28th at 1.p.m. at St. Mary's Silverstream

## HOLY HOUR

You are invited to a Holy Hour on Tuesday 25 February 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.



## NZ CATHOLIC

The Feb. 23 – March 7 issue is out now. Some headlines are: Change of venue for bishop ordination. NZ take on Pope's Amazon document. Coronavirus crisis prompts prayers. Pro-life groups pan abortion select committee process. The next issue of NZ Catholic will be published on March 8.

## ABOUT TO GET MARRIED?

Could you successfully run a marathon without preparing for it? Of course not! Engaged Encounter Weekends this year are heavily booked. Weekends are 14 & 15 March 2020; 18 & 19 July 2020; 14 & 15 November 2020 all at St Teresa's Presbytery, 301 Karori Road, Karori, Wellington For more information phone Kate and Simon on 801 6192



## ECOLOGY, JUSTICE AND PEACE

Starting from our roots, let us sit around the common table, a place of conversation and of shared hopes. In this way our differences, which could seem like a banner or a wall, can become a bridge. Identity and dialogue are not enemies. Our own cultural identity is strengthened and enriched as a result of dialogue with those unlike ourselves.

Pope Francis: *Querida Amazonia*, February 2020



**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, Stan Wishnowsky, Beatrice McEvoy and Tom Ryan. We also pray for Nora Abancio 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 (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	
23 <sup>rd</sup> February Seventh week in Ordinary Time		1 <sup>st</sup> March First week of Lent	
First Reading	Levit. 19: 1-2, 17-18	First Reading	
Second Reading	Corinthians 3: 16-23	Second Reading	Romans 5: 12-19
Gospel	Mathew 5: 38-48	Gospel	Mathew 4: 1-11