

Our Lady of the Valleys Parish
1th Sunday of Lent
1st March 2020



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THE DEEP END

Embrace the Wilderness

We journey into the desert as we begin Lent 2020, and we are encouraged to embrace the richness of this time and the possibilities that lie within. The desert can be unappealing, we may feel a resistance to the challenge, but the potential is enormous. Going inward, praying, fasting, taking on, giving – all of these practices offer us opportunities for genuine spiritual growth. It is through this journey that we can deepen our relationship with the One who urges us on. We should not be afraid of the desert for, as the Gospel today tells us, it is the Spirit who leads us on this path.

Let us bring to mind this season the fact that our global community stands at a crossroads, confronted with a frightening environmental crisis, another type of wilderness. We watched in horror this past year as wildfires destroyed vast ecosystems in the Amazon, Indonesia and Australia, killing an estimated one billion animals, destroying homes and taking lives. Ecologists in Ireland also tell us that to look out at the Irish countryside today is to look and see what is no longer there. Another wilderness.

Lent is an opportunity to examine our lifestyles and to think about our relationship with God's creation. As Catholic faith communities, let us embrace the challenge to care for our common home in these weeks, making small changes. We can all do something: eliminate single-use plastics, fast from our cars, plant trees, bring a small group together to read Laudato Si, pray for our world leaders. Let this be a time of discerning our call to care more for this planet, our home.

'Truly much can be done!' (Laudato Si 180)

Jane Mellet
Melletj@gmail.com

Weekly Collection: \$ 1,310.20



CAN YOU HELP?

The S.V.D.P. Society are desperate for volunteers for VINNIES shop at 3 Scott Court Stokes Valley. We work 3hour 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

Tue 3 rd Mar	5.30 pm	Men's Group at Silverstream Bowling Club
Wed 4 th Mar	1.30 pm	Catholic Women's League in the Pettit Centre
Sat 7 th Mar	2.00 pm	Circle of Friendship at the Pettit Centre



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.



CIRCLE OF FRIENDSHIP

All ladies are invited to join Our Lady of the Valleys Parish ladies' friendship gathering next Saturday, **7 March**, for fellowship and a cuppa in the Pettit Centre between 2-4pm. Jill Birkett will talk about her experiences Walking the Camino. As usual we will be continuing our book swap table. A gold coin donation towards our charities **or** a small toiletry donation would be appreciated.

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.



CAR BOOT SALE

The Fund Raising Committee is looking to hold a Car boot Sale on the 21 March 2020 at Lady of Grace Church grounds 5 Palmer Crescent Upper Hutt from 10:00 am to 1:30pm. This will be a great opportunity to clear out the cupboards /shed. Contact Mike on 0211233211 to book a space or team up with others in a combined space. \$20:00 per space. We are also looking for volunteers to help out on the day with parking so if you can help please call.

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



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



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). 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.

EL POZON MISSION APPEAL FOLLOW-UP

For a number of years this Parish raised money for the Missionary Sisters of the Society of Mary working in El Pozon, Columbia. When the Sisters moved out of this area because of dwindling numbers some moneys remained. It was decided that it should be handed over to other SMSM Sisters working in the Castro Prison in Lima, Peru. We received word from Sr. Carlota that some of the money was used to provide school supplies for prisoner's families, but \$2000NZ was used to buy a Leather sewing machine for the prison workshops. The proceeds of the sale of these items go to assist prisoner's families. The letter and some samples of the produce will be on display in our churches this weekend. The kitchen equipment that we helped purchase is still being used to feed local children. Tony Packer



CAN YOU HELP ST BRENDAN'S SCHOOL ROAD PATROLLERS?

We need adults to support our Year 6 Road Patrol teams on Palmer Crescent and Sutherland Avenue as they are busy roads. If you, a family member or a friend, can help support between 8.30am-9am, or 2.45pm-3.10pm one day a week please contact the school office on 9391909 or

office@stbrendans.school.nz.

St Brendan's Camp 2020 Our Year 7-8 team is counting down with great enthusiasm. They are looking forward to a week in Nelson where they will have the opportunity to participate in a range of activities at TeaPot Valley Camp, explore Nelson city where they will climb to the geographical centre of New Zealand and walk in the Abel Tasman National Park. Our fundraising has included muffi days, bake sales, pre-loved clothing sales and participation at the Market Night. We were also successful with two community grant applications. Camp will cost \$200 per student, if you are able to sponsor, or part sponsor a student, we invite you to make contact with our school office.

ECOLOGY, JUSTICE AND PEACE

Putting the paschal mystery at the centre of our lives means feeling compassion towards the wounds of the crucified Christ present in the many innocent victims of wars, in attacks on life, from that of the unborn to that of the elderly, and various forms of violence. They are likewise present in environmental disasters, the unequal distribution of the earth's goods, human trafficking in all its forms, and the unbridled thirst for profit, which is a form of idolatry.

Pope Francis: [Message for Lent 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, Donald O'Grady, Stan Wishnowsky, Beatrice McEvoy Tom Ryan, Krystyna Downey, Fr. Fergus Reeves and Shadow Hannah Larkin. We also pray for Fr. Miguel Abangan 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 4th 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

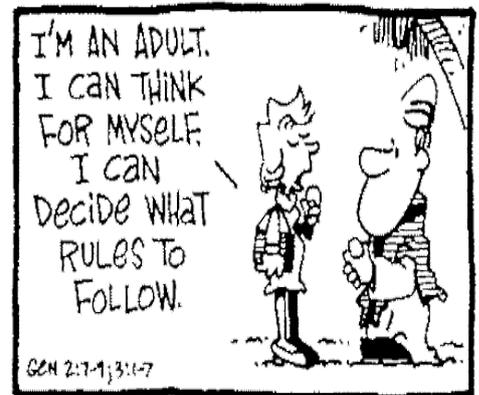
Terry 528 6313

Petone Shop 568 6408

St Vincent de Paul – Stokes Valley

Gordon 938 2750

Stokes Valley Shop 563 9278



Sunday Readings		Sunday Readings	
1 st March First week of Lent		1 st March First week of Lent	
First Reading	Genesis 2:7-9, 3:1-7	First Reading	Genesis 12:1-4
Second Reading	Romans 5: 12-19	Second Reading	2Timothy 1:8-10
Gospel	Mathew 4: 1-11	Gospel	Mathew 17: 1-9