

Our Lady of the Valleys Parish
3rd Sunday of Lent
15th March 2020



Father Tony Kearns
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THE DEEP END

'Give me a drink!'

In today's Gospel, we hear the wonderful account of the woman at the well. We hear of physical thirst but also of a much deeper thirst, for connection and conversion.

During Lent, we are invited into the lives of Trocaire's partners in the global south. We meet Madris in Kenya, who walks around the dusty brown patch of land beside her small home, where she lives with her six children. There are no crops visible, just a few scraggy bushes. Madris tells us, 'I feel very bad when the rains don't come because all my plants depend on rainfall.' Water scarcity worldwide is being accelerated by the climate crisis. Scientists tell us that rain-fed agriculture will drop by 50% world-wide by 2030, due to global warming.

When we think of how we might help, we give, and that is good. But we must also be aware of a deeper conversion that is needed. Change is possible, solutions are there, and as faith communities we are invited into this journey of change. The woman in the Gospel today is so deeply affected by her encounter with Christ that she runs to tell the others. May we also be enthused and open to a real thirst for climate justice, aware that we are called to 'an ecological conversion whereby the effects of our encounter with Jesus Christ become evident in our relationship with the world around us. Living our vocation to be protectors of God's handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or a secondary aspect of our Christian experience.' (*Laudato Si*, 217)

A **challenge**: How much water do you use? Where water is concerned how can you serve God more fully?

Jane Mellet
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Weekly Collection: \$ 1,002.50

Thanks

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.

We welcome and thank the Marist priests who are filling in for Fr Tony while he is away this weekend.

IN THE PARISH

Wed 18 th Mar	11.00 am	Mass with Anointing – Pettit Centre
Thurs 19 th Mar	1.30 pm	Mass with Anointing at Stokeswood Rest Home
Thur 19 th Mar	7.30 pm	Parish Council Meeting



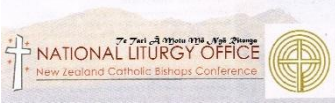
Please note there will be **NO 9:00 am Mass** on 18th March at OLOG and **NO 9:30 am Mass** on 19th March at SFX.



PALMS FOR PALM SUNDAY

In preparation for Palm Sunday in April of this year the Liturgy Committee realised that supplier of the large **PHOENIX palms** that are used to decorate both churches was no longer able to assist us. They are enquiring if there is/are parishioner(s) who have a mature phoenix palm on their property which the Parish could call on for the supply of palms for decorating the Church. If you can help out please contact the Parish Office 972 4282

UPDATE ON COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS AND CATHOLIC LITURGY FROM NATIONAL LITURGY OFFICE



Following discussions over the weekend with health professionals about the implication of COVID-19 Coronavirus on Catholic gatherings for liturgy, our advice is that the current standard procedures for safeguarding health continue to be followed and there is no need for churches to take further precautions at this stage. Should there be need for restrictions on receiving communion or exchange of Sign of Peace these will be immediately notified to parishes throughout the country.

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.



SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION PRAYER REQUESTS

In the foyer of both churches are cards that have the name of one of the candidates in this year’s Sacramental Preparation Program. Parishioners are invited to take one of these cards and pray for the names candidate as they move through program this year towards First Holy Communion. This is a way we all can support these young members of our faith family on their journey of faith.

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



SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

The communal celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation (**RITE II**) will be celebrated at St Francis Xavier Church on Sunday 29th March at 3:00 pm. An invitation is offered to all in the Parish who wish to experience God's loving grace and forgiveness to join us at this celebration. We will be joined at this liturgy by the twenty-five young candidates who will be receiving the Sacrament for the first time.



If you would prefer to have the Sacramental privately under the **RITE I** format, Father Tony is usually available after the weekday Masses at St Francis Xavier or Our Lady of Grace Church or you can ring him at the Presbytery (972 4282) to arrange a time at your convenience.



MINISTRY VOLUNTEER'S FOR HOLY WEEK EVENTS

In the upcoming week members of the Liturgy Committee will be looking for people to assist in the celebration of the various services during Holy Week. The services range from Palm Sunday (where additional readers for the Passion Gospel; representatives to attend the Chrism Mass to receive the Holy Oils for the Parish; people to have their feet washed on Holy Thursday; Readers and Eucharistic Minister for Good Friday through to more decorators and readers for the additional reading at the Easter Vigil; To try to make it easier for these people (and to save some of the ringing around that happens to cover all the events/ministries) lists of the ways that parishioners can assist have been placed in the foyer of both Churches. If you are a minister and know that you will be at a certain ceremony please indicate your willingness to assist.

ECOLOGY, JUSTICE AND PEACE

Jesus' thirst was not so much for water, but for the encounter with a parched soul. Jesus needed to encounter the Samaritan woman in order to open her heart: he asks for a drink so as to bring to light her own thirst. The woman is moved by this encounter: she asks Jesus several profound questions that we all carry within but often ignore. Pope Francis: [Angelus](#), 23 March 2014

CIRCLE OF FRIENDSHIP

Over 40 women gathered last Saturday for our second meeting of the year, to hear about Jill Birkett's experiences of the Camino Walk, and visit to Mary's house in Ephesus, Turkey. With beautiful copies of photos to illustrate her talk, Jill held our attention and admiration. This was evident with the questions that followed, regarding the preparation and fitness required for this pilgrimage. There was a 'friendly buzz' in the hall, as folk met and mingled over a delicious afternoon tea to finish the afternoon's meeting.



We extend an invitation to our church community and friends, to come along next meeting on Saturday April 4th 2pm-4pm, for some light entertainment (as the theme is 'Humour!') eg :Stories , jokes, experiences, songs, poems etc to share, or simply to listen and enjoy.



NZ CATHOLIC

The March 8-21 issue is out now. Some headlines are: Married priests issue still up for discussion. Cathedral meals help Hamilton's needy. Burying Alleluia for Lent. Tips for Music Ministers. The next issue of NZ Catholic will be published on March 22.

GREENSTONE DOORS is in need of volunteers for both our Upper Hutt and Lower Hutt branch. Do you have a few hours to spare each week? We are looking for volunteers who have a heart for woman and children and can work with a diverse range of people in a non-judgmental way. We need people who can help with reception duties, sorting baby clothing and hospitality. Please contact Jennie office@greenstonedoors.co.nz.

ALPHA TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE EVENING

On Tuesday 31st March, 6.00pm-8.00pm at Connolly Hall, Guilford Terrace, Wellington- Parking available in Sacred Heart Primary School grounds. Finger Food will be provided



This evening will show case how Alpha works and would be a great introduction for any parish that may be thinking of running an Alpha programme this year. It will also give some training for people who are going to be group leaders and helpers. Please register with Chris Walkerdine at c.walkerdine@wn.catholic.org.nz or telephone 496-1706 by March 26th for catering purposes.



PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER all who are sick and unwell especially Mary Duncan and those who are lonely and worried. We pray also for those souls in purgatory and who have died recently including, Ian Simpson, Jim Gennet, Robin De Simas, Fr Pat McCann SM, Donald O’Grady, Stan Wishnowsky, Beatrice McEvoy, Tom Ryan, and Shadow Hannah Larkin. 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, 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	
15th March Third Sunday of Lent		22nd March Fourth Sunday of Lent	
First Reading	Exodus 17:3-7	First Reading	Samuel 16: 1, 6-7, 10-13
Second Reading	Romans 5:1-2, 5-8	Second Reading	Ephesians 5:8-14
Gospel	John 4: 5-42	Gospel	John 9: 1-41