

Our Lady of the Valleys Parish
15th Sunday in Ordinary Time
12th July 2020



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THE DEEP END –

Today's Gospel is in three parts: the parable Jesus taught, an explanation on how to listen, and an explanation of the parable Jesus taught. The parable itself is well known and concerns seeds, where they land, and what happens to them. We might take note of the seeds as representing God's

Word and the effect it has, or does not have, on us. What makes the difference in the parable is the type of soil the seed lands on and how suitable it is for growth to take place. Let us consider our own hearts as the soil: how open are we to receiving seeds that may be planted there? What condition is our 'soil' in?

Any decent gardener will know that good soil is key in order to cultivate anything. Soil needs to be weathered, broken down; it can be too acidic, or it can be too alkaline. Good soil needs organic matter such as compost or manure. It needs lots of air and water; it needs to be tended and prepared.

We too are weathered down by various forces in our lives, and at times have manure thrown at us. This can either close us down and harden our hearts, or it can open us up help us to grow, ready to receive the seeds that are scattered. Like the soil, we must take care of our bodies, hearts, and minds, adopt a holistic approach to our well-being.

The lesson on 'hearing' in the Gospel today is also important. How do we listen? Do we listen or read God's word while being distracted by many things, or are we fully attentive, even for a few minutes each day? How do we listen to one another? Fully attentive or with one eye on our phone? There is a great richness in the text today, spend time with it. Perhaps think about how you might prepare better the soil for planting.

'The soil is the great connector of lives, the source and destination of all. It is the healer and restorer and resurrector, by which disease passes into health, age into youth, death into life. Without proper care for it we can have no community, because without proper care for it we can have no life.' (Wendell Berry)

Jane Mellett

Weekly Collection: \$ 911.90

NZ COVID TRACER QR CODE

The incidents this week in Auckland around people leaving imposed isolation and moving in the community has highlighted to us all the importance of CONTACT TRACING that keeps us all safe in LEVEL 1 of COVID-19.

We would encourage parishioners to co-operate in this matter by using the booking in system for Sunday masses. Parishioners can continue to access the system by the parish website <https://www.picktime.com/OLOVMassAvailability>

QR Code is now available in all meeting rooms and in both Churches to assist in this tracking.

IN THE PARISH		
Wed 15 th July	11:00 am	Anointing Mass Pettit Centre HTG
Thurs 16 th July	1:30 pm, 7.30 pm	Anointing Mass Stokeswood Resthome SV Parish Council Meeting
Sun 19 th July	Noon	Parish Luncheon at RSA Stokes Valley
Sat 1 st August	10:30 am	CHRISM MASS at Our Lady of Kapiti Church
Sun 9 th August	9:30 am	Cardinal John joining us at Mass OLOG
Sun 30 th August	2:00 pm	AGM at Pettit Centre Heretaunga



PARISH LUNCH



Our annual Parish Lunch hosted by the Family Groups is on next **Sunday 19th July at noon** at the Stokes Valley RSA.

EVERYONE in the parish is invited - we would love to see all ages there. Cost is **\$18 per person** which we ask that you pay by Monday 13th July in a named envelope to the Parish office or to a Family Group leader.

ANOINTING MASS THIS WEEK

An Anointing Mass will be celebrated this week on Wednesday at the Pettit Centre in Heretaunga at 11:00am and on Thursday at 1:30pm at the Stokeswood Resthome in Stokes Valley All are invited to attend.. **NOTE the regular Masses on those days have been cancelled.**

CHRISM MASS for 2020



The Chrism Mass is usually held in Holy Week just before Easter. This year because of the LEVEL 4 lockdown that was in place the ceremony was deferred until later in the year. Cardinal John has now advised that it will be celebrated at **10:30 am on Saturday 1st August at Our Lady of Kapiti Church in Paraparaumu.** All parishioners are invited.

In order that Father Tony may attend there will be **NO Mass at 9:30 am** at Our Lady of Grace Church that day.

The Blessed Oils will be formally received at all Sunday Masses held that weekend.

AGM - NOMINATION OF NEW PARISH COUNCILLORS



With an eye of the upcoming Annual General Meeting, a number of current Parish Councillors' term of appointment have come to an end. Currently Parish Councillors stand for a two-year term with the right of renewal for two more terms.

Nominations are open for new Parish Councillors and nomination forms are available in the foyer of both churches. These should be filled in and returned back to the Parish Office by Friday 31st July. This time frame allows time for the nominated candidates' names to be advised to the Parish before the Annual General Meeting.

Please take the time to prayerfully discern who you think might be a suitable person to serve our Parish on the Parish Council. If you would like more details on the role of Parish Councillors and the function of the Parish Council please feel free to speak to one of the existing Parish Councillors or Father Tony.

Also don't forget to mark your calendars for the AGM itself 2:00pm at the Pettit Centre Heretaunga on Sunday August 30th.



CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE

CWL are collecting new pyjamas to donate to the Wellington Children's Hospital. By request of the Children's Hospital the PJ's age for children is 1-15 years. Please only new PJ's due to health reasons and that the PJ's are up to the NZ Product Safety Standard and carry the Fire Safety Certification (Please check the label). The PJ's can be left at the parish office (9am-1pm). Any questions please contact either Chris 528 7848 or Marilyn 528 4869

PA MARIA MARIST Spirituality Centre Revised Programme for 2020, with dates for the Winter Film Series, Spiritual Theology Course and Non-Residential Retreat. For an emailed copy contact Brian Cummings SM bgcummings@xtra.co.nz

QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORT April to June 2020

Operating Income	49,086*
Less Expenses	
Pastoral Costs	(18,410)
Property Costs	(5,622)
Administration Costs	<u>(8,235)</u>
Total Operating Expenditure	(32,267)
Operating Surplus	16,819
Balance Sheet Inflows	4,897
Balance Sheet Outflows	<u>(4,642)</u>
Excess for the Quarter	17,073*



Note Income and Excess is high because Parish received Subsidy COVID-19 of \$10,000. Some of this will be repaid in July

CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES VOLUNTEER PROGRAMME

Catholic Social Services are looking for a suitable person to fill a volunteer role in the Upper Hutt area. In this role you will be offering support to a family that is isolated and needs support. Police checking is required to be a CSS volunteer. Full training and support is offered to all CSS volunteers. If you are interested please contact Karen Holland on 043858642 or email reception@wn.catholic.org.nz



CIRCLE OF FRIENDSHIP On Saturday, 4th July, about 30 Circle of Friendship ladies gathered together for the first time since March. "We'll meet again" was sung with enthusiasm to remember Dame Vera Lynn who passed away a few months ago. Many shared their experiences of life during lockdown - seeing grandchildren without being able to give them a hug, quiz nights, zoom calls, neighbours gathering to celebrate Anzac Day, attending Masses on line, Olympic games and many other fun ways of enjoying being together. Ladies were pleased to be with friends and commented on the value of community. A cuppa and lots of chat followed. A generous donation will be given to Wellington Free Ambulance. Toiletries were gathered to help women in need.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER all who are sick and unwell especially Ron Gillies who is improving, those affected by the COVID-19 virus, and those who are lonely and worried. We pray also for those who have died recently including *Adrienne Lacey, Mike Voce, Alice Ayers, Judith Anderson*. We also pray for those whose anniversary occurs at this time. May they rest in peace.

Sunday Readings		Sunday Readings	
12th July 15 th Sunday in Ordinary Time		19th July 16 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	
First Reading	Isaiah 55: 10-11	First Reading	Wis 12:13 16-19
Second Reading	Rom 8: 18-23	Second Reading	Rom 8: 26-27
Gospel	Matt 13: 1-23	Gospel	Matt 13: 24-43

NZ CATHOLIC July 12-25 issue is out now. HEADLINES: Church doesn't require Jesus to be blonde and blue-eyed. New home for babies and mothers. Christchurch parish outreach training planned. Caritas opposes West Bank plans.

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

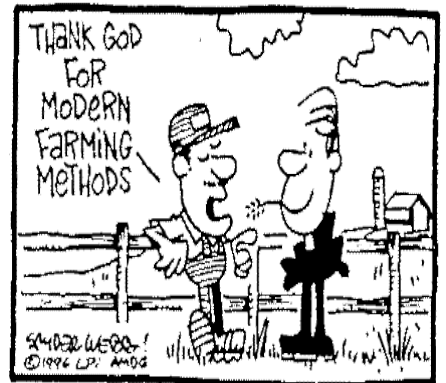
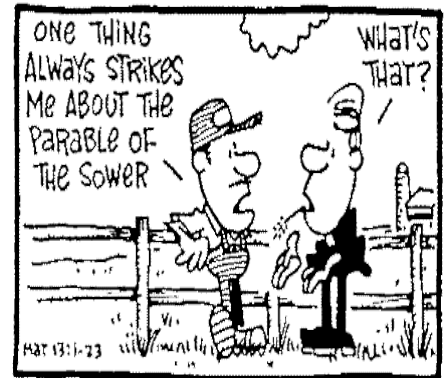
Terry 528 6313

Petone Shop 568 6408

St Vincent de Paul – Stokes Valley

Gordon 938 2750

Stokes Valley Shop 563 9278



SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

The Parable of the Sower

But the one who received the seed that fell on good soil is the man who hears the word and understands it. Matthew 13:23a
Choose the word that best matches the definition.



- ___ 1. A person who owns or takes care of a farm
A. baker B. farmer C. butcher D. teacher
- ___ 2. To put seeds in the ground so that plants will grow
A. rocky B. farmer C. path D. sow
- ___ 3. A small, usually hard part of a plant from which a new plant can grow
A. thorn B. seed C. soil D. root
- ___ 4. A way made by or for people walking on the ground
A. path B. sow C. rocky D. soil
- ___ 5. Covered with stones
A. seed B. rocky C. path D. thorns
- ___ 6. Small, sharp, pointed growths on the stem of a plant
A. soil B. shallow C. thorns D. sow
- ___ 7. Not deep
A. rocky B. shallow C. sow D. soil
- ___ 8. The part of a plant which grows down into the earth
A. thorn B. rocky C. root D. leaf
- ___ 9. The upper layer of earth that may be dug or plowed and in which plants grow
A. rocky B. soil C. farmer D. path
- ___ 10. Plants such as grain, vegetables, or fruit grown by farmers
A. crop B. shallow C. sow D. soil