

Our Lady of the Valleys Parish
17th Sunday in Ordinary Time
26th July 2020



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THE DEEP END –

Over the past few weeks, we have been reading Matthew 13, with its parables on the Kingdom of Heaven. Matthew uses this phrase to describe what our world might be like if we really lived like Jesus lives. This vision is not one focused on power, even though the word 'kingdom' might be misleading! It is more a web of relationships. Like the seed parables show us, God's Kingdom grows quietly, in unexpected places; like seeds, it sometimes grows in the darkness, unseen.

Today's parable focuses on treasure, something very precious. When we are obsessed with finding something, it consumes us. We will put all our resources, time or money, into finding it. In this parable, Jesus urges us to strive for *the* ultimate treasure, i.e. God.

During the Covid-19 crisis, many people have been thinking about what is most important in their lives. A break from the 'rat race' forced all of us to slow down, to step back, to 'pull the emergency brake.' We saw who the real heroes in our society are. We witnessed many acts of kindness and community spirit. We stepped back, paused. No doubt, things will not be the same again after this pandemic. But hopefully we will have awakened to what our 'treasure' really is.

'Historically, pandemics have forced humans to break with the past and imagine their world anew. This one is no different. It is a portal, a gateway between one world and the next. We can choose to walk through it, dragging the carcasses of our prejudice and hatred, our avarice, our data banks and dead ideas, our dead rivers and smoky skies behind us. Or we can walk through lightly, with little luggage, ready to imagine another world.'

Arundhati Roy, 'The Pandemic is a Portal,'

Financial Times

Jane Mellett

Weekly Collection: \$ 1,117.10

thankyou

EUTHANASIA BILL

If you need to learn more about this Bill leaflets are available at both Church foyers

PARISH LUNCH

Last Sunday we held the annual Parish Luncheon was held at the Stokes Valley RSA Clubrooms. A large number of parishioners came together to share great meal, great company and a lot of humour. Thanks to Heather and Terry O'Brien for helping to organise this event for us and for Trish and her crew out in the kitchen, who cooked and served the foods.



IN THE PARISH		
Wed 29th July	10.00 am	Coffee morning at The Garage Café (Brendan Foot site 485 Fergusson Drive Trentham) after 9.30am Mass. All welcome
Sat 1 st August	2.00 pm	Circle of Friendship
Sat 1 st August	10:30 am	CHRISM MASS at Our Lady of Kapiti Church
Sun 2 nd August	7:00pm	Parent Meeting for Sac Prog CONFIRMATION Pettit Centre
Sun 9th August	9:30 am	Cardinal John joining us at Mass OLOG
Sun 30 th August	2:00 pm	AGM at Pettit Centre Heretaunga



PARISH MASS On Sunday 9th August, Cardinal John will be celebrating a Parish Mass at Our Lady of Grace Church at 9:30 am. All parishioners are invited to attend this special celebration. There will be no 8:30 am Mass at St. Francis Xavier Church in Stokes Valley or the 10:30 am Mass at Our Lady of Grace Church in Heretaunga on this particular Sunday.



Students from our local Catholic School, St. Brendan's and our local Catholic college, St. Pat's are invited to wear their school uniform at this Mass.

After Mass you are invited to join the Cardinal at a special morning tea in St. Brendan's school hall. You are asked to bring a plate.



WANTED on the 9th of August at 9.30am volunteers for the morning tea after mass by Cardinal John. We need assistance in serving tea and coffee and tidying up afterwards. Parishioners are asked to bring a plate, please note that the parish will provide hot savouries so no food that requires heating please. If you can assist please contact Jovena at the Parish Office.

NZ COVID TRACER QR CODE

We would encourage parishioners to co-operate in Contact Tracing 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.



2020 SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME RESTART – SEASON OF CONFIRMATION

After a term's delay because of COVID-19 restrictions the 2020 Sacramental Programme is scheduled to restart on 2nd August. The 25 candidates completed their preparation for and received the Sacrament of Reconciliation in the last weeks of Term 2 and we congratulate them on this milestone. Preparation now begins for the Sacrament of CONFIRMATION. The first event is a **PARENTS' MEETING on 2nd August at 7:00pm in the Pettit Centre.** At least one parent of each candidate is expected to attend to be advised of details and to receive the workbook for the term.



NZ CATHOLIC The July 26 – August 8 issue is out now. Some headlines are: Small change to Opening Prayer at Mass. Mercy sister was hospice pioneer. Dunedin bishop returns to duties. Answering Jesus' call – vocations feature. The next issue of *NZ Catholic* will be published on August 9.

CIRCLE OF FRIENDSHIP at 2:00pm, Saturday 1st August at the Pettit Centre. *The theme will be Our Community.*

Bring along your thoughts of places you like to visit in our lovely City. Maybe your favourite walk or somewhere interesting where you enjoy spending time. Even an unknown historical fact if you know of any.

The book swap table will be available. A gold coin donation or a contribution of toiletries for women in need would be much appreciated. A cuppa and afternoon tea to follow.



We have been advised by the bank that they will not be accepting cheques from July 2021. Those who are still using cheques may want to switch to Automatic Payment or will have to shift to cash. Please contact the office if you wish to change over.

28th August 2020 – Stop supplying chequebooks

July 2021 – Stop cheque acceptance, cheque issuing and deposit paper

PARISH ROLL UPDATE

During the lockdown period the Parish Council organised a Telephone tree to keep in touch with parishioners. The compilation work highlighted that the Parish Roll maintained on a database may have become out of date as some listed parishioners could not be contacted. Parishioners are encouraged to contact Jovena in the Office to check that we have up to date contact information, address, email, and land and cell phone numbers. Your assistance would be appreciated.



COVID-19 LEVEL 1 RESPONSE AT MASS

Cardinal John has this week has updated the restrictions around the celebration of Mass. The restrictions around Holy Communion from the chalice for presiders only and the withdrawal of water stoups and fonts continues. **However**, the Sign of Peace is returned and parishioners are invited to offer this in the way they feel comfortable. **Also** Holy Communion on the tongue is now permitted. The full text of Cardinal John's letter is available in the foyer.

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 9:00 am** at Our Lady of Grace Church that day.

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



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



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 AGM.

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.

ECOLOGY, JUSTICE AND PEACE

The kingdom is here, it returns, it struggles to flourish anew. Christ's resurrection everywhere calls forth seeds of that new world; even if they are cut back, they grow again, for the resurrection is already secretly woven into the fabric of this history.

Pope Francis: [Evangelii Gaudium](#) paragraph 278

Sunday Readings		Sunday Readings	
26th July 17 th Sunday in Ordinary Time		26th July 17 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	
First Reading	1 Kg 3:5, 7-12	First Reading	Is 55: 1-3
Second Reading	Rom 8: 28-30	Second Reading	Rom 8: 35, 37-39
Gospel	Matt 13: 44-52	Gospel	Matt 14: 13-21



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 *Deirdre McEvoy, Joan Davis, Tele Asovale, Ron Stroud, and Adrienne Lacey*. We also pray for those whose anniversary occurs at this time including Jack O'Kane. 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 Stokes Valley

Terry 528 6313 Gordon 938 2750

Petone Shop 568 6408 SV Shop 563 9278

