

# Our Lady of the Valleys Parish



<b>Parish Priest</b>	Father Tony Kearns
<b>Church</b>	Our Lady of Grace Church, 5 Palmer Crescent, Heretaunga (HTG) St Francis Xavier Church, 152 Stokes Valley Road. Stokes Valley (SV)
<b>Sunday Eucharist</b>	Sat 5:30 pm Vigil (SV) 8:30 am (SV) and 10:30 am (HTG) Tuesday / Thursday 9:30 am (Stokes Valley)
<b>Weekday Eucharist</b>	Wednesday / Saturday 9:00 am (Heretaunga) Friday 9:30 am (Heretaunga)
<b>Adoration of Blessed Sacrament</b>	Friday 10:00 am to 6:00 pm (Heretaunga) [term time]
<b>Reconciliation</b>	By appointment with Parish Priest
<b>Presbytery and Parish Office</b>	5 Palmer Crescent Heretaunga <b>Tel</b> (04) 972 4282
<b>Parish Administrator</b>	Monday - Friday 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.olv.org.nz">www.olv.org.nz</a> <b>E-mail</b> <a href="mailto:office@olv.org.nz">office@olv.org.nz</a> <a href="mailto:pp@olv.org.nz">pp@olv.org.nz</a>
<b>St Brendan's School</b>	56 Palmer Cres <b>Tel</b> (04) 939 1909

## 4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR 1 18<sup>th</sup> December 2022

18 <sup>th</sup> Dec	1 <sup>st</sup> Reading 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading Gospel	1 Isaiah 7: 10-14 2 Romans 1: 1-7 Matthew 1: 18-25	
25 <sup>th</sup> Dec	1 <sup>st</sup> Reading 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading Gospel	1 Isaiah 52: 7-10 2 Hebrews 1: 1-6 John 1: 1-18	

## UPCOMING EVENTS TO NOTE

Sat 24 <sup>th</sup> Dec	5:30 pm	<b>CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES NEXT WEEKEND</b> <b>FAMILY VIGIL MASS</b> at Our Lady of Grace HTG (Carols from 5:00pm)	
	12:00 pm	<b>MIDNIGHT MASS</b> St Francis Xavier STV (Carols from 11:30pm)	
Sun 25 <sup>th</sup> Dec	9:30 am	<b>MORNING MASS</b> at Our Lady of Grace OLOG	

## OUR COVID RESPONSE

You will have seen the Covid numbers are again on the rise. You are asked to continue to make wise choices in regards to your own health and to be mindful of the health of others. Masks and sanitiser are still provided for your use. Please, if you are unwell – stay home and seek medical advice.



**DATE CLAIMER PARISH PICNIC** – 12<sup>th</sup> February about 11:45am on the Presbytery front lawn in Heretaunga. **MARK YOUR DIARIES.** MORE DETAILS IN January newsletter.

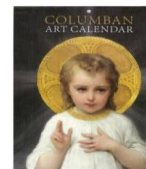


## FLOWERS FOR CHRISTMAS

The florists at Stokes Valley and Heretaunga are requesting parishioners if they would like to provide flowers in **white or gold** and foliage suitable for decorating the Church for Christmas Flowers etc can be left in the front porch of either church **by 11:00 am Friday the 23<sup>rd</sup> at OLOG and by 4:00 pm at SFX.** Buckets will be placed in front of both churches. Thanks in anticipation

## COLUMBAN CALENDARS FOR 2023 – HURRY GOING FAST

Just 2 left and available for \$12 each please hurry and secure a copy for yourself or a loved one.

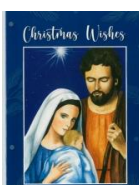


### VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED

The LIVING WATERS Cafe at Our Lady of Grace are looking for helpers please contact the office if you are willing to help out.

### MASS TIMES FOR CHRISTMAS

<b>Sat Dec</b>	<b>24<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>5:30 pm</b>	Family Mass at Our Lady of Grace Church, Heretaunga preceded by carols from 5:00pm
		<b>12:00 Midnight</b>	Christmas Mass at St Francis Xavier Church, Stokes Valley preceded by carols from 11:30
<b>Sun Dec</b>	<b>25<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>09.30 am</b>	Christmas Day Mass at Our Lady of Grace Church, Heretaunga



### CHRISTMAS CARDS

Christmas Cards are available. They will be at the foyer of both Churches and in the Parish Office. A pack of 8 cards is \$6 each.

### SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION PROGRAMME 2023

Enrolments for the 2023 Sacramental Preparation Program are now open for those candidates who would like to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Confirmation and First Eucharist.

**Enrolments can also be submitted on-line at [www.lov.org.nz/sacraments/](http://www.lov.org.nz/sacraments/).** Enrolment forms are also available in the foyer of both churches and the School.

Though enrolments close on 3rd February 2023 **please endeavour to enrol before the 18<sup>th</sup> of December** as this allows time over the January period to undertake preparation work. The Programme starts on February 12<sup>th</sup> as the Reconciliation portion happens over Lent. Any enquiries please contact Fr Tony or Jenny Mahoney, the Sacramental Programme Co-ordinator.



### NOVEMBER MASS COUNT

The numbers listed below are an average of the counts undertaken in the Parish over the five Sundays of November:

5:30 pm (Vigil) – Stokes Valley	60
8:30 am (Sunday) – Stokes Valley	97
10:30 am (Sunday) - Heretaunga	141
10:30 am (Sunday) – Home of Compassion)	15
11:30 am (4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday) – Stokes Valley	57
7:00 pm (Sunday) – St Patrick's College	64
<b>TOTAL AVERAGE FOR THE MONTH</b>	<b>434</b>





## THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPEL

The text speaks of how 'God with us' was revealed to the world in the person of Jesus 2000 years ago. I suggest that we move on from there to consider how we become aware of 'God with us' now in our daily lives.

It took some time for Joseph to accept the fact that, in Mary, there truly was Emmanuel – God with us. God is with us now, but at times we struggle to perceive God's presence. Where have you unexpectedly discovered the presence of 'God with you'? Recall those experiences and give thanks.

Joseph was confused and uncertain about what he should do. It took time, and outside help, for him to discern what his next step should be. Perhaps you have also had difficulties along the way to some decisions or commitments. Recall that journey and the moments when it became clear to you what was being asked of you. Give thanks for the angels who helped you along the way.

Mary bore Jesus within her, unseen to all, and unacknowledged by most. In Joseph she found one who believed in the treasure that she bore. We can be bearers of Jesus to others, and they to us. When have you been that kind of a bearer of Jesus to another? Who has been that to you?

## QUOTE FROM POPE FRANCIS

Advent is a time in which, instead of thinking about gifts for ourselves, we can give words and gestures of consolation to those who are wounded, as Jesus did with the blind, the deaf and the lame.

*Pope Francis, Angelus, December 2022*

## PALESTINE IS A HOT TOPIC!

Come and hear about the reality of living there. Brother Peter Bray FSC, the Kiwi Vice-Chancellor of Bethlehem University, will be talking about the Holy Land, his work with his students, and the lives of other ordinary Palestinians.

St Thomas More (Wilton) Monday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2023, 7pm Start . Tea and Coffee available from 6.30pm. **Please register** by January 25<sup>th</sup> with Christine at [c.walkerdine@wn.catholic.org.nz](mailto:c.walkerdine@wn.catholic.org.nz) or phone (04) 496-1706. Check out his latest video at : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R17kia53-GY>



## PLEASE PRAY FOR ...

We remember all who are sick and unwell, those affected by the COVID-19 virus, and those who are lonely. We pray also for those who have died recently including Dennis Brown, Fr David Arms SSC, and Dennis Chard. We pray also for those whose anniversaries occur around this time. May they rest in peace.



4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Date	Time	Church	Presider
15 December	7.00 PM	Our Lady of Grace Church, Heretaunga	Achbsp. Novatus Rugambwa <i>Apostolic Nuncio to NZ</i>
16 December	7.00 PM	Our Lady of Grace Church, Heretaunga	Rev. Fr. Kevin Connors <i>Assisting Priest, St. Joseph Parish UH</i>
17 December	5.30 PM	St. Francis Xavier Church, Stokes Valley	Rev. Fr. Tony Kearns <i>Parish Priest, Our Lady of the Valleys Parish</i>
18 December	7.00 PM	Our Lady of Grace Church, Heretaunga	Rev. Fr. Dennis Nacorda <i>Filipino Chaplaincy Coordinator</i>
19 December	7.00 PM	St. Joseph Church, Upper Hutt	Rev. Fr. Alfred Tong <i>Assisting Priest, Te Awa Kairangi Parish LH</i>
20 December	7.00 PM	St. Joseph Church, Upper Hutt	Rev. Fr. Dennis Nacorda <i>Filipino Chaplaincy Coordinator</i>
21 December	7.00 PM	Our Lady of Grace Church, Heretaunga	Monsignor Giosue Busti <i>Deputy Head of Apostolic Nunciature in NZ</i>
22 December	7.00 PM	St. Joseph Church, Upper Hutt	Rev. Fr. Biju Xavier <i>Assistant Parish Priest, St. Joseph Parish UH</i>
23 December	7.00 PM	St. Joseph Church, Upper Hutt	Cardinal John Dew <i>Archbishop of Wellington</i>

"Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!  
Let us bless you from the Lord's house." Psalm 118:26

*Simbang Gabi*

(Christmas Novena Mass)

*2022*  
*Upper Hutt*



FOR THE YOUNG ONES

# GROWING

WITH THE *Gospel*

CYCLE A



## COLOR

Read the Gospel of the week and color the image.



4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent • Matthew 1:18-24

## AND FOR THE NOT SO YOUNG

### An Angel Appears to Joseph

When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus. Matthew 1:24-25 (NIV)

Complete the activity.



*A number of words have been removed from each sentence and listed below the sentence. Use the listed words to fill the blanks in the sentence.*

1. A young woman \_\_\_\_\_ Mary was engaged to \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. Joseph B. marry C. named
2. Before they were \_\_\_\_\_, she \_\_\_\_\_ out she was going to \_\_\_\_\_ a baby.  
A. have B. married C. found
3. Joseph did not want to disgrace Mary, so \_\_\_\_\_ to break \_\_\_\_\_ engagement.  
A. decided B. he C. the
4. While \_\_\_\_\_ considered this, an \_\_\_\_\_ appeared to Joseph in \_\_\_\_\_ dream.  
A. a B. he C. angel
5. He told Joseph he \_\_\_\_\_ be \_\_\_\_\_ to take Mary as his wife.  
A. afraid B. should C. not
6. The angel told him that Mary would \_\_\_\_\_ a son and they \_\_\_\_\_ him Jesus.  
A. should B. name C. have
7. Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ save the people from their sins.  
A. to B. was C. coming
8. All \_\_\_\_\_ this happened \_\_\_\_\_ fulfill the message of the \_\_\_\_\_ Isaiah.  
A. prophet B. to C. of
9. When Joseph woke \_\_\_\_\_, he did what \_\_\_\_\_ angel \_\_\_\_\_ him to do.  
A. up B. told C. the
10. This is the story \_\_\_\_\_ birth of Jesus, \_\_\_\_\_ Savior.  
A. of B. the C. our



## **ORATIO IMPERATA**

### **On the threat from Covid19**

God our Father, we come to you in our need  
to ask your protection against COVID19  
that has disturbed and even claimed lives.



We pray that you guide the people  
tasked to find cures for this disease and to stem its transmission.  
Protect the medical experts that they may minister to the sick  
with competence and compassion.

We pray for those afflicted.  
May they be restored to health soon.  
Protect those who care for them.  
Grant eternal rest to those who have died.

Give us the grace in this trying time  
to work for the good of all and to help those in need.  
We implore you to stop the spread of this virus  
and to save us from our fears.

Grant all these through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God forever and ever. Amen.