

Our Lady of the Valleys Parish



Parish Priest

Father Tony Kearns

Church

Our Lady of Grace Church, 5 Palmer Crescent, Heretaunga (HTG)
St Francis Xavier Church, 152 Stokes Valley Road. Stokes Valley (SV)

Sunday Eucharist

Sat 5:30 pm Vigil (SV) 8:30 am (SV) and 10:30 am (HTG)

Weekday Eucharist

Tuesday / Thursday 9:30 am (Stokes Valley)
Wednesday / Saturday 9:00 am (Heretaunga)
Friday 9:30 am (Heretaunga)

Weekday Liturgy of Word and HC

Wednesday 9:30 am (Stokes Valley)

Adoration of Blessed Sacrament

Friday 10:00 am to 6:00 pm (Heretaunga)

Reconciliation

By appointment with Parish Priest

Presbytery and

Parish Office

5 Palmer Crescent
Heretaunga

Tel (04) 972 4282

Parish Administrator

Monday – Friday

9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Website

www.olv.org.nz

E-mail office@olv.org.nz pp@olv.org.nz

St Brendan's School

56 Palmer Cres

Tel (04) 939 1909

2nd Sunday of Lent

YEAR A

5th March 2023

READINGS

5th Mar

1st Reading
2nd Reading
Gospel

Genesis 12: 1-4
2Tim 1: 8-10
Matt 17: 1-9

12th Mar

1st Reading
2nd Reading
Gospel

1.Exodus 17: 3-7
2.Romans 5: 1-2, 5-8
John 4:5-42



EVENTS THIS WEEK

Sat 4 th Mar	7:00 pm	Circle of Friendship Pettit Centre
Tue 7 th Mar	5.30 pm	Men's Night at Silverstream Bowling Club
Wed 8 st Mar	2:00 pm	Early Morning Mass OLOG
Fri 10 th Mar	7:00 pm	Stations of the Cross at St Francis Xavier STV

VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED URGENTLY

At **Our Lady of Grace Church**, Heretaunga

Cleaners, Cafe

At **St Francis Xavier**, Stokes Valley

Eucharistic Ministers, Cleaners.

Please contact the office on 9724282 if you can help out.



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.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS – will be prayed each Friday of Lent at 7:00pm in St Francis Xavier Church, Stokes Valley. ALLWELCOME





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 representatives to attend the Chrism Mass to receive the Holy Oils for the Parish; Readers and Eucharistic Ministers for 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.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

The communal celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation (**RITE II**) will be celebrated at St Francis Xavier Church on Sunday 26th March at 3:30pm. 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.



THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPEL

On this second Sunday of Lent, we hear the story of the Transfiguration. It is an account of a significant spiritual experience for the disciples. We can recall in our own lives times when we received a new spiritual insight, moments when we came to know Jesus in a more profound way. These moments change us, they are powerful and can sustain us in difficult times.

During Lent we are invited into a new way of seeing. As our world faces enormous environmental challenges, faith communities have a huge role to play in protecting God's creation for generations to come. The roots of the environmental crisis are deeply spiritual, for we have become disconnected from nature and forgotten how deeply interconnected everything is. This calls for a deep conversion, a reconnection; to be filled again with a childlike sense of awe and wonder where our relationship with the natural world is concerned. This Lent, let us spend more time in nature, being aware of God's presence in every created thing. Let us stand awestruck before the beauty of the world.

RAFFLE FOR CYCLONE GABRIELLE

Catholic Women's League would like to thank all who so generously supported the raffle last weekend where \$500 was raised for Cyclone Gabrielle. The winner of the box of Easter treats was Leola Kelly



PARISH COUNCIL STRATEGY MEETING

On behalf of the Parish Council, I would like to take the opportunity to thank not only the Parish Council members, but also the cross section of people from our Parish that gave up six hours of their time attending Saturday's five-year strategic planning meeting that was run by Christine Walkerdine and Chris Duthie-Jong both from the Wellington Catholic Centre. The day was a worthwhile exercise with a lot of great information collated that the Parish Council will now digest and use as the bases of our strategic plan for the next five years. A special thanks also goes to Veronica and Sarah from St Brendan's School for making a classroom and the staffroom available for us to use and for organising the catering for the day. Warmest regards

Mellow *Parish Council Chair.*



FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Finance Committee is tasked with overseeing the physical assets and resources of the Parish. Because of a couple of resignations from the Committee they are seeking interested parishioners to join them in the work they do to support the pastoral activities of the Parish. If you would like to join please contact the Chair Roger Wasson (021 1162653) or Fr Tony.



NATURAL DISASTER INSURANCE COVER

Recently Cardinal John gave his approval to Parishes to consider not having the above mentioned insurance. Before the Finance Committee makes a decision on this matter we are asking the parishioners on their thoughts and ideas regarding this. The premium last year for all insurance was \$25,918 of that amount \$15,812 was for the natural disaster cover only. The Finance Committee have to give the Archdiocese our decision by the 15th of March. Please contact Fr Tony or Roger Wasson regards this matter.



CIRCLE OF FRIENDSHIP

Our next gathering will be **2pm, SATURDAY 4 March** at the Petit Centre, behind Our Lady of Grace Church. Our guest speaker will be Father Alfred Tong, who is newly ordained. He will speak about his "Journey to Priesthood". A number of men have expressed an interest in attending this Saturday's talk by Father Alfred Tong. Please feel free to bring along your husbands, partners, friends and be assured that the men will be made very welcome at our gathering.

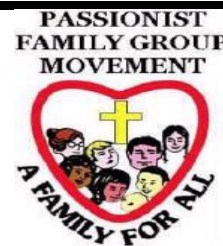
As usual a gold coin donation or gift of toiletries would be most appreciated. We will end the afternoon with our usual chat and cuppa. Our book swap table will be up and running. Feel free to bring along any books you may wish to donate, and also you are welcome to borrow or keep any books in our collection.

Also, Lita van Bunnik has asked that I forward the following on. If anyone can help her, please contact her directly on litavb@yahoo.com

The Look of Love by Father James B. Lyons. This book is on the topic of the encyclical by Pope Benedict XVI, *Deus Caritas Est*. The book would be returned before three weeks is up.

PASSIONIST FAMILY GROUP MEETING WITH PIZZA

Friday 17th March 6-7.45 pm in the Pettit Centre Cost \$5 pp
Fr. Tony and PFG Leaders invite all PFG members to discuss the future of family groups in our Parish. Paul Traynor, the National Co-ordinator will facilitate our discussion.



Engaged Encounter is a weekend experience for couples intending to be married.

Weekends for 2023 are 18 & 19 March, 19 & 20 August, and 25 & 26 November. Venue is Otari Parish presbytery, 301 Karori Road, Karori, Wellington. Registrations close 2 weeks before.

ST. BRENDAN'S SCHOOL

Room 11 have learned about Lent and understand that they can use it as a time to renew their relationship with God. The children read Matthew 4:1-11, the temptation of Jesus and realised that doing the Will of God and being obedient to His every word is more important than food or any other material thing. Jesus set an example for all of us.

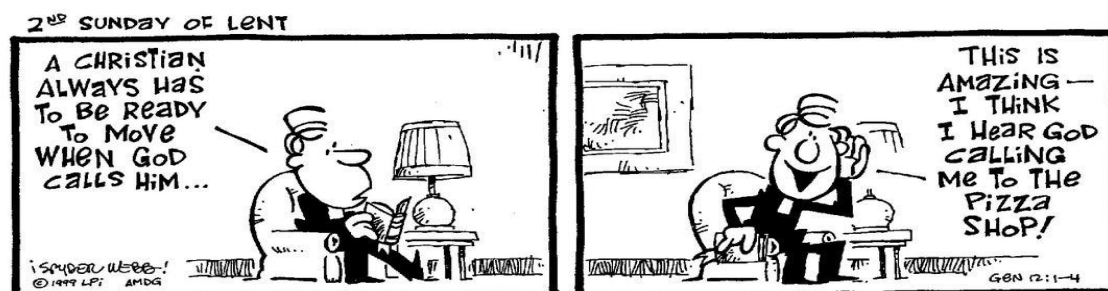
We look at Jesus as the light of the world and want to follow in his footsteps and become a light for other people.

Enviro Update

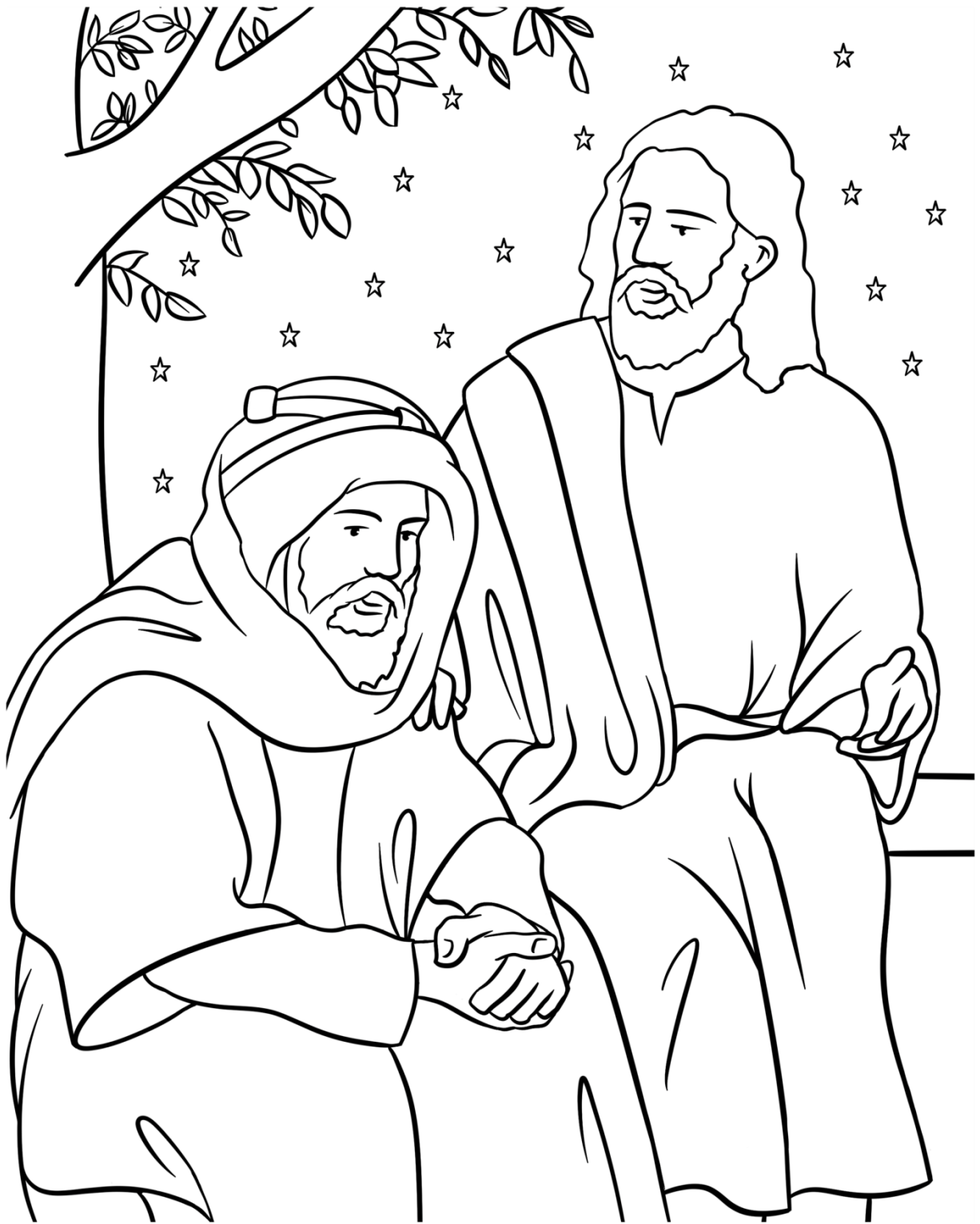
We have a large wilderness area at the back of Room 8 near the bike stands that the Enviro Group would like to clean up. It requires weeding and some digging, and then could be planted into a wildflower space. If you are interested in working on this project and could spare a few hours in the week please contact Chris Pullan by email c.pullan@stbrendans.school.nz. If you are able to help next Monday or Friday afternoon at 1:00pm for an hour or two pop into Room 7 at school I would appreciate your help.



PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER 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 Peter Brown. We pray also for those whose anniversaries occur around this time. May they rest in peace.



FOR THE YOUNG ONES



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PUZZLE FOR YOU

Born Again!

In reply Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again." John 3:3 (NIV)

Based on John 3:1-17 (NIV)

*New Life in
Christ*



U J O W H I D P E K A V N D Z
G K U T D L O V E D S N I T D
E N R R I B V A T C A A C E Z
T I F F N S A G R A H Y O A G
B D T L K H D A U B T L D C M
V H J G E I D I T V V W E H H
N K Q Y D S N N H Y G P M E M
B V N L H F H G B D S N U R H
B O R N O Q M R D R J L S S R
M O F S O N A Q C O A P I A A
W A T E R P N H H N M W J M B
F X S L I F E I R G E H C O B
J P H A R I S E E J S T I M I
M J E S U S T N I G H T I W B
F A I C Y E S P I R I T K P G

BIRTH	TRUTH	SPIRIT	NIGHT	JEWISH
PHARISEE	AGAIN	ETERNAL	MAN	RABBI
BORN	WORLD	KINGDOM	NICODEMUS	FLESH
JESUS	LOVED	TEACHER	LIFE	WATER