

# 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](http://www.olv.org.nz)

**E-mail** [office@olv.org.nz](mailto:office@olv.org.nz) [pp@olv.org.nz](mailto:pp@olv.org.nz)

**St Brendan's School**

56 Palmer Cres

**Tel** (04) 939 1909

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent**

**YEAR A**

**12<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

**READINGS**

**12<sup>th</sup> Mar**

1<sup>st</sup> Reading  
2<sup>nd</sup> Reading  
Gospel

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

**19<sup>th</sup> Mar**

1<sup>st</sup> Reading  
2<sup>nd</sup> Reading  
Gospel

Samuel 16: 1, 6-7, 10-13  
Eph 5: 8-14  
John 9:1-41



## EVENTS THIS WEEK

Wed 15 <sup>th</sup> Mar	6:30 am	Early Morning Mass at OLOG
	11:00 am	Anointing Mass in the Pettit Centre
Thur 16 <sup>th</sup> Mar	1.30 pm	Anointing Mass at Stokeswood Rest Home, SV
	7.30 pm	Parish Council Meeting
Fri 17 <sup>th</sup> Mar	7:00 pm	Stations of the Cross at St Francis Xavier SV



## VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED URGENTLY

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

Cleaners, Cafe, Altar Society (flower arrangements and brass polishing)

At **St Francis Xavier**, Stokes Valley

Eucharistic Ministers for Sat 5.30 pm mass, Cleaners.

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

## FLOWERS FOR EASTER



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 Easter. Flowers etc can be left in the front porch of either church **by 9:00 am 8<sup>th</sup> March Saturday at SFX and at OLOG**. Buckets will be placed in front of both churches. Thanks in anticipation.

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





## 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.



## 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 26<sup>th</sup> 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.



## CIRCLE OF FRIENDSHIP

Last Saturday a very special gathering was enjoyed by the many who attended, to hear Father Alfred Tong's talk on his life's journey to answer God's call to the priesthood.

A gifted speaker, he was impressive in his passion, commitment, integrity and joy as he spoke of his career in science and pharmacy, and then a 'shoulder tap' while playing the piano at Otago University's Chaplaincy, asking him if he had ever considered entering the priesthood.

Quoting Robert Frost's poem "A Road not Taken", he spoke of highs and lows and choices he made to find his true calling.

Supportive parents as he grew up, an education at St Josephs, St Patrick's Silverstream and Otago University, all fostered and developed his talents in science, music and voice.

His talk concluded with a superb piano recital of (Chopin's Fantasy Impromptu) which touched the hearts of many followed (by request!) his hearty singing of Elton John's "The Rose."

We wish Alfred every blessing as he continues his journey on "the road less travelled"



### **THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPEL**

Jesus leads the woman along a wonderful journey towards a deeper, fuller human life. You can enter the story from the perspective of the woman. Recognise her resistance to growth, her complacency, her evasions, and her eventual acceptance, partial though it was, of Jesus. When have you, or others, made a similar journey in your relationship with God? with others? with your own self?

The woman is attracted by what Jesus is saying, but from very human motives: the thought of having water in such a way that she did not have to come and draw it from the well. We can be attracted to Jesus by very mixed motives, some of them matters of personal interest – belonging, community, security, ... What have been the human motives that have attracted you to faith, prayer, religion, church and that have been steppingstones to a deeper personal relationship with Jesus. Perhaps we can also see the same movement in the growth of some of our human relationships.

You can also enter the story with Jesus, the ideal leader, parent, teacher, or spiritual guide. Notice how he meets the woman where she is, needing her assistance, how he is patient with her, but also challenges her to grow to what she is capable of.

### **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 15<sup>th</sup> of March. Please contact Fr Tony or Roger Wasson regards this matter.

## PASSIONIST FAMILY GROUP MEETING WITH PIZZA

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> 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.

## OFFICE MANAGER - NZCBC AND CATHOLIC ENQUIRY CENTRE

The NZ Catholic Bishops Conference and the Catholic Enquiry Centre are looking for an experienced Office Manager to help make our Wellington office in Thorndon Quay run smoothly. The CEC helps to make the Church more alive and Christ more known by informing and inspiring faith inquirers. The NZCBC is an agency for the national work of the Catholic bishops of Aotearoa NZ. The two agencies work closely together, side-by-side on L5, 204 Thorndon Quay. Details and to apply please go to: <https://www.catholic.org.nz/news/media-releases/nzcbccec/>

**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 Josette Gibbs and Peter Brown. We pray also for those whose anniversaries occur around this time. May they rest in peace.



3rd SUNDAY OF LENT





FOR THE YOUNG ONES

# GROWING

WITH THE *Gospel* CYCLE A



## COLOR

Read the Gospel of the week and color the image.



3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent • John 4:5-42

# PUZZLE FOR YOU

## Samaritan Woman

### Maze

The Samaritan Woman

Help the Samaritan woman find the way to the well.

