

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)
 Tuesday / Thursday 9:30 am (Stokes Valley)
Weekday Eucharist Wednesday / Saturday 9:00 am (Heretaunga)
 Friday 9:30 am (Heretaunga)
Weekday Liturgy of Word and HC Adoration of Blessed Sacrament Wednesday 9:30 am (Stokes Valley)
 Friday 10:00 am to 6:00 pm (Heretaunga)
Reconciliation By appointment with Parish Priest
Presbytery and Parish Office 5 Palmer Crescent Tel (04) 972 4282
 Heretaunga
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

4 th Sunday of Lent		YEAR A	19 th March 2023
READINGS			
19 th Mar	1 st Reading	Samuel 16: 1, 6-7, 10-13	
	2 nd Reading	Eph 5: 8-14	
Gospel	John 9:1-41		
26 th Mar	1 st Reading	Ezekiel 37: 12-14	
	2 nd Reading	Rom 8: 8-11	
	Gospel	John 11:1-45	

EVENTS THIS WEEK

Wed 22 nd Mar	6:30 am	Early Morning Mass at OLOG
Thur 23 rd Mar	7.30 pm	Parish Liturgy Meeting
Fri 17 th Mar	7:00 pm	Stations of the Cross at St Francis Xavier SV



VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED URGENTLY

At **Our Lady of Grace Church**, Heretaunga
 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 8th 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





PALMS FOR PALM SUNDAY

In preparation for Palm Sunday in April of this year the Liturgy Committee would like to know if there is anyone able to assist in acquiring **PHOENIX palms** that are used to decorate both churches. If you can help out please contact the Parish Office 972 4282

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 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.



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.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL CONFERENCE HERETAUNGA

Josette Gibbs 22.11.41 - 6.3.23

Josette was a long serving member who inspired many over the years with her dedication to the principles of the Society.

She served a term as President, and was a regular visitor to the Heretaunga rest home and the Home of Compassion. She visited and spent time with a number of elderly widows, providing help with shopping, transport, and accompanying patients to their appointments etc - a Vincentian who walked this earth as Christ's feet and hands, caring for the less fortunate.

Josette was a humble, gentle, kind Christian woman with a happy disposition, and we are all justly proud to have known her.

She has gone from this world leaving us mourning her absence, but blessed and enriched for having known her. We entrust her to you Lord Jesus, may she rest in peace in Paradise, where there will be no more pain, but peace and joy with Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit forever and ever.



THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPEL



A long story like the one we have today provides many different points of entry for prayer. Read the story and stay with what resonates with you. Some possible points of entry are:

The blind man was healed. Can you recall occasions when some blindness of yours was taken away and you could see in a new way? What was that experience like for you?

The Pharisees claimed to be the ones who could see, who knew where God was to be found, when in fact they were blind. It was the man born blind who showed himself open to see the hand of God at work in what happened. There can be some of each in us. What has helped you to be open to seeing the hand of God at work in your life? Who have been the Jesus people who have led you to this point?

The Pharisees seem to have had a collective blindness that blocked them from seeing what God was doing in Jesus. Perhaps in today's world you can see examples of collective blindness when people want to avoid an awkward truth, e.g. about the damage being done to our planet by human activity.

There are many characters in the story: Jesus, the blind beggar, the disciples, the neighbours, the blind man's parents, and the Pharisees. Put yourself in the position of each one and see what you learn from identifying with them.

QUOTE FROM POPE FRANCIS

"We cannot tolerate or turn a blind eye to racism and exclusion in any form and yet claim to defend the sacredness of every human life."

Pope Francis, [General Audience, 03/06/2020](#)

"GRACE"

Event organised by the Filipino Chaplaincy. Lenten Recollection 2023. By Fr. Bernard Espiritu, SVD. "On the theme of GRACE." Saturday 25th March 2023, 1:30pm followed with Holy Mass at 5:15pm. St. Martin de Porres, Avalon 8 Park Avenue, Eponi, Lower Hutt.



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/>

GREENSTONE DOORS

Is holding an information evening; would you like to volunteer with us or maybe just learn more about what we do? Join us at our information evening on Thursday 23rd March 7pm at 15 Dudley Street, Lower Hutt.



RSVP to office@greenstonedoors.co.nz

STAYING SAFE ON SOCIAL MEDIA

A nation-wide campaign to raise awareness of how everyone can stay safe on our Catholic social media platforms starts next Monday, 20 March. Check our Facebook, Instagram and other social media each day from Monday for tips on how to keep yourself safe. Details of the campaign are here: <https://www.catholic.org.nz/news/media-releases/socialmedia-safety/>



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

4th SUNDAY OF LENT



FOR THE YOUNG ONES

GROWING WITH THE *Gospel* CYCLE A



COLOR

Read the Gospel of the week and color the image.



4th Sunday of Lent • John 9:1-41

PUZZLE FOR YOU

Jesus Heals a Blind Man

So the man went and washed, and came home seeing. John 9:7 (NIV)

The puzzle is based on John 9:1-34 (NIV).



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

BLIND	EYES	SPIT	POOL	WASH
WORLD	SINNED	SIGHT	NIGHT	BORN
HOME	MUD	LIFE	OPENED	LIGHT
SILOAM	PARENTS	RECEIVED	BIRTH	GROUND