

# 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**

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**

5 Palmer Crescent

**Tel** (04) 972 4282

**Parish Office**

Heretaunga

**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

## EASTER SUNDAY READINGS

YEAR A

9<sup>th</sup> April 2023

9<sup>th</sup> Apr

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

Acts 10: 34, 37-43  
Col 3: 1-4  
John 20: 1-9

16<sup>th</sup> Apr

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

Acts 2: 42-47  
1 Peter 1: 3-9  
John 20: 19-31



## EVENTS THIS WEEK

Sun 9 <sup>th</sup> Apr	2:00 pm	Easter Sunday Mass on Shine TV Channel 25
Tue 11 <sup>th</sup> Apr	7:30 pm	Parish Finance Meeting



Easter Vigil



Easter Sunday

## SERVICES FOR EASTER SUNDAY 2023

8<sup>th</sup> April Saturday Easter Vigil

8:00 pm SFX

9<sup>th</sup> April Easter Sunday Morning

8:30 am SFX

10:30 am OLOG

## EASTER SUNDAY CUPPA

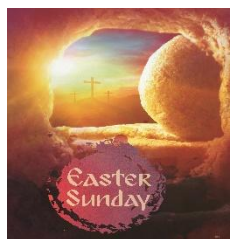
Members of the Parish Council are providing tea/coffee/juice and hot cross buns out the front of church after Easter Sunday masses at Stokes Valley 8:30am and Heretaunga 10:30am services. A lovely chance to enjoy a cuppa, a chat, and meet some of your parish council members.



## PLANNED GIVING – IRD CHARITABLE DONATION RECEIPTS

The New Tax year begins on the 1<sup>st</sup> of April. Over the next couple of weeks the Parish Office will be preparing and checking the tax Inland Revenue charitable donation receipts for 2022-23. These will be available by end of April /early May along with the envelopes for the year 2023-24.

Your contributions are much appreciated and support the life and ministry of your Parish. We do encourage parishioners to contribute by Automatic Payment.



Father Tony and those working in the Parish  
extend their prayerful good wishes  
that the light of the Risen Christ  
may overcome any darkness in our hearts and minds,  
bring the joy of Easter  
to the families of all attending these ceremonies,  
and find a place in every home in the Parish.

Fr Tony

### **VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED URGENTLY**

**Our Lady of Grace Church**, Heretaunga

**CAFE**, Altar Society (flower arrangements and brass polishing)

**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.**



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

In some ways this gospel is a difficult one for prayer. It only presents a part of the story and the full unfolding of the good news the story contains lies in the next part of the text. However, even with this section there is plenty of material for

reflection and for prayer.

The disciples are in a state of shock and suffering from a traumatic loss. Jesus, the one in whom they had placed so much hope, has been murdered and buried. Then, before they have time to recover comes another shock – the body of Jesus is missing. Have you had experiences in which one tragedy or crisis follows quickly after another? What was that like for you? How did you cope? What, or who, sustained you then?

Mary and Peter, and possibly others, came and discovered that the tomb was empty. The part of the story we have in this text gives no explanations of what has happened. They are left in a state of bewilderment ‘for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead.’ Have you been in that kind of situation, faced with events you cannot explain, possibly events which have dashed your hopes in another person, or in God? What has that been like for you?

Yet in spite of the lack of explanation, the beloved disciple ‘saw and believed’. Have there been times when others have done something that you could not understand, and which they could not explain at the time and yet you believed that all was not as it seemed? .... times when you decided to trust in spite of the evidence?

Have there been times when others have shown this kind of faith in you when you were not able to offer satisfactory explanations, and all you could say was ‘trust me’?

Have there been times in your relationship with God when you have felt that you were faced with an empty tomb and still you believed?

Where have you found life in such experiences?



## BIBLE STUDY GROUP

From the first week of May 2023, there will be group bible studies in the meeting room at Our Lady of Grace Church. Is God impressing upon you to share some of the thoughts you get from the Sunday readings, or you want to listen to what others are learning from it? Come let us discuss and reflect the way together. Meetings will start from **7:30 pm -9:00 pm on Tuesday evenings.**

## FUN QUIZZ

The Upper Hutt Branch of the Catholic Women's League are holding a Fun Quizz on Friday, 28th April at the St Brendan's School Hall. 7:15pm for a 7.30pm start. \$10 per person. 6-8 per table. Proceeds to the Diabetes NZ Youth Programme and St Vincent de Paul UH. Raffles available and supper provided. Tickets on sale from Susan [vancara42@gmail.com](mailto:vancara42@gmail.com) or Helen [rggreig@xtra.co.nz](mailto:rggreig@xtra.co.nz).



## LIVING STONES COMMITTEE – 2019 BUILDING REVIEW

In February 2019 Cardinal John issued a directive to all parishes calling for a review of the number of churches in the parish and incorporating a review of priest accommodation. Following extensive parish consultation, a response was sent back to Cardinal John in November 2019.



Covid restricted ongoing progress following this review however it is now time to move forward on the original recommendations.

The key theme of the review was that it is unsustainable to continue with two churches within the parish. This is both from a financial perspective and the likely drop in priest numbers moving forward. Change provides an opportunity to develop parish buildings that reflect community needs and that are suitable for many years ahead.

The options are:

- Consolidate onto the Stokes Valley site
- Consolidate onto the Heretaunga site
- Build a new facility on a new site

Each of the options has its own pros and cons.

A key consideration is having a church that can be accessed by the St Brendan's School Community.

The Living Stones group has not been formed to make and implement any decision but to lead the Parish towards making a decision. Once made then a new group with the required skill set will look to develop and execute on an appropriate project. You can expect to hear more about the options and to have a voice as we move forward. In the meantime, please don't hesitate to talk to any of the group's members.

**Fr Tony, Grant Avery, Julie Stewart, Seu Sio, Pat Hoult, Tino Aukusitino, Chris Henley, Conor Healy**



## QUOTE FROM POPE FRANCIS

We proclaim the Resurrection of Christ when his light illuminates the dark moments of our life and we can share that with others: when we know how to smile with those who smile and weep with those who weep; when we walk beside those who are sad and in danger of losing hope; when we recount our experience of faith with those who are searching for meaning and for happiness. With our attitude, with our witness, with our life, we say: Jesus is risen! Let us say it with all our soul."

Pope Francis, [Angelus 06/04/2015](#)

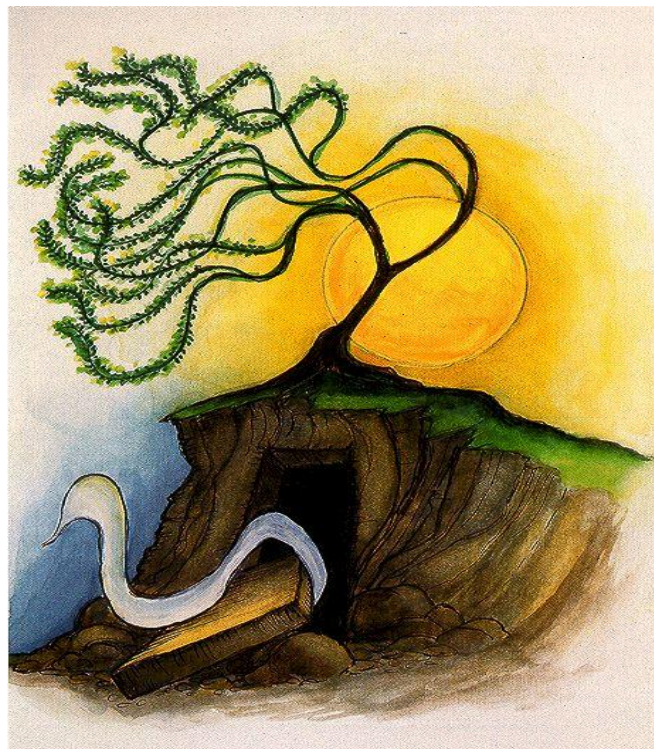


**PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER** all who are sick and unwell, those affected by the COVID-19 virus, and those who are lonely. We pray also for those who have died recently, including Sr Susanna Kraus, and Mavis Woodney. We pray also for those whose anniversaries occur around this time - John Leitner. May they rest in peace.

EASTER

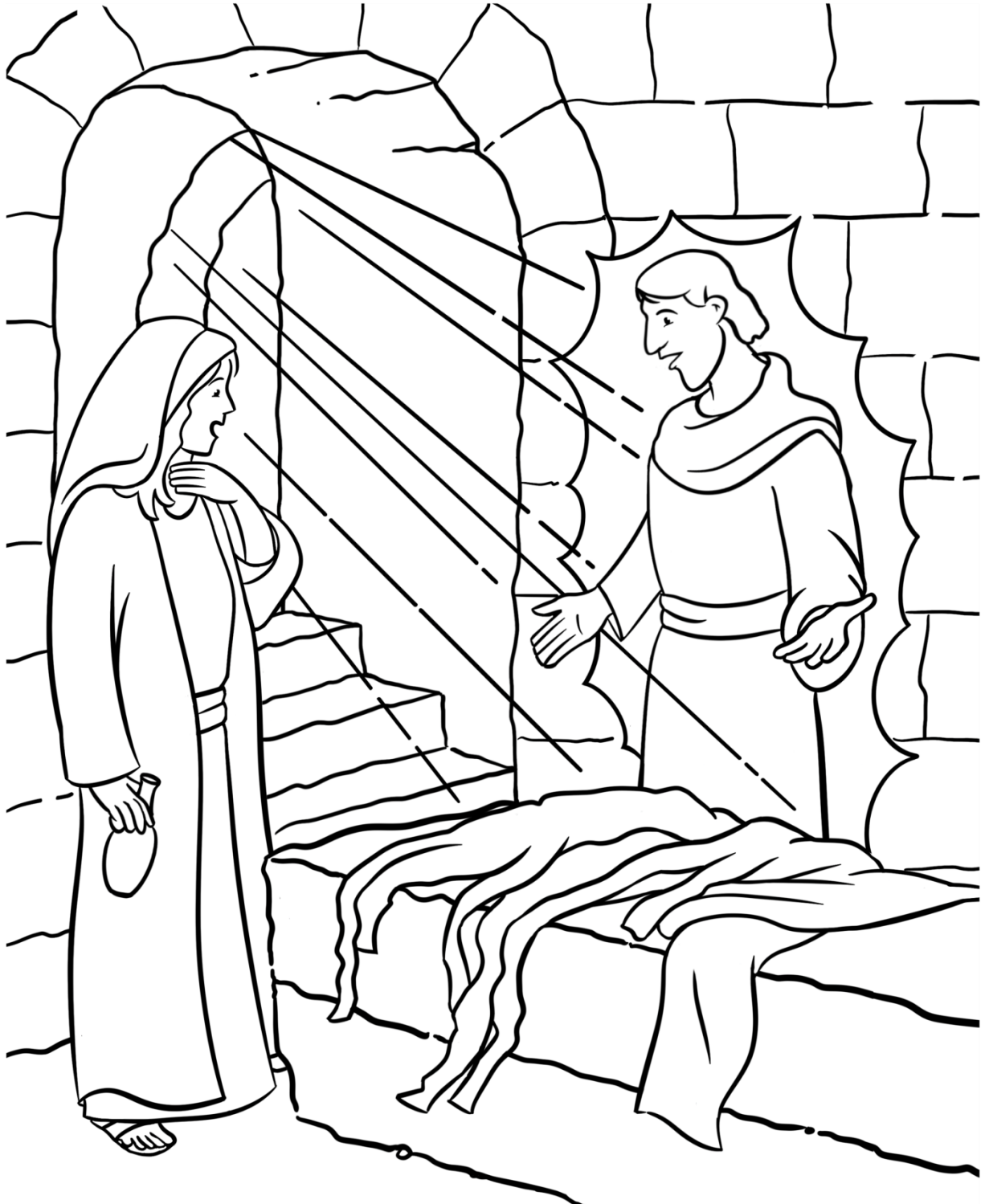


**HAPPY EASTER**



# FOR THE YOUNG ONES

## HE IS RISEN



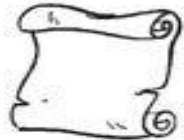
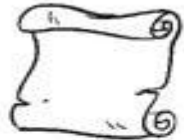
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## PUZZLE FOR YOU



### PUZZLE

Circle the group in each row that has **more**.  
Then color in all the pictures.



### MISSION

I will tell someone that Jesus is alive.



BECAUSE VIBRANT  
CHURCHES MATTER