


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)
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 Monday – Friday 9:00 am – 1:00 pm www.olv.org.nz Tel (04) 972 4282
Parish Administrator	
Website	E-mail office@olv.org.nz pp@olv.org.nz
St Brendan's School	56 Palmer Cres Tel (04) 939 1909
Newsletter	Newsletter 22 August 2023

23 rd Sunday in Ordinary Time		YEAR A READINGS	10th September 2023
10 th Sept	1 st Reading 2 nd Reading Gospel	Ezekiel 33: 7-9 Romans 13:8-10 Matthew 18: 15-20	
17 th Sept	1 st Reading 2 nd Reading Gospel	Ecus 27: 30-28:7 Romans 14: 7-9 Matthew 18; 21-35	

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sun 10 th Sept	11:30am	Rehearsal for First Holy Communion OLOG
Tue 12 th Sept	7:30 pm	Living Stones Group in Presbytery
Thurs 14 th Sep	7.30 pm	Parish Finance Committee
Sun 17 th Sept	10:30 am	First Holy Communion at OLOG

VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED URGENTLY

St Francis Xavier, Stokes Valley

Eucharistic Ministers, Greeters, **Sunday morning Cafe**

Please contact the office on 972 4282 if you can help out.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA)



This program, for adults who would like to know more about the Catholic Faith will begin with an Introductory/Welcome session. These are opportunities for those interested in joining the Catholic Church family to come along and find out a little about the RCIA programme and to ask questions. The **Introductory**

Session is scheduled on Wednesday 25th October 2022 in the Meeting Room at Our Lady of Grace Church, 5 Palmer Crescent, Heretaunga. This program is designed for those wishing to become Catholic. If you or a friend would like to join this program, please phone: Fr Tony 972 4282.



BOOK-SWAP

A **BOOK SWAP** service is available in the Pettit Centre in Heretaunga. Parishioners and visitors are welcome to browse the shelves and take a book they like. When you have finished you can return it and take another. For those with books they no longer want you can donate books there too for others to enjoy the book after you.



CHURCH LIFE SURVEY 2023

From today until Sunday 24th September we will participate together in the 2023 Church Life Survey. It's a nationwide survey of church attendees and a confidential opportunity for you to have your say on the life of our church! Members of the Parish Pastoral council will be at Masses to answer any questions. To complete the survey, scan this QR code in the bulletin or in the church, click the link in



the online parish bulletin or St Brendan's school newsletter, or pick up a paper copy in the foyer after Mass. Completed surveys can be left in the box in the church foyer.

<https://clsnz.org/chis96Be2rldawic/01GZD3X065J5Q79Z9NQ2RJCXBW/en-rc>



THE CATHOLIC FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS

These opened on 01 August and close on 30 September. Eight Catholic Foundation Scholarships are available to students residing in the Wellington Archdiocese who are in their final year of secondary education. Scholarships of \$2,000 each for the first year of tertiary education are as

follows:

- ❖ The Margaret Ryan Scholarship for students studying for a degree in teaching •
- ❖ Halina Morrow Fladrzynska Scholarship for refugees
- ❖ Joseph Francis Kish Scholarship for refugees
- ❖ Krystyna Danuta Downey for refugees

Application forms and criteria are available on our website Kathy Whelan, Secretary, Catholic Foundation, PO Box 1937, Wellington. Phone: 021 666 405 Visit our new website: www.catholicfoundation.org.nz.

SEASON OF CREATION EVENT

How well do we know our Awa – the Hutt River?

Everyone is invited to an interesting and informative afternoon to hear from a range of speakers about caring for, protecting and restoring Te Awa Kairangi – the Hutt river. Sunday 10 Sept from 1-3.30pm followed by afternoon tea at St Peter and Paul's Church Hall, Lower Hutt. This event is being organized in conjunction with an Ecumenical River Prayer walk on Sunday 24 September. More information on public group facebook *Te Awa Kairangi Prayer walk*.



BISHOPS URGE ALL CATHOLICS TO STUDY SYNOD'S WORKING DOCUMENT *INSTRUMENTUM LABORIS*

All Catholics are being urged to read the working document that will guide the Synod meeting in Rome in October and help to set the future direction of the Church. More information including links to *Instrumentum laboris*: <https://www.catholic.org.nz/news/media-releases/synod-2/> Link to a PDF of *Instrumentum laboris*:

www.catholic.org.nz/assets/ENG_INSTRUMENTUM-LABORIS.pdf Link to a PDF FAQ and Synthesis with detailed information about *Instrumentum laboris*: www.catholic.org.nz/assets/FAQ_SYNTHESIS_IL_ENG-v2.pdf



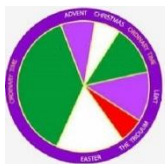
THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPEL

At the time Matthew was writing his gospel local church communities would have numbered no more than fifty people. They would be known to one another. Matthew presents the instructions of Jesus for dealing with people whose behaviour disrupted and harmed the community. Note the steps suggested. Simple directions but many of us do otherwise. We avoid difficult confrontations. We talk about the faults of others to everyone but themselves. We go over the head of someone who displeases us and make complaints. In your experience, which approach is life-giving for you and for others?

While Jesus is referring to a group situation, the advice can be applied also to personal difficulties and problems with others. What lessons has life taught you about constructive ways of dealing with conflict?

As individuals and communities we have the power to bind and to loose, to exclude people from relationship, or to open up and include others in relationship. When have you found it important to acknowledge this power in your own life?

Jesus also promises to be with his followers when they gather together. What does that mean to you? How have you experienced the presence of Jesus in his followers gathered together? During the recent lockdown due to the coronavirus, how did you experience the presence of Jesus in your faith community?



LITURGY COMMITTEE – MEMBERSHIP

Our Lady of the Valleys Liturgy Committee is a very small group of committed parishioners, who share their talents, time and treasures to oversee and support the liturgical celebrations in the Parish. Current members are Liz McCaul, Josephine Eynon, Trish Leahy, John O'Malley, Chris Henley, Stella Stowers and Fr Tony. They would welcome anyone who would like to join us in planning and delivering these important Liturgical Celebrations, or the other parish ministries who also serve our Parish. Contact Fr Tony or the Parish Office.

ARCHDIOCESAN COMMISSION FOR ECOLOGY, JUSTICE AND PEACE

'Jesus asks us to be present to those in need of help, regardless of whether or not they belong to our social group... the Good Samaritan became a neighbour to the wounded Judean. By approaching and making himself

present, he crossed all cultural and historical barriers. Jesus says: "Go and do likewise"... he challenges us to put aside all differences and, in the face of suffering, to draw near to others with no questions asked. I should no longer say that I have neighbours to help, but that I must myself be a neighbour to others.'

Pope Francis, [Fratelli Tutti](#), 84



CIRCLE OF FRIENDSHIP

Last Saturday we enjoyed a most informative talk from Claire Turner, co founder of the registered charity "Nourish". She spoke about how this charity provides groceries and produce parcels to support and provide a little cheer to needy families at Christmas.

It has expanded rapidly since 2014 from 21 hampers delivered to 5 schools, to 1415 to 75 schools in 2022!! This year 1780 hampers (each valued at \$150) have been requested (for families identified by the schools), which shows how amazingly successful the dedication of Claire and Gabrielle and many faithful volunteers have been with this project.

Their commitment to this worthy cause is admirable. As over \$260,000 is needed for this years hampers, donations to "Nourish Trust" would be greatly appreciated. Details are available on the Nourish Trust website.

We thanked and congratulated the founders of this charity for all their efforts. and wish them continued success in fundraising for this years distribution.

"For I was hungry and you fed me...." Matthew 25 35-37)

ST BRENDAN'S SCHOOL GRANDPARENTS' CELEBRATION

On Friday 15th September 2023, 10:15am, School Hall We warmly welcome you to our 2023 Celebration. An opportunity to gather as a school community to connect with our grandparents, families and parishioners. Everyone is welcome. Join us for prayer, song, reflections and performances by groups of students in our school hall. This will be followed by morning tea and an opportunity to visit classrooms.



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 Patricia Alsford and Philomena McCabe. We pray also for those whose anniversaries occur around this time. May they rest in peace.

23rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



FOR THE YOUNG ONES

GROWING

WITH THE *Gospel*

CYCLE A



COLOR

Read the Gospel of the week and color the image.



Exaltation of the Holy Cross • John 3:13-17

PUZZLE FOR YOU

Gathered In His Name

For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them." Matthew 18:20 [NIV]

The puzzle is based on Matthew 18:15-20



Come Together

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

REFUSE	FATHER	HEAVEN	FAULT	CHURCH
NAME	BIND	TWO	GATHER	EARTH
BROTHER	LOOSE	SISTER	AGREE	LISTEN