


# Our Lady of the Valleys Parish



<b>Parish Priest</b>	Father Tony Kearns
<b>Church</b>	Our Lady of Grace Church, 5 Palmer Crescent, Heretaunga (HTG) St Francis Xavier Church, 152 Stokes Valley Road. Stokes Valley (SV)
<b>Sunday Eucharist</b>	Sat 5:30 pm Vigil (SV) 8:30 am (SV) and 10:30 am (HTG)
<b>Weekday Eucharist</b>	Tuesday / Thursday 9:30 am (Stokes Valley) Wednesday/Saturday 9:00 am (Heretaunga) Friday 9:30 am (Heretaunga)
<b>Adoration of Blessed Sacrament</b>	Friday 10:00 am to 6:00 pm (Heretaunga)
<b>Reconciliation</b>	By appointment with Parish Priest
<b>Presbytery and Parish Office</b>	5 Palmer Crescent Heretaunga
<b>Parish Administrator</b>	Monday – Friday 9:00 am – 1:00 pm
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.olv.org.nz">www.olv.org.nz</a>
<b>St Brendan's School</b>	56 Palmer Cres
<b>Newsletter</b>	Newsletter, 17 October, Term 4 2023

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT		YEAR B READINGS	10 <sup>th</sup> December 2023
10 <sup>th</sup> Dec	1 <sup>st</sup> Reading 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading Gospel	Isaiah 40: 1-5, 9-11 2Peter 3: 8-14 Mark 1: 1-8	
17 <sup>th</sup> Dec	1 <sup>st</sup> Reading 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading Gospel	Isaiah 61: 1-2, 10-11 Thess 5: 16-24 John 1: 6-8, 19-28	
UPCOMING EVENTS			
10 <sup>th</sup> Dec	4:30 pm	Rite II Reconciliation at OLOG	
14 <sup>th</sup> Dec	7:30pm	Finance Meeting at OLOG	
15 <sup>th</sup> Dec	11:00am	End of Year School Mass	

## COLUMBAN CALENDARS FOR 2024 – JUST 10 LEFT!!

Available at the Parish Office or in the Church foyers for \$12 each please hurry and secure a copy for yourself or a loved one.



## CHRISTMAS CARDS

Christmas Cards are now available. They will be at the foyer of both Churches and in the Parish Office. A pack of 8 cards is \$6 each.



## NEWSLETTERS

Recently we upgraded the computer in the office and there were a few stumbling blocks. We have been alerted that some of you may not be receiving the newsletter and other notices. If so, please inform the office via a call or email. Sorry for the inconvenience caused. If on the other hand you do not wish to get these emails, please advise us.

## CLERGY APPOINTMENTS 2024

The list is out now and is available at the foyer of both Churches and attached with the newsletter. Sadly, we will be losing Long to St Theresa's Parish Karori.





## RITE II RECONCILIATION THIS SUNDAY

At our Lady of Grace Church on this Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December at 4:00pm.

If you would like Rite I Reconciliation please contact Fr Tony for an appointment 04 972 4282



## MASS TIMES FOR CHRISTMAS

<b>Sat 23<sup>rd</sup> Dec</b>	<b>5:30 pm</b>	Mass 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent St Francis Xavier Church
<b>Sun 24<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	<b>8:30 am</b>	Mass 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent St Francis Xavier Church
	<b>10:30 am</b>	Mass 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent Our Lady of Grace Church
<b>Sun 24<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	<b>5:30 pm</b>	Family Mass at Our Lady of Grace Church, preceded by carols from 5:00 pm
	<b>12:00 am</b> <b>Midnight</b>	Christmas Mass at St Francis Xavier Church, preceded by carols from 11:30 pm
<b>Mon 25<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	<b>09:30 am</b>	Christmas Day Mass at St Francis Xavier Church

## THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPEL

Mark opens his gospel by describing it as 'the good news about Jesus Christ'. Think of the different ways in which the gospel stories have been good news for you.



John the Baptist is presented as a messenger to prepare the way for Jesus. Who have been messengers to you, preparing the way for the Lord by alerting you to ways in which you could improve your life? To whom have you been such a messenger?

John calls the people to repentance (= a change of heart), as a way to a new life. Can you recall times when you had a change of heart, and the change revitalised you?

John baptised people with water as a gesture to mark their change of heart. Sometimes we perform an action to symbolise our change of heart – write a letter, throw away our last cigarettes, etc. Can you remember a symbolic gesture with which you marked a change of heart?



## MINISTRY VOLUNTEER'S FOR CHRISTMAS MASSES

In the upcoming week members of the Liturgy Committee will be looking for people to assist in the celebration of the various Masses at Christmas. 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.

## LIVING STONES - UPDATE

Have you noticed the poster in the church foyer? This summarises the parish consultation feedback and a copy is attached.

The committee has engaged Colliers to undertake a full market valuation of the parish property portfolio. When this is completed and reviewed the various options will be sent to the parish community for consideration. Meanwhile please talk to any of the committee members if you have questions



## SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION PROGRAMME 2024

Enrolments for the 2024 Sacramental Preparation Program are now open for those candidates who would like to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Confirmation and First Eucharist.



Enrolments can also be submitted on-line at [www.olv.org.nz/sacraments/](http://www.olv.org.nz/sacraments/). Enrolment forms are also available in the foyer of both churches and the School. Though enrolments close on 2nd February 2024 **please endeavour to enrol before the 15<sup>th</sup> December** as this allows time over the January period to undertake preparation work. The Programme starts on February 18<sup>th</sup> as the Reconciliation portion happens over Lent. Any enquiries please contact Fr Tony or Debby Morgan, the Sacramental Programme Co-ordinator.

## NOVEMBER MASS COUNT

The numbers listed below are an average of the counts undertaken in the Parish over the five Sundays of November:

5:30 pm (Vigil) – Stokes Valley	70
8:30 am (Sunday) – Stokes Valley	113
10:30 am (Sunday) – Heretaunga	187
10:30 am (Sunday) – Home of Compassion	26
11:30 am (4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday) – Stokes Valley	62
7:00 pm (Sunday) – St Patrick's College	40
<b>OLOV TOTAL AVERAGE FOR THE MONTH</b>	<b>434</b>
5:45 pm Syro-Malabar Community	295



## SAVE THE DATE- QUIZ FUNDRAISING EVENING: PURPOSE

Money raised by the quiz evening on Friday, 5<sup>th</sup> April, 2024, at 7:30 pm will go towards the Petit Centre refurbishment. Save the Date 5<sup>th</sup> April, 2024!

## ARCHDIOCESAN COMMISSION FOR ECOLOGY, JUSTICE AND PEACE

'At times the yearning we feel toward the Lord is too weak and it almost seems that God is silent... Think about God's tenderness. God is not a bad father, an unkind father, no. He is tender. He loves us so much, like the Good Shepherd, who searches for the last member of his flock. It is love, and this is conversion: a grace of God. Begin to walk, because it is he who moves you to walk, and you will see how he will arrive. Pray, walk, and you will always take a step forward.'

## CIRCLE OF FRIENDSHIP

Our Christmas afternoon tea party last Saturday was a great success. Lots of fun, singing, laughter, food and fellowship enjoyed by all 40+ attendees. Blessings for one and all!

Many thanks and appreciation to the organizing team for another successful year of activities, interesting speakers and, as the name suggests, the fostering of friendships.





## MERCY VILLAS

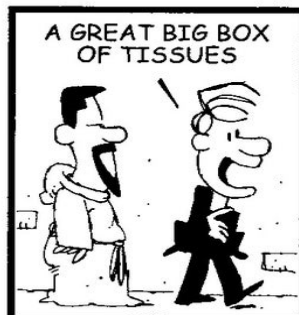
Located in Upper Hutt its aim is to make a positive difference in people's lives, by empowering residents to remain able bodied and independent, while living an active life. Mercy Villas whānau are expected to strive in creating positive relationships, friendships that encourage companionship through connection to the Mercy Villas community. From time to time, we offer affordable, well appointed, safe one-bedroom villas and apartment to couples or single people on the New Zealand Superannuation, with consideration given to those renting or impacted by hardship. We do not provide any medical or care staff, nevertheless, residents are encouraged to embrace family support and use care agencies as long as individuals remain independent.

If you would like to explore the possibility of going on Mercy Villas wait list, in confidence phone Damian on 04 527 4333 or email [mercyvillasuh@gmail.com](mailto:mercyvillasuh@gmail.com)



**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 Lawrence Warwick, Frances Casagrande, Trevor Dench, and Caitriona Clay. We pray also for those whose anniversaries occur around this time especially John Carson and Jean Molloy. May they rest in peace.

### 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Date	Time	Church	Presider
15 Dec	7.00 PM	Our Lady of Grace Church, Heretaunga	Msgr. Gerry Burns
16 Dec	5.30 PM	St. Francis Xavier Church, Stokes Valley	Fr. Tony Kearns
17 Dec	7.00 PM	St. Francis Xavier Church, Stokes Valley	Fr. Kevin Connors
18 Dec	7.00 PM	Our Lady of Grace Church, Heretaunga	Fr. Giosue Busti
19 Dec	6.00 PM	Our Lady of Grace Church, Heretaunga	Arbp. Paul Martin
20 Dec	7.00 PM	St. Francis Xavier Church, Stokes Valley	Fr. Alfred Tong
21 Dec	7.00 PM	St. Francis Xavier Church, Stokes Valley	Fr. Uili Uvea
22 Dec	7.00 PM	Our Lady of Grace Church, Heretaunga	Fr. Bernard Espiritu
23 Dec	5.30 PM	St. Francis Xavier Church, Stokes Valley	Fr. Tony Kearns

*Simbang Gabi*  
(Christmas Novena Mass)  
**2023**

# Change is Coming



## Our Lady of the Valleys Parish

Thank you for sharing your feedback, including your hopes, aspirations, concerns and issues for our Parish in our recent consultation. Your insights will support shaping the future of our Parish.

Key themes have emerged, and they are listed below.

Now, we are excited to engage with our youth.

We will keep in touch with progress!  
[livingstones@olov.org.nz](mailto:livingstones@olov.org.nz)





FOR THE YOUNG ONES

# GROWING

WITH THE *Gospel*

CYCLE B



## COLOR

Read the Gospel of the week and color the image.

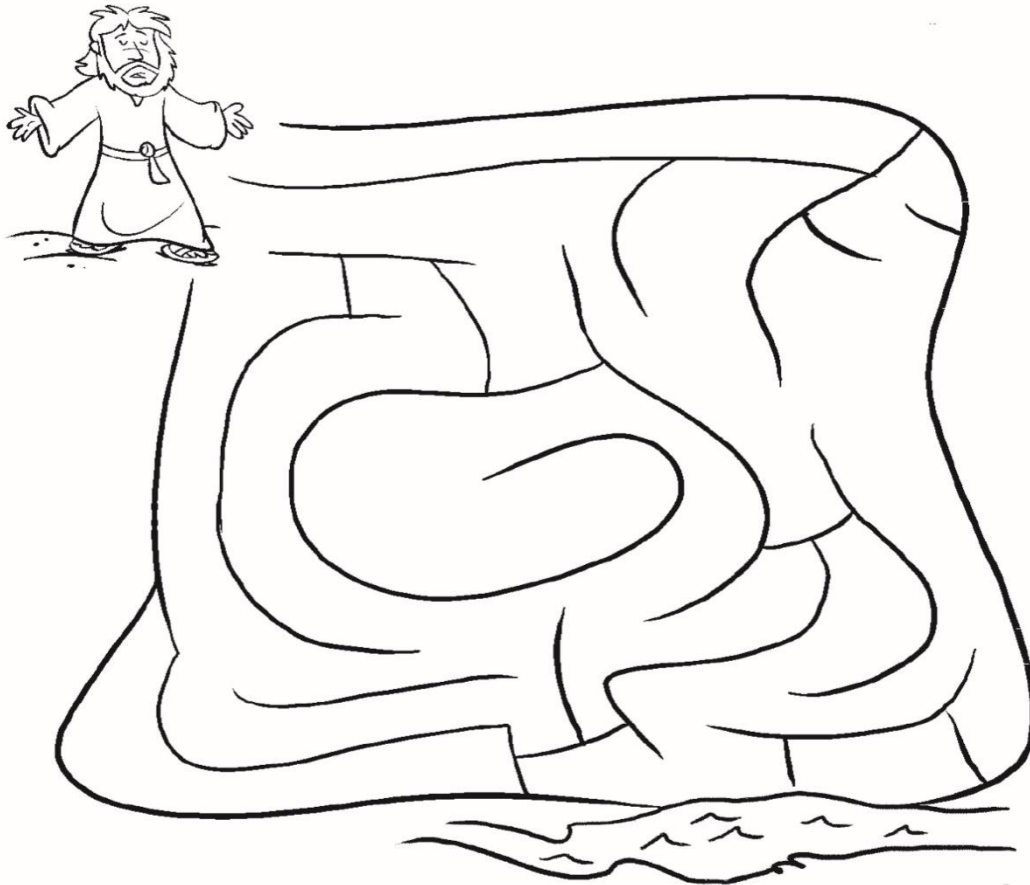


2nd Sunday of Advent • Mark 1:1-8

## PUZZLE FOR YOU

### PUZZLE

Help John the Baptist find his way to the Jordan River.



### MISSION

Every day I will tell God that I am sorry for my sins.