

# Our Lady of the Valleys Parish



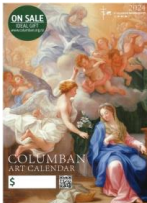
<b>Parish Priest</b>	Father Tony Kearns
<b>Church</b>	Our Lady of Grace Church, 5 Palmer Crescent, Heretaunga (HTG) St Francis Xavier Church, 152 Stokes Valley Road. Stokes Valley (SV)
<b>Sunday Eucharist</b>	Sat 5:30 pm Vigil (SV) 8:30 am (SV) and 10:30 am (HTG) Tuesday / Thursday 9:30 am (Stokes Valley)
<b>Weekday Eucharist</b>	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> E-mail <a href="mailto:office@olv.org.nz">office@olv.org.nz</a> <a href="mailto:pp@olv.org.nz">pp@olv.org.nz</a>
<b>St Brendan's School Newsletter</b>	56 Palmer Cres Tel (04) 939 1909 <a href="#">Newsletter, 17 October, Term 4 2023</a>

## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT      YEAR B READINGS      10<sup>th</sup> December 2023

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	
24 <sup>th</sup> Dec	1 <sup>st</sup> Reading 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading Gospel	Sam 77: 1-5, 8-11.16 Romans 16: 25-27 Luke 1: 26-38	

UPCOMING EVENTS		
20 <sup>th</sup> Dec	11:00 am	Anointing Mass at the Pettit Centre
21 <sup>st</sup> Dec	01:30pm	Anointing Mass at Stokeswood Rest home, SV
21 <sup>st</sup> Dec	07:30pm	Parish Council Meeting

**Please note there will be no mass at OLOG on 20<sup>th</sup> December and at SFX on 21<sup>st</sup> December**



**COLUMBAN CALENDARS FOR 2024 – JUST 8 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.



**NATIVITY PLAY - 5:30PM CHRISTMAS EVE MASS**  
Any children who would like to take part in a simple nativity play to be performed at the 5:30pm mass at Our Lady of Grace Church, please contact Louise Peirce on [Louise.peirce@xtra.co.nz](mailto:Louise.peirce@xtra.co.nz) or 0272324606.

## 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

'There is one among you whom you do not know'. We can know *about* Jesus but do we *know* him? What helps you to know Jesus in a way that enables you to follow in his footsteps, trusting God as he did, and seeing other people as he did?



John the Baptist came to bear witness to Jesus. Who have been the people who have borne witness to you of the good news of the gospel that God loves you - a friend, a parent, a teacher, etc.? To whom have you borne that witness? John appears in the story as one who had the courage to be himself in the face of loud and aggressive people. He was also a person who knew his own value, did not make exaggerated claims and was content with his mission. Can you recall times when you have been able to be yourself, even in the face of criticism from others?

John was 'the voice of one crying out in the wilderness' – announcing confidently to those in the wilderness that they must not despair because God's grace may come to them at any moment. Have you had the experience of being in the wilderness, feeling lost? From whom did you hear a voice that gave you hope? Have you been able to give hope to other people when they were in the wilderness? Do these questions have any special relevance to you in the midst of the current situation in our world?



## 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. 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



## 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.

## SAVE THE DATE- QUIZ FUNDRAISING EVENING: RE-GIFTING

The Quiz Evening on the 5<sup>th</sup> April needs prizes. Please would you consider re-gifting unwanted Christmas presents? You may win them back, perhaps! More details on where you can drop off your gifts will follow in the New Year. See you there. Money raised by the quiz will go towards the Petit Centre refurbishment.



## ARCHDIOCESAN COMMISSION FOR ECOLOGY, JUSTICE AND PEACE

‘Joy must be the characteristic of our faith. Even in dark moments, that inner joy, of knowing that the Lord is with me, that the Lord is with us, that the Lord is Risen. The Lord! The Lord! The Lord! This is the centre of our life, and this is the centre of our joy. Think carefully today: how do I behave? Am I a joyful person who knows how to transmit the joy of being Christian, or am I always like those glum people, as I said before, who seem to be at a funeral wake?’

*Pope Francis [Angelus](#) 13 December 2020*

## 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. May they rest in peace.

3<sup>rd</sup> 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.



3rd Sunday of Advent • John 1:6-8, 19-28

## PUZZLE FOR YOU

### The Light of the World

There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. John 1:6, 8 (NIV)

Based on John 1:6-8, 19-28 (NIV)



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

BETHANY	JOHN	BELIEVE	SENT	LEVITES
CHRIST	TESTIFY	NAME	GOD	WATER
JORDAN	BAPTIZE	JERUSALEM	CONFESS	PRIESTS
LIGHT	PROPHET	ELIJAH	MAN	WITNESS