

# 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	<b>Tel</b> (04) 972 4282
<b>Parish Office</b>	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>E-mail</b> <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</b>	56 Palmer Cres	<b>Tel</b> (04) 939 1909
<b>Newsletter</b>	<a href="http://schoolwebsites.school.nz/stbrendans">schoolwebsites.school.nz/stbrendans</a> <a href="mailto:mailpoet@routeion.com">mailpoet@routeion.com</a> <a href="#">view data</a> <a href="#">Wzq2LCJhNjBhNTMxMjUxNjgiLDAsMCwwLDFd.pdf</a>	

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT		YEAR B READINGS	24 <sup>th</sup> December 2023
24 <sup>th</sup> Dec		Sam 77: 1-5, 8-11.16 Romans 16: 25-27 Luke 1: 26-38	
31 <sup>st</sup> Dec	1 <sup>st</sup> Reading 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading Gospel	Eccl 3:2-6, 12-14 Col 3:12-21 Luke 2:22-40	
UPCOMING EVENTS			
24 <sup>th</sup> Dec	05:30 pm	Family Mass at OLOG	
24 <sup>th</sup> Dec	11:30 pm	Carol Singing at SFX	
	Midnight	Mass at SFX	
25 <sup>th</sup> Dec	09:30 am	Mass at SFX	



## COLUMBAN CALENDARS FOR 2024 – JUST 4 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.

## NATIVITY PLAY - 5:30PM CHRISTMAS EVE MASS

Nativity play practice today after 10:30 mass for about 30 minutes. Then please meet in the children's liturgy room at 5pm on Christmas Eve. If any children want to join us as angels or shepherds they are very welcome, meet at 5pm in the children's liturgy room.  
> Any questions message or call Louise 027 231 4606 or [Louise.peirce@xtra.co.nz](mailto:Louise.peirce@xtra.co.nz)



## WEEKDAY MASSES OVER HOLIDAY PERIOD

Weekday Masses at OLOV paused from 26<sup>th</sup> February to 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024. The weekday timetable will resume on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2024. Weekday masses are being offered at St Joseph's in Upper Hutt

**Mon** 9:00am      **Tues** 7:00pm      **Wed to Sat** 9:00 am

## 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>	<b>Family Mass at Our Lady of Grace Church, preceded by carols from 5:00 pm</b>
	<b>12:00 am Midnight</b>	<b>Christmas Mass at St Francis Xavier Church, preceded by carols from 11:30 pm</b>
<b>Mon 25<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	<b>09:30 am</b>	<b>Christmas Day Mass at St Francis Xavier Church</b>



## CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

We have come to the end of another year, and today celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ at a stable in Bethlehem; and born anew into our hearts. 2023 has been a very busy year for our parish.

Along with the normal cycle of liturgical celebrations of Lent, Easter, Pentecost, Confirmation, First Eucharist etc, we have said greeted new members into God's family in the Sacrament of Baptism, and those moving into our parish for other parts of the city, country and world. We have celebrated the God who is Love by joining young couples in the Sacrament of Marriage and prayed farewell to dear family and friends whom God has called to himself.

After the COVID disruption of the past few years we have settled this year into a new pattern of operating, a balance between keeping ourselves safe but also again taking the time to celebrate and worship together. It is heartwarming to see attendance at Sunday Masses once again comparable with pre-2020 levels. A sure sign of hope for us that our caring community is slowly adding to its numbers.

All these experiences of God's love and care happy because of the life and service of parishioners who give of their time, talents and resources for the benefit of our parish family and the glory of God.

To all those who have helped enrich our lives over the past twelve months may I express by personal thanks and ask God's richest blessings on you all for a happy and holy Christmas and a blessed 2024.

Give glory to God in the highest  
For a child is born to us,  
It is Chris the Lord  
Blessing

*Fr Joy*

## THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPEL

We are all favoured ones and God is with us. Sometimes we are more aware of this than others. How have you experienced being a favoured person, one blessed by God? How have you experienced God's presence? Who has been Gabriel to you ... a messenger of good news? 'Do not be afraid'. Mary was perplexed by the words of the angel. Perhaps you too have sometimes been perplexed by life's path and wondered what it all meant. Perhaps at times you have doubted if God was really with you. In your troubled moments who has been an 'angel' helping to lower your anxiety? Mary was taken by surprise by the invitation, but she did not tell the angel she was not ready, nor ask him to return later. She was prepared to go with the invitation even though it was not the 'right moment'. 'Here I am Lord'. What invitations have come to you at the 'wrong time' and how have you responded? Mary's response serves as a model for us – as one saying 'yes' to what life offers. What is it like for you to say 'yes' to life? Perhaps at this moment in your life you are being invited to say: 'Here I am, Lord'?



### 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.

**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

'Let us invite him among us, into our homes, into our families. And also — everyone knows this well — let us invite him into our frailties. Let us invite him, so that he may see our wounds. He will come and life will change.'

*Pope Francis [Angelus](#) 03 January 2021*

## LIFE IS AN ADVENT SEASON

"Life is a constant Advent season: we are continually waiting to become, to discover, to complete, to fulfil. Hope, struggle, fear, expectation and fulfilment are all part of our Advent experience.

"The world is not as just, not as loving, not as whole as we know it can and should be. But the coming of Christ and his presence among us—as one of us—give us reason to live in hope: that light will shatter the darkness, that we can be liberated from our fears and prejudices, that we are never alone or abandoned.



"May this Advent season be a time for bringing hope, transformation and fulfilment into the Advent of our lives."



**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, especially Thomas Cardinal Williams. We pray also for those whose anniversaries occur around this time. May they rest in peace.



FOR THE YOUNG ONES

# GROWING WITH THE *Gospel* CYCLE B



## COLOR

Read the Gospel of the week and color the image.



Christmas Morning • Luke 2:15-20

## PUZZLE FOR YOU

### An Angel Visits Mary

You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. Luke 1:31 (NIV)

The puzzle is based on Luke 1:26-38



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

ELIZABETH	JESUS	JOSEPH	BORN	AFRAID
SON	KINGDOM	DAVID	GABRIEL	BIRTH
MARY	TOWN	ANGEL	THRONE	VIRGIN