


# 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/Friday	9:30 am (Heretaunga)
	Saturday	9:00 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	Tel (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	Tel (04) 939 1909
<b>Newsletter</b>	<a href="#">schoolwebsites_school_nz_stbrendans_mailpoet_routeion_view_data_Wzg2LCJhNjBhNTMxMjUxNjgiLDAsMCwwLDFd.pdf</a>	

## 1st Sunday of Lent READINGS 18th February 2024 YEAR B

18 <sup>th</sup> Feb	1 <sup>st</sup> Reading 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading Gospel	Gen 9:8-15 1Peter 3:18-22 Mark 1:12-15	
25 <sup>th</sup> Feb	1 <sup>st</sup> Reading 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading Gospel	Gen 22:1-2, 9-13, 15-18 Romans 8: 31-34 Mark 9: 2-10	

### UPCOMING EVENTS

21 <sup>st</sup> Feb	11:30 am	Anointing Mass at Pettit Centre HTG (No 9:30 am Mass)
22 <sup>nd</sup> Feb	07.30 pm	Parish Liturgy Meeting

### BIRTHDAY WISHES

Thanks to the many people who expressed best wishes for my birthday last Sunday. They were very much appreciated. A special thanks to the staff and students who created posters for the Church, that were displayed at the Opening School Mass. These were supposed to be on display for Sunday as well but were taken down and inadvertently not replaced. Apologies for that, to the school community who took the time to create this artwork.



For those who didn't see them on Sunday a photo of the artwork is attached.

### ANOINTING MASS THIS WEEK PETTIT CENTRE HTG



This Wednesday 21st is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday Thursday of February so there is an Anointing Mass at Pettit Centre at 11:30am.

### WEDNESDAYS OF LENT FROM 14<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY

On each Wednesday in Lent there will be an additional Mass at Our Lady of Grace Church at 6:30 am for those who might like to choose this as a Lenten Observance.





## STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Will be prayed each Friday of Lent at 7:00pm in St Francis Xavier Church, Stokes Valley. ALL WELCOME

## THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPEL

Jesus he is about to start his public ministry. Mark tells us this was preceded by a deep inner struggle when his resolve to take on his God-given mission was tested. Recall important decisions in your own life. Were they accompanied by struggle and doubt? Who were the angels who supported you at that time? Give thanks for them.



Such periods of anxiety may seem like wilderness experiences at the time. Later, with hindsight, we may see them as being good for us. Perhaps, like Jesus, you recall a time when the Spirit of God led you into the wilderness to be tested and after the experience you had a clearer sense of your own identity or your purpose in life.

*Repent and believe the good news* was the heart of the message of Jesus. It was not a call to penance but to a change of heart, a change of attitude, leading to a change in behaviour. The kingdom of God is a kingdom of right relationships: with God, with one another, with creation, with ourselves. It is a change that leads to a fuller life. When have you found that a change in your attitude towards God, others, yourself, or the world around you, has led you to a more fulfilled or more fruitful life?

There is an immediacy about the call of Jesus: *'the time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near'*. Recall when you had a realisation that NOW was the moment of opportunity – for a change in your life, for a spiritual renewal, or a time to give a wholehearted yes to life. At this moment to what do you believe you are invited to say 'yes'?

## SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION PROGRAMME 2024

The Programme starts this Sunday with a Parent Meeting on February 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm in the Pettit Centre. Any enquiries please contact Fr Tony or Debby Morgan, the Sacramental Programme Co-ordinator.



## THE TIME IS NOW – CARITAS LENTEN GIVING PROGRAMME

The time is now to empower vulnerable families to thrive. Lenten Giving envelopes are available from today. This year there is a single giving envelope. By reducing costs, we ensure more of your donations go to those in need. You can give once, or weekly – using the same envelope.

NOTE: Donations received by CARITAS in envelopes before 31<sup>st</sup> March will be included in the 2023/24 tax year.

**40 DAYS FOR LIFE**, Prayer and Fasting to end abortion, will take place again in Wellington, Feb 14<sup>th</sup>-March 24<sup>th</sup>.



For further information, please phone Maria Hammond 0273547367



## ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT



A wonderful opportunity to meet the King of Kings. Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament every Friday from 10:00 am to 6:00pm. He waits patiently for YOU to come and visit Him. Tell Him your problems; request His help in any situation, ask for strength and courage in your difficulties. He is always there for you! Love and Adore Him. Please contact the office for available time slots. 972 4282. Adoration began for 2024 on February 9<sup>th</sup> following the weekday Mass and continue for each Friday of school term time.

## UPCOMING GROUND MAINTENANCE AT OLOG



The oak tree overlooking the Pettit Centre will also be trimmed back from the building to avoid leaves, acorns etc collecting in the gutters and causing them to overflow. A professional arborist will be undertaking the work soon.

The Parish has been advised of a rise in the cost of mowing the lawns at Heretaunga due to increasing amount of cabbage foliage. This foliage needs to be manually picked up before the lawns can be mowed. The increase will be in the order of \$80 per mow (approx. \$1200 pa). The Finance Committee has decided as a long-term solution to remove the cabbage trees from the property.

A photograph of a large group of people sitting on a lawn, enjoying a picnic. There are trees in the background and a building visible in the distance.

# Come and join!

**Sunday, 25<sup>th</sup> February 2024**  
**at 11.30 am (after the 10.30 mass)**  
**Our Lady of Grace Church (Lawn), Heretaunga**

## Our Lady of the Valleys Parish Picnic

Live music performances  
Games for the kids  
Tea, coffee, and some refreshments!  
Gas BBQ will be available!  
Bring meat and picnic to enjoy!

Barbeques will be available if you want to cook sausages etc for lunch

## LIVING WATERS CAFÉ



Sundays after 10:30am Mass at the Pettit Centre Heretaunga. All parishioners are welcome. The café is held in the Pettit Centre behind the church and operates most Sundays from 11:30 until 12:30. The café is run by volunteers. Tea, coffee and a light snack are served. Children are catered for also. Gold coin donation is welcome but not essential. **We are current short of volunteers who could serve the function of the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month. If you (or group of you) could assist please contact the Parish Office.**



**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 Mary (Moir) Dourley, Helen Perez, and Mary Daly. We pray also for those whose anniversaries occur around this time. May they rest in peace.

## WHY WE DO THE THINGS WE DO?

### Why Lent?

In the early Church Lent originated as a time of repentance for those preparing for baptism. Having experienced the call to conversion, those seeking initiation into the Christian community resolved to turn away from sin and embrace a Gospel life. They were baptised at the Easter Vigil.

The six-week period of Lent is a time of repentance and renewal for the whole Church. It is a time when we prayerfully take stock of our lives, turn away from all lifestyle habits that contradict the Gospel and renew our commitment to Christ and each other.



1<sup>st</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT





FOR THE YOUNG ONES

# GROWING WITH THE *Gospel* CYCLE B



## COLOR

Read the Gospel of the week and color the image.



1st Sunday of Lent • Mark 1:12-15

## PUZZLE FOR YOU

# The Rainbow of Promise

"Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures of every kind on the earth." Genesis 9:16

The puzzle is based on Genesis 9:8-17



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

REMEMBER  
APPEARS  
SIGN

COVENANT  
CREATURES  
CLOUDS

WATERS  
EARTH  
LIFE

BIRDS  
FLOOD  
RAINBOW

DESTROY  
ANIMALS  
LIVESTOCK