

Our Lady of the Valleys Parish



Parish Priest	Father Tony Kearns	
Churches	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)
Weekday Eucharist	Tuesday / Thursday	9:30 am (Stokes Valley)
	Wednesday/Friday	9:30 am (Heretaunga)
	Saturday	9:00 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	Tel (04) 972 4282
Parish Administrator	Monday – Friday	9:00 am – 1:00 pm
Website	www.olv.org.nz	E-mail office@olv.org.nz pp@olv.org.nz
St Brendan's School Newsletter	56 Palmer Cres	Tel (04) 939 1909
	www.stbrendans.school.nz	

Ascension of our Lord 12th May 2024

READINGS		YEAR B
12 th May	1 st Reading 2 nd Reading Gospel	Acts 1:1-11 Eph 1:17-23 Mark 16:15-20
19 th May	1 st Reading 2 nd Reading Gospel	Acts 2:1-11 Cor 12: 3-7, 12-13 John 20: 19-23



UPCOMING EVENTS

15 th May	11:00 am	Anointing Mass in the Pettit Centre
16 th May	01:30 pm	Anointing Mass at Stokeswood Rest Home, SV
	07.30 pm	Parish Council Meeting

PLEASE NOTE THERE WILL BE NO MASS AT 9.30 AM ON 15TH MAY AT SFX AND AT 9.30 AM ON 16TH MAY AT OLOG

God made Moms generous, strong, and caring — shining through them, and blessing their families with His amazing love.

Happy Mother's Day

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PASTORAL PLAN

The Parish Pastoral Council together with input from a wide group including representatives from the liturgy committee, youth, parish groups, ethnic communities, and St Brendan's School have drafted a pastoral plan for our parish. They reflected on the key themes from the Synod 2021-2023 process adopted in the archdiocese and took on board results from the recent community survey. The plan covers six key areas and like all good plans, it needs feedback from you, the parish community and regular reviews so that it remains a living document that reflects our parish's aspirations.

You can read the draft plan [2024-05-10-OLOV-Pastoral-Plan-2024-2034-DRAFT.pdf](#), pick up a copy from the foyer, or ring/email the office and we will send you a copy.

Parish Council members will meet with various parish groups over June and July to gather feedback, and you can give us your feedback directly by 31 July. Simply:

- email the parish office: office@olov.org.nz
- discuss with Fr Tony or any Parish Pastoral Council member (see list in the church foyer)
- or provide any written comments to the Parish Office

We appreciate you taking the time to have your say. Once we have reviewed and made any updates to the plan, we'll publish a final version and identify action items for the next 12 months. Darrell Mellow, Chair, Parish Pastoral Council



VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED AT OLOG

We are looking for volunteers to do the church cleaning at Our Lady of Grace church once every three months. If you could get yourself and two others to help out, please do contact the office and we would be grateful.

ST BRENDAN'S SCHOOL

You are warmly invited to join us for St Brendan's Feast Day Mass on Thursday 16th May at 9.30am at Our Lady of Grace Church. Archbishop Paul Martin will be presiding. After which you are invited to join us for morning tea at St Brendan's School.



ST PATRICK'S COLLEGE SILVERSTREAM



Join us for our Open Day on Thursday 23 May 2024, this is for Year 9 boys enrolling or looking to enrol for 2025. Parents, caregivers and students are invited to attend a presentation at 9 am or 1.30 pm on Thursday 23 May at St Patrick's College Chapel. Each session lasts approximately 1 hour and 30 minutes. No prior registration is required to attend the open day, we look forward to welcoming you!

If you have any questions please email the Rectors EA, Maria Tough Email: toughm@stream.school.nz or Ph: (04) 939 4224



THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPEL

In the preceding verse Jesus had rebuked the apostles for their lack of faith. Despite this he commissioned them to bring the Good News to the whole world. Witnesses to the Good News do not have to be perfect. There is encouragement to us in this. The lockdown during the coronavirus pandemic prompted many to reach out to others in new and welcome ways. To whom have you brought good news? Who has been a messenger of good news to you?

Jesus then tells them that their witness will have quite dramatic effects, helping people to overcome demons, bring them peace and healing. Things happen when we have belief in ourselves and in God. Strong faith can enable us to meet and overcome difficulties, in ways that waverers cannot do. Perhaps you have had experience of this?

The ascension marked the end of the visible presence of Jesus with the disciples, but he would be with them in other ways. 'The Lord worked with them'. Sometimes we can experience that death is not the end of the presence of someone significant to us. We can experience the unseen presence and influence of a parent, a friend, or an inspiring leader, after they have died. Has this happened for you? Have you also experienced the hidden presence of the Lord working with you?

WHY WE DO THE THINGS WE DO?

Why do we celebrate the Ascension?

On Ascension Sunday we celebrate Christ's final appearance after the resurrection whereby he was taken up into heaven. To some ears this might sound like celestial theatrics! As Christians, we understand it to be a profound affirmation of the fact that Jesus is indeed the Son of God who lives on forever beyond the material confines of this world. We are led to reflect on our own humanity from the perspective of the promise of eternal life. Christ has shown us God's love, and God's love is forever - limited by nothing, not even death. As Christians, our belief in this 'tomorrow' allows us to live 'today' with hope and courage.



Didn't the Ascension of Our Lord happen forty days after Easter Sunday, so why have we changed the feast, from Thursday to Sunday, forty-three days after Easter?

St Luke wrote that Jesus continued to appear to the apostles for forty days after his resurrection, a round number with rich biblical connotations. Permission was granted to national hierarchies to change the celebration to the following Sunday if there was a good pastoral reason for doing so. Some countries have retained: Thursday. The New Zealand hierarchy opted for Sunday as many people found it difficult to attend Mass on a workday, which certainly constitutes a good pastoral reason.

ARE YOU NEW TO THE PARISH?

If you are new to our Parish then welcome. Please fill in one of the cards in the foyer: "New to our Parish?" so we can put you on the Parish roll.

We are a very vibrant and welcoming Parish and have lots of groups and ministries you might like to join. For more information, please contact Jovena in the Parish Office 972 4282 or email office@olov.org.nz



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

STELLA MARIS WELLINGTON

Our volunteers offer practical and spiritual assistance to seafarers visiting our port. We urgently seek people to assist in this important service, especially those with languages other than English, particularly Tagalog, Indonesian, Mandarin and/or Cantonese, Vietnamese, Russian and Ukranian. We also need knitters able to knit beanies to give as gifts to seafarers. To learn more, please contact Kelly Ross at kellyannross9@gmail.com, or Sarah Dench at sarahdench@yahoo.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, especially Roselina Saclote, Paddy Byrne, Don Black, Antonio Pereira, Dennis Fairfax. We pray also for those whose anniversaries occur around this time especially Janette Williams. May they rest in peace.



7TH SUNDAY OF EASTER



FOR THE YOUNG ONES

GROWING WITH THE *Gospel* CYCLE B



COLOR

Read the Gospel of the week and color the image.



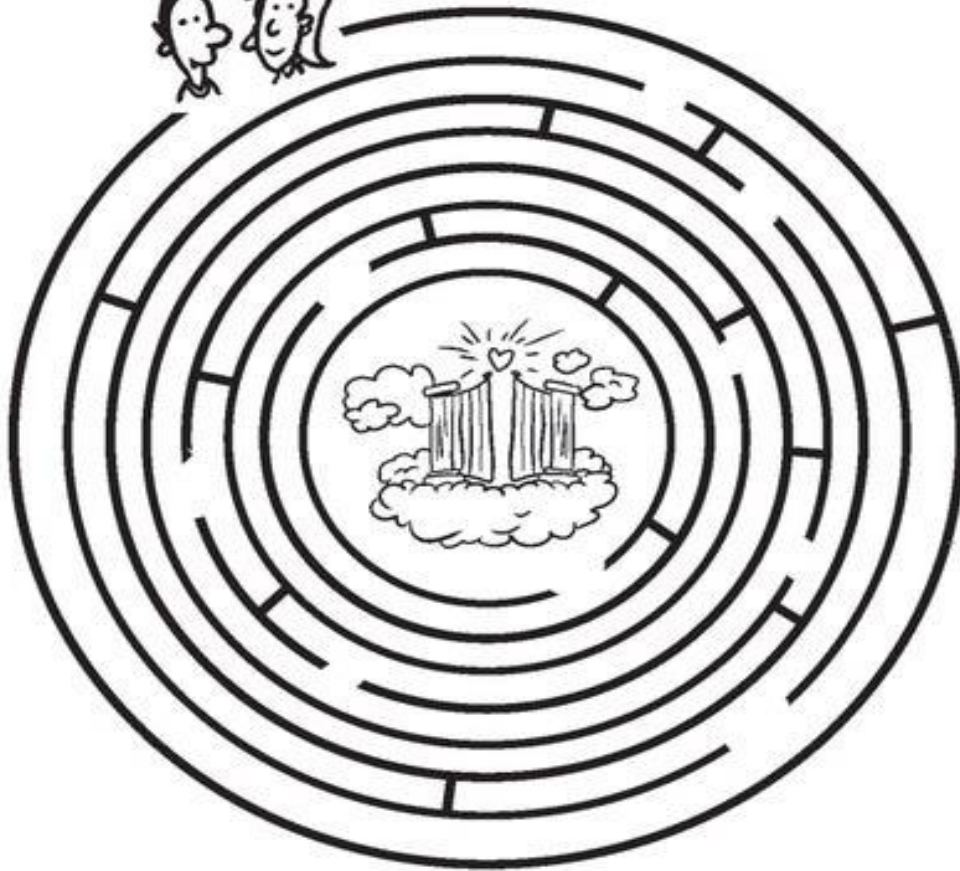
7th Sunday of Easter • John 17:11b-19

PUZZLE FOR YOU



PUZZLE

Find the path to Heaven.



MISSION

Make a card for each of your teachers. Color a picture on the cover. Write a nice message on the inside. Thank your teachers for helping you learn, and sign your name. Then deliver your cards with a smile.



BECAUSE VIBRANT
CHURCHES MATTER