


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	

11th Sunday Ordinary READINGS YEAR B 16th June 2024

16 th June	1 st Reading 2 nd Reading Gospel	Ezek 17:22-24 2Cor 5:6-10 Mark 4:26-34	
23 rd June	1 st Reading 2 nd Reading Gospel	Job 38: 1, 8-11 2Cor 5: 14-17 Mark 4: 35-41	

UPCOMING EVENTS

18 th June	11.00 am	Anointing Mass at the Pettit Centre
19 th June	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 18TH JUNE AT OLOG NOR AT 9.30 AM ON 19TH JUNE AT SFX

PARISH LUNCH SUNDAY 21st JULY 2024



The annual Parish lunch is for all people in our parish including children.

Everyone is encouraged to book in – it is a chance to enjoy each other's company and a lovely meal. Children are going to be catered for. The menu is on the notice board.

Sunday 21st July 12 noon at Stokes Valley RSA, Hawthorn Crescent

Cost Adults \$25 pp Children \$12pp

Please pay by 14th July.

- Pay by internet banking to the Parish a/c # 020772 0070279 00 ensure that your name is there in the Particulars column and in the Reference, LUNCH is mentioned.
- You could drop an envelope with your name and LUNCH written on it in the collection box at Mass OR
- drop the money in the drop box at the Presbytery door OR at the Parish Office in a named envelope.

VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED AT OLOV

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.



SFX

We need volunteers as Greeters, and Readers for the 5.30 pm Saturday evening mass. Please come forward and get in touch to help out.



PARISH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – DATE CLAIMER

The 2024 Annual General Meeting is scheduled for Sunday 4th August at 12:00 noon in the Pettit Centre. Please mark this date. It is a chance to celebrate the wonderful ways the mission of Jesus is working in our Parish, the election of new Parish Councils and a chance to bring ideas and issues to the attention of the various parish organisations and committees. Our Annual Report to the Parish will be available shortly.

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



THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPEL

If you sow seeds, or watch plants grow, you have ample opportunities to pause in wonder at the whole process of growth. It takes place imperceptibly and comes to fruition in beautiful flowers, majestic trees and abundant harvests.

Jesus uses this example from everyday observation to teach about the growth of the Kingdom of God, the kingdom of right relationships with God and with one another. There too growth is slow, development is imperceptible, and then without realising it you have a mature relationship. Recall the stages of such development in your life of faith and in your friendships and give thanks.

In the second parable Jesus invites us to reflect on the importance and significance of relationships in our lives as they grow and mature. This is true both of our relationship with God and with others around us. When have you found a relationship in which you could 'make a nest in its shade'?



NOMINATION OF NEW PARISH COUNCILLORS AT 2024 AGM

With an eye of the upcoming Annual General Meeting on 4th August 2024, a number of current Parish Councillors' term of appointment have come to an end. Currently Parish Councillors stand for a two-year term with the right of renewal for two more terms.

We are therefore opening nominations for new Parish Councillors from the 16th June 2024. From this weekend nomination forms are available in the foyer of both churches. These should be filled in and returned back to the Parish Office by Friday 26th July. This time frame allows time for the nominated candidates' names to be advised to the Parish before the Annual General Meeting.

Please take the time to prayerfully discern who you think might be a suitable person to serve our Parish on the Parish Council. If you would like more details on the role of Parish Councillors and the function of the Parish Council, please feel free to speak to one of the existing Parish Councillors or Father Tony.



WHY WE DO THE THINGS WE DO?

Grace before meals

The practice of pausing at meal times to give thanks to God is a way of acknowledging the divine source of all our life-sustaining gifts. As many a family will attest, this brief prayerful interaction with God and with one another is a sure way of strengthening the bond of faith in a household. As one person put it: 'it's a bit like kissing my wife when I come home from work. It's only a small thing but it means a lot to our marriage.' Small habits build strong foundations! If only for your children's sake, make grace before meals part of your lifestyle.

What do you think of those prayers which are supposed to guarantee a favour if said so many times and the leaflet passed on to a certain number of people?

Usually, the words of the prayer are okay but tying it up with numbers of leaflets is superstitious nonsense. It gives religion a bad name by turning God into a slot machine who pays out when you hit the required number. Some people feel blackmailed to spread these leaflets in fear of offending God.

COME WORK FOR US – Advocacy Lead at Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand

We're on the hunt for an Advocacy Lead to join our team and bring about positive social justice through education, advocacy, and Māori engagement. The ideal candidate will have strong writing and research skills, experience in an advocacy and/or policy position, and a relevant tertiary qualification. Reporting to the Chief Executive of Caritas NZ, and the Regional Coordinator of Caritas Oceania, they will be responsible for contributing towards the establishment of the advocacy function and framework for Caritas Oceania and Caritas NZ, and coordinating programmes aligned to the Caritas mission. Visit <https://mclaren.co.nz/vacancies/?ja-job=4240637>



TOWARDS OCTOBER 2024 – CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

A new consultation document prepared by the bishops as part of the Holy Father's Synod 2021-24 process has been sent to Rome. This document, titled Towards October 2024, follows the NZ Catholic Bishops Conference being asked to establish a consultation process to discern responses to specific questions related to the Vatican's Synodal Church in Mission report. That report was published after the First Session of the 16th Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, held in Rome last October. National Catholic lay organisations, agencies of the bishop's conference, religious, diocesan bodies, educational institutions, young people's groups, parish groups and groups involved in previous synodal processes took part in the consultation, between February and April this year. A statement about the document, and the document, are online here: <https://www.catholic.org.nz/news/media-releases/synod-4/>

CURRENT OF GRACE WELLINGTON

Everybody is welcome to the Wellington Prayer event hosted by 'Current of Grace Wellington' on Saturday 27th July 2024 between 1pm and 3:30pm at the Sacred Heart Cathedral, Hill Street. Contact Josephine Olsen 027 367 4453.

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 Garry Simpson, Mary Fitzgerald, and Rex Smith. We pray also for those whose anniversaries occur around this time especially Mary Quin and Frances O'Kane. May they rest in peace.



11TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



FOR THE YOUNG ONES

GROWING

WITH THE *Gospel*

CYCLE B



COLOR

Read the Gospel of the week and color the image.



11th Sunday in Ordinary Time • Mark 4:26-34

PUZZLE FOR YOU

The Parable of the Mustard Seed

Again he said, "What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it? It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest of all seeds on earth. Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds can perch in its shade."
Mark 4:30-32 (NIV)

The puzzle is based on Mark 4:30-32



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

BIRDS	SHADE	NEST	MUSTARD	BRANCHES
JESUS	GARDEN	PLANTED	LARGEST	PLANTS
STORY	GROUND	SEED	SMALLEST	KINGDOM