

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	

1st Sunday of Advent READINGS YEAR C 1st December 2024

1 st Dec	1 st Reading 2 nd Reading Gospel	Jer 33: 14-16 1 Thes 3: 12 – 4:2 Luke 21: 25-28, 34-36	
8 th Dec	1 st Reading 2 nd Reading Gospel	Baruch 5: 1-9 Philippians 1: 3-6, 8-11 Luke 3: 1-6	

UPCOMING EVENTS

Fri 6 th Dec	5.30 pm	Men's Night at the Presbytery
Sat 7 th Dec	2.00 pm	Circle of Friendship at the Pettit Centre
Sun 8 th Dec	4.00 pm	Rite II Reconciliation at St. Joseph's Upper Hutt



EVENTS IN THE ARCHDIOCESE

What is happening around our Diocese? Stay up to date with Archdiocesan events - <https://www.wn.catholic.org.nz/events/>

CHRISTMAS CARDS

Christmas Cards **almost all gone** are now available. A pack of 8 cards is \$6 each.



COLUMBAN CALENDARS FOR 2025

Limited (4) numbers are out now and available at the Parish Office and the church foyers for \$13 each (sorry the price has gone up) please hurry and secure a copy for yourself or a loved one.

BAPTISMAL CANDIDATES RECEIVED INTO PARISH

We welcome to our Sunday Mass at Our Lady of Grace Church this weekend **9 young children** who were baptised into our Parish family at the Parish/School Mass on Friday 29th November at OLOG. We pray that they will inspire all of us to be strong witnesses to the faith that they now share with us.

FOUND

A Silver bracelet outside OLOG in October. Owner can contact Cath with a description of it on 027 407 6590

RITE II RECONCILIATION 4:00pm 8th December Upper Hutt

This year Our Lady of the Valleys Parish is joining with St Joseph's Parish in Upper Hutt to offer a Communal Rite II Reconciliation Service at St Joseph's Church 1 Pine Avenue Upper Hutt at 4:00pm of Grace Church on next Sunday 10th December at 4:00 pm



If you would like Rite I Reconciliation please contact Fr Tony for an appointment 04 972 4282

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION PROGRAMME 2025

Enrolments for the 2025 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/. Paper enrolment forms are available in the foyer of both churches and the School.

Though enrolments close on 14th February 2025 **please endeavour to enrol before the 13th December** as this allows time over the January period to undertake preparation work. The Programme starts on March 2nd as the Reconciliation portion happens over Lent. Any enquiries please contact Fr Tony or Debby Morgan, the Sacramental Programme Co-ordinator.



PARKING AT ST FRANCIS XAVIER

Parishioners attending services at Stokes Valley will notice that the carparking lines have been refurbished. We have allocated two parks closest to the front of the church as reserved for people with disability. This restriction applies particularly for all Saturday evening/Sunday morning Masses and other major liturgical events such as Christmas, Easter etc when parking close to the church entrance is at a premium.

MEN'S CHRISTMAS GATHERING

To be held on this Friday 6th December starting at 5.30 pm at the Presbytery in Heretaunga. The cost is \$16 per head. There is a clipboard in the foyer of each church to put your name in if you are going to attend. Contact Roger Wasson for further details on 021116 2653



CIRCLE OF FRIENDSHIP

Our next gathering will be Christmas High Tea, on Saturday 7 December at 2pm, at the Petit Centre behind Our Lady of Grace Church.

Could you please bring a pretty cup, saucer and plate to use. Also, a small plate of Christmas food to share.

Come along and enjoy our Christmas celebration. There will be a Christmas quiz, some Christmas music from the Dahlias, and friendly fellowship.



THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPEL

Today is the First Sunday of Advent and we begin the season of 'waiting'. The Gospel today has powerful (and perhaps distressing) images of great signs that will appear. For many of us this year we saw lots of signs that Christmas was coming, even as far back as September, which is more distressing than any of the images in the Gospel today. Some people love that feeling of expectancy, of waiting for someone or something to arrive. It can be quite an exciting time or even one of anxiety. Very often we are on high alert during such a time, and often quite creative. We are asked to enter into a season of preparation, to celebrate God in our lives and in our world. It is a season of great joy and of hope and while waiting is not always seen as a good thing, it can be an interesting time of growth.

So, what will our preparations be like? In the middle of the crazy, busy days in the run up to Christmas, can we stop and invite God into our hearts and lives once more?

DIVINE RETREAT CENTRE NZ WELLINGTON UNIT

The Divine Retreat Centre Wellington Unit is thrilled to announce that Fr. Marlon Maylon SVD will be leading a midday Advent retreat at Sacred Heart Church in Petone on Saturday, December 7, 2024, from 11:00 AM to 1:30 PM. We'll conclude this special gathering with a Holy Mass as we get ready for the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. We warmly invite you to join us for this significant event to celebrate and worship the Lord as we spiritually prepare for the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

MASS FOR LIFE

Friday 6th December 7 pm at St Mary of the Angels, 17 Boulcott Street to pray for babies, mums, days and families. Eucharistic Adoration will follow for one hour after Mass.



MARCH FOR LIFE

Saturday 7th December. Join people from all over NZ in a celebration of life while also peacefully protesting the practice and legality of abortion. Gather at Parliament Grounds from 1 pm. March goes out from the grounds at 2 pm.

UPPER HUTT HOUSING TRUST

We have operated as a Trust since 2016. We provide support by renting properties and with the permission of the owner we sub rent these properties providing surety that the property will be managed well and that the rent will be paid. This helps



to bridge the gap between people who are not able to ensure to the owner's satisfaction that they can afford the rent or may have some history of bad debt.

(Housing and Urban Development) The board operates within an agreed set of Christian values inclusive of being a non-profit organization.

If you are interested in knowing more about the trust in relation to becoming a board member or secretary to the board, then please contact the trust chair Teresa Homan 022 312 7259 tshoman@kinect.co.nz or board secretary Judy Dixon 022 043 4703 judy@uhht.org.nz



ST BRENDAN'S GIVING GRATITUDE CELEBRATION

St Brendan's warmly invites you to join us for their Giving Gratitude Celebration on Tuesday, 3 December 2024, 10.30am in the school hall. This is a special opportunity to come together as a school community and express our gratitude. Thanks to your time and support, our students have experienced a rich year of learning, activities, and events.



ARCHDIOCESAN COMMISSION FOR ECOLOGY, JUSTICE AND PEACE

'We need to be vigilant so that our daily life does not become routine, and, as Jesus says, so we are not burdened by life's anxieties. Today is a good moment to ask ourselves: what weighs on my heart, what weights on my spirit, am I aware or indifferent to the burdens that weigh on the shoulders of [others]? These are good questions as they guard our hearts against apathy, the enemy of the spiritual life.'

Pope Francis, Angelus, First Sunday of Advent 28/11/2021

FOOD FOR FAITH for Advent.

Sign up at www.foodforfaith.org.nz to prepare for Christmas receiving daily email encouragements from Fr. John O'Connor's Food For Faith website.



CWL CHRISTMAS HAMPER RAFFLE

Thank you to everyone who so generously supported our raffle where \$616.00 was raised for our missions. The hamper was won by Caryl Robinson and the Christmas cake won by Marie Fairfield. With Christmas blessings to you all.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER all who are sick and unwell, and those who are lonely. We pray also for those who have died recently, especially K J Alias, Mary Powlesland, and Geraldine Sims. We pray also for those whose anniversaries occur around this time.



1st SUNDAY OF ADVENT



FOR THE YOUNG ONES

GROWING WITH THE *Gospel* CYCLE C



COLOR

Read the Gospel of the week and color the image.



1st Sunday of Advent • Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

PUZZLE FOR YOU

Christ Is Coming Again

At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. Luke 21:27 (NIV)

Words are taken from Luke 21:25-36 (NIV).



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

careful	glory	moon	redemption	stars
cloud	heads	nations	sea	sun
earth	heaven	power	signs	watch
escape	lift	pray	stand	world