



# Our Lady of the Valleys Parish



<b>Parish Priest</b>	Father Tony Kearns	
<b>Churches</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	<b>Tel</b> (04) 972 4282
<b>Parish Administrator</b>	Heretaunga	
<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 Newsletter</b>	Monday – Friday	9:00 am – 1:00 pm
	56 Palmer Cres	<b>Tel</b> (04) 939 1909
	<a href="http://www.stbrendans.school.nz">www.stbrendans.school.nz</a>	

2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent		READINGS YEAR C	8 <sup>th</sup> December 2024
8 <sup>th</sup> Dec	1 <sup>st</sup> Reading 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading Gospel	Baruch 5: 1-9 Philippians 1: 3-6, 8-11 Luke 3: 1-6	
15 <sup>th</sup> Dec	1 <sup>st</sup> Reading 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading Gospel	Zephaniah 3: 14-18 Phiippians 4: 4-7 Luke 3: 10-18	

UPCOMING EVENTS		
Sat 7 <sup>th</sup> Dec	2.00 pm	Circle of Friendship at the Pettit Centre
Sun 8 <sup>th</sup> Dec	4.00 pm	Rite II Reconciliation at St. Joseph's Upper Hutt
Thur 12 <sup>th</sup> Dec	7.30 pm	Parish Finance Committee
Fri 13 <sup>th</sup> Dec	9.30 am	End of Year Mass St. Brendan's at OLOG



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



## 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.

## MASS TIMES FOR CHRISTMAS

<b>Sat 21<sup>st</sup> Dec</b>	<b>5:30 pm</b>	Mass 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent St Francis Xavier Church
<b>Sun 22<sup>nd</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>Tues 24<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	<b>5:30 pm</b>	Family Mass at Our Lady of Grace Church, preceded by carols from 5:00 pm
	<b>12:00 am</b> <b>Midnight</b>	Christmas Mass at St Francis Xavier Church, preceded by carols from 11:30 pm
<b>Wed 25<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	<b>09:30 am</b>	Christmas Day Mass at Our Lady of Grace Church



## MINISTRY VOLUNTEER'S FOR CHRISTMAS MASSES

In the upcoming week members of the Liturgy Committee will be looking for people to assist in the celebration of the various Masses at Christmas. To try to make it easier for these people (and to save some of the ringing around that happens to cover all the events/ministries) **lists of the ways that parishioners can assist have been placed in the foyer of both Churches.** If you are a minister and know that you will be at a certain ceremony, please indicate your willingness to assist.

## 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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 on this Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December



**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/](http://www.olv.org.nz/sacraments/). Paper enrolment forms are available in the foyer of both churches and the School.

Though enrolments close on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2025 **please endeavour to enrol before the 13<sup>th</sup> December** as this allows time over the January period to undertake preparation work. The Programme starts on March 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

## MARCH FOR LIFE

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> 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.



## **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**

The manner in which Luke identifies in detail the time when John the Baptist started his preaching shows that Luke regarded this as a historic moment. Perhaps you can recall particularly a significant moment in your life, an occasion when you felt called to a change of work, status, or lifestyle?

John called people to give expression to their desire for a change of heart by a symbolic baptism in the Jordan. When have you found it helpful to symbolise your desire to change for the better by some symbolic gesture, e.g., burning a packet of cigarettes, sending a card, making a phone call, etc.

'A voice crying in the wilderness' is sometimes taken to refer to a voice that is ignored. Pope Francis has issued a call to all of us to take part in the consultation process preparing for the recent Synod. What can you, and your faith community, do to make sure his call is answered.

## **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.

## **PARISH TO PARISH FOR BED AND BREAKFAST**

Catholics throughout New Zealand, and a few in Australia, host Catholics in their homes. It's a wonderful way for Catholics to meet and enjoy the company of other Catholics.

There is a contribution made of \$50 for one person, and \$30 for each additional guest, per night, that is, two people would pay \$80 per night. If you wish to purchase a book with the details of the hosts, the cost is \$15. This includes postage. To order please contact or order from Marie Anderson, 2 Brent Place, Christchurch 8053, phone 027 2800 611, email [marie.ian@xtra.co.nz](mailto:marie.ian@xtra.co.nz)

## **FOOD FOR FAITH** for Advent.

Sign up at [www.foodforfaith.org.nz](http://www.foodforfaith.org.nz) to prepare for Christmas receiving daily email encouragements from Fr. John O'Connor's Food For Faith website.

## ARCHDIOCESAN COMMISSION FOR ECOLOGY, JUSTICE AND PEACE

'The witness of John the Baptist helps us to go forward in our witness of life. The purity of his proclamation, his courage in proclaiming the truth were able to reawaken the expectation and hope in the Messiah that had long been dormant... Jesus' disciples are called to be his humble but courageous witnesses in order to rekindle hope, to make it understood that, despite everything, the Kingdom of God continues to be built day by day.'

*Pope Francis, [Angelus](#), 9 December 2018*



### CUSHION CONCERT - ST BRENDAN'S SCHOOL

On Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December from 5pm for 5.30pm start.

We welcome you to bring a picnic and blanket to sit in the quad where our students will perform on the stage. Our Explorers, Adventurers, Navigators, Choir, Kapa Haka and Pasifika Group will perform. We'll then sing some Christmas carols together. The PTF will be selling raffles and Juices, and the Board will run a \$2 sausage sizzle.

**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 Nelson Harrison, K J Alias, Mary Powlesland, and Geraldine Sims. We pray also for those whose anniversaries occur around this time especially John Carson.



#### 2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT



## Advent Novena Mass

15 – 23 December 2024

All are invited to the Advent Novena Masses in the Northern Hutt Parishes. Let us prepare ourselves for the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ, Our Lord, through this 9-day series of Night Masses.



15 – 18 December 2024, 7pm  
**Our Lady of Grace Church,  
Heretaunga**

19, 20, 22, 23 December 2024, 7pm  
21 December 2024, 6pm (Vigil mass)  
**St. Joseph Church, Upper Hutt**



FOR THE YOUNG ONES

# GROWING WITH THE *Gospel* CYCLE C



## COLOR

Read the Gospel of the week and color the image.



2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent • Luke 3:1-6

# PUZZLE FOR YOU

## Prepare the Way

As is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet: "A voice of one calling in the desert, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.'" Luke 3:4 (NIV)



The activity is based on Luke 3:1-6

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

CALLING	STRAIGHT	DESERT	REPENT
VOICE	VALLEY	PREPARE	FORGIVE
CROOKED	ROUGH	SMOOTH	PREACHING