

# 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>	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 Newsletter</b>	56 Palmer Cres	<b>Tel</b> (04) 939 1909
	<a href="http://www.stbrendans.school.nz">www.stbrendans.school.nz</a>	

4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent		READINGS YEAR C	22 <sup>nd</sup> December 2024
15 <sup>th</sup> Dec	1 <sup>st</sup> Reading 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading Gospel	Micah 5: 1-4 Hebrews 10: 5-10 Luke 1: 39-44	
22 <sup>nd</sup> Dec	1 <sup>st</sup> Reading 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading Gospel	Eccl 3: 2-6, 12-14 Colossians 3: 12-21 Luke 2: 41-52	
<b>UPCOMING EVENTS</b>			
<b>EVENTS IN THE ARCHDIOCESE</b> What is happening around our Diocese? Stay up to date with Archdiocesan events - <a href="https://www.wn.catholic.org.nz/events/">https://www.wn.catholic.org.nz/events/</a>			

## 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 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

**CALLING ALL ANGELS AND SHEPHERDS of all ages,** please dress appropriately for the occasion, to gather at the Christmas Eve, 5:30pm, Mass at Our Lady of Grace and join Father on the Altar.



## CAFÉ – LIVING WATERS

Music group will be leading a few Christmas Carols in the Pettit Centre after the 10.30 a.m. Mass on Sunday. Love you to join us.



## CHRISTMAS REFLECTION = CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS

The celebration of Christmas and the miracle of Emmanuel (God-with-us) is two days away now and then 7 days later we will reach the end of another calendar year. The upcoming year is perhaps more poignant for me as I will be leaving the Parish at the end of January to take up a new appointment as Parish Priest of St Joseph's in Upper Hutt.

I have spent time since receiving the appointment in early December reflecting back not just on the last twelve months, but also events over the years since 1<sup>st</sup> February 2016 when I first arrived here in Heretaunga/Stokes Valley.

I remember with delight the celebrations we have had of God coming to us, calling new members to our parish family through baptism and by people moving into the parish. We have marked significant events in parishioners' lives, with weddings, Confirmation, First Eucharist, birthdays, wedding anniversary, etc along with various other events in the St Brendan's School calendar.

We have gathered too during the year to say farewell to people, called home to God and those called to lives lived in other parts of the country and the world. In all of these I look back on all these movements of life and see the gentle hand of God nurturing and supporting us all.

In the celebrations we have had over the past year, whether large or small, there are always people working behind the scenes to make them encounters of grace and love for those who attend. To all those who have helped our parish experience the grace and care of God over the past twelve months, and all the years we have journeyed together may I express the thanks of all.

My prayer and blessing for you all at this Christmas time as we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ is that you may also experience the joy, the peace, the grace and the love of God brought to birth in our lives today.

God bless you all and his richest blessings for 2025

Father Tony

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### 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.



Contact Liz McCaul 527 3211.



### 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.

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.



## THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPEL

The greeting of Elizabeth to Mary 'Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb' is a joyful welcome of the child to come. Bringing new life into the world through pregnancy and birth is one of the most awesome human experiences. How have you experienced this for yourself or in someone close to you?

The image of the pregnant Mary going a distance to visit her cousin is a symbol of her willingness to look beyond her own needs to the needs of another. When have you witnessed that kind of generosity in others, or have been able to act in this way yourself?

Mary is praised for her faith, because she believed the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled. In this she is a model for us. In what ways have you experienced blessings from your faith and trust in God's promises? What are God's promises that mean the most to you?

## COLUMBAN CALENDARS FOR 2025

**Limited (3)** numbers are out now and available at the Parish Office and the church foyers for \$13 each please hurry and secure a copy for yourself or a loved one.



## ARCHDIOCESAN COMMISSION FOR ECOLOGY, JUSTICE AND PEACE

'After receiving the annunciation of the angel, Mary does not stay at home, thinking over what has happened and considering the problems and pitfalls, which were certainly not lacking, with the culture of that age... She did not understand.... On the contrary, she first thinks of someone in need; instead of being absorbed in her own problems, she thinks about someone in need, she thinks about Elizabeth, her relative, who was advanced in years and with child, something strange and miraculous. Mary sets out with generosity, without letting herself be daunted by the discomforts of the journey, responding to an inner impulse that called her to be close and to help.'

*Pope Francis, [Angelus](#), 19 December 2021.*



## THANKS

We would like to thank Diane, of China Pearl Studios in Totara Park for restoring St Joseph's hand. This has been broken for many years and it now looks pristine. Have a look, but please do not touch it, as St Joseph resides in the crib with his family. – *Liturgy Committee*

**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 Lois Hopkins, Nelson Harrison, K J Alias, and Mary Powlesland. We pray also for those whose anniversaries occur around this time.



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY IN FEBRUARY 2025

As you're aware, Fr Tony is sadly finishing his placement with us at Our Lady of the Valleys in early February. Please put these dates in your diary (and note the mass times)



**1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> February** Fr Tony's last weekend at OLOV. Usual Mass times.  
**2<sup>nd</sup> February 10:30 am at OLOG** Mass will be celebrated as a **Farewell Mass for Father Tony followed by a morning tea in the Pettit Centre**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> February at St Joseph's UH** is a Mass to farewell Fr Maleko.

**8<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> February** Fr Maleko's first weekend Mass in OLOV. Normal Mass times apply.

**9<sup>th</sup> February at 10:00 am** is an **Installation Mass of Welcome** for Fr Tony at St Joseph's followed by morning tea in the foyer.

**16<sup>th</sup> February at 10:00 am** at Our Lady of Grace is the **Installation Mass for Fr Maleko** as our Parish Priest with Archbishop Paul in attendance. This also **celebrates 10 years since the Parish of Our Lady of the Valleys was established in February 2015**. This Mass is followed immediately by our annual Parish picnic event on the church lawn. **Note - usual 5:30pm mass on Saturday but no 8:30am Sunday mass at St Francis Xavier; and a change to 10:00 am Mass at OLOG.**

We'll provide more information on the 16 February event in the first bulletin in January.

### CHRISTMAS





FOR THE YOUNG ONES

# GROWING WITH THE *Gospel* CYCLE C



## COLOR

Read the Gospel of the week and color the image.



Christmas • Luke 2:1-14

# PUZZLE FOR YOU

## The Gift of Love

"Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!"  
Luke 1:45 (NIV)



The puzzle is based on Luke 1:39-45

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

ELIZABETH	FULFILL	FILLED	GREETING	BELIEVE
BLESSED	CHILD	PROMISE	LEAPED	JUDEA
ZECHARIAH	JOY	BABY	HOME	MARY