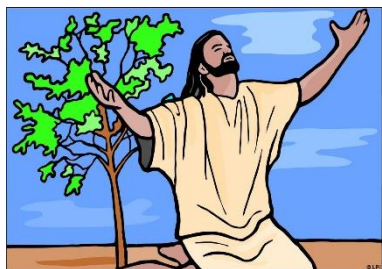


Our Lady of the Valleys Parish



Parish Priest	Father Maleko Api-Tufuga	
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	

3rd Sunday of Lent READINGS 23rd March 2025 YEAR C

23 rd Mar	1 st Reading 2 nd Reading Gospel	Exo 3: 1-8, 13-15 1Cor 10: 1-6, 10-12 John 13: 1-9	
30 th Mar	1 st Reading 2 nd Reading Gospel	Joshua 5: 9-13 Cor 5: 17-21 Luke 15: 1-3, 11-32	

UPCOMING EVENT

Wed 26 th Mar	06.30 am 10.00 am	Mass at OLOG during Lent Parish Morning Tea at Car Museum Cafe
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EVENTS IN THE ARCHDIOCESE

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

Lent



WEDNESDAYS OF LENT

On each Wednesday in Lent there will be an additional Mass at Our Lady of Grace Church at 6:30 am for those who might like to choose this as a Lenten Observance.

PARISH MORNING TEA

At last we've found a venue to hold our last Wednesday of the month Parish coffee morning. You're all invited to the Car Museum Cafe on George Daniels Drive, off Alexander Road, at 10am on Wednesday 26th March. Feel free to bring a friend.



CLEANLINESS IN CHURCH

Please do clean up if your child or you have eaten food, chewed gum in the church, have used tissues, or food wrappers. You would clean up your home after a meal so please consider this your home too and pick up any droppings.



STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Will be prayed each Friday of Lent at 7:00pm in St Francis Xavier Church, Stokes Valley. English translations of the stations are also provided - ALL WELCOME.



SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION PRAYER REQUESTS

In the foyer of both churches are cards that have the name of one of the candidates in this year's Sacramental Preparation Program. Parishioners are invited to take one of these cards and pray for the candidate as they move through the program this year towards First Holy Communion. This is a way we all can support these young members of our family on their journey of faith.

THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPEL

Real repentance is a reflection about whatever is unfruitful in our lifestyle. Jesus' words 'Repent or you will perish' remind us of what Socrates said at his trial, after he had opted for death rather than exile: 'The un-examined life is not worth living.' The parable of the fruitless fig tree is thought-provoking. It is not about doing wrong but about failure to do what is positively right. The fig tree that bore no fruit is like a Christian who attempts no good work and lives a purely selfish life.



Francis of Assisi once invited a young friar to go with him into town to preach. Francis and the young friar spent all day walking through the streets and then came home. When the day's journey was done, the young friar was disappointed and asked 'Weren't we supposed to preach today?' Francis replied, 'Son, we have preached. We were preaching while we were walking. We were seen by many and our behavior was noted. It is of no use walking anywhere to preach unless we preach wherever as we walk!' He summed up his idea in these words 'Preach the Gospel everywhere, and if necessary, use words.' To him witnessing to Jesus wasn't merely quoting some words out of the Bible from time to time but one who lives by the word of God each day.

DIVINE RETREAT CENTRE NZ WELLINGTON UNIT



The Divine Retreat Centre Wellington Unit is thrilled to announce that Fr. Sunil Nagothu SVD will be leading a midday Lenten retreat at St. Martin De Porres Church in Avalon on Saturday, March 29, 2025, from 11:00 AM to 2.00 PM. We'll conclude this special gathering with a Holy Mass. We warmly invite you to join us for this significant event to celebrate and worship the Lord as we spiritually prepare for the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

SAMOAN MASS

All are welcome to celebrate Samoan mass together at St Francis Xavier Church every 4th Sunday of the Month. Our First Samoan Mass will be celebrated on Sunday 23rd March @11.30 am.





MORNING TEA AT SFX AFTER THE 8.30AM MASS

During this Jubilee Year, our St Francis Xavier Samoan Youth have started up morning tea after the 8.30am mass at St Francis Xavier Church. Inviting all our parishioners to join us in a cuppa and some treats after mass - rain or shine! Feel free to bring a packet of biscuits or baking to share with our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ~ If you have any questions or want to be part of the set-up/pack-down team, feel free to chat to any of the peeps after mass.

SEEDS OF THE GOSPEL - CATHOLIC CITY PODCAST

'Seeds of the Gospel' is a Jubilee Year podcast brought to you by Catholic City, dedicated to exploring the timeless parables of Jesus Christ and their relevance in our modern lives. Hosted by Fr Dyson and co-hosted by one of our very own parishioners - Vinu! Available via You tube, Spotify, Apple Podcast - search 'Seeds of the Gospel'.

JESUS YOUTH WELLINGTON

Welcome all Youth to our weekly gathering at Connolly Hall [10 Guildford Terrace, Thorndon] every Friday from 6:45 - 8.45pm. Open event where we come together for Praise and Worship, followed by a short discussion on the Word of God with engaging games and activities for youth.

24 HOURS FOR THE LORD: FRIDAY 28TH MARCH - SATURDAY 29TH MARCH @SACRED HEART CATHEDRAL

A Lenten initiative of prayer and reconciliation celebrated around the world on the eve of the 4th Sunday of Lent. Everyone is welcome to visit the Cathedral and spend some time in prayer for peace, healing and hope in our broken world. Parishes and communities are invited to take the lead for an hour or two during these 24 hours. It will begin with an Opening Liturgy at 5.30pm on Fri 28th March and to continue through the night and end with the Vigil Mass at 5.30pm on Sat 29th March. Our Parish has signed up for the **2-3am** slot so see you there.

SIMPLICITY OF BEAUTY IN LITURGY YOUTH MASS

During this Jubilee Year, the Archdiocese is planning monthly late-evening diocesan Mass for all Young People!! This special Mass will be celebrated on the first Friday of each month, 9pm at the Sacred Heart Cathedral starting from Friday 4th April. If you are interested in offering your service for ministry at these masses e.g., proclaimers of the word, Extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist etc, please contact Lagi (021 132 1952).

XLT YOUTH WORSHIP 2025

Friday 28th March, 7pm @St Anne's Hall, Emmett Street, Newtown.

JOIN US for our first XLT in 2025! An evening of relevant worship, adoration, reconciliation and fellowship for college students and young adults. If you would like to experience XLT but have no ride - contact Barbara (B) at 027 351 4620 by 1pm, Friday 28th March.

FORUM ON HOUSING WORKSHOP

Sponsored by the Ecology Justice and Peace Commission. 10am-3pm Saturday 29 March, St Bernadette's Church Hall, Naenae.

This workshop is for everyone concerned about housing issues. Community Housing Aotearoa will facilitate the day. For more information, please contact Deirdre Meskill, d.meskill@wn.catholic.org.nz; phone: 04 385 8642. A contribution of finger food to share for lunch is appreciated.

HOLY HOUR FOR VOCATIONS TO PRIESTHOOD AND CONSECRATED LIFE

Tuesday 25 March 7.30pm – 8.30pm, Sacred Heart Cathedral Thorndon. You are invited to a Holy Hour which will include prayers, Scripture, singing, times of silence and conclude with Benediction. All are welcome.

LENTEN RETREAT - OPEN FOR EVERYONE

The KPF Mission Ministries invite you to a Lenten Retreat on Saturday, 12 April, at St. Martin de Porres Church, Avalon, from 8:30am – 5pm with reflective talks, Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Eucharist. Text Rey 0275712825 to reserve a seat and more details or register online <https://forms.gle/AwwBCqVF61oLn2gz8>

JUBILEE OF THE SICK AND HEALTH WORKERS - Sunday 6th April

A special Mass will be celebrated at 5pm on Sunday 6th April at St Anne's Church, Newtown to pray for the sick and those entrusted with their care. All care-givers, nurses and doctors at our hospitals and care facilities are especially welcome.



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 Helen Wilson and Bernard Wilson, and for those whose anniversaries occur

around this time.

3RD SUNDAY OF LENT



FOR THE YOUNG ONES

GROWING WITH THE *Gospel* CYCLE C



COLOR

Read the Gospel of the week and color the image.



3rd Sunday of Lent • Luke 13:1-9

PUZZLE FOR YOU

The Parable of the Fig Tree

" 'Sir,' the man replied, 'leave it alone for one more year, and I'll dig around it and fertilize it. If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down.' "

Luke 13:8-9 (NIV)

The puzzle is based on Luke 13:6-9 (NIV).



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

YEARS	THREE	LOOK	LEAVE	FRUIT
DOWN	FIND	VINEYARD	MAN	TOLD
PLANTED	USE	SOIL	ALONE	FIG
FERTILIZE	DIG	PARABLE	TREE	CUT