

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) Tuesday / Thursday 9:30 am (Stokes Valley)	
Weekday Eucharist	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	Every Saturday at OLOG at 9.30 am	
Presbytery and Parish Office	5 Palmer Crescent Heretaunga	Tel (04) 972 4282
Parish Administrator	Monday – Friday	9:00 am – 1:00 pm
Website	www.olov.org.nz	E-mail office@olov.org.nz pp@olov.org.nz
St Brendan's School Newsletter	56 Palmer Cres	Tel (04) 939 1909
	25 November, Term 4 2025 Newsletter	

1 st Sunday of Advent		READINGS YEAR A	30 th November 2025
30 th Nov	1 st Reading 2 nd Reading Gospel	Isaiah 2: 1-5 Romans 13: 11-14 Matthew 24: 37-44	
7 th Dec	1 st Reading 2 nd Reading Gospel	Isaiah 11: 1-10 Romans 15: 4-9 Matthew 3: 1-12	

UPCOMING EVENT

Sun 30 th Dec	11.30 am	Parish Expo in the Pettit Centre
Fri 5 th Dec	05.30 pm	Men's Christmas Gathering
Sat 6 th Dec	02.00 pm	Circle of Friendship at the Pettit Centre
Sun 7 th Dec	04.00 pm	Rite II Reconciliation 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/>



ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS

Today, we are welcoming 8 candidates, who are involved in the Order of Christian Initiation for Adults (OCIA). This was previously known as the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA).

Today our 8 candidates will take part in the Rite of Acceptance.

This is the first public gathering of the candidates who have completed a period of pre-catechumenate. Candidates will declare their intention to the church and the church in turn accepts them, as people who intend to explore their desire to become members of the Catholic Faith Community.

RITE II RECONCILIATION 4:00pm 7th December at OLOG

This year Our Lady of the Valleys Parish will be holding the Rite II Reconciliation Service at Our Lady of Grace Church in Heretaunga at 4:00pm on Sunday 7th December



THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPEL On Spiritual Complacency

People in Noah's day were oblivious until the flood came. Am I similarly asleep, absorbed in life's daily rhythms, while remaining spiritually unprepared? Lord, shake me from my complacency and keep me watchful for your coming.

On Being Truly Ready

Two men will be in the field; one is taken. Does my external Christian activity mask an unprepared heart? Am I living in a state of genuine, moment-by-moment readiness, or am I presuming on God's grace and assuming I'll have more time?

On the Unexpected Moment

Jesus compares his return to a thief in the night. Does this sense of holy urgency inform my choices? Or do I live as if that day is far off, structuring my life around everything but the promise of his sudden appearance?

On Active Watchfulness

'Therefore, keep watch.' This is a command to active, intentional living. What does 'keeping watch' actually look like for me today? Is it merely a head knowledge, or is it transforming my priorities, my prayers, and how I love others right now?

MEN'S CHRISTMAS GATHERING

To be held on Friday the 5th December starting at 5.30 pm at the Pettit Centre 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

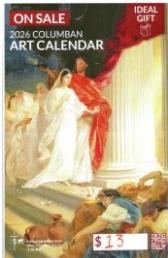


CIRCLE OF FRIENDSHIP

Our final gathering of Friends will be our Christmas High Tea on Saturday 6 December, 2025, at 2pm, at the Pettit Centre. Could you please bring a pretty cup, saucer, and plate to use. Also, a small plate of Christmas food to share would be most appreciated.

Come along and enjoy our Christmas celebration. There will be a Christmas quiz, some Christmas songs to sing, and friendly fellowship.

COLUMBAN CALENDARS FOR 2026



Are almost all sold out. If you would like to pay through the bank please mention COLUMBAN CALENDAR in the reference. They are priced at \$13 each. **If anyone has taken a calendar and are yet to pay for it please do so now.**



CHRISTMAS CARDS

Christmas Cards are now available. They will be at the foyer of both Churches and in the Parish Office. A pack of 8 cards is \$6 each.



CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE

The winners of our two Christmas hampers were Frank Quin and Colin Braddock. Thank you to all who helped us raise \$766 for our various missions. Christmas blessings to you all.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

LOG

Café, Altar Society, and Greeters

SFX (Saturday Vigil service)

Collectors, Offertory procession and

Eucharistic Ministers

Please contact the office as soon as possible as we are in urgent need of volunteers.



ARCHDIOCESAN COMMISSION FOR ECOLOGY, JUSTICE & PEACE

'We share the same faith in the one and only God, the Father of all people; we confess together the one Lord and true Son of God, Jesus Christ, and the one Holy Spirit, who inspires us and impels us towards full unity and the common witness to the Gospel. Truly, what unites us is much greater than what divides us! In a world that is divided and torn apart by many conflicts, the one universal Christian community can be a sign of peace and an instrument of reconciliation, playing a decisive role in the global commitment to peace.'

Pope Leo XIV



NOVEMBER IS CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES ANNUAL APPEAL MONTH.

We live in challenging times – times that are causing many people to lose hope. The poor and vulnerable among us are especially affected. This is why we need your help. Your ongoing support helps us bring hope to those who need it. Supporting this valuable mahi is easy, and there are many ways to do so, including the link: www.catholicsocialservices.org.nz/donate

DATE CLAIMER 7th December 40 and 25 years

This year Fr Kevin Connors celebrates 40 years of ordination and Fr Tony Kearns marks his 25th anniversary of ordination. To mark these events the St Joseph's Parish Council is arranging a SPECIAL Mass of Thanksgiving on Sunday 7th December, at 10:00 am. Following the Mass there will be a Parish picnic. Look forward to seeing you all there!!!!



WORLD YOUTH DAY 2027

Interested in going to South Korea? Come join us for World Youth Day 2027 in Seoul! Please fill out the expression of interest form and email Regina Fernandes at r.fernandes@wn.catholic.org.nz for any questions.



COMMUNION UNDER BOTH KINDS TO RESUME

Will be starting from the weekend of 6th and 7th December.

Taking a 'self help' action to the Blood of Christ is not correct. This decision reflects our commitment to inclusivity and spiritual nourishment while respecting the diverse views within our community.



PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER all who are sick and unwell, and those who are lonely. We pray also for those who have died recently and for those whose anniversaries occur

around this time.

St Brendan's School Giving Gratitude Celebration



Tuesday 9th December, 10:30 am, School Hall

We invite you to join us at our 2025 Celebration.

This is an opportunity for us to say thank you to all those people who have helped our School throughout the year.

You may have been a parent helper on one of our many trips, coached or managed a sports team, or supported our fundraising efforts.

The ways in which you have helped are countless.

We are grateful for your generosity, which has enabled our tamariki to participate in a number of activities and events.

1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

BEING READY
FOR JESUS TO
RETURN IS
LIKE ALWAYS
WEARING
YOUR SEAT
BELT...

ISAYDA
WEBSITE
©2001 LPi
WWJD



YOU NEVER KNOW
WHEN YOU'RE
GOING TO NEED IT,
AND WHEN YOU DO,
THERE'S NO TIME
TO PUT IT ON.



FOR THE YOUNG ONES

GROWING WITH THE *Gospel*

CYCLE A



COLOR

Read the Gospel of the week and color the image.



1st Sunday of Advent • Matthew 24:37-44

A PUZZLE FOR YOU



PUZZLE

Find and circle these words from today's Gospel:

NOAH
EATING
DRINKING

MARRIED
FLOOD
TOGETHER

TAKEN
LEFT
READY

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



MISSION

Make sure the movies, games, and music you choose help you grow closer to Jesus.



BECAUSE VIBRANT
CHURCHES MATTER