



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

2 nd Sunday of Advent		READINGS YEAR A	7 th December 2025
7 th Dec	1 st Reading 2 nd Reading Gospel	Isaiah 11: 1-10 Romans 15: 4-9 Matthew 3: 1-12	
14 th Dec	1 st Reading 2 nd Reading Gospel	Isaiah 35: 1-6, 10 James 5: 7-10 Matthew 11: 2-11	
UPCOMING EVENT			
Sun 7 th Dec	04.00 pm	Rite II Reconciliation at OLOG	
Thurs 11 th Dec	07.30 pm	Parish Finance Committee	
	EVENTS IN THE ARCHDIOCESE What is happening around our Diocese? Stay up to date with Archdiocesan events - https://www.wn.catholic.org.nz/events/		

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



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.



THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPEL

In today's Gospel John's message is a stark call to 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.' He condemns the religious leaders' empty reliance on ancestry. Reflect: Is your faith a matter of genuine, internal transformation, producing a changed life (the 'fruit' John demands), or is it merely a superficial identity?

John's role was to prepare the way for the Lord, making 'straight paths for him.' This involves honest self-examination. We ask ourselves: What 'mountains' of pride or 'valleys' of apathy in my life need to be leveled to make a clear, unobstructed path for Christ to reign?

John speaks of the coming Messiah who will 'baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.' Fire refines and purges. What is it in our lives that needs the Holy Spirit's purifying fire to burn away pride, or self-reliance, leaving only what is genuine and dedicated to God?

The image of the winnowing fork is one of ultimate separation and accountability. It reminds us that our choices have eternal consequences. Does the reality of final judgment influence my daily decisions to live a life of faithfulness and integrity?

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

OLOG

Greeters

SFX (Saturday Vigil service)

procession and Eucharistic Ministers

OLOV

We need Eucharistic Ministers to visit the sick in their homes or rest homes. Those who are mobile and have a little time to spare once a week.

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

Café, Altar Society, and

Collectors,

Offertory



ARCHDIOCESAN COMMISSION FOR ECOLOGY, JUSTICE & PEACE

'It is only by returning to the heart that a true ecological conversion can take place. We must shift from collecting data to caring; and from environmental discourse to an ecological conversion that transforms both personal and communal lifestyles. For believers, this conversion is in fact no different to the one that orients us towards the living God. We cannot love God, whom we cannot see, while despising his creatures. Nor can we call ourselves disciples of Jesus Christ without participating in his outlook on creation and his care for all that is fragile and wounded.'

Pope Leo XIV

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!!!!



CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE UPPER HUTT BRANCH

Are hosting this years Christmas Advent meeting which will be held on the 9th of December in the Pettit centre at our Lady of the Valley's Parish Heretaunga. We will commence at 1.30pm with a Christmas Advent reflection followed by secret Santa exchange, afternoon tea and the drawing of the raffles.

Could members please bring a non-perishable item for the St. Vincent de Paul Upper Hutt branch and a wrapped gift to exchange with other members to the value between \$5 and \$10.

Looking forward to seeing as many members from around the region joining us.

QUARTERLY FINANCE REPORT July – September 2025

Operating Income	79,296
Less Expenditures	
• Pastoral Costs	(32,736)
• Property Costs*	(45,846)
• Administration Costs	(12,523)
Total Operating Expenditure	(91,105)
Operating Surplus (Deficit)	(11,809)
Balance Sheet Flows	
• Balance Sheet Inflows	8,541
• Balance Sheet Outflows	(6,957)
Excess/(Deficit) for the Qtr	(10,226)



THE ARCHDIOCESAN MARRIAGE PREPARATION

Love is a Decision - register online on the Archdiocesan website for the next course, consecutive Sundays, 1 and 8 March 2026. Please note that couples attend both Sundays together in person to complete the course. Courses are offered four times a year - they will run in March, June, September and November 2026. For queries please email: marriage@wn.catholic.org.nz

COMMUNION UNDER BOTH KINDS TO RESUME

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

1. Taking a '**self help**' action to the Blood of Christ is not correct
2. It is a Priest who can intinct the bread into the blood and offer to communicants the Body and Blood of Christ – but the blood could not be placed in the hand and needed to be administered on the tongue. However, we are not supposed to give Communion on the tongue today for health and safety reasons.

This decision reflects our commitment to inclusivity and spiritual nourishment while respecting the diverse views within our community.

Volunteer as a member of the Ecology, Justice and Peace Commission in 2026

Are you motivated to contribute to work for justice and peace inspired and informed by Catholic Social Teaching? The Archdiocesan Ecology Justice and Peace Commission and Committees (Integral Ecology, Social Equity, and Bicultural Relationships) invite applications from throughout the Archdiocese for membership in 2026. Find out more about the Commission at <https://www.wn.catholic.org.nz/about/commission-for-ecology/> or contact Deirdre Meskill, the facilitator, at d.meskill@wn.catholic.org.nz, ph 021 2213944

ADVENT NOVENA MASS

It's the season of Advent. Let's journey with the spirit of the holy couple, Mary and Joseph, as we prepare ourselves for the coming of Jesus!

The Northern Hutt Parishes of St Joseph and Our Lady of the Valleys invite you to join the Advent Novena Masses, details below:

15-18 December 2025, 7pm, OLOG Heretaunga

19 December 2025, 7pm, St. Joseph Church Upper Hutt

20 December 2025, 6pm, St. Joseph Church Upper Hutt (Vigil Mass)

21-23 December 2025, 7pm, St. Joseph Church Upper Hutt



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 especially John Carson.

2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



FOR THE YOUNG ONES

GROWING

WITH THE *Gospel* CYCLE A



COLOR

Read the Gospel of the week and color the image.



2nd Sunday of Advent • Matthew 3:1-12

A PUZZLE FOR YOU

Ready for the Christ of Christmas

In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." Matthew 3:1-2 (NIV)

Based on Matthew 3:1-12



JOHN THE BAPTIST
Matthew 3

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

LORD
BAPTIZE
REPENT

PREPARE
STRAIGHT
LOCUSTS

KINGDOM
PATHS
HONEY

JOHN
PREACHING
CAMEL

HAIR
WILD
BELT