

# 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	<a href="http://www.olov.org.nz">www.olov.org.nz</a>	E-mail <a href="mailto:office@olov.org.nz">office@olov.org.nz</a> <a href="mailto:pp@olov.org.nz">pp@olov.org.nz</a>
St Brendan's School Newsletter	56 Palmer Cres	Tel (04) 939 1909
	<a href="#">9 December, Term 4 2025 Newsletter</a>	

3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent		READINGS YEAR A	14 <sup>th</sup> December 2025
14 <sup>th</sup> Dec	1 <sup>st</sup> Reading 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading Gospel	Isaiah 35: 1-6, 10 James 5: 7-10 Matthew 11: 2-11	
21 <sup>st</sup> Dec	1 <sup>st</sup> Reading 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading Gospel	Isaiah 7: 10-14 Romans 1: 1-7 Matthew 1: 18-25	
<b>UPCOMING EVENT</b>			
Sun 7 <sup>th</sup> Dec	04.00 pm	Rite II Reconciliation at OLOG	
Thurs 11 <sup>th</sup> Dec	07.30 pm	Parish Finance Committee	
<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

Sat 20 <sup>th</sup> Dec	5:30 pm	Mass 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent St Francis Xavier Church
Sun 21 <sup>st</sup> Dec	8:30 am	Mass 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent St Francis Xavier Church
	10:30 am	Mass 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent Our Lady of Grace Church
Wed 24 <sup>th</sup> Dec	5:30 pm	Family Mass at Our Lady of Grace Church, preceded by carols from 5:00 pm
	12:00 am Midnight	Christmas Mass at St Francis Xavier Church, preceded by carols from 11:30 pm
Wed 25 <sup>th</sup> Dec	09:30 am	Christmas Day Mass at St Francis Xavier Church
Sat 27 <sup>th</sup> Dec	5:30 pm	Mass at St Francis Xavier Church
Sun 28 <sup>th</sup> Dec	8:30 am	Mass at St Francis Xavier Church
	10:30 am	Mass at Our Lady of Grace Church

**During the month of January Fr. Ron Bennet will be helping the Parish out.**

**There will be Mass every Wednesday and Friday at 9.30 am at OLOG but NO Saturday morning Mass.**

**There will be Mass every Tuesday at 9.30 am at SFX EXCEPT ON the 20<sup>th</sup> of January. Instead, there will an anointing Mass at Stokeswood on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> January.**



### **THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPEL**

Even John the Baptist experienced doubt in prison we hear in the Gospel today. Jesus doesn't condemn him but offers evidence of the Messiah's work. Can I bring my own questions and disappointments to God with similar honesty, trusting that He can handle my doubt?

Jesus points to His deeds – the blind see, the lame walk, and the good news is preached to the poor. God's kingdom is often revealed in acts of healing and liberation. Where do I see this healing and liberating work in my life and community? How can I be a part of it?

Jesus warns his followers against being a 'reed shaken by the wind.' Following Christ requires conviction, not just fleeting enthusiasm. Is my faith and moral compass firm, or do they easily shift with cultural trends or personal challenges?

Jesus calls John the greatest of prophets yet clarifies that the least in the kingdom is greater. True greatness in God's eyes is not about status but about humble closeness to and imitation of Christ. Does my pursuit of being great match with Jesus' definition – found in servanthood and intimacy with Him?

### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

**OLOG**

Café, Altar Society, and Greeters

**SFX (Saturday Vigil service)**

Collectors, Offertory 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.



### **ARCHDIOCESAN COMMISSION FOR ECOLOGY, JUSTICE & PEACE**

'We want to walk together by appreciating what unites us, breaking down the walls of prejudice and mistrust, promoting mutual knowledge and esteem in order to give to all a strong message of hope and an invitation to become "peacemakers"'

*Pope Leo XIV*

## "THANK YOU FOR THE MUSIC" MORNING TEA

The Music Group and friends would like you to join us for a "Thank you for the music" morning tea in the Pettit Centre after the 10.30 a.m. Mass at Our Lady of Grace Church, today - Sunday, 14th, - to celebrate Stella Wadsworth's 29 years of piano playing for the music group. All welcome.



## CIRCLE OF FRIENDSHIP

Our final gathering for 2025 was an enjoyable afternoon with carol singing, a quiz, fun and laughter and a special Christmassy afternoon tea.

We thank all who have come along during the year to participate and enjoy some fellowship, friendship and fun.

We have had some wonderful speakers this year, and we are grateful to those who so kindly "answered the call" or offered to come and share, educate, inspire and entertain us.

We look forward to another year 2026, and are always ready to welcome any new faces.

Our gatherings are always held on the first Saturday of the month 2pm-4pm in the Church hall.

Abundant blessings to one and all this Christmas Season! PQ

## SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION PROGRAMME 2025

Enrolments for the 2026 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 [Sacramental Programme 2026](#) Paper enrolment forms are available in the foyer of both churches and the School.



The Programme starts on February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2026 as the Reconciliation portion happens over Lent. Any enquiries please contact Sarah Chard, the Sacramental Programme Co-ordinator at St. Brendans.

## 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](mailto:marriage@wn.catholic.org.nz)

## LAUNCH OUT LETTERS

The December issue of the Launch Out Letters (LOL) is now out.  
<https://www.wn.catholic.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/December-2025.pdf>



## 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](mailto: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



### JUBILEE YEAR

The Year of Jubilee is approaching its completion and there will be a closing celebration on 28<sup>th</sup> December 2025 at the Sacred Heart Cathedral at 10.00 am. A copy of the Archbishop's letter is attached via email and copies too are available in the foyer.

**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.



### 3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY IN ADVENT



FOR THE YOUNG ONES

# GROWING WITH THE *Gospel*

CYCLE A



**COLOR**

Read the Gospel of the week and color the image.



3rd Sunday of Advent • Matthew 11:2-11

## A PUZZLE FOR YOU

# The Gifts that Jesus Brings

The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor.  
Matthew 11:5 (NIV)

The puzzle is based on Matthew 11:2-11 (NIV).



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

BLIND	LAME	HEARD	DEAF	HEAR
GOOD	PREACHED	POOR	CHRIST	DEAD
RAISED	SEE	LEPROSY	PRISON	JOHN
NEWS	CURED	SIGHT	WALK	HEAR