

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 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	56 Palmer Cres Tel (04) 939 1909
Newsletter	17 December, Term 4 2025 Newsletter

4th Sunday of Advent

READINGS YEAR A

21st December 2025

21 st Dec	1 st Reading 2 nd Reading Gospel	Isaiah 7: 10-14 Romans 1: 1-7 Matthew 1: 18-25	
28 th Dec	1 st Reading 2 nd Reading Gospel	Ecclesiasticus 3: 2-6, 12-14 Colossians 3: 12-21 Matthew 2: 13-15, 19-23	

UPCOMING EVENT

Sun 21 st Dec	11.30 am	Christmas Carols in the Pettit Centre
Wed 24 th Dec	05.30 pm	Family Mass at OLOG
	12.00 am	Midnight Mass at SFX
Thurs 25 th Dec	09.30 pm	Christmas Day Mass at SFX



EVENTS IN THE ARCHDIOCESE

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

MASS TIMES FOR CHRISTMAS

Sat 20th Dec	5:30 pm	Mass 4 th Sunday of Advent St Francis Xavier Church
Sun 21st Dec	8:30 am 10:30 am	Mass 4 th Sunday of Advent St Francis Xavier Church Mass 4 th Sunday of Advent Our Lady of Grace Church
Wed 24th Dec	5:30 pm 12:00 am Midnight	Family Mass at Our Lady of Grace Church, preceded by carols from 5:00 pm Christmas Mass at St Francis Xavier Church, preceded by carols from 11:30 pm
Wed 25th Dec	09:30 am	Christmas Day Mass at St Francis Xavier Church
Sat 27th Dec Sun 28th Dec	5:30 pm 8:30 am 10:30 am	Mass at St Francis Xavier Church Mass at St Francis Xavier Church Mass at Our Lady of Grace Church
Tue 30th Dec Wed 31st Dec Fri 2nd Jan	9.30 am 9.30 am 9.30 am	Mass at St Francis Xavier Church Mass at Our Lady of Grace Church 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 20th of January. Instead, there will an anointing Mass at Stokeswood on Thursday 22nd January.



THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPEL

Joseph, described as a 'righteous man,' planned to divorce Mary quietly rather than expose her to public shame. His righteousness was not about strict legalism but was tempered with profound mercy. How can I blend my commitment to what is right with a spirit of compassion and grace towards others, especially when I feel wronged?

God's guidance came to Joseph at a moment of deep personal crisis and confusion, through a dream. This reminds us that divine revelation often meets us in our uncertainty. In the 'quiet dreams' of my life – in moments of prayer, silence, or wise counsel – am I creating space to listen for God's direction even when your own plans are falling apart?

Joseph's obedience was immediate, and he took Mary as his wife, embracing social ridicule and accepting a life he did not plan. This required tremendous courage. What costly obedience may God be asking of me? Where am I being called to do God's will, despite the potential for misunderstanding or personal cost?

God with us.' This is the ultimate truth that should help us in all circumstances. How does the reality of 'God with us' impact my current situation – my fears, my relationships, my future? Do I live as if God is truly present in the midst of my ordinary, and sometimes messy, life?

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

OLOG

SFX (Saturday Vigil service)

SFX (both services)

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 Greeters

Collectors, Offertory procession

Eucharistic Ministers

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.



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.

The Programme starts on February 3rd, 2026 as the Reconciliation portion happens over Lent. Any enquiries please contact Sarah Chard, the Sacramental Programme Co-ordinator at St. Brendan's.



ALTAR SERVING

For those younger members of our parish interested in the altar serving ministry, there will be a training session on Sunday 25th January 2026 - straight after the 10:30am mass at Our

Lady of Grace.

Please contact Conor Healy (conorhealy26@gmail.com) to register your interest or to find out more information.

ARCHDIOCESAN COMMISSION FOR ECOLOGY, JUSTICE & PEACE



'Let no one be lost! Let all be saved! This is what our God wants, this is his Kingdom, and this is the goal of his actions in the world.

As Christmas approaches, we too want to embrace more strongly his dream, while being steadfast and faithful in our commitment. We know that even in the face of the greatest challenges, we are not alone: the Lord is near, he walks with us, and with him at our side, something beautiful and joyful will always happen.'

Pope Leo XIV,

SIMBANG GABI ADVENT NOVENA

Thank you to the Filipino community for organising the Simbang Gabi Masses at Our Lady of Grace and St Joseph's. The Parish appreciates the generous \$1,210 donation collected. Some of the monies will be gifted to the Jubilee Mass offering, with the remainder supporting various other Church needs.



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

JUBILEE YEAR

The Year of Jubilee is approaching its completion in dioceses around the world on Sunday, 28 December 2025, feast of the Holy Family. There will be a closing celebration on 28th December 2025 at the Sacred Heart Cathedral at 10.00 am where all are invited.



VACANCY: HOSPITAL CHAPLAIN – WELLINGTON REGIONAL HOSPITAL - Catholic

Social Services is looking for a compassionate, culturally responsive chaplain to provide spiritual and pastoral care to patients, whānau, and staff. This permanent, part-time role (15 hrs/week) is part of the Ecumenical team at Wellington Hospital with a particular focus on supporting Catholic patients while respecting and supporting all faiths. For information about the role and how to apply go to: <https://mclaren.co.nz/vacancies/?ja-job=4400348>



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:

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 especially Kevin Robinson and for those whose anniversaries occur around this time.



4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Christmas Greetings

Happy New Year 2026

FOR THE YOUNG ONES

GROWING

WITH THE *Gospel*

CYCLE A



COLOR

Read the Gospel of the week and color the image.



Christmas • Luke 2:1-14

A PUZZLE FOR YOU

An Angel Appears to Joseph

When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus. Matthew 1:24-25 (NIV)



Find the hidden words. The words have been placed horizontally, vertically, or diagonally. When you locate a word, draw a circle around it.

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

ANGEL	IMMANUEL	AFRAID	DREAM	MARRY
NAME	SON	CHRIST	CHILD	BIRTH
MARY	JESUS	JOSEPH	VIRGIN	HUSBAND