

# 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 9:00 am (Stokes Valley)  
 Weekday Eucharist Wednesday/Saturday 9:00 am (Heretaunga)  
 Friday 9:30 am (Heretaunga)  
 Adoration of Blessed Sacrament Friday 10:00 am to 6:00 pm (Heretaunga)  
 Reconciliation Every Saturday at 9.30 am (Heretaunga)  
 Presbytery and Parish Office 5 Palmer Crescent Tel (04) 972 4282  
 Heretaunga  
 Parish Administrator Monday – Friday 9:00 am – 1:00 pm  
 Website [www.olv.org.nz](http://www.olv.org.nz) E-mail [office@olv.org.nz](mailto:office@olv.org.nz) [pp@olv.org.nz](mailto:pp@olv.org.nz)  
 St Brendan's School 56 Palmer Cres Tel (04) 939 1909  
 Newsletter [10 February, Term 1 2026 Newsletter](#)

1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent		READINGS YEAR A	22 <sup>nd</sup> February 2026
22 <sup>nd</sup> Feb	1 <sup>st</sup> Reading 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading Gospel	Gen 2: 7-9, 3: 1-7 Romans 5: 12-19 Matthew 4: 1-11	
1 <sup>st</sup> Mar	1 <sup>st</sup> Reading 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading Gospel	Gen 1`2: 1-4 2 Timothy 1: 8-10 Matthew 17: 1-9	

UPCOMING EVENT		
Wed 25 <sup>th</sup> Feb	06.30 am 10.00 am 07.30 pm	Mass at OLOG during Lent Parish Morning Tea at Cars Museum. OCIA meeting at OLOG
Thur 26 <sup>th</sup> Feb	07.00 pm	Parish Liturgy meeting



## EVENTS IN THE ARCHDIOCESE

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

## PARISH PICNIC AND FAMILY MASS

Our annual tradition of Parish Picnic will be held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of February 2026. The picnic will be right after the 10.30 am Family mass in Our Lady of Grace Church, Heretaunga. There will be a simple program for everyone to enjoy and games for the kids and the kids at heart. Bring a picnic to share. All are invited to join.



## 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

Come and join us for some company and a coffee at 10am on the last Wednesday of the month at Cars Inc Museum Cafe in George Daniels Drive, off Alexander Road. Feel free to bring a friend.



## THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPEL

In the New Testament, the Greek word *baptizein* means to dip or to plunge. The Acts of the Apostles indicates that a laying-on of hands after the water rite was associated with the conferral of the Holy Spirit (8:14-20; 19:6).

In the Old Testament the prophets announced that the Spirit of the Lord would rest on the hoped-for Messiah for his saving mission. Jesus asserts that this promise is now fulfilled in him. The descent of the Holy Spirit on Jesus at his baptism by John was the sign that he is the Messiah, the 'one who is to come.' He was conceived by the Holy Spirit; his whole life and mission are carried out in total communion with the Holy Spirit whom the Father gives without measure.

The Hebrew word 'Messiah' means 'anointed one'. It is translated as 'Christos' in Greek. Christ means 'anointed one' and Christians are the 'anointed ones' who share in the messianic mission of Christ. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we who are reborn in the waters of baptism are anointed to proclaim the kingdom of God. The anointing 'Christifies' those who receive it as it bestows the gift of the Holy Spirit.

## ARCHDIOCESAN COMMISSION FOR ECOLOGY, JUSTICE AND PEACE

'In the midst of the many voices present in our personal lives and in society, Sacred Scripture helps us to recognize and respond to the cry of those who are anguished and suffering. In order to foster this inner openness to listening, we must allow God to teach us how to listen *as he does*. We must recognize that the condition of the poor is a cry that, throughout human history, constantly challenges our lives, societies, political and economic systems, and, not least, the Church.'



Pope Leo XIV, [Message for Lent 2026](#).



## BISHOPS LENTEN APPEAL

The beginning of Lent marks the start of the Bishops' Lenten Appeal. Donations can be made to Caritas directly via direct debit or credit card through the Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand website <https://www.caritas.org.nz/ways-to-give>. The bank account for Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand is 03-0518-0211216-000. Please use "Lent" as the Code and your first and last name as particulars. Envelopes are available in the foyers throughout Lent. Your generous support enables Caritas to help poor and marginalised communities around the world.



## **FEAST OF THE DIVINE MERCY (DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY)**

When and Where: Sunday 12 April 2026, St Francis de Sales Island Bay Catholic Church, 173 Clyde Street, Island Bay, Wellington 6023

Time: 2 PM to 5 PM

Contact: Masani Aukusitino, 029 2009 504

## **WALK THROUGH OF KOROWAI HOUSE**

The Parish of Te Awakairangi and supporters of Greenstone Doors are invited to have a walk through of 194 Naenae Rd from 11am-3pm, Sunday 22 February 2026 as renovations of the building and property are now complete. This is an opportunity to view the former Presbytery of St Bernadettes Parish in Naenae before Greenstone Doors prepare to open Korowai House - a Maternal Mental Health facility at Easter.



## **THE ARCHDIOCESAN MARRIAGE PREPARATION**

Love is a Decision & Commit - online registration available on the Archdiocesan website. Next course, consecutive Sundays 1 & 8 March 10.00am - 4.00pm held at St Catherine's College, Kilbirnie. Register early (couples attend both Sundays together in person). See the Archdiocese's website for information about getting married overseas and the papers required. Any queries contact: [marriage@cadw.nz](mailto:marriage@cadw.nz)

## **CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE Wellington Archdiocesan Conference**

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> & Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March. St Thomas More church 36 Worcester St Wilton 10.00am. \$50.00 for full registration

Two Highlights on Wednesday will be: Speaker Lynda Rabeni Vatuloka, Captain of St Mary's rugby team that won the 2025 inter-schools competition and represented New Zealand in a global 7's tournament. Lynda will talk to us what motivates and drives our young women.

Fr Alfred Tong will talk to us about his journey to priesthood

Thursday morning: Mass at 10am will be celebrated by Cardinal John Dew and a talk from Cardinal John on his experiences with the Conclave, followed by a finger food lunch. This morning session is open to all Parishioners (\$15 registration).

Registration forms and more information can be obtained from Susan 021 068 3065 and Helen 027 5289 635.

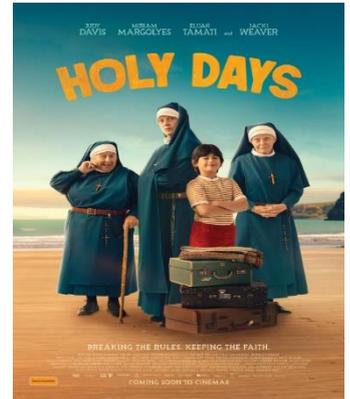


## **FUN QUIZZ EVENING.**

Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> March. St Brendan's School, Heretaunga. Catholic Women's League in conjunction with Ulysses Wellington invite you to join with us in supporting an evening, with proceeds going to the Wellington Free Ambulance. Tables of 6-8 persons. Tickets \$10 per person. Starts 7.30pm. Raffles, Lucky Ticket Draws, Supper included. Tickets from Susan 970 3730 & 021 0683065, Christine 971 8712

## HOLY DAYS

A movie based on Joy Cowley's acclaimed novel. Inspired by Pope Leo's advocacy on inspiring films and bringing hope, Rialto Distribution share an opportunity to celebrate faith, community, and the enduring legacy of Catholic life in Aotearoa through the upcoming film Holy Days, releasing nationwide on **26 February 2026**. This heartfelt Kiwi comedy-drama follows a young boy on a road trip with three eccentric nuns - a story that blends humour, hope, and redemption in a way that resonates deeply with our shared values. For group bookings, please contact: [devon@rialtodistribution.com](mailto:devon@rialtodistribution.com) Trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d3yR8Uolvtv>



## HOLY HOUR

For vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Join us for an hour of adoration, reflection and prayer that the Lord may send more workers to the harvest! 7.30-8.30pm at Sacred Heart Cathedral, Thorndon on Tuesday, 24<sup>th</sup> February and every 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month.

## CATHNEWS NEW ZEALAND

Shares the big news from the Catholic Church and stories of relevance to Catholics every Tuesday and Friday. Sign up for the free digital newsletter and read the latest stories [CathNews New Zealand](#)

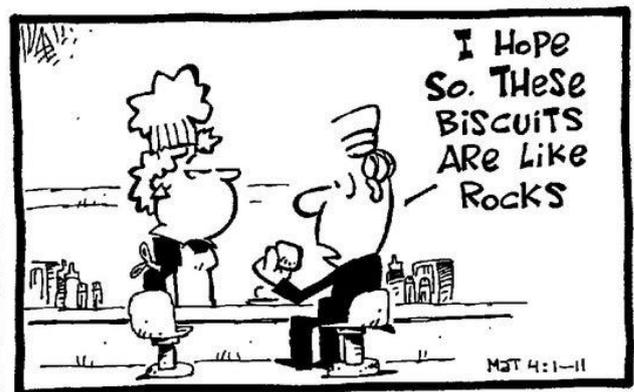
## CARITAS

Caritas have advised that registrations for all dates during Lent have now opened for the Webinar Series involving our Catholic Bishops. Registration Link <https://link.caritas.org.nz/lenweb1regiamong>



**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 Denzil Karam, Br. Douglas Dawick, and Xeth Corum, and for those whose anniversaries occur around this time.

### 1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT



FOR THE YOUNG ONES

# GROWING

WITH THE *Gospel*

CYCLE A



## COLOR

Read the Gospel of the week and color the image.



1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent • Matthew 4:1-11

## PUZZLE FOR YOU

# The Temptation of Jesus

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. Matthew 4:1 (NIV)

The puzzle is based on Matthew 4:1-11 (NLT).



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

WORD	WORSHIP	LORD	MOUNTAIN	BOW
TEMPTED	ANGELS	HUNGRY	STONES	SERVE
WORLD	KINGDOMS	BREAD	DESERT	SPLENDOR
DEVIL	FASTING	SATAN	TEMPLE	JESUS