

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 5 Palmer Crescent
 Parish Office Heretaunga 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 24 February, Term 1 2026 Newsletter

2 nd Sunday in Lent		READINGS YEAR A	1 st March 2026
1 st Mar	1 st Reading 2 nd Reading Gospel	Gen 12: 1-4 2 Timothy 1: 8-10 Matthew 17: 1-9	
8 th Mar	1 st Reading 2 nd Reading Gospel	Exodus 17: 3-7 Romans 5: 1-2, 5-8 John 4: 5-42	

UPCOMING EVENT

Tue 03 rd Mar	05.30 pm	Men's Group at Silverstream Bowling Club
	07.30 pm	Bible Study Group
Wed 04 th Feb	06.30 am	Mass during Lent at OLOG
	01.30 pm	Catholic Women's League in the Pettit Centre
Sat 07 th Feb	02.00 pm	Circle of Friendship at the Pettit Centre



EVENTS IN THE ARCHDIOCESE

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

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

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE

All women of the Parish are invited to our meeting at 1.30pm on Wednesday, 4th March, held in the Pettit Centre. Come and join us for afternoon tea and hear Sister Colette, a HOC Sister, who is going to share some of her life story.

We remind members that subs are now due and as we are planning an Easter raffle could you please bring something to add to that, or perhaps a monetary contribution instead.



THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPEL

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.



Anointing with oil is a very ancient and important ritual in the Judeo-Christian tradition. The Jews anointed three categories of people: priests, prophets and kings. Christians, by contrast, anoint everyone in baptism.

Baptism gives all a shared, if differentiated, responsibility for the life and mission of the Church, and calls baptised and ordained to work together. All baptised members of the Church participate together in the prophetic or teaching office, in the priestly or sanctifying office, and in the kingly or governing office of Christ.

This participation in the threefold mission of Christ is not delegated from the ordained ministry but 'finds its source in the anointing of baptism, its further development in confirmation and its realization and dynamic sustenance in the Holy Eucharist' (*Christifideles Laici* 14)



CIRCLE OF FRIENDSHIP

Our next Gathering is on Saturday, 7th March at the Pettit Centre at 2pm. This month our guest speaker is Ann Marie Bailey, who will talk about her 58 year career as a nurse and the changes she encountered -from white stockings and scrubs to nursing in modern times.

Please feel free to bring along a friend who may be interested in joining us. As usual, donations to help cover our costs are always gratefully accepted. Don't forget our book swap. We will end the afternoon with our usual chat and cuppa

ARCHDIOCESAN COMMISSION FOR ECOLOGY, JUSTICE AND PEACE

'The Eucharist is itself an act of cosmic love: "Yes, cosmic! Because even when it is celebrated on the humble altar of a country church, the Eucharist is always in some way celebrated on the altar of the world". The Eucharist joins heaven and earth; it embraces and penetrates all Creation.... Thus, the Eucharist is also a source of light and motivation for our concerns for the Environment, directing us to be stewards of all Creation.'

Pope Francis, Laudato Si' 236.

Action: Where does God direct my heart after being transformed on the mountain? How am I directed to transform the hearts of others?





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



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

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE Wellington Archdiocesan Conference

Wednesday 11th & Thursday 12th 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.

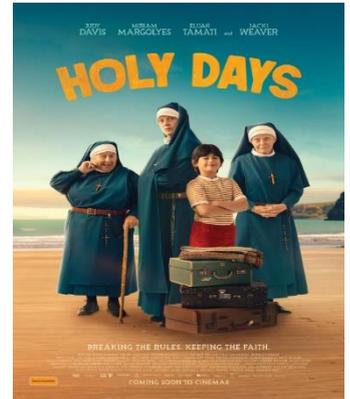


FUN QUIZZ EVENING.

Friday, 20th 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 Trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d3yR8Uolvts>

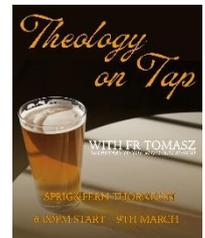


LATE NIGHT MASS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Friday, 6th March at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Hill Street at 8.00pm. Once again, we can't wait to see you! Bring a friend and a plate

THEOLOGY ON TAP FOR YOUNG ADULTS

Monday, 9th March at 6.00pm at the Sprig & Fern, 342 Tinakori Road, Thorndon with Fr Tomasz! Come along to hear a talk from him and grab a cheeky bevvy and some food. All are welcome



THE SCHOOL 'A' PROGRAMME – Online Formation Journey

A structured 14-session faith formation journey inviting participants to grow spiritually, deepen their relationship with God, and build meaningful Christian communities.

For details please email lhshp.prayergroup@gmail.com or phone 027 347 6327. This is an online course with links that will be provided.



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 and for those whose anniversaries occur around this time.

2ND SUNDAY OF LENT



FOR THE YOUNG ONES

GROWING WITH THE *Gospel* CYCLE A



COLOR

Read the Gospel of the week and color the image.



2nd Sunday of Lent • Matthew 17:1-9

PUZZLE FOR YOU

The Transfiguration

As he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning. Luke 9:29 (NIV)

The puzzle is based on Luke 9:28-36 (NIV).



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

FLASH
CLOUD
JAMES
TALKING

LIGHTNING
PETER
PRAY
FACE

MOSES
CHANGED
CHOSEN
BRIGHT

JOHN
VOICE
CLOTHES
APPEARED

MOUNTAIN
JESUS
ELIJAH
DISCIPLES