

# 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 [24 March, Term 1 2026 Newsletter](#)

3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter		READINGS YEAR A	19 <sup>th</sup> April 2026
19 <sup>th</sup> April	1 <sup>st</sup> Reading 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading Gospel	Acts 2:14, 22-28 Peter 1: 17-21 Luke 24: 13-35	
26 <sup>th</sup> April	1 <sup>st</sup> Reading 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading Gospel	Acts 2: 14.36-41 Peter 2: 20-25 John 10: 1-10	

## UPCOMING EVENT

Thur 23 <sup>rd</sup> Apr	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/>



## PLANNED GIVING – IRD CHARITABLE DONATION RECEIPTS

The Tax receipts along with the new envelopes are now available in the foyer of both Churches. Kindly ensure that you pick up your receipts and the new envelopes. **Those of you who have recently joined too have their new envelopes in the foyer.** If your Donation Receipt/Envelopes are not in the foyer of the church please advise the Parish Office and it will be relocated for you.

If you would like to join the Planned Giving Programme or change to an Automatic Payment, please contact the Parish Office

## THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPEL

When I first read Homer's *Odyssey* as a teenager, one scene captured my imagination: Odysseus finally returning home after 20 years, yet no one recognized him. Disguised as a beggar, he speaks with his wife, his son, and even his enemies. He is fully present, yet hidden. Only at the right moment does he reveal himself, and everyone realizes he has been with them all along. I was struck by the mystery that he could be so close to his loved ones, and yet they simply could not identify him.



A similar mystery is at the heart of today's Gospel. Two disciples walk the road to Emmaus with Jesus, but "their eyes were prevented from recognizing him." (Luke 24:16) He listens, teaches, and eats with them, yet they remain blind until he breaks the bread. Suddenly their eyes are opened — and at that very moment, he vanishes. His disappearance is not absence. Rather, it is revelation. The Risen Lord is now present in a new way, in the breaking of the bread and in the life of His Church.

Faith is this shift of vision. Instead of searching for a visible Jesus as if he were absent, we learn to recognize him unveiled in hidden ways — in Scripture proclaimed, in the Eucharist, in the sacraments, in the very life of the Church. And what is true of him is true of us. Just as he disappears into the mission of his Body, we too are meant to be hidden in him. When we live hidden in Christ, we are seen for who we really are.

— *Father John Muir*



### ST PATRICK'S COLLEGE SILVERSTREAM

invites Year 8 boys and their parents/caregivers to attend their Open Day on Thursday 21 May 2026. Sessions will be held from 9:00–10:30am or 1:00–2:30pm, with no registration required. Visitors are asked to meet at the School Chapel.

Enrolments for Year 9, 2027 open on 22 May 2026 and close on 26 June 2026. For further information, please see the Open Day poster in the Church Foyer. If you require any further information contact the College on 04 9394224 or visit [www.stream.school.nz](http://www.stream.school.nz).

### THE ARCHDIOCESAN MARRIAGE PREPARATION –

Love is a Decision & Commit - online registration available on the Archdiocesan website: [Marriage Ministries | Archdiocese of Wellington](http://Marriage_Ministries_Archdiocese_of_Wellington) Next course, consecutive Sundays 7 & 14 June from 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 email queries contact: [marriage@cadw.nz](mailto:marriage@cadw.nz)



## PASCHAL CANDLE DESIGN

Once again students from St Brendan's have designed a logo of 2026 Paschal Candle. The designs chosen for this year is

Sky T - Room 4:



I wanted it to look like a stained-glass window so the light from the candle will make it look nice. It has palm leaves to represent Palm Sunday. The hands at the base represent surrender, gratitude and openness to receiving God's blessing. The dove represents peace, purity and innocence. The olive branch in the dove's beak represents peace and

hope. The light behind the cross is like God's light shining over the world.

Lucy L - Room 4:

When I created this, I made the middle a heart to represent that God is the Light of the World. I chose the stained-glass window because it reminds me of the Church. Then I chose the thorns to represent the crown of thorns that Jesus wore when he sacrificed himself for us.



## ARCHDIOCESAN COMMISSION FOR ECOLOGY, JUSTICE AND PEACE

'Prayer teaches us how to act. In prayer, our limited human possibilities are joined to the infinite possibilities of God. Thoughts, words and deeds then break the demonic cycle of evil and are placed at the service of the Kingdom of God. A Kingdom in which there is no sword, no drone, no vengeance, no trivialization of evil, no unjust profit, but only dignity, understanding and forgiveness... Prayer calls us all to leave behind whatever violence remains in our hearts and minds. Let us turn to a Kingdom of peace that is built up day by day — in our homes, schools, neighborhoods, and civil and religious communities.'

*Pope Leo XIV*



The Archdiocesan Ecology, Justice And Peace Commission has released a position paper on Palestine drawing on the diplomatic positions of the Holy See (permanent observer status at the UN), recent popes and Christian voices within the Holy Land. Among the points in the paper is this note supporting Aotearoa New Zealand recognising Palestine as a state: "We consider that even though the form of a Palestinian state (institutions, political system, etc) has yet to be defined by its people, this recognition will enable more just treatment of the Palestinian people and more accountability by all involved. The ultimate goal is not only a Palestinian state but a just and lasting peace and equality for all who dwell in the Holy Land." The full statement can be read at [https://www.wn.catholic.org.nz/adw\\_community/wellington-archdiocesan-catholic-commission-for-ecology-justice-and-peace-position-on-palestine/](https://www.wn.catholic.org.nz/adw_community/wellington-archdiocesan-catholic-commission-for-ecology-justice-and-peace-position-on-palestine/) or on our Parish website. There are also some copies on the foyer table. For more information contact Deirdre Meskill, [d.meskill@cadw.nz](mailto:d.meskill@cadw.nz).

## PLANNED GIVING



*“Everything – time, talent and treasure – given to the parish is a gift.”*

Have you ever considered going on the Planned Giving system here at Our Lady of the Valleys Parish? You can do this by Automatic Payment or the weekly envelope system.

Your donations entitle you to a 33% tax rebate and a receipt will be provided to you at the end of the financial year. Planned Giving forms are available in the foyer of both churches. These can be completed and placed in the collection baskets. If you have any enquiries please ring Jovena in the Parish Office 972 4282

**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 Margaret Carson, and for those whose anniversaries occur around this time.



**WHY WE DO THE THINGS WE DO?**

**Why is it so important that we register in a parish? Isn't it good enough that we go to Mass?**

Registration is the official way we join a parish community. Many people think that because they attend a particular Parish they automatically belong. At times, young adults who have moved away for years think they are still signed up under their parents. But membership requires signing up, formally enrolling yourself in a Parish. Registration is a commitment to a community, a way to be included in the religious, social, and ministerial activities of your parish. Your registration affects the parish in many ways. Census numbers can determine how many priests are assigned to a church, what benefits and obligations the community has to the diocese, and how Masses, Confessions, and devotions are planned and scheduled.

Registration shows you belong. It is also necessary for certain benefits, like scheduling sacraments, obtaining sponsor certificates, and getting donation statements for taxes. Most importantly, it lets the parish count on you, to call on you to assist in its mission. Registering in your parish is a statement of faith and confidence in the life and work of your Parish.

3RD SUNDAY IN EASTER



FOR THE YOUNG ONES

# GROWING

WITH THE *Gospel*

CYCLE A



## COLOR

Read the Gospel of the week and color the image.



3rd Sunday of Easter • Luke 24:13-35

## PUZZLE FOR YOU

# On the Road to Emmaus

Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him.  
Luke 24:31a (NIV)

The puzzle is based on Luke 24:13-35 (NIV).



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

WALKED

MOSES

THANKS

CLEOPAS

JESUS

BREAD

FOOLISH

OPENED

SUFFER

BELIEVE

PROPHET

VILLAGE

CRUCIFIED

VISITOR

EYES

EMMAUS