


# 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 9:00 am (Stokes Valley) 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 Heretaunga Tel (04) 972 4282
Parish Administrator	Monday – Friday 9:00 am – 1:00 pm
Website	<a href="http://www.olv.org.nz">www.olv.org.nz</a> E-mail <a href="mailto:office@olv.org.nz">office@olv.org.nz</a> <a href="mailto:pp@olv.org.nz">pp@olv.org.nz</a>
St Brendan's School Newsletter	56 Palmer Cres Tel (04) 939 1909 <a href="#">28 April, Term 2 2026 Newsletter</a>

## 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter READINGS YEAR A 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2026

3 <sup>rd</sup> May	1 <sup>st</sup> Reading 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading Gospel	Acts 6: 1-7 Peter 2: 4-9 John 14: 1-12	
10 <sup>th</sup> May	1 <sup>st</sup> Reading 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading Gospel	Acts 8: 5-8, 14-17 Peter 3: 15-18 John 14: 15-21	

### UPCOMING EVENT

Sat 2 <sup>nd</sup> May	02.00pm	Circle of Friendship at the Pettit Centre
Tue 5 <sup>th</sup> May	05.30 pm	Men's Group at Silverstream Bowling Club
Wed 6 <sup>th</sup> May	01.30 pm	Catholic Women's League in 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/>



## MEN'S GROUP

### MEN'S GROUP

The Men's Group will meet on Tuesday the 5<sup>th</sup> of May at the Silverstream Bowling Club at 5:30 pm. All are welcome to attend this social event as it is an opportunity to get to know other men in the parish.

### CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE

All women of the Parish are welcome to come to our monthly meeting in the Pettit Centre at 1.30pm on Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> May. Bring along a favourite prayer to share and join us for afternoon tea and a chat. Please feel free to bring a friend.



## THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPEL

“I am the good shepherd. A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.” John 10:11

My most boring job was working at an insurance company as a college student. My main task? Filing. Now imagine if I had told my supervisor, “I just want you to know, I’m willing to die for these files.” She would have called a psychiatrist — or at least security.



There is something absurd in Jesus’ words in today’s Gospel: “I am the good shepherd... I lay down my life for the sheep.” (John 10:11) It sounds noble, until you think about it. No one dies for sheep. Not a hired hand. Not even a good shepherd. Sheep are important, sure, but not worth a human life.

And yet, Jesus insists: I will die for them. The crowd understandably responds: “He is out of his mind.”

C.S. Lewis once said that Jesus does not leave us the option of calling him merely a good teacher. If someone speaks like him, he is either lying, crazy, or telling the truth. John’s Gospel won’t let us stay sentimental. Jesus means it. He reveals a love that surpasses logic — a love that measures worth not by strength or success, but by the willingness to suffer unto death.

The Good Shepherd’s madness is mercy. His cross makes no earthly sense and yet it makes divine sense. He lays down his life not for kings or saints but for sheep — for the ordinary, the unworthy, for you and me.

Think of someone who may feel unworthy of love. Do something simple and generous for them, not because they deserve it, but because Jesus did the same for you.



## CIRCLE OF FRIENDSHIP

Our next Gathering is on Saturday, 2 May at 2pm at the Petit Centre. Our guest speaker will be **Trish Hill** who has spent time with Operation Mobilisation. She travelled on the boat MV Doulos, taking Bibles to China and will share with us how God was always with them.

If you want more information about this wonderful cause, you can search **Operation Mobilisation** - a Christian missionary organisation founded by George Verwer to mobilise young people to live and share the Gospel of Jesus. Please feel free to bring along a friend who may be interested in joining us. As usual, donations 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

‘From the beginning of the world, but particularly through the incarnation, the mystery of Christ is at work in a hidden manner in the natural world as a whole, without thereby impinging on its autonomy.’

*Laudato Si’* #99





## IRD CHARITABLE DONATION RECEIPTS – PLEASE HELP

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.**

**Please help with distributing these envelopes. If you know of someone living in your street who has not picked it up please help by dropping it in their letter box.**

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

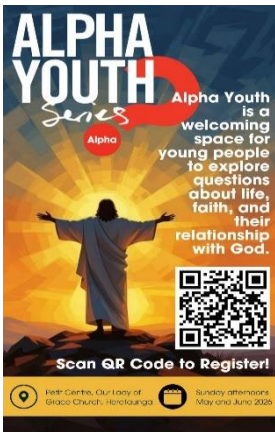
## AN AFRICAN EXPERIENCE OF PARISH LIFE IN NEW ZEALAND –

Calling all our African parishioners. There will be a fellowship and formation day on **Saturday, 23 May 2026 from 2.00 – 3.30pm** at the Connolly Hall of the Sacred Heart Cathedral, Hill Street, Wellington. Fr Patrick Bridgman, ADW Liturgy Advisor, will give a formation session on Proclamation of the Word, followed by reflection and fellowship. Bring the family and bring a plate to share. Email [dr.bangure@gmail.com](mailto:dr.bangure@gmail.com) or 021 134 8476. See the poster for details.



## Alpha Youth Session

Sundays, 1pm-3pm, from 24<sup>th</sup> May to 28<sup>th</sup> June 2026, Our Lady of Grace Church (Pettit Centre), Herataunga



Alpha Youth is a welcoming space for young people to explore questions about life, faith, and their relationship with God. Through short videos, meaningful conversations, and time spent together, we journey through topics such as purpose, prayer, Scripture, and what it means to follow Jesus. Whether you're curious, searching, or wanting to grow deeper in your faith, Alpha Youth offers a safe place to learn, share, and encounter God in a real and personal way.



This is open to all our youth (13 - 25 years of age). Come, let's learn more about life, faith, and our relationship with God.

Registration is now open. Scan the QR Code to register

## 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).



## MARIAN MONTH CELEBRATION

The Filipino Chaplaincy community has organised Marian Celebration for the Month of May. It will be launched on the First Sunday Filipino Mass for May, (3 May) in Sacred Heart Cathedral:



**3 May (Sunday), 12.30 pm** - Marian Month Launch, First Sunday Filipino Mass, Sacred Heart Cathedral, Thorndon

**9 May (Saturday), 7.00 pm** - Our Lady of Immaculate Conception visits Our Lady of Fatima Church, Tawa

**16 May (Saturday), 6.30 pm** - Our Lady of Immaculate

Conception visits Sacred Heart Church, Petone

**23 May (Saturday), 6.30 pm** - Our Lady of Immaculate Conception visits St. Teresa Church, Karori

The Marian Month culminating activity will be:

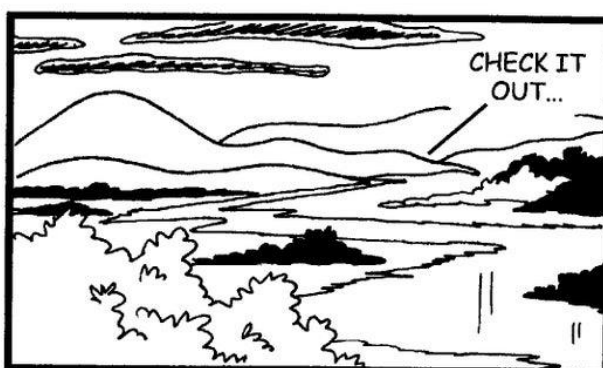
**30 May (Saturday), 10.00 am** - Sacred Heart Cathedral, Thorndon Santacruzán and Flores de Mayo with a mass presided by Archbishop Paul Martin

Join us as we celebrate Mama Mary on this Month of May

**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.



5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER



FOR THE YOUNG ONES

# GROWING WITH THE *Gospel* CYCLE A



## COLOR

Read the Gospel of the week and color the image.



5th Sunday of Easter • John 14:1-12

# PUZZLE FOR YOU

## PUZZLE

Find and circle these words from today's Gospel:

HEARTS  
TRUST  
PREPARE

PLACE  
GOING  
FATHER

BELIEVE  
LIVING  
MIRACLES

A T N A Y **H** O F N T W  
H M O P R E P A R E H  
A I S A E A S T N I M  
T R U S T R F H A E T  
H A E F H T O E W L C  
N C Y A O S U R S I A  
S L H P B E L I E V E  
O E W L U T S H T I H  
F S T A H A E D R N D  
N H Y C B G O I N G E  
E L F E I A V T E H R

## MISSION

Jesus is getting ready for you. Make sure you are getting ready for Jesus. Ask God to help you grow closer to him every day.