

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 E-mail: office@olv.org.nz pp@olv.org.nz
 St Brendan's School: 56 Palmer Cres Tel (04) 939 1909
 Newsletter: [12 May, Term 2 2026 Newsletter](#)

Ascension Sunday READINGS YEAR A 17th May 2026

17 th May	1 st Reading 2 nd Reading Gospel	Acts 1: 1-11 Ephesians 1: 17-23 Matthew 28: 16-20	
24 th May	1 st Reading 2 nd Reading Gospel	Acts 2: 1-11 Corinthians 12: 3-7, 12-13 John 20: 19-23	

UPCOMING EVENT

Tue 19 th May	11.00am	Anointing Mass at Summerset Care Centre
Wed 20 th May	11.00 am	Anointing Mass at the Pettit Centre
Thurs 21 st May	01.30 pm 07.00 pm	Anointing Mass at Stokeswood Rest Home, SV Parish Council 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/>

PLEASE NOTE THERE WILL BE NO MASS AT 9.00 AM ON 20TH MAY AT OLOG

NEEDED:
 STRONG, INTELLIGENT,
COMPASSIONATE,
 GOOD-HUMORED, WELL-ADJUSTED,
FAITHFUL CATHOLIC MEN.

THE PEOPLE OF GOD NEED PRIESTS
 WITH A SINCERE LOVE FOR CHRIST,
 WILLINGNESS TO SERVE SELFLESSLY,
 AND HUMBLE HEARTS TO EXTEND
 GOD'S MERCY TO OTHERS.



CALLED BY NAME

This weekend is **Called By Name Sunday**, an initiative to invite and encourage young men to consider a vocation to the priesthood. This Sunday, our young men will be invited to consider whether God may be calling them to something more. Parishioners will be asked to notice, approach and encourage young men, particularly those who exhibit faith, leadership and a heart for service. Please take a look around you this weekend. Could that young man become tomorrow's

priest?

THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPEL

World Communications Day

At the heart of the synodal conversations lay the continued call for co-responsibility; a vision of Church in which all the baptised share in leadership, mission, and ministry. 'Shared responsibility is vital for the future of our Church. While it needs careful and gentle guidance, it is not optional and must progress steadily.'



This theme was consistently linked to lay ministry, baptism, clericalism, and leadership reform. As one submission noted, 'the number of clergy is declining and consequently the future of the Church will require increased lay involvement.'

Participants emphasised that the Church must not depend on priests alone; that 'both laity and clergy are needed,' and that 'for this to be meaningful, clergy must be willing to share responsibility, and the laity must be prepared to accept responsibility.'

Only in this way, they said, 'can there be true ownership of the Church by all its members, allowing the Kingdom of God to flourish more fully.'

Calls for shared responsibility were matched by recognition that laity must feel empowered and supported, with investment needed in faith formation and training for all – clergy and laity

ARCHDIOCESAN COMMISSION FOR ECOLOGY, JUSTICE AND PEACE

'Technology that exploits our need for relationships can lead not only to painful consequences in the lives of individuals, but also to damage in the social, cultural and political fabric of society. This occurs when we substitute relationships with others for AI systems that catalogue our thoughts, creating a world of mirrors around us, where everything is made "in our image and likeness." We are thus robbed of the opportunity to encounter others, who are always different from ourselves, and with whom we can and must learn to relate. Without embracing others, there can be no relationships or friendships.'



Pope Leo

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

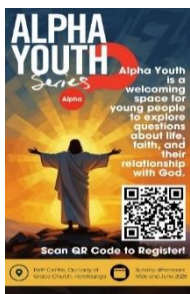
dr.bangure@gmail.com or 021 134 8476. See the poster for details.

IRD DONATION RECEIPTS – PLEASE HELP

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.



Alpha Youth Session



Sundays, 1pm-3pm, from 24th May to 28th June 2026,
Our Lady of Grace Church (Pettit Centre).



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

FORMER SCOUT GROUPS IN OUR PARISH.

A Catholic scout leader is wanting help to obtain a scarf and name badge of two former scout groups in our parish: St Brendan's in Heretaunga and St Francis Xavier in Stokes Valley. This is part of a project to record the history of Catholic-sponsored scout groups in NZ. Sewn on the scarves would have been the badge used by Catholic scout groups – see image alongside. If you can help, please contact Edmund le Grelle, Ph 021 2619369 or edmund@legrelle.co.nz



LAUNCHING INTO THE DEEP: Going into the Heart of Lay Formation and Leadership in the Church - This book, with a foreword from Cardinal John Dew, offers a rich and thoughtful reflection on lay formation and leadership in the Church. It includes the history of Launch Out and the development of Lay Pastoral Leaders in the Archdiocese of Wellington (ADW). This publication will be of particular interest to those involved in lay formation, pastoral leadership, church leadership, and ministry development. The book is now available in two formats:

- eBook (USD \$14) - Available via Amazon Kindle
- Hard copy (NZD \$20 + postage)

To order, please email Bridget directly at bybridget@xtra.co.nz Please feel free to share this Information with others who may be interested.

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.



MIGRANT FAMILY REQUIRING ASSISTANCE

A migrant family has moved into our Parish and requires a number of household items like whiteware, table and chairs etc. Food contributions would also be appreciated. If anyone in the Parish is able to help please contact Kevin von Keisenberg on 021 501 853 for further information.



MARIAN MONTH CELEBRATION

The Filipino Chaplaincy community has organised Marian Celebration for the Month of May.

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



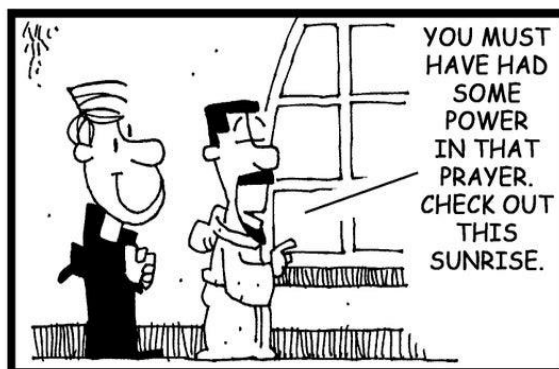
JOSHUA

Join other men at Joshua Wellington's next meeting on Thursday 21st May 2026 from 7:00pm for a cuppa and a 7:30pm start in Connolly Hall (next to the Sacred Heart Cathedral). Speaker: Ben D'souza sm and Assistant Priest at St Mary of the Angels on "Strive to be one with Jesus – no matter what" Contact David Monastra 027-4477 280 or joshua.wgtn@gmail.com

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 Stella Wadsworth, and for those whose anniversaries occur around this time.



ASCENSION



FOR THE YOUNG ONES

GROWING

WITH THE *Gospel*

CYCLE A



COLOR

Read the Gospel of the week and color the image.



The Ascension of the Lord • Matthew 28:16-20

PUZZLE FOR YOU

Jesus Prays for His Disciples

I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours.

John 17:9 (NIV)

The puzzle is based on John 17:6-11 (NIV).



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

POWER	GLORY	ACCEPTED	WORD	YOURS
EVERYTHING	KNOW	PRAY	MINE	GAVE
PROTECT	OBEYED	HOLY	NAME	SENT
LONGER	FATHER	COME	WORLD	REMAIN