

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	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	23 June, Term 2 2026 Newsletter

14 th Sunday in Ordinary		READINGS	12 th July 2026
Time		YEAR A	
12 th July	1 st Reading 2 nd Reading Gospel	Isaiah 55: 10-11 Romans 8: 18-23 Matthew 13: 1-23	
19 th July	1 st Reading 2 nd Reading Gospel	Wisdom 12:13, 16-19 Romans 8: 26-27 Matthew 13: 24-43	
UPCOMING EVENT			
Wed 15 th July	11.00 am	Anointing Mass at the Pettit Centre	
Thurs 16 th July	01.30 pm	Anointing Mass at Stokeswood Rest Home, SV	
	07.00 pm	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 16th JULY AT OLOG

WORKSHOP FOR PROCLAIMERS OF THE WORD.

This will be held on Sunday July 19th at OLOG after the 10:30am Mass (11:30am).

Parishioners from Our Lady of the Valleys Parish are invited to take part, whether you are already rostered or would like to be involved in this Ministry.

For further information contact Liz McCaul: 021 1028297





THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPEL

Even as consensus emerged on many fronts, inherent divergences also remained in the listening process. Convictions clashed and reform was both demanded and resisted.

The issue of abuse revealed tension. While many saw the need for open acknowledgment and repentance as essential to healing and credibility, others avoided the topic entirely: 'In some cases, the topic of abuse was avoided, with little or no mention during group discussions.'

Another noted that 'some participants appeared reluctant to engage on the issue, moving the conversation on to other topics.' Among those addressing it, there was insistence that healing remain a priority, and the Church must take responsibility for past wrongs: 'Several groups also named the ongoing impact of abuse and the need for the Church to be proactive in addressing all forms of abuse, including bullying and elder abuse, as part of its pastoral and healing mission.'

Some submissions stressed 'continued accountability and transparency in safeguarding' as an ongoing, non-negotiable responsibility.

From Baptised and Sent

ALPHA YOUTH PROGRAMME

The parish is currently running an Alpha Youth programme.

10 young people with three adults have been meeting weekly since early June. In August they will go to the Silverstream Retreat for an Alpha Weekend Away residential.

We give our grateful thanks to The Catholic Foundation for providing a grant that will enable our young people to enjoy all the benefits of the Alpha Weekend Away together.



STELLA MARIS WELLINGTON

Previously known as Apostleship of the Sea will be celebrating Seafarer Sunday on 12 July 2026. Volunteers offer practical and spiritual assistance to seafarers visiting our port. We urgently seek

STELLA MARIS people to assist in this important service, especially those with languages other than English, particularly Tagalog, Indonesian, Mandarin and/or Cantonese, Hindi and Vietnamese.

Donations can also be made to: Apostleship of the Sea Account Number 01 0527 0312182 To receive a receipt or to learn more, please email stellamariswellington@gmail.com

ARCHDIOCESAN COMMISSION FOR ECOLOGY, JUSTICE AND PEACE

'A rather unusual sower goes out to sow, but does not care where the seed falls... God is confident and hopes that sooner or later the seed will blossom. This is how he loves us: he does not wait for us to become the best soil, but he always generously gives us his word. Perhaps by seeing that he trusts us, the desire to be better soil will be kindled in us. This is hope, founded on the rock of God's generosity and mercy.'

Pope Leo XIV



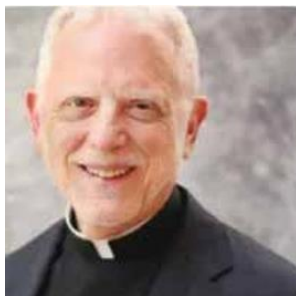
Nomination of New Parish Councillors at 2026 AGM



With an eye of the upcoming Annual General Meeting on 30th August 2026, two current Parish Councillors' term of appointment have come to an end. Currently Parish Councillors stand for a two-year term with the right of renewal for two more terms.

We are therefore opening nominations for new Parish Councillors from 18th July 2026. From this weekend nomination forms are available in the foyer of both churches. These should be filled in and returned back to the Parish Office by Friday 14th August. This time frame allows time for the nominated candidates' names to be advised to the Parish before the Annual General Meeting.

Please take the time to prayerfully discern who you think might be a suitable person to serve our Parish on the Parish Council. If you would like more details on the role of Parish Councillors and the function of the Parish Council please feel free to speak to one of the existing Parish Councillors or Father Maleko.



LITURGY WORKSHOP OPPORTUNITY

US liturgist and parish priest, Fr Paul Turner, will lead a liturgy seminar on **Saturday, 1 August 2026** (9.30am - 2.00pm), in Connolly Hall, Hill Street, Wellington. Clergy, liturgy teams, school staff, and all involved in Eucharistic preparation are encouraged to join us for *Ars Celebrandi: The Art of Celebrating Mass*. Inspired by Pope Francis', *Desiderio Desideravi*, the day will explore how we can celebrate liturgy with reverence and fidelity. Fr Turner will offer practical guidance to deepen understanding of the Eucharist and strengthen parish and school celebrations.

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, Hill Street, Thorndon on **Tuesday, 28th July** and every 4th Tuesday of the month.



ST THOMAS MORE CHURCH, WILTON

The church is to close permanently on Sunday, 30th August 2026. The organising Committee have some events planned for that weekend to mark this farewell and would like to invite any ex parishioners or people associated with the Church to join them. The events are on Saturday, 29th August and the Farewell Mass on Sunday, 30th August.





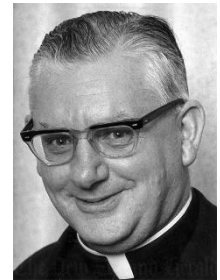
JOSHUA

Join other men for a quiz on Matthew's gospel (chapters 15 to 28) and a reflection, this coming Thursday 16th July 2026 at Joshua from 7:00pm for a cuppa and a 7:30pm start in Connolly Hall (next to the Sacred Heart Cathedral).

Reflection on theme "The Lord hears your cry": Peter Woods. Ring David Monastra 027-4477 280 email: joshua.wgtn@gmail.com

DELARGEY AWARDS 2026

Nominations are now open for the 2026 Delargey Awards, which recognise significant and outstanding ministry with young people. In addition to identifying key contributors to youth ministry, the awards provide a chance to highlight the Church's outreach to teens and young adults. The awards are named for Cardinal Reginald Delargey, former Archbishop of Wellington and Bishop of Auckland. Nominations close on 31 July. Find out more at: Delargey 2026



NEW ONLINE SITE ABOUT FAITH

Pat McCarthy, former editor of *NZ Catholic* newspaper, has just launched an online publication looking at Catholic beliefs and practices. Ever wondered how the Last Supper evolved into today's Mass? Or the purpose of church music? Is there an algorithm for a successful marriage? Does spirituality without religion make sense? Should we take the Bible literally? Go to <https://fathomingthefaith.substack.com> (it's FREE).

HERETAUNGA PARISH GROUNDS - please do not park on the grass!

Now that winter has arrived it would be appreciated if parishioners and visitors do not park on the grass. It does not take long for the grass to be destroyed if cars are parked on the grass during the winter months.



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 John Burt and Mary Brito, and for those whose anniversaries occur around this time.



FOR THE YOUNG ONES

GROWING WITH THE *Gospel* CYCLE A



COLOR

Read the Gospel of the week and color the image.



15th Sunday in Ordinary Time • Matthew 13:1-23

PUZZLE FOR YOU

The Parable of the Sower

But the one who received the seed that fell on good soil is the man who hears the word and understands it. Matthew 13:23a

Based on Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 (NIV)



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

PLANTS	SCORCH	FARMER	THORNS	CROP
WITHER	BIRDS	ROOT	CHOKE	SOIL
FELL	PARABLE	SCATTER	SEED	GREW
ROCKY	SHALLOW	GOOD	SOW	PATH