

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

16 th Sunday in Ordinary		READINGS	19 th July 2026
Time		YEAR A	
19 th July	1 st Reading 2 nd Reading Gospel	Wisdom 12:13, 16-19 Romans 8: 26-27 Matthew 13: 24-43	
26 th July	1 st Reading 2 nd Reading Gospel	1Kings 3: 5,7-12 Romans 8: 28-30 Matthew 13: 44-52	
UPCOMING EVENT			
Tue 21 st July	11.00 am	Anointing Mass at Summerset Care Centre	
Thur 23 rd July	07.30 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/			

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



ARCHDIOCESAN COMMISSION FOR ECOLOGY, JUSTICE AND PEACE

‘What matters most is not occupying positions of power or defending cultural strongholds, but initiating good processes and enabling them to mature. In this way, the truth of the Gospel is not imposed from above, but grows over time within the concrete interweaving of lives, communities and cultures.’

Pope Leo XIV Pope Leo XIV



THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPEL

19 July 2026

Even as consensus emerged on many fronts, inherent divergences also remained in the listening process. For some, current language and attitudes were experienced as hurtful and exclusionary, with calls for reform and compassion; for others, they represented doctrinal integrity.

Some participants, particularly younger people, 'spoke of alienating language and exclusion, while others were more cautious or chose not to comment.' Strong feelings and differences in opinion remain: 'In relation to Sexuality and LGBTQI+ ... this was primarily seen as part of the wider themes of belonging, family or community while one group felt that LGBTQ+ issues had been emphasised too much in schools and the wider culture.'

Submissions stressed belonging in conjunction with the theme of LGBTQ+ persons, especially in light of the Church's need to be more welcoming to all. There were also concerns about clarity in teaching and pastoral approach: 'More clarity for laity is needed on the Church stance on LGBTQ/sexuality.' In some groups, there was debate over emphasis and approach. Others expressed the view that 'the Church needs to be more open and less judgemental in its language on these matters.'

From Baptised and Sent #23

CIRCLE OF FRIENDSHIP

At our gathering in July an attendance of 40+ welcomed Roger Wasson as our guest speaker.

Roger spoke of his life story, leading to a career in the Police force, serving our community for 37 years.

A thank you letter he received from a young woman who he once helped through a crucial time in her life, was a reminder of the value of thankfulness, and the encouragement it gives, knowing you may have made a difference in a person's life.

We acknowledged the well-deserved service awards and medals that Roger had earned.

We thank Roger for sharing his story, and for his continued faithful dedication and service to our own church community.

We should always remember with gratitude and prayer, the many who serve the community in local government, administer the law and preserve the peace.



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.



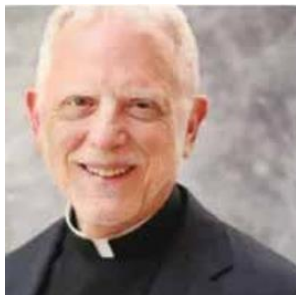
NOMINATION OF NEW PARISH COUNCILLORS AT 2026 AGM



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.



UNDERSTANDING YOUNG PEOPLE TODAY:

Teens today face constant pressure, comparison, and shifting values. Yet behind it all is a generation longing for real love, lasting truth, and a deeper purpose. Join Braden Johnson, a young Catholic speaker and content creator from the USA, for an evening exploring the challenges young people face today - and how we can help them rise above them. Ideal for clergy, youth ministry leaders, parents, grandparents, teachers, and PPC members. Hope is real, hearts can be reached, and you don't have to do it alone. Wednesday 29 July, at Connolly Hall, 10 Guildford Terrace, Thorndon, Wellington from 7.00 - 9.00pm (hospitality from 6.30pm) or online ([Zoom linkhere](#)).

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).

Marriage Seminar:

To be held on Wednesday, 19 August, hospitality from 6.30pm, session will start 7.00pm. Venue is at Connolly Hall, 10 Guildford Terrace, Thorndon, Wellington. 'Happily Married in a Tech Obsessed World'. Explore how we can be present and nurture a healthy marriage in a world where so much demands our attention. Queries to: marriage@cadw.nz

PARISH TO PARISH FOR BED AND BREAKFAST:

Catholic hospitality in New Zealand and Australia, guests pay \$50 per night for one guest, each additional guest pays \$30 each, e.g. a couple would pay \$80 per night, includes continental breakfast. If you would like to become a host, I would love to hear from you. This is a great way to meet and enjoy the company of other Catholics. If you wish to become a host or wish to purchase a book with details of hosts, please contact me - Marie Anderson, 2 Brent Place, Christchurch 8053. Email: marie.ian@xtra.co.nz



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

16TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



FOR THE YOUNG ONES

GROWING WITH THE *Gospel* CYCLE A



COLOR

Read the Gospel of the week and color the image.



16th Sunday in Ordinary Time • Matthew 13:24-43

PUZZLE FOR YOU

The Parable of the Weeds

When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared. Mathew 28:26 (NIV)

The puzzle is based on Matthew 13:24-29



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

SOW	FIELD	GOOD	UPROOT	HARVEST
WHEAT	ENEMY	PULL	KINGDOM	SEED
PARABLE	HEAVEN	BURN	GROW	WEEDS

