

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	28 July, Term 3 2026 Newsletter

18 th Sunday in Ordinary		READINGS	02 nd August 2026
Time		YEAR A	
2 nd August	1 st Reading 2 nd Reading Gospel	Isaiah 55: 1-3 Romans 8: 35, 37-39 Matthew 14: 13-21	
9 th August	1 st Reading 2 nd Reading Gospel	1Kings 19: 9, 11-13 Romans 9: 1-5 Matthew 14: 22-23	
UPCOMING EVENT			
Sat 1 st Aug	02.00 pm	Circle of Friendship at the Pettit Centre	
Tue 4 th Aug	05.30 pm	Men's Group at Silverstream Bowling Club	
Wed 05 th Aug	12.00 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 4th of August 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 invited on Wednesday, 5th August for afternoon tea and a chat with Father Maleko who is going to tell us of his journey to Priesthood. We meet at 1.30pm in the Pettit Centre.

We will have our usual raffle and this month we will also have a sales table if you would like to contribute any produce or good used saleable items to help with our fundraising.

We hope to see you.



THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPEL

Even as consensus emerged on many fronts, inherent divergences also remained in the listening process. With clericalism and co-responsibility, tensions arose in practice. Participants observed that 'while many clergy spoke positively about co-responsibility, others expressed reservations or concerns, leading to little practical change in some parishes.' Lay participants saw 'shared leadership as essential for the Church's future' but felt that 'clergy must be willing to share responsibility, and the laity must be prepared to accept responsibility' for it to become a reality.

For faith formation and education, differences arose regarding the role of schools vis-à-vis parishes and families. Some suggested 'removing sacramental preparation from schools entirely so that parents and parishes take full responsibility,' while others preferred 'a shared approach between school, parish, and home.' These reflected generational and philosophical divides, with some favouring 'experiential and relational faith formation' and others emphasising 'a structured, doctrinal approach to teaching the faith.'

Divergence with liturgy emerged around style, language, and relevance. Some advocated for change, calling for 'more inclusive language, participation, and a sense of belonging through worship,' while others cautioned against altering established forms, warning that 'rigidity is not helpful, but neither is change for its own sake.' Visions differed between adaptability to connect with modern life and emphasising stability and tradition.

From Baptised and Sent #25



CIRCLE OF FRIENDSHIP

Our next Gathering is on Saturday, 1st August at the Pettit Centre at 2pm. Our speakers are Janice and Pat Hoult who will speak to us about their recent trip to China.

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.

ALSO - don't forget the Reel Movie Night at St Mary's Church from 6.30pm at the Church on 8 August (2nd Saturday of every month). Tea, coffee and biscuits available. All very welcome.

Come to The River School "B" Programme

The Lower Hutt Prayer Group, in collaboration with Come to the River Ministries, warmly invites you to participate in an online faith formation course conducted by Michael Powell.

This programme is designed to deepen your relationship with Jesus Christ and empower you to live out your Christian calling. It is particularly suited for those who have completed a Life in the Spirit Seminar or The School "A" Programme.

Dates: 15 consecutive Fridays commencing 7th August from 7pm to 8.30pm

Time: 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm **Venue:** Online via Zoom

Cost: Free (No registration required)

Zoom Login Details: Meeting ID: 860 4873 8187 | Passcode: 378907

For further information, Email: lhshp.prayergroup@gmail.com

ARCHDIOCESAN COMMISSION FOR ECOLOGY, JUSTICE AND PEACE



we know that approximately a third of all food produced is discarded, and "whenever food is thrown out it is as if it were stolen from the table of the poor"

Pope Francis, Laudato Si', # 50

Action: What unnecessary consumption do we minimise - use of AI, energy, water? What extra "good gifts" - "Eucharist", may be gathered up, offered and sent to others, so all can "come and eat" and have life?



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.

"SOLEMNITY OF THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY"

The Divine Retreat Centre NZ, Wellington Unit, warmly invites you to come and celebrate the beautiful Marian feast as we honour Our Blessed Mother. On the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary join us for an afternoon of prayer, worship, and grace featuring a Reflections, a Charismatic Healing Mass, and Eucharistic Adoration.

Saturday, 15 August 2026 from 2:30 PM – 6:00 PM at Sacred Heart Church Petone. Presider: Fr. Kevin Connors

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

LATE NIGHT MASS

After an incredible Youth Festival, come join us next week, **Friday, 7th August** at 8.00pm at Sacred Heart Cathedral, Hill Street, Wellington for the Late Night Mass for Young People! Bring a plate to share for fellowship and a friend to gather for Holy Eucharist together with other young Catholics across Wellington. We can't wait to see you there!





EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST LEAD EVALUATOR (PRIMARY SCHOOLS)

The Catholic Archdiocese of Wellington invites Expressions of Interest for the role of Lead Evaluator – Catholic Character Evaluations of Primary Schools. This rewarding contract position is suited to an experienced Catholic educator with strong leadership experience, a deep understanding of Catholic Character, and a passion for authentic Catholic education. Working on behalf of the Proprietor, the Lead Evaluator will undertake external Catholic Character evaluations across Catholic primary schools within the Archdiocese and provide professional advice and comprehensive evaluation reports. To express your interest, please email and request an application pack: Kelly Ross, Vicar for Education, Archdiocese of Wellington. Email: k.ross@cadw.nz Applications close Monday, 24 August 2026



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.



St. Brendan's School *Grandparents' Celebration*

Friday 7th August, 10:00am, Our Lady of Grace Church.
We invite you to join us at our 2026 Grandparents Celebration.
Everyone is welcome – grandparents, family, friends and parishioners.
We will gather for prayer, song, reflections and performances by groups of students in our church, followed by morning tea in the school hall and the opportunity to visit classrooms at St Brendan's School from 11:30am.



FOR THE YOUNG ONES

GROWING WITH THE *Gospel*

CYCLE A



COLOR

Read the Gospel of the week and color the image.



18th Sunday in Ordinary Time • Matthew 14:13-21

PUZZLE FOR YOU

Jesus Feeds The Five Thousand

They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over.
Matthew 14:20 (NIV)

Based on Matthew 14:13-21 (NIV)



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

LEFT	BASKETFULS	LANDED	FOLLOWED	LOAVES
THANKS	CROWDS	TWELVE	HEALED	FISH
ATE	FOOD	SATISFIED	JESUS	SICK
FOOT	PEOPLE	LATE	TOWNS	BOAT