

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

19 th Sunday in Ordinary		READINGS	09 th August 2026
Time		YEAR A	
9 th August	1 st Reading 2 nd Reading Gospel	1Kings 19: 9, 11-13 Romans 9: 1-5 Matthew 14: 22-23	
16 th August	1 st Reading 2 nd Reading Gospel	Apoc 11: 19;12: 1-6, 10 1 Cor 15:20-26 Luke 1: 39-56	

UPCOMING EVENT		
Thur 13 th Aug	07.30 pm	Parish Finance Committee
 EVENTS IN THE ARCHDIOCESE What is happening around our Diocese? Stay up to date with Archdiocesan events - https://www.wn.catholic.org.nz/events/		

FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION OF OUR LADY

Saturday, 15th August is the Feast of the Assumption of Our Lady. It is recognised as a Day of Obligation where we are expected to attend Mass. This year because this Feast is observed on a Saturday our obligation has been transferred to the Sunday.



PARISH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – DATE CLAIMER



The 2026 Annual General Meeting is scheduled for Sunday 30th August at 12:00 noon in the Pettit Centre. Please mark this date. It is a chance to celebrate the wonderful ways the mission of Jesus is working in our Parish, the election of new Parish Councils and a chance to bring ideas and issues to the attention of the various parish organisations and committees. Our Annual Report to the Parish will be available shortly.



THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPEL

Even as consensus emerged on many fronts, inherent divergences also remained in the listening process. In terms of youth engagement, younger participants 'spoke of the Church being out of touch or irrelevant, and of feeling excluded and lacking a voice,' while older contributors 'expressed sadness at the absence of young people from Mass and other sacraments.'

Views diverged on youth ministry, from 'innovative outreach and leadership opportunities for young people in liturgy, mission, and parish life,' to 'bringing young people back to the sacraments and traditional practices.' In contrast, a youth movement offered a counter-perspective, 'Young people are not disinterested in faith; they are searching for authenticity, truth, and community. We see the answer in a return to the beauty of the sacraments, Eucharistic adoration, and a strong devotional life.'

Importantly, these divergences were not always outright opposition but reflected differences in emphasis, language, or experience. Yet they reveal that the Church in Ireland stands at a crossroads, not just between past and future, but between competing visions of what it means to be Church today. Despite divergences, common ground was discerned in the priorities that have been identified and which resonate as the voice of the Holy Spirit in this process.

From Baptised and Sent #25-26

CIRCLE OF FRIENDSHIP

Last Saturday we welcomed Pat and Janice Hoult as our guest speakers.

Pat outlined their recent 14day group tour trip to China from Beijing to Shanghai and the sights, insights, security and experiences they had along their way.

The colourful map and copied photo pages they kindly distributed helped us to follow along their journey as they spoke.

They shared their experiences of China, the size and population of these cities, the sights, culture, food, technology, travel (bullet trains) and education systems etc. So interesting!

We enjoyed a WARM and friendly gathering, on a very COLD afternoon.

Thanks to all who attended.

We warmly thank our speakers who do so much for our Church community, the committee and all concerned for the lovely afternoon tea and fellowship that we all enjoyed.

Next month our speaker is Julie Lewis who has volunteered on Matiu Somes island for many years



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



‘Today, too, the Church is a communion of people who differ in origin, culture, abilities and responsibilities. Yet all are called to recognize themselves as “one” in Jesus Christ... From the beginning, Jesus called and gathered around himself people who would otherwise never have come to know one another. In this way, he demonstrated that God has no favourites, but instead offers his love freely, especially to the little ones or those cast aside.’

Pope Leo XIV, [Angelus](#).



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

ST PATRICK'S COLLEGE WELLINGTON

The St Patrick's College Wellington Choir, Con Anima, is one of the top 24 choirs in the country. They are excited to be competing at The Big Sing Finale in Christchurch in late August and will be holding a fundraising concert at the College at 6:30pm on Tuesday 18 August. We warmly invite our community to attend the concert. Tickets (\$15 adult; \$10 school students) can be purchased here: <https://www.trybooking.com/nz/20591>



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



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 Sr. Carmel Paul, David Carter, and John Burt, and for those whose anniversaries occur around this time.



19TH 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.



19th Sunday in Ordinary Time • Matthew 14:22-33

PUZZLE FOR YOU

Jesus Walks on the Water

During the fourth watch of the night Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. Matthew 14:25 (NIV)

Based on Matthew 14:22-33 (NIV)



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

EVENING
COURAGE
LAKE
PRAY

HAND
AFRAID
WALKING
COME

DOUBT
SAVE
BOAT
WATER

WAVES
SINK
WIND
ALONE

