

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 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	28 July, Term 3 2026 Newsletter

20 th Sunday in Ordinary		READINGS	16 th August 2026
Time		YEAR A	
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	
23 rd August	1 st Reading 2 nd Reading Gospel	Isaiah 22: 19-23 Romans 11: 33-36 Matthew 16: 13-20	
UPCOMING EVENT			
Wed 19 th Aug	11.00 am	Anointing Mass at the Pettit Centre	
Thur 20 th Aug	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 19th AUGUST AT OLOG

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 this 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

Certain priorities emerged in the listening process that participants repeatedly described as Spirit-prompted signposts for the journey ahead. These were not simply popular ideas but were spoken of with urgency, conviction, and as the communal discernment of God's will.

Baptism was named a foundational priority, described as 'an entry point to a life of faith, a gateway to mission, and the root and foundation on which to build a Christian life.' It must be understood not just as a rite of passage but as a lifelong vocation. Baptism was described as the wellspring of Christian life, reminding the Church that all the baptised, lay and ordained alike, are called to contribute their gifts in shared responsibility for its mission. This vocational understanding was linked directly to dignity, equality, and participation for all, regardless of gender or role.

Belonging also emerged as a priority. It reflected a core desire of the People of God, a longing for a Church not merely correct but connected, not just doctrinal but relational: 'a home for all, not just for some.' It encompassed welcome, inclusion, safety, and healing, especially for LGBTQ+ persons, migrants, women, people with disabilities, and those hurt by the Church. Participants paired belonging with youth, welcome, and community, underscoring its role as the thread tying together multiple strands of renewal.

From Baptised and Sent #27-29

PROCLAIMERS OF THE WORD WORKSHOP

This is an invitation for present Proclaimers of the Word and those parishioners who would like to take on this Ministry. This will be held after the 10:30am Mass on Sunday 30th August at OLOG. This is the workshop that was cancelled earlier. Projection of the voice is such an important consideration because you are Proclaiming God's message to His people. The congregation needs to hear this message. You will be given an opportunity to practise the projection of your voice.

Contact Liz Mccaul for further information: 5273211



STREAM SHOWCASE - - ST PATS SILVERSTREAM

Thursday 27th August at St Pat's Silverstream Auditorium. Doors open at 6pm and show starts at 6:30pm. Tickets online via our school website or at the door.

As with the previous two years we are fundraising to support our own Performing Arts programmes along with a local charity. With this in mind, this year we ask that those attending to bring a non-perishable food item that will be collected for St Vincent de Paul. Our Young Vinnies Group will be on hand that evening to collect items as well as helping run operations Front of House.

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



‘Mary’s song, *Magnificat*, strengthens the hope of the humble, the hungry, the faithful servants of God. These are the men and women of the Beatitudes who, even in tribulation, already see the invisible: the mighty cast down from their thrones, the rich sent away empty, the promises of God fulfilled. Such experiences should be found in every Christian community.’

Pope Leo XIV

“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

THE CAGLIERO PROJECT, SALESIANS OF DON BOSCO

Long Term Volunteer Opportunities in the Australia-Pacific Region. We are seeking long term (6-12 month) volunteers for departure in January 2027 to work with young people in our Salesian communities in Samoa, Cambodia, Timor Leste, Solomon Islands and Mongolia.

Applications close October 31st, 2026. Send us an enquiry - www.cagliero.org.au or lhichaaba@salesians.org.au.



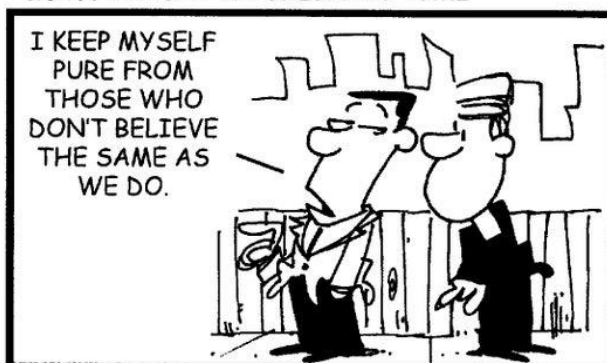
JOSHUA

Yes, Joshua is still on this coming Thursday 20th August in Connolly Hall (next to Sacred Heart Cathedral). Join us from 7:00pm for a cuppa and a 7:30pm start. Main feature - Small group activity facilitated by Rainer Hensel based on the theme: "For many are called, but few are chosen"

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 especially Tony Conroy whose first anniversary occurs this Sunday.



20TH 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.



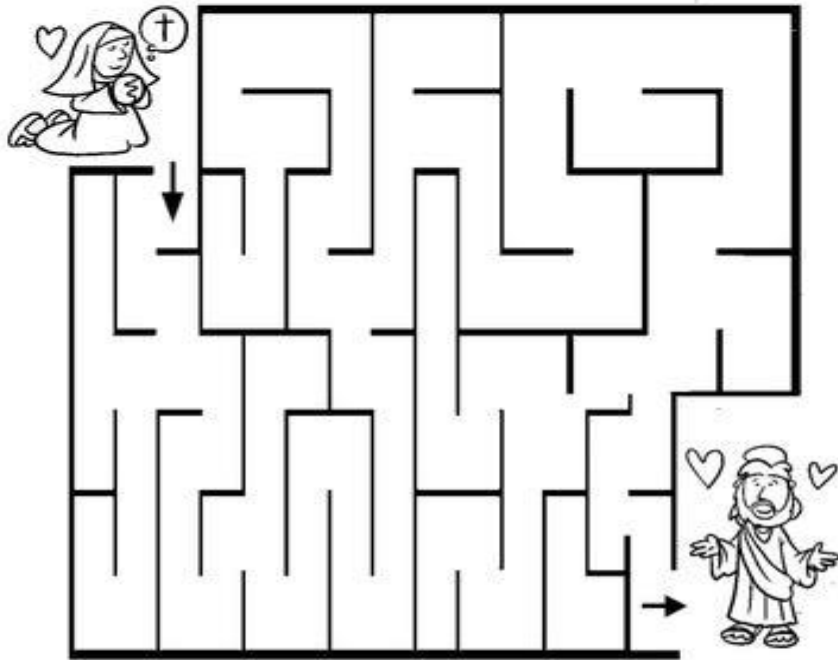
20th Sunday in Ordinary Time • Matthew 15:21-28

PUZZLE FOR YOU



PUZZLE

Help this woman find Jesus.



MISSION

If you know someone who is sick, be brave and pray about it. Jesus can do anything.



BECAUSE VIBRANT
CHURCHES MATTER