

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) 5 Palmer Crescent, Heretaunga
Presbytery and Parish Office	Monday – Friday 9.00 am to 1.00pm Te (04) 972 4282 I
Parish Administrator	Jovena Fernandez
Website	www.olv.org.nz E-mail office@olv.org.nz pp@olv.org.nz
St Brendan's School Newsletter	56 Palmer Cres Tel (04) 939 1909 28 July, Term 3 2026 Newsletter

23rd Sunday in Ordinary READINGS YEAR A 6th September 2026

6 th Sept	1 st Reading 2 nd Reading Gospel	Ezekiel 33: 7-9 Romans 13: 8-10 Matthew 18: 15-20	
13 th Sept	1 st Reading 2 nd Reading Gospel	Ecus 27: 30-28:7 Romans 14:7-9 Matthew 18: 21-35	

UPCOMING EVENT

Wed 09 th Sept	09.00 am	Anointing Mass at St Joseph's Rest Home
Thur 10 th Sept	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/>



Blessing on those who take the role of FATHERS in our world today

PARISH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Last Sunday the Parish held its AGM at the Pettit Centre. Thanks to all those who attended. We trust that you found it informative and positive.



At the meeting the two Co-Chairperson's Doug Fauchelle and Ahmed Hemady have stood down as their two-year term was completed and they are not seeking re-election. We thank them for the contribution to the life of the Parish over their tenure on the Council. We congratulate Lagi Aukusitino on her acceptance as a new Parish councillor.



THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPEL

Discerning God's voice in the midst of tensions

A few summers ago, my family had a big reunion. It included my parents, my four siblings, and all their many children. One of my favourite moments was simply watching my parents' contented faces as they took in all of us together, laughing, sharing food, singing, telling stories. They loved seeing their children happily together with each other.

That is something like the heart of God we see in today's Gospel message about Christian reconciliation. These verses come right after Jesus' parable of the lost sheep. He is not giving the disciples a cold formula for dealing with conflict. He is revealing the Father's longing for children who love and reconcile with each other. His heart aches when his children are divided and isolated.

So when Jesus says, "Go and tell your brother his fault," He is not deputizing us as morality police. He is inviting us into his mission of reconciliation. When he adds, "If he listens to you, you have won over your brother," we glimpse the real goal. Not winning arguments, but reuniting a divided family.

These days, we often think religion is just between God and me. But the Father's dream is about a lively family, one in which His children forgive, gather, and rejoice together.

Lord Jesus, give me the courage to seek reconciliation where it is needed. Make my heart resemble the Father's heart, longing and working for unity among His children. Amen.

— *Father John Muir*

ARCHDIOCESAN COMMISSION FOR ECOLOGY, JUSTICE AND PEACE

'Attacks on nature have consequences for people's lives. And to express bluntly that this is no longer a secondary or ideological question, but a drama that harms us all, the African Bishops stated that climate change makes manifest 'a tragic and striking example of structural sin'.

Pope Francis



SEASON OF CREATION EVENT 2026:

Te Awa Kairangi Prayer Walk: Sunday, 20th September, from Harcourt Park, Upper Hutt (8.00am), to Petone Foreshore (5.45pm). Join us for any stage, or at any of six gathering points along the way. An annual event for the Season of Creation. Poster giving details is in the foyer.



HOUSING ELECTION FORUM

Wednesday, 23rd September at the Wellington Cathedral of St Paul cnr Hill and Molesworth Streets, Wellington. Refreshments from 5.45pm Forum begins 6.30pm Ends 8.00pm.

Livestream: <https://www.youtube.com/live/KNO3vzFBfVo>

What kind of housing future do we want for Aotearoa New

Zealand?

Join co-hosts Archbishop Paul Martin and Archbishop Justin Duckworth along with church leaders, community advocates, and political representatives for the Housing Election Forum 2026. Hear about the realities of homelessness and housing insecurity, explore solutions, and learn where political parties stand ahead of the election. Be part of the conversation about ensuring everyone has access to a safe, secure and affordable home. All are welcome. More information: <https://www.facebook.com/events/4329746410688397>

ONLINE SAFEGUARDING WORKSHOPS

September 21st 7.00 pm to 8.15 pm and Monday 28th 12 noon to 1.15 pm. Safeguarding is the responsibility of us all. Whether you are involved directly in Parish Ministry or not, enrol to attend an Online Safeguarding Workshop to learn about the actions we, as a Church, are taking to keep each other safe. Register with Kevin Plant by emailing: k.plant@cadw.nz. The Microsoft Teams link to join the workshop will be sent out two days prior to the Workshop.

SOCIAL JUSTICE WEEK 2026 6 – 12 September 2026

You Belong to God | Nā Te Atua anō koe

Every person carries an irreplaceable dignity – not earned, not given by others, but woven into us by the God who made us. Pope Leo XIV Each year, the New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference lead us in Social Justice Week to consider an issue of social justice in Aotearoa. This year marks the beginning of a three-year journey exploring what it means to truly belong — to God, to one another, and to creation. We begin with the first and most important thread: we belong to God, made on purpose, fully known, and unconditionally loved. We hope people will begin this journey by reflecting on their own sense of belonging, and on the truth that every person's worth comes not from what they achieve, but from who made them. For resources and more information visit www.caritas.org.nz/parishes/social-justice-week



JOSHUA WELLINGTON

Come and join other men for a Joshua evening on **Thursday 17th September 2026** from 7:00pm for a cuppa and a 7:30pm start in Connolly Hall (next to the Sacred Heart Cathedral).

Speaker on "Be grateful for God's forgiving love" **to be confirmed**

Also, keep **Saturday 10th October free** for a Men's 1-Day Retreat at the Home of Compassion, Island Bay between 8:30am and 4:45pm. Murray Adams, Ignatian Spiritual Director from Palmerston North on "I am ready for anything anywhere" Text or call Steve Ready 027 356 9555

TINDALL FOUNDATION FUNDING –

Applications Now Open - Parish groups, Catholic agencies, and related organisations that focus on intergenerational wellbeing are invited to apply for Tindall Foundation funding via the Archdiocesan Allocation Committee. Focus areas include parents, carers and young children, equitable access to life's essential needs, identity and social cohesion, rangatahi empowerment and pathways, and resourced communities. Please ensure your application is submitted by **Friday, 2nd October 2026**. For more information, including funding priorities and exclusions, and to download the application form, please visit: <https://cadw.nz/tindall/>



GREENSTONE DOORS We are looking for Greenstone Aunties. Greenstone Aunties are compassionate volunteers who walk alongside māmā and pēpi staying at Korowai House, our maternal mental health respite home in Naenae.

Through practical help, encouragement, and a caring presence, they help create a safe and supportive environment for whānau during their stay with us. If you are interested in finding out more please contact Jennie at office@greenstonedoors.co.nz or 022 039 5788.

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 Fr. Pene Patelesio and Sr. Carmel Paul, and for those whose anniversaries occur around this time.



23rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



FOR THE YOUNG ONES



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PUZZLE FOR YOU

Gathered In His Name

For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them." Matthew 18:20 [NIV]

The puzzle is based on Matthew 18:15-20



Come Together

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

REFUSE	FATHER	HEAVEN	FAULT	CHURCH
NAME	BIND	TWO	GATHER	EARTH
BROTHER	LOOSE	SISTER	AGREE	LISTEN