

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 Newsletter, 8 September, Term 3 2026

24th Sunday in Ordinary READINGS 13th September 2026 Time YEAR A

13 th Sept	1 st Reading 2 nd Reading Gospel	Ecus 27: 30-28:7 Romans 14:7-9 Matthew 18: 21-35	
20 th Sept	1 st Reading 2 nd Reading Gospel	Isaiah 55: 6-9 Phillippians 1: 20-24, 27 Matthew 20: 1-16	

UPCOMING EVENT

Wed 16 th Sept	11.00 am	Anointing Mass at the Pettit Centre
Thur 17 th Sept	01.30 pm 07.00 pm	Anointing Mass at Stokeswood Rest Home, SV 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 15th SEPTEMBER AT SFX AND ON 16th SEPTEMBER AT 9 AM AT OLOG



ARCHBISHOP OF WELLINGTON'S BLESSING AND OFFICIAL OPENING AT ST BRENDAN'S

We warmly invite all parishioners to join us for the blessing and official opening of our newly refurbished block on Friday, 25 September at 12pm. It would be a pleasure to have you share in this special celebration with our school community.

For further details please check the notice board in the foyers of both churches.



THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPEL

In my parish, there was once a new employee who frequently told me she was sorry for various imperfections in her work. It could be a little tiring. I finally told her, “You know, you don’t have to say ‘sorry’ so often.” She looked me right in the eyes and said, “Father, you’re right. I’m sorry.” Her ear-to-ear grin betrayed that she enjoyed the irony — and that she would keep asking for forgiveness as often as she needed it.

The Gospel reading this week proclaims to us that God, in Jesus, delights in numerous requests for, and the granting of, forgiveness. To Peter’s question, “Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive? As many as seven times?” Jesus responds, “I say to you, not seven times but seventy-seven times.” In other words, Peter, stop counting.

Christian life should be marked by a commitment to frequent forgiveness. God never tires of forgiving us. His limitless love has overcome the power of vengeance, hatred, and division. We tap into that each and every time we ask for forgiveness or extend it to another.

How beautiful our hearts become when they become accustomed to frequent forgiveness! How joyful and attractive become our marriages, families, and parish communities! How light our souls feel when unburdened by the habit of keeping score.

Challenge: Name one thing, small or large, for which you could ask forgiveness from someone in your life. Then do it.

— *Father John Muir*

CIRCLE OF FRIENDSHIP

Last Saturday our guest speaker Julie Lewis spoke of her 20+ years volunteering on Mātū Somes Island working for NZ Forest and Bird alongside DOC and the park rangers, maintaining this predator-free island. Julie’s work included welcoming visitors and day-trippers, and doing the careful bio-security checks on the arrivals.

Her knowledge and love of the fauna and flora was evident, and the beautiful photographs she shared gave us an appreciation of the special beauty of this island in Wellington Harbour.

The Island is owned by local Iwi following a Treaty Settlement in 2009.

A most enjoyable and informative afternoon was had by all, followed by much chatter and afternoon tea.

Our meetings are held in the Petit Centre first Saturday of the month 2 till 4pm. All welcome to attend, and reminder notices are published in the Bulletin the week before.



ARCHDIOCESAN COMMISSION FOR ECOLOGY, JUSTICE AND PEACE

‘Evangelical justice does not take away from human justice, but challenges and refines it. It prompts human justice to go ever further, impelling it towards the pursuit of reconciliation. Evil, in fact, must not only be punished but also repaired, and to this end, it is necessary to look deeply at the well-being of individuals and the common good.’ *Pope Leo*



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, enroll 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.

eXaLT (XLT) –

Join us for an inspiring night of **Adoration, Reconciliation, Music, Prayer, and Fellowship** at **eXaLT (XLT)**. This event is for teenagers and young adults who want to meet Jesus, grow in faith, and connect with others in a friendly environment. Bring a friend and be renewed! Parents and adults, please invite and bring the youth you know to share this evening with Jesus. "FAITH IN ACTION"

Friday, 25 September 2026 7.00pm – 9.00pm

Our Lady of Fatima Church, 169 Main Road, TAWA



JOSHUA WELLINGTON

Reminder about the Joshua Men's meeting this coming **Thursday 17th September** in Connolly Hall (next to Sacred Heart Cathedral). You're welcome to join us from 7:00pm for a cuppa and a 7:30pm start followed by supper.

Speaker: Fr Kevin Connors on "Be grateful for God's forgiving love"

Also, keep **Saturday 10th October free** for a Men's 1-Day Retreat at the Home of Compassion, Island Bay. Murray Adams, Ignatian Spiritual Director from Palmerston North, leading "I am ready for anything anywhere"

Want to know more? Ring David Monastra 027-4477-280

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.

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/>



THE ARCHDIOCESAN MARRIAGE PREPARATION – LOVE IS A DECISION & COMMIT

Online registration available on the Archdiocesan website: [Marriage - Catholic Archdiocese of Wellington](https://www.cadw.nz/marriage). Next available course, consecutive **Sundays, 1st & 8th November 2026** from 10.00am - 4.00pm. Couples attend both Sundays together in person. Please note: the November course is the last course for the year and is very popular ahead of the peak wedding season. The first course of 2027 will be in early March. Please register early. See the Archdiocese's website for information about getting married overseas and the papers required. Any email queries contact: marriage@cadw.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 Sr. Ruth Pickering, Fr. Pene Patelesio and Sr. Carmel Paul, and for those whose anniversaries occur around this time.



24TH 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.



24th Sunday in Ordinary Time • Matthew 18:21-35

PUZZLE FOR YOU

Keep On Forgiving

Then Peter came to him and asked, "Lord, how often should I forgive someone who sins against me? Seven times?" Matthew 18:21 (NLT)

Based on Matthew 18:21-35 (NIV)



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

MANY	SINS	PETER	FORGIVE
SEVEN	TIMES	JESUS	TIMES
ASKED	BROTHER	LORD	HOW