

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
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

25th Sunday in Ordinary READINGS YEAR A 20th September 2026

20 th Sept	1 st Reading 2 nd Reading Gospel	Isaiah 55: 6-9 Phillippians 1: 20-24, 27 Matthew 20: 1-16	
27 th Sept	1 st Reading 2 nd Reading Gospel	Exekiel 18: 25-28 Phillippians 2: 1-11 Matthew 21: 28-32	

UPCOMING EVENT

Thur 24th Sept | 07.30 pm | Parish Liturgy Committee 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/>

ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (OCIA)

The Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA), programme of instruction in the Roman Catholic Faith and the preparation to receive the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Eucharist, begins on Wednesday, 28th October 2026 starting at 7:30pm in the Parish Meeting Room at the back of Our Lady of Grace Church. For further information, please contact:

Liz McCaul: 527 3211 or 021 1028 297, or Father Maleko



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.

THANK YOU ROSEMARY DHLAKAMA

Our gratitude goes out to Rosemary for the new Altar cloths at SFX which she took time from her busy schedule to sew. God's blessings on Rosemary and thank you once again.



THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPEL

Every December, the priests of my diocese gather for a Christmas dinner with our bishop. Nearly 200 of us in one room: newly ordained and long retired, pastors of large parishes and quiet confessors, men full of energy and others moving more slowly. Some carry visible success; others bear hidden wounds. It is a tapestry of vocations and lives. When the bishop thanks us, I am always moved. For a moment, none of our differences matter. What matters is that we belong to one another.

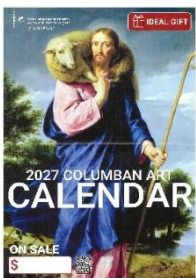
I usually leave that evening with a deep sense of peace, but also with a sober realization. Nothing drains joy from the vineyard of the Lord faster than comparison. The quiet habit of measuring, ranking, and resenting can creep in even among those who sincerely serve God.

That is what Jesus exposes in today's parable of the workers in the vineyard. The early labourers are not upset because they were treated unjustly; they are angry because others were treated generously. Their resentment blinds them to the gift already in their hands. When the landowner asks, "Are you envious because I am generous?" he names the real wound.

This tension echoes throughout salvation history: the elder brother resenting the prodigal, the faithful servant scorning the latecomer. Jesus does not deny the labour of those who have borne the heat of the day, but he refuses to let God's mercy become a zero-sum game.

In the end, the vineyard's reward is not about fairness but belonging. The joy offered is communion with a generous Father, who delights in gathering early and late, strong and weak, into one household of grace.

— *Father John Muir*



COLUMBAN CALENDARS FOR 2027

In **LIMITED** numbers are out now and available at the Parish Office for \$13 each please hurry and secure a copy for yourself or a loved one.

ARCHDIOCESAN COMMISSION FOR ECOLOGY, JUSTICE AND PEACE



'What is fair? For the owner of the vineyard, that is, for God, it is just that each person has what is needed to live. He called the labourers personally, he knows their dignity. ... the labourers from the first hour are disappointed: they cannot see the beauty of the gesture of the landowner, who was not unjust, but simply generous; who looked not only at merit, but also at need. God wants to give his Kingdom, that is, full, eternal and happy life, to everyone. And this is what Jesus does with us: he does not establish rankings, he gives all of himself to those who open their hearts to him.'

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 7pm – 9pm Our Lady of Fatima Church, TAWA



JOSHUA WELLINGTON

All men are welcome to this Retreat on Saturday 10 October 2026, Home of Compassion, 2 Rhine Street, Island Bay, Wellington between 8:30am and 5pm. Theme: 'I am ready for anything anywhere' (Philippians 4:12) led by Murray Adams, Ignatian Spiritual Director. Morning tea, afternoon tea and lunch provided. Suggested koha \$25 to help with costs. Want to know more? Contact Steve 027 356 9555 or Joshua.wgtn@gmail.com

**CONGRATULATIONS TO PETER AND JUDY
MARSDEN ON THEIR 70TH WEDDING
ANNIVERSARY ON THE 15TH OF SEPTEMBER**



MISSION SUNDAY 100th ANNIVERSARY

Please find a copy of the Letter to Catholic Schools and Parishes for Mission Sunday 100th Anniversary from the NZ Catholic Bishops for collection in the foyer. The letter can also be accessed here:

<https://bit.ly/MissionSundayNZ2026>



THE ARCHDIOCESAN MARRIAGE PREPARATION – LOVE IS A DECISION & COMMIT

Online registration available on the Archdiocesan website: [Marriage - Catholic Archdiocese of Wellington](#). 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.

ADW YOUNG CHURCH NETWORK GATHERING

Calling all youth leaders, coordinators and all those involved with Catholic youth from across Wellington! Come join us for an afternoon of fellowship, discussion and reflection surrounding our young people on **Saturday 31st October** from 12noon – 4.00pm at St Joseph's Church, Mt Victoria. We will provide afternoon tea and refreshments throughout the afternoon, but please bring your own lunch for the start. See you there!

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.



25th 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.



25th Sunday in Ordinary Time • Matthew 20:1-16a

PUZZLE FOR YOU

The Workers in the Vineyard

'These men who were hired last worked only one hour,' they said, 'and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day.' Matthew 20:12 (NIV)

Based on Matthew 20:1-16



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

MONEY
LANDOWNER
WAGES

HOURLY
HEAVEN
HIRED

EQUAL
GRUMBLE
UNFAIR

WORKERS
KINGDOM
RIGHT

VINEYARD
GENEROUS
RECEIVED