

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 Tel (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 22 September, Term 3 2026 Newsletter

27th Sunday in Ordinary READINGS 04th October 2026 Time YEAR A

11 th Oct	1 st Reading 2 nd Reading Gospel	Isaiah 25: 6-10 Phillippians 4:12-14, 19-20 Matthew 22: 1-14	
18 th Oct	1 st Reading 2 nd Reading Gospel	Isaiah 45: 1, 4-6 1Thessalonians 1:1-5 Matthew 22: 15-21	

UPCOMING EVENT

Thurs 15 th Oct	01.30 pm 07.30 pm	Anointing Mass at Stokeswood Rest Home, SV Parish Council Meeting
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EVENTS IN THE ARCHDIOCESE

What is happening around our Diocese? Stay up to date with Archdiocesan events - <https://www.wn.catholic.org.nz/events/>



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.

CHRISTMAS CARDS

Christmas Cards are now available at the Parish Office.

A pack of 8 cards is \$6 each.



MISSION NZ - SUNDAY 18TH OCTOBER

World Mission Sunday is an annual global celebration set aside by the Catholic Church for prayer, solidarity, and financial support of missionary activities worldwide. Give from your heart.

Your gift is your legacy to missions. Donate online: <https://missio.nz/donate>



THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPEL

Some friends invited me to one of the most famous and expensive restaurants in the country. I was grateful and eager to go. One invited friend even flew from another state for the experience. Every bite and sip was truly memorable and delicious. But my friends' teenage children spent much of the time on their phones, complained about the food, and generally ignored the once-in-a-lifetime experience. I wanted to yell, "C'mon, you guys! Look what you're missing!" In today's parable, Jesus describes people invited to an amazing wedding feast who respond with inexplicable indifference. He says, "Some ignored the invitation and went away, one to his farm, another to his business" (Matthew 22:5). The problem is not that they choose evil but that they allow other desires to distract them from an amazing opportunity. The feast is prepared, but their hearts are elsewhere. In Christ Jesus, God offers each of us a wildly extravagant offer: a place at the wedding banquet between heaven and earth. What are your current excuses for the delay in engaging with Jesus? How are you postponing a deepening of your relationship with him under the guise of responsibility? The good news is that the feast is ready. His invitation remains. Hear the Lord say to us, "C'mon, guys! Look what you're missing!" Then respond with concrete action.

— *Father John Muir*



NOVEMBER – REMEMBERING THE BELOVED DEAD

During the month of November, we remember those God has called through the gates of death to eternal life. Pages are available in the foyer to record those family and friends whom you would like to pray for at each Mass celebrated in the Parish during November.

On All Souls Day, **Monday November 2nd**, a Special Mass of Remembrance is being organised. It is to be celebrated in **St Francis Xavier's Church**, Stokes Valley, at **07:30 pm** for all the deceased, and especially for those who have died in the last twelve months.

There will also be a mass at **9.00am at Our Lady of Grace Church**.

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



OLOV YOUTH GROUP

Youth **aged 12–18** are invited to join. Our sessions and activities are also **open to anyone in their late teens or 20s** who are keen to get involved!" Meeting schedule is every: 2nd and 3rd Sundays of the month 1 - 3pm Pettit Centre, Our Lady of Grace Church Heretaunga

ARCHDIOCESAN COMMISSION FOR ECOLOGY, JUSTICE & PEACE

'The vision of humanity as a "community of people" is a valuable legacy that the Second Vatican Council has left us. It helps us all to engage in personal and communal discernment, so that we may responsibly evaluate today's social and political projects, based on the criteria of the dignity of the human person, social justice and free participation in constructing the common good. For the future of humanity depends on each person's commitment to collaborate with God and with their brothers and sisters in building a more humane world.'

Pope Leo XIV



CIRCLE OF FRIENDSHIP

Last Saturday 40+ attendees gathered to hear Stephen Quinn speak about his 33 years as solicitor and barrister. He gave a very interesting and informative talk about work undertaken over the years, where he specialised in environmental infrastructure, building and local government litigation.

He outlined 5 specific cases of interest he has worked on over the years: The Auckland prison, the LH Ewen bridge demolition, the proposed West coast coal terminal, and the Marlborough Sounds salmon farms, adding some humorous moments during those hearings.

He touched briefly on hoarders, cemetery disputes, 1080 poison drops, environmental effects on the Fairy tern and the Makara wind farm. Stephen was assisted by his young daughter Jessica, who gave out colourful handout sheets she had made, that illustrated these cases.

Following the talk we all enjoyed a wonderful afternoon tea and there was lots of lively conversation to follow.

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!

HANDS AROUND THE BEEHIVE

A National Day of Remembrance for Health **Wednesday, 21 October 2026.**

The Archdiocesan Ecology for Justice and Peace is supporting Hands Around the Beehive's gathering to remember those who have struggled to receive the healthcare they needed, to acknowledge the people who work within our health system, and to stand together in solidarity and hope for a healthier Aotearoa. Everyone is invited to attend to mark the minute of silence. In Wellington: 1.15pm - Gather at Parliament 1.30pm - Speakers 2.00pm - National Minute of Silence. At 2.00pm, people across the Motu are invited to stop wherever they are - in churches, hospitals, workplaces, parks, community spaces or at home with their friends and whānau - and share a National Minute of Silence. Further information is available at: www.ucanforhealth.co.nz





PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL NEWS

The Parish Pastoral Council is pleased to welcome Erin Murphy as Chair, with Prue van Keisenberg as interim Deputy Chair and Roy Scoon continuing as Secretary. There is also plenty to celebrate across the parish: a well-supported AGM, a committed Bible study group meeting each Tuesday, and the many ways Fr Maleko serves our community—from Samoan Masses and baptisms to visiting new parishioners. We will share a separate update on the recent successful Youth Alpha course shortly. Thank you to everyone for the ways you contribute to our parish community.

CARITAS

Mass to mark the start of the Caritas Oceania Forum Sunday, 18

October - Metropolitan Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, at 7.00pm. Join Archbishop Paul Martin SM and the Caritas Oceania representatives including Cardinal Soane Mafi of Tonga, Archbishop Peter Loy Chong of Fiji, and Archbishop Moses Vitolio Tui of Samoa, along with other overseas visitors, including the Caritas Internationalis Secretary-General.



EXALT: CHRIST THE KING 2026.

You are warmly invited to EXALT: Christ the King, a National Worship Event to be held in Wellington on Saturday, 21 November 2026, from 10.30 am to 3.30 pm at Metropolitan Cathedral of the Sacred Heart. This special day will bring together people from across New Zealand for worship, Holy Mass, prayer, and fellowship as we honour Christ our King and pray for our nation. Please keep the date free and join us for this special national gathering of worship and prayer for New Zealand. The Mass Presider will be Archbishop Paul Martin. Registration is not required.



UPPER HUTT HOUSING TRUST

Are you able to volunteer as hosts and helpers for 4-8 hours over two days per week at the Upper Hutt Housing Charitable Trust drop-in centre. Training is given and support provided. Please contact Judy Dixon for a JD and more information 022 043 4703 or judy@uhht.org.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 George Fidow, Shirley Mahoney, Carole Hoult, Colleen McKay, Martin Howley, and Ricarte Bonita and for those whose anniversaries occur around this time.



28TH 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.



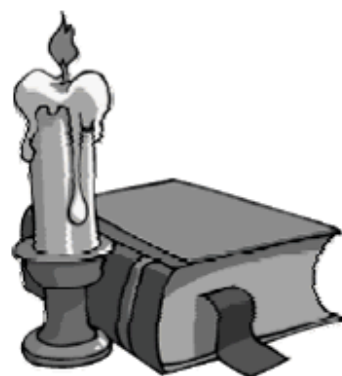
Matthew 22:1-14 or 22:1-10 • 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

PUZZLE FOR YOU

The Wedding Banquet

So the servants went out into the streets and gathered all the people they could find, both good and bad, and the wedding hall was filled with guests. Matthew 22:10

Based on Matthew 22:1-14 (NIV)



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

PARABLES	STREET	INVITED	BANQUET
GUESTS	HEAVEN	KINGDOM	CORNERS
SERVANTS	CATTLE	COME	OXEN
FILLED	REFUSED	WEDDING	DINNER