


# Our Lady of the Valleys Parish




<b>Parish Priest</b>	Father Tony Kearns
<b>Church</b>	Our Lady of Grace Church, 5 Palmer Crescent, Heretaunga (HTG) St Francis Xavier Church, 152 Stokes Valley Road. Stokes Valley (SV)
<b>Sunday Eucharist</b>	Sat 5:30 pm Vigil (SV) 8:30 am (SV) and 10:30 am (HTG) Tuesday / Thursday 9:30 am (Stokes Valley)
<b>Weekday Eucharist</b>	Wednesday / Saturday 9:00 am (Heretaunga) Friday 9:30 am (Heretaunga)
<b>Adoration of Blessed Sacrament</b>	Friday 10:00 am to 6:00 pm (Heretaunga) [term time]
<b>Reconciliation</b>	By appointment with Parish Priest
<b>Presbytery and Parish Office</b>	5 Palmer Crescent Heretaunga <b>Tel</b> (04) 972 4282
<b>Parish Administrator</b>	Monday - Friday 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.olv.org.nz">www.olv.org.nz</a> <b>E-mail</b> <a href="mailto:office@olv.org.nz">office@olv.org.nz</a> <a href="mailto:pp@olv.org.nz">pp@olv.org.nz</a>
<b>St Brendan's School</b>	56 Palmer Cres <b>Tel</b> (04) 939 1909

## CHRISTMAS YEAR 1 25<sup>th</sup> December 2022

<b>25<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Reading 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading Gospel	Isaiah 9:1-7 Titus 2:11-14 Luke 2:1-14	
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Jan</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Reading 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading Gospel	Numbers 6: 22-27 Galatians 4: 4-7 Luke 2 : 16-21	

### UPCOMING EVENTS TO NOTE

<b>Sat 24<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	<b>5:30 pm</b>	<b>FAMILY VIGIL MASS at Our Lady of Grace HTG (Carols from 5:00pm)</b>	
	<b>12:00 pm</b>	<b>MIDNIGHT MASS St Francis Xavier STV (Carols from 11:30pm)</b>	
<b>Sun 25<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	<b>9:30 am</b>	<b>MORNING MASS at Our Lady of Grace OLOG</b>	

### OUR COVID RESPONSE

You will have seen the Covid numbers are again on the rise. You are asked to continue to make wise choices in regards to your own health and to be mindful of the health of others. Masks and sanitiser are still provided for your use. Please, if you are unwell – stay home and seek medical advice.



**DATE CLAIMER PARISH PICNIC – 12<sup>th</sup> February** about 11:45am on the Presbytery front lawn in Heretaunga. **MARK YOUR DIARIES.** MORE DETAILS IN January newsletter.

### FLOWERS FOR CHRISTMAS

The florists at Stokes Valley and Heretaunga are thankful to parishioners who so generously donated flowers for Christmas.



### VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED

The LIVING WATERS Cafe at Our Lady of Grace are looking for helpers please contact the office if you are willing to help out.



## CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS

Preparing for Christmas is a time for us to take time to reflect; to reflect on the ones we love and who love us, reflect on times shared over the past twelve months, the ups and downs, the joys and hopes, the griefs and anguishes that are ours as human beings. In the midst of this it is also a time to reflect how we have been blessed by the one whose entry into human history we are celebrating – Christ himself.

As I think back over the past year, I recall the myriad times that I have met Christ here in Our Lady of the Valleys– to be found in the gurgling smile of a young child brought for entry into the family of God, the bright eyes of Confirmation and First Eucharist candidates, and the sad eyes of Christ as he grieves with us over family and friends we have said farewell to.

For all of us it has been another a year of change, adapting to COVID waxing and waning in our country and the world, striving to address the big and little changes that life brings.

It is sometimes easier to see the face of the Christ-child in the ‘large’ events of the past year, but other memories come as well – the delight of a child yelling a ‘hello Father Tony’ in the supermarket aisle, the deep sense of faith felt as I have been welcomed into so many of your homes and hearts while out visiting, the helping hand of Jesus the worker as tasks both small and great are undertaken by people who see a need and quietly work away to share of their time and talents.

These for me have been a real sign of the significance of Emmanuel (God with us) taking root in our parish family. May each of you experience anew the blessings of the God who looks out to us through a lowly stable door to share with us all his ‘peace on earth and God’s blessings to all of good will.’

My deepest thanks to you all who have blessed me over the past year that we have journeyed together as a faith family.

God’s richest blessings to you all.

*Fr Tony*





## SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION PROGRAMME 2023

Enrolments for the 2023 Sacramental Preparation Program are now open for those candidates who would like to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Confirmation and First Eucharist.

**Enrolments can also be submitted on-line at [www.lov.org.nz/sacraments/](http://www.lov.org.nz/sacraments/).** Enrolment forms are also available in the foyer of both churches and the School.

Enrolments close on 3rd February 2023. The Programme starts on February 12<sup>th</sup> as the Reconciliation portion happens over Lent. Any enquiries please contact Fr Tony or Jenny Mahoney, the Sacramental Programme Co-ordinator.

## THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPEL

This prologue to John's Gospel is a piece of poetry. Like all poetry one of the ways to enter into it is to read it a few times slowly and let the words and images speak to you.



The prologue proclaims Jesus as the true light come into the world. How has Jesus, and the message of Jesus, been a light for you in your life?

The prologue also affirms the transforming power of faith: 'to all who received him ... he gave power to become children of God'. How would you describe the difference it makes to you to have faith as part of your life?

In Jesus we get a glimpse of God and of the love of God. But as 'Jesus people' in the world today we also are called to be witnesses to the light. Who has been a witness to you? To whom have you been a witness?



Wishing you and your families a happy and holy Christmas. On behalf of the Heretaunga Branch of the Catholic Women's League, we thank you for your generous support in the past year.



## GREENSTONE AUNTIES NEEDED

Greenstone Doors is urgently looking for volunteers to become part of a rostered team to help at a residence in Mt Victoria where two mothers will require support. The volunteer will need to have experience with the care of newborn babies. The role is to help parents build skills and confidence as first-time mothers in a supportive environment. Hours are 9am-5pm and/or overnight. Commitment to at least one day or night a fortnight.

For more information contact Wendy 0272549222 or email [manager@greenstoneddoors.co.nz](mailto:manager@greenstoneddoors.co.nz)

## PALESTINE IS A HOT TOPIC!

Come and hear about the reality of living there. Brother Peter Bray FSC, the Kiwi Vice-Chancellor of Bethlehem University, will be talking about the Holy Land, his work with his students, and the lives of other ordinary Palestinians.



St Thomas More (Wilton) Monday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2023, 7pm Start . Tea and Coffee available from 6.30pm. **Please register** by January 25<sup>th</sup> with Christine at [c.walkerdine@wn.catholic.org.nz](mailto:c.walkerdine@wn.catholic.org.nz) or phone (04) 496-1706. Check out his latest video at : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R17kia53-GY>



### PLEASE PRAY FOR ...

We remember all who are sick and unwell, those affected by the COVID-19 virus, and those who are lonely. We pray also for those who have died recently including Dennis Brown, and Fr David Arms SSC. We pray also for those whose anniversaries occur around this time. May they rest in peace.

### CHRISTMAS



## FOR THE YOUNG ONES



## AND FOR THE NOT SO YOUNG

### The Birth of Jesus

And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. Luke 2:7 (KJV)

The puzzle is based on Luke 2:1-20



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

SAVIOR  
CAESAR  
CHILD

CENSUS  
SON  
SHEPHERDS

MARY  
JOSEPH  
ANGEL

MANGER  
MESSIAH  
BETHLEHEM

BORN  
ROOM  
BABY

## **ORATIO IMPERATA**

### **On the threat from Covid19**

God our Father, we come to you in our need  
to ask your protection against COVID19  
that has disturbed and even claimed lives.



We pray that you guide the people  
tasked to find cures for this disease and to stem its transmission.  
Protect the medical experts that they may minister to the sick  
with competence and compassion.

We pray for those afflicted.  
May they be restored to health soon.  
Protect those who care for them.  
Grant eternal rest to those who have died.

Give us the grace in this trying time  
to work for the good of all and to help those in need.  
We implore you to stop the spread of this virus  
and to save us from our fears.

Grant all these through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God forever and ever. Amen.