

**The Parish of Our Lady of the Valleys**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent 2017**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> December 2017**



Father Tony Kearns  
Parish Office and Presbytery (04) 972 4282  
Residence: 5 Palmer Crescent, Heretaunga  
Parish Secretary: Marilyn Keating  
Office hours: Monday – Friday 9:00 am -1:00 pm  
Email: office@olov.org.nz  
Website: www.olv.org.nz  
St Brendan's School - 939 1909



**THE DEEP END**  
Keep Awake

We are surrounded these days by the commercial 'circus' of Christmas shopping and 'getting ready'. It might seem far removed from the story that we are celebrating; the story of a poor refugee family 2,000 years ago who had a very special delivery. The story of God choosing to intervene in human history in such an intimate and shocking way; God choosing to be born into a situation of poverty and danger. It is good to ask ourselves at this time of year, what are we getting ready for? Advent is a wonderful season which invites us to use our waiting to grow spiritually. We are invited to make space for ourselves and for God in the midst of the rushing. Can we stop and be still and ask ourselves: 'Where do I see God being born around me today?' In those I meet? In kind words and gestures? In my community? In my own heart?

Have a more 'aware' Advent. Be mindful in all you do. Be aware in your rushing, be aware as you stand in that queue, be aware as you eat, be aware of your feelings, be aware of your thoughts. By watching all of this we become more awake, more able to recognise our true selves and more able to see God being born continuously each day within us and around us. Our awe and wonder grows and we can be prepared for the coming of the Gift himself. How we prepare determines what will be.

Jane Mellett



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There is a clip board in the foyer of both Churches, asking for volunteers for all ministries for the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses. Please fill in your name and thank you for your help.



Calling all Angels and Shepherds of all ages, please dress appropriately for the occasion, to gather at the Christmas Eve, 5.30pm, Mass at Our Lady of Grace and join Father on the Altar.



**Adoration** - The last day for 2017 will be 17<sup>th</sup> December and will start back early February, date to be advised early in the New Year. During the holidays would **all** parishioners think about how you can help fill in the gaps in many of the Rosters (Cleaning of our Churches, Altar Society at OLG, Adoration and many more) for 2018 – many hands make light work. Please contact the office if you need information regarding any of the Rosters.

### Meetings in the Parish

- 8<sup>th</sup> December – Men’s Night Christmas Function in the PC at 5.30pm
- 10<sup>th</sup> December – Reconciliation at OLG at 4pm
- 14<sup>th</sup> December – Parish Finance Meeting at 7.30pm
- 17<sup>th</sup> December – Reconciliation at St Joseph’s at 4pm
- 19<sup>th</sup> December – End of Year Mass
- 20<sup>th</sup> December – Healing Mass at OLG at 11.00
- 21<sup>st</sup> December – Healing Mass at Stokeswood, Stokes Valley at 1.30pm
- 24<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Eve at OLG at 5.30pm Carol Singing from 5pm
- 24<sup>th</sup> December – Midnight Mass at SFX – Carol Singing from 11.30pm
- 25<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Morning Mass at 8.30am at SFX
- 25<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Morning Mass at 10.30am at OLG

**Sacramental Preparation Programme 2018** - Enrolments for the 2018 Sacramental Preparation Program are now open for those candidates who would like to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Confirmation and First Eucharist. Enrolment forms are available in the foyer of both churches. Though enrolments close on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2018 please endeavour to enrol before the 18<sup>th</sup> December as this allows time over the January period to undertake preparation work. The Programme starts on 18<sup>th</sup> February and the Reconciliation portion happens over Lent. Any enquiries please contact Fr Tony or Louise Peirce the Sacramental Programme Co-ordinator.



**Altar serving training session** to be held on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December at 11.45am (after 10.30am mass) at Our Lady of Grace church. This is targeted at those wishing to take up the ministry but current servers are more than welcome to attend. For more information or to register interest in attending, please contact me via email [conorhealy26@gmail.com](mailto:conorhealy26@gmail.com) or Phone 04 528 7395.



**Men’s Group** – Christmas function to be held in the Pettit Centre on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December at 5.30pm. There is a clipboard in the foyer of both churches for the men who wish to attend. A meal will be provided costing between \$10-\$15.

**Pilgrimage to the Holy Land and Jordan** - planned for 29<sup>th</sup> April – 19<sup>th</sup> May 2018. For full brochure and itinerary, contact Pukekohe Travel Phone: 09 237 0013 or toll free: 0800 785 386. Email: [tours@pukekohetravel.co.nz](mailto:tours@pukekohetravel.co.nz).



**NZ Catholic** - Ablaze conference inspires Christchurch. Mobile life centre on road in NZ. Destiny Church challenge for Catholics. Farewell to Dame Sr Pauline Engel. The next issue of NZ Catholic will be published on 17<sup>th</sup> December.

**National March for Life NZ** - Parishes, groups and all people of goodwill are invited to be a part of this historic event. *2017 Theme: We Love Them Both.* Be a beacon of light for Kiwi families, mothers and the unborn! Gather at 2 pm in Civic Square ready to walk to Parliament on Saturday 9th December. [www.marchforlifenz.org.nz](http://www.marchforlifenz.org.nz)

**Mass and Holy Hour** - Friday 8th December, Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the BVM. Starting at 7.30 pm on the Eve of the March in St Anne's Church, Emmett St., Newtown. Celebrant: Monsignor Burns. For more information contact Ph: 237 8343.

**Food for Faith** - Through his website [www.foodforfaith.org.nz](http://www.foodforfaith.org.nz) Fr John O'Connor of Christchurch is offering an opportunity for Advent reflection. Every day in December those who sign up will receive a short reflection by email. Visit the website and look for the purple sign-up box.

**WelCom** Contents include: Aotearoa Catholic Youth Festival, Auckland 2-3 December / Cardinal John – the importance of kindness / Bishop Charles from India / The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, 8 December, Patron Feast Day of the Archdiocese of Wellington and many more interesting articles. Check out pages 17 and 19!!!



**2018 Columban Art Calendars** – These are now available from Parish Office or Margaret at SFX -\$12.00 a calendar. We also have a very small supply of St Vincent de Paul Christmas Cards (in the Parish Office) in packs of 5 at \$3.00 per pack.

**Christmas Cards** are now available at St Francis Xavier church after Mass on Saturday and Sunday's. A new supply of Christmas Cards have arrived but unfortunately the price has raised up to \$4.50 per pack of 8 Cards. Similar designs as last year. Please leave money in the box or give it to Margaret Lanigan. All proceeds go to the St Vincent de Paul Society.

**Christmas Presents** - The Stokes Valley S.V.D.P. society would like donations of Christmas presents for our needy children of the Valley. We are short on presents for the ages of 10 to 16 years both girl and boys. If presents are wrapped could you please state age and sex on the outside of

the parcel. Items can be left at the S.V.D.P. shop in Scott Court between 10am- 4pm, Monday-Friday or put in the S.V.D.P. basket at Sunday Mass. Cut off day for donating 8th December. Many thanks from Gordon and Chris - God bless.



Join the Cathedral Choirs, Cathedral Orchestra supported by members of local Wellington choirs for a magical Christmas fundraising concert in the Metropolitan Cathedral Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December at 7:00pm. Proceeds from this concert will go towards our fundraising for the much needed work on the Cathedral's 111 year old Hobday pipe organ. Our programme includes much loved Christmas works such as Gerald Finzi's In Terra Pax, Stars by Erik Esenwalds and several stunning arrangements of well known Christmas carols by Mack Wilberg and much, much more. So, please join us for an evening of beautiful music to uplift you in the joy of the season. Tickets are \$30/\$20 concession available online at [www.eventbrite.co.nz](http://www.eventbrite.co.nz) or on the door.

**Please remember in prayer**, all who are sick and unwell and those who are lonely and worried. We pray also for those who have died recently (Brenda Lawson, Barbara Gould, Foaimamao Asovale – Mao, Kelvin Raxworthy, James Worthington – son of Gaye Worthington and Cha-Huk-Um) that they may rest in peace and those whose anniversary (Denise Karam and John Carson) occur around this time.



Weekly Collection: \$1,151.40



**Our Lady of Grace Church 5 Palmer Crescent, Heretaunga**

**Mass Times Sunday –10:30am**

**Samoan Community - Mass 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday – Church 12 noon**

**Weekdays** Wed, Sat 9:00am Mass, Fri 9:30 am

**Reconciliation** – Please ring for an appointment

**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament** Friday (during school terms) 10.00 am – 6pm

**St Francis Xavier Church 152 Stokes Valley Road, Stokes Valley**

**Mass Times Weekends 5.30pm Vigil (Saturday) and 8.30am (Sunday)**

**Samoan Community - Mass 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday – Church 11.30am**

**Weekdays** – Tues, Thurs, 9.30am Mass – Mon, Wed, Fri, Sat 9.30am Liturgy of the Word

**Reconciliation** - Please ring for an appointment

**Pastoral Council Chairperson** John Benvenuti 563 8775

**St Vincent de Paul – Heretaunga** Terry 528 6313

Petone Shop 568 6408

**St Vincent de Paul – Stokes Valley** Gordon 938 2750

Stokes Valley Shop 563 9278

Sunday Readings		Sunday Readings	
3 <sup>rd</sup> December – 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent		10 <sup>th</sup> December – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent	
First Reading	Isaiah 63: 16-17, 64:1. 3-8	First Reading	Isaiah 63: 16-17, 64: 1, 3-8
Second Reading	Corinthians 1: 3-9	Second Reading	1Corinthians 1: 3-9
Gospel	Mark 13: 33-37	Gospel	Mark 13: 33-37