

**The Parish of Our Lady of the Valleys
Eleventh Week Ordinary Time - Year B
17th June 2018**



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**THE DEEP END
From small seeds**

The parable of the mustard seed seems pretty straight forward at first glance, but as always there is more to it than first meets the eye. Jesus did not compare the Kingdom of God to a majestic tree. There is an ancient text which forbade planting mustard seeds in Palestinian gardens because the shrub takes over wherever it is planted. It is wild, gets out of control, and attracts unwanted birds. The kingdom of God grows from something small to something large, but more than that, its growth is overwhelming and it will grow even where it is not wanted. Author and activist, Shane Claiborne, compares it to kudzu, a wild vine that could blanket entire mountain areas, smother trees, even crack cement buildings.

People of Jesus' time may have preferred the image of the lofty 'cedars of Lebanon' to explain God's kingdom, where the nations could build nests like the eagles do. Now that image may have gotten a few cheers from the crowd! Mustard plants however, only stand a few feet tall. Jesus is turning the ideals of power and triumph on their head again. The image we have here is of the birds who find a home in this little shrub which cannot be curtailed. It will grow even where it is not wanted. Watch out this week for glimpses of this 'mustard seed' kingdom quietly growing.

Jane Mellett
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Weekly Collection: \$1,059.40

Archdiocesan Commission for Justice, Peace and Development

Every stranger who knocks at our door is an opportunity for an encounter with Jesus Christ, who identifies with the welcomed and rejected strangers of every age.
Pope Francis: Message for the World Day of Migrants and Refugees 2018

Meetings in the Parish

Wednesday 20th June – CWL Committee meeting
Thursday 21st June 7.30 pm – Parish Council meeting

Sacramental Programme – Confirmation

24th June – Group Session at Our Lady of Grace at 10:30am
24th June – Rehearsal in Our Lady of Grace, Church at 11:30am
1st July – Confirmation ceremony at Our Lady of Grace Church at 10:30am



Nomination of New Parish Councillors



With an eye of the upcoming Annual General Meeting, a number of current Parish Councillors' term of appointment have come to an end. Currently Parish Councillors stand for a two year term with the right of renewal for two more terms. We are therefore opening nominations for new Parish Councillors on 1st June. With this bulletin there is a nomination form that should be filled in and returned back to the Parish Office by 30 June. Forms are also available in the foyer of both churches. This time frame allows time for the nominated candidates names to be advised to the Parish before the Annual General Meeting. Please take the time to prayerfully discern who you think might be a suitable person to serve our Parish on the Parish Council. If you would like more on the role of Parish Councillors and the function of the Parish Council please feel free to speak to one of the existing Parish Councillors or Father Tony.

Grief Support Meeting

On Thursday 31st May a meeting was called in the Presbytery in Heretaunga to look at the idea of setting up a Grief Support gathering in Our Lady of The Valleys Parish. There was a positive response to the idea and a number of suggestions around the purpose and format of the group were discussed. The group identified that there were a variety of diverse situations that entail grief, from the loss of a loved one through death, the breakup of marriages and families, the distress that occurs when employment of ceased from redundancy or injury/sickness and the rites of passage that we all experience in growing to maturity. Each needs to be sensitively approached and each requires a different level of type of support. The motto SEE/JUDGE/ACT was seen as a good use as a model.



Two major themes of the discussions were that suggested. Firstly, the need for broad but supportive and co-ordinated approach to the topic of grieving and the resources that could called upon both inside the parish and beyond to provide support. The second was the idea of the need to perhaps provide direct support either one-on-one or in a group environment to assist those who attend address the issues of grief in a caring, compassionate way from both suitably trained and supported parishioners and if necessary those with professional expertise.

To allow for further exploration of these topics another meeting has been called on Thursday 5th July at St Francis Xavier Meeting Room at the rear of 152B Stokes Valley Road, next to St Francis Xavier Church. If you would like to find out more about the group please contact Fr Tony on 972 4282

Parking At Our Lady Of Grace Heretaunga



With the winter weather now here we ask that those attending Mass at Our Lady of Grace Church **NOT** park on the lawns around the church and presbytery. During winter because of the damp the lawns become soft and easily damaged by vehicles driving on them. We would also ask that parishioners **NOT** park on the concrete apron in front of the church. Recently a couple of near accidents happened as parked cars were being driven out of the area where small children were playing and running about after Mass. Your co-operation in this matter would be appreciated.

The June 17 – 30 issue of NZ Catholic is out now. Some headlines are: Jesuit ordained in Christchurch. Daughter of modern saint to visit NZ. Child forgoes birthday gifts to help Wgtn cathedral. Migrant communities fear for kids in secular NZ.



The next issue of NZ Catholic will be published on July 1.



Passionist Family Group Events for June

Sat 23rd June **Holmes Group** Mid Winter Dinner Contact Margaret
meet at 7:00 at Brew'd Restaurant corner of Lanigan 9717564
pm dinner at Boulcott and High Street
7:30pm

Caritas Emergency Appeal for the Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh

Since August, 700,000 Rohingya have fled from Myanmar to Bangladesh. Many refugees have settled in a refugee camp in Cox's Bazar. Though the Rohingya are now safe from persecution and being supported by organisations on the ground, they are now faced with the risk of flooding from monsoon rains. Heavy rain and high-winds may destroy shelters, create landslides and pose health risks. Caritas is working with Caritas Bangladesh and others to build retainer walls, stronger shelters and to meet the needs of the Rohingya people.



As Pope Francis said, "embrace all those fleeing from war and hunger, or forced by discrimination, persecution, poverty and environmental degradation to leave their homelands." The Rohingya are an example of his message. Caritas invites you to stand in solidarity with the Rohingya by supporting our emergency appeal. **Right now, each donation is doubled (up to \$250,000) by the New Zealand Aid Programme.** To give call 0800 22 10 22 or go online to www.caritas.org.nz/donate.



CWL Fun Quiz Evening – Fundraiser for Te Omanga Hospice – 29th June doors open at 7:15pm to start at 7:30pm at St. Joseph's Hall Pine Ave/Royal Street, Upper Hutt. Make up a team of 6-8 people or come along and join a table and enjoy a lovely supper. Tickets \$10.00 per ticket. No door sales. Contact Maria # 5288674

CWL National Conference is being held in Wellington from the 25th to 28th July, the Catholic Women's League of Aotearoa New Zealand will gather in Wellington for their biennial National Conference.

Highlights of these days of Conference will be Opening Mass by Cardinal John Dew /- Keynote Speaker Anne Dickinson reflects on "Women welcoming change". / An Art Exhibition of NCEA Art students from the Catholic Colleges of the Archdiocese. / A "Pilgrimage" by bus to the Home of Compassion to visit the Venerable Suzanne Aubert All enquiries to Christine Paterson, CWL, phone 479 6274. For more information please see the notice board.



St. Vincent De Paul - Shop Manager, Full-time Salaried Position

The Hutt Valley & Wairarapa Area Council are seeking a reliable person who will be responsible for overseeing the day to day running of their Petone shop. We are particularly seeking someone who has an empathy with the ideals of the Society (providing care for those in need). Any experience in retail, small business management, managing staff or customer services would be advantageous. If you are interested, please contact Charles Bell on 027 6008732 or ccfabell@outlook.co.nz for a full job description and application form.

For Engaged Couples

A wedding is a day. Marriage is a lifetime. Prepare for your lifetime together by attending an Engaged Encounter marriage preparation weekend. Your next opportunity to attend a weekend is 14th and 15th July. For more information phone Simon and Kate on 8016192.



Life in the Spirit Seminar

This seminar will be conducted at the Church of Sts. Peter and Paul, Lower Hutt on seven consecutive Tuesday evenings beginning on 5 June till the 17 July except for the 4th week which will be on Monday 25 June. Do you want to encounter Jesus on a deeper level? Come and be blessed. Further information on the notice board.



Synod Outcome – Go you are sent to fellow Christians 9(b) Parishes familiarize themselves with the “Napier Covenant” with a view to implementing it in their local area.

National Liturgy Office Ordinary Time has resumed.

Of particular interest in this NLO Quick Guide are references for:

- ❖ The newly published *Revised New Jerusalem Bible and Psalms*
- ❖ Links to several resources and websites encouraging practical growth in holiness.



Sacred Heart College, Lower Hutt welcomes enrolments for Year 9, 2019 from Monday 14 May and forms are to be completed online or returned to the College Office by Monday 2 July 2018. See noticeboard for more information

Red Cross refugee support volunteer training Thanks to everyone who assists with the preparation of homes for former refugees. If you are interested in taking your involvement further to assist former refugee families directly, the next Red Cross refugee support volunteer training begins in July. Group interviews are on 25-27 June, with six weeks of training beginning on 4 July.



For more information please phone 048050304 or see their website: <https://www.redcross.org.nz/what-we-do/in-new-zealand/refugee-programmes/volunteer-help-former-refugees/>

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, Leo Maher, Annette Carvalho (Jennifer Rodricks mother), Cath Hewson, Pauline Robertson, Theodora Zois, Kenneth Edgar Mosley and Maria Helen Fernandez and those whose anniversary occur around this time –may they rest in peace



Our Lady of Grace Church 5 Palmer Crescent, Heretaunga

Mass Times Sunday –10:30am

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

Reconciliation – Please ring for an appointment

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament Friday (during school terms) 10.00am – 6:00pm

St Francis Xavier Church 152 Stokes Valley Road, Stokes Valley

Mass Times Weekends 5:30pm Vigil (Saturday) and 8:30am (Sunday)

Samoan Community - Mass 4th Sunday – Church 11:30am

Weekdays – Tues, Thurs, 9:30am Mass – Wed, Sat 9:30am Liturgy of the Word

Reconciliation - Please ring for an appointment

Pastoral Council Chairperson

St Vincent de Paul – Heretaunga Terry John Benvenuti 563 8775

528 6313

Petone Shop 568 6408

Gordon 938 2750

St Vincent de Paul – Stokes Valley

Stokes Valley Shop 563 9278

Sunday Readings		Sunday Readings	
17 th June Eleventh Week Ordinary Time		24 th June Birth of St. John the Baptist	
First Reading	Ezekiel 17:22-24	First Reading	Isaiah 49:1-6
Second Reading	2 Corinthians 5:6-10	Second Reading	Acts 13:22-26
Gospel	Mark 4:26-34	Gospel	Luke 1:57-66,80

