

The Parish of Our Lady of the Valleys
33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
19th November 2017



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THE DEEP END
Dive in!

Ruth Fitzmaurice was 32 years old when her husband Simon was diagnosed with motor neurone disease in 2008. He was given four years to live; two years later his lung function collapsed and he chose to be mechanically ventilated. He communicates using an 'eye gaze' computer, and their home is a whirlwind of 24-hour nursing care – as well as buckets of joy and love. The family of five has grown to seven since the diagnosis, Simon directed his first feature film, and Ruth has found solace in a daily sea swim with friends near their County Wicklow home while also writing a book, *I Found My Tribe*, about her experiences.

It is more than some individuals or families have to cope with in a lifetime, but the story Ruth tells is not a sad one. She and her family have taken a challenging situation and turned it into a positive story of love, friendship and hope.

Ruth and Simon came to mind when I read the gospel story for today. We are all dealt different cards in life, and some are tougher than others. We are like the servants in the parable who are given different amounts of money to look after. What's important is not the life we are given, but what we do with it. Jesus was cautioning against playing it safe. The Fitzmaurice family are doing a lot more than just 'getting on with it'. Instead of turning inwards or living in fear, they meet their challenges head on. 'Dive in' is Ruth's message, no matter what life throws your way.

Meetings in the Parish

23rd November – Parish Liturgy Meeting at 7.30pm

28th November – St Vincent de Paul – OLG – 7pm

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 9th February 2018 please endeavour to enrol before the 18th December as this allows time over the January period to undertake preparation work. The Programme starts on 18th 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 10th 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 or Phone 04 528 7395.

Many thanks to the Heretaunga Family Group – now called the O’Leary Family Group for their donation to the Loan of \$74.50 raised from their Devonshire Tea afternoon.



Synod 2017: Are you interested in hearing more about the Synod? Would you like to know more about what happened at the Synod and to briefly hear what we will do going forward?

If you answered ‘yes’ to either of these questions, then please come along to one of these feedback sessions:

Sunday 19th November 3-4pm or Saturday 25th November 3-4pm.

Sessions will be held in the meeting room behind the church in Heretaunga. Come and hear about the invigorating, renewing time experienced by OLOV attendees. *Look forward to seeing you there.*



Challenge 2000 Street Day Appeal - Thursday 23rd November 2017

Help us to help those on the Peripheies

One of the outcomes from the Synod was to challenge ourselves to change, to go, be sent to help those on the peripheries of our society. Here is an opportunity to challenge yourself and make that change. **How?** Our Annual Street Day Appeal is **Thursday 23rd November 2017**. Donate your time or money. Email your friends/business colleagues/family pleading with them to support our work. Pray for the poor and the struggling and those who journey with them. Please help: Call Megan Ratuki on 04 477 6827 or email challenge2000@xtra.co.nz For more information on our work or how you can help, view our website www.challenge2000.org.nz



Pettit Centre usage for 2018 – would all parishioners who use the Pettit Centre on a regular basis please confirm their continued use for 2018. Please contact Marilyn in the office by phone or via email – many thanks. To date I have received 2 confirmation's for next year, avoid disappointment and reply as soon as possible.

Help required – a couple of months ago the piano in the Pettit Centre had its Castors removed, which has created problems to the floor in the Pettit Centre due to the piano being shifted. These Castors were put onto the piano by the people who hire the Pettit Centre on a regular basis and they would like the Castors to be returned. If you know where these Castors have gone would you please return them or let us know where we can pick them up from. Thank you

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

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.

A Caring Space - An invitation for those who care for a loved one, to spend a few hours creatively exploring with God, what scriptures says about their role as carer. Led by Gill Schaap and Veronica Parton Monday 27th November at the Home of Compassion, 2 Rhine Street, Island Bay, Wellington. Time: 11am – 2pm - Hot drinks provided, please bring you own lunch. Cost: \$10 For more details and to register contact Veronica Parton vjpdap@gmail.com

Teaching Night at St Anne's Hall, Emmett Street, Newtown - Wednesday 22nd November, at 7:30pm. Speaker: Michael Powell - Theme: The gift of Word of Knowledge. Evening includes Praise and Worship, group discussion and fellowship. Everyone is welcome!



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.

Car Pooling – to date we have had no response re car pooling between the two churches – if you wish to be involved in this opportunity will you please contact the office. Marilyn 972 4282



Living Waters Café - Sundays after 10.30am Mass at the Pettit Centre. All parishioners are welcome. The café is held in the Pettit Centre behind the church and operates most Sundays from 11.30 until 12.30. The café is run by volunteers. Tea, coffee and a light snack are served. Children are catered for also. Gold coin donation is welcome but not essential.



Catholic Women's League – Christmas Lunch - This is to be held on Wednesday 29th November at Te Marua Golf Club at 12 for 12.30pm. Before the lunch Mass will be held at Our Lady of Grace at 11am. The Luncheon cost is \$30 per person and is to be paid to Trish on the day before the meal. Please ring Trish to let her know if you are attending for catering purposes - 528 5161. All parishioners are very welcome to attend. Also Subs are now due \$20.00.

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 and Foaimamao Asovale - Mao) that they may rest in peace and those whose anniversary occur around this time.



Weekly Collection: \$1,427.90



Our Lady of Grace Church 5 Palmer Crescent, Heretaunga

Mass Times Sunday –10:30am

Samoan Community - Mass 3rd 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 4th 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	
19 th November – 33 rd Sunday in Ordinary Time		26 th November – Our Lord Jesus Christ, Universal King	
First Reading	Proverbs : 31:10-13,19-20,30-31	First Reading	Ezekiel 34: 11-12, 15-17
Second Reading	Thessalonians 5:1-6	Second Reading	Corinthians 15: 20-26, 28
Gospel	Matthew 25: 14-30	Gospel	Matthew 25: 31-46