

**The Parish of Our Lady of the Valleys
Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe
26th November 2017**



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THE DEEP END

What sort of king is this?

From a very young age, children tend to hear a lot about royalty. Popular fairytales, many of them around for hundreds of years, tell tales of beautiful princesses, brave princes, and noble, wise, old kings and queens. They transport children into a world of extravagant palaces and riches beyond anything they could imagine. Modern children's stories and cartoons continue the fascination, but many now turn the traditional stereotypes on their head. Princesses no longer wait around to be rescued, but take their fate into their own hands. Princes don't necessarily want to be brave or to become the next king.

In the time of Jesus kings were powerful rulers, and some were tyrants. We know from earlier in Matthew's Gospel that King Herod was capable of brutal acts. There were expectations too about the great Messianic King who would lead a rebellion and establish his kingdom on earth.

The king that Jesus talks about turns these images upside down. He is a fair judge, a shepherd who looks after his flock, inviting all who act with justice and generosity to take their place in his kingdom. He is also in solidarity with the 'least' of his people. Who ever heard of a king who knows what it's like to be in need of food, clothing or company? But Jesus is a different sort of royalty. His kingdom is not based on power or riches, but charity, compassion and forgiveness.

Tríona Doherty

“Welcome to Father Kevin Connors who will be celebrating all our Masses with us this weekend.”



Advent Reflection – Catholic Women's League in the region are getting together at 7pm on Friday 1st December in the Pettit Centre, followed by supper. All welcome to come and join us to celebrate and prepare for the Advent season.

Meetings in the Parish

28th November – SVDP meeting at OLG at 7pm

29th November – CWL Mass and Lunch from 11am

8th December – Men's Night Christmas Function in the PC at 5.30pm

10th December – Reconciliation at OLG at 4pm

14th December – Parish Finance Meeting at 7.30pm

17th December – Reconciliation at St Joseph's at 4pm

19th December – End of Year Mass

20th December – Healing Mass at OLG at 11.00

21st December – Healing Mass at Stokeswood, Stokes Valley at 1.30pm

24th December – Christmas Eve at OLG at 5.30pm Carol Singing from 5pm

24th December – Midnight Mass at SFX – Carol Singing from 11.30pm

25th December – Christmas Morning Mass at 8.30am at SFX

25th December – Christmas Morning Mass at 10.30am at OLG

Unfortunately last weekend the Church at St Francis Xavier was broken into and whilst very little cash was taken they did some damage to a couple of walls and doors. The good news is that no parishioner was on the premises at the time so no-one was injured.

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.



Grace Family Group – On Saturday 19th November a small group took the Wairarapa train to Masterton where we were met by other FGM's who drove us to the town for a cafe lunch. Followed by a walk around QEII Park grounds with all the attractions. After our late afternoon refreshment stop at a local tavern we boarded the train again for the trip back to UH. A most enjoyable day. We may now look forward to the next group activity which is a day at the Silverstream Lawn Bowls club and BBQ lunch in December.

Holmes Family Group – a reminder that we are meeting on Saturday the 2nd December at the 7's Bar in Upper Hutt at 7pm for our Christmas Dinner.



Men's Group – Christmas function to be held in the Pettit Centre on Friday 8th December at 5.30pm. More information next week.

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.



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.

Pilgrimage to the Holy Land and Jordan - planned for 29th April – 19th May 2018. For full brochure and itinerary, contact Pukekohe Travel Phone: 09 237 0013 or toll free: 0800 785 386. E: tours@pukekohetravel.co.nz.



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 for our deceased members will be held at 11am at Our Lady of Grace. All welcome to attend Mass and lunch. The Lunch is \$30 per person and is to be paid to Trish on the day. Please ring Trish on 528 5161 if you wish to join us. All parishioners are welcome



Join the Cathedral Choirs, Cathedral Orchestra supported by members of local Wellington choirs for a magical Christmas fundraising concert in the Metropolitan Cathedral Wednesday 6th 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 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 and Kelvin Raxworthy) that they may rest in peace and those whose anniversary occur around this time.



Weekly Collection: \$1,318.00



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	
26 th November – Our Lord Jesus Christ, Universal King		3 rd December – 1 st Sunday in Advent	
First Reading	Ezekiel 34: 11-12, 15-17	First Reading	Isaiah 63: 16-17, 64:1. 3-8
Second Reading	Corinthians 15: 20-26, 28	Second Reading	Corinthians 1: 3-9
Gospel	Matthew 25: 31-46	Gospel	Mark 13: 33-37