

The Parish of Our Lady of the Valleys
23^d Sunday in Ordinary Time
10th September 2017



Father Tony Kearns
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Community Living

No community is without its problems. Wherever two or three are gathered, there will be two or three different opinions!

Today's gospel has a valuable message about community.

When we think of our own parish or church community, we might feel uncomfortable with the advice on how to deal with sin. But this passage is just as relevant now as it was to the early Church. First of all, it acknowledges that the Church is not perfect; it is made up of sinners, who will go astray and disagree at different times. It emphasises the importance of dialogue – if a brother (or sister) sins, the first step is to discuss it with them, and then to enlist the help of the community if necessary. Presumably the other members will do the same for you, if and when you need it. We all have a responsibility, as members of the Church, to help those who are struggling or lost. If you have a spare few minutes, read the passages that come immediately before and after this one in Matthew's Gospel. Before, the parable of the lost sheep tells us that God rejoices when one who has gone astray is found. After, Jesus tells us we should forgive each other as many as seventy-seven times. The context is God's generous love and forgiveness, on which we are expected to model our Church. Jesus is present where two or three meet in his name – even with our human struggles and disagreements and sins. We have a responsibility to be present to each other, and to forgive one another. That's what it means to be Christ's Church.

Tríona Doherty

Meetings in the Parish

12th September – SVDP – Stokes Valley 7pm

14th September – Finance – 7.30pm

Sacramental Programme – First Eucharist

10th September – Group Session at the 10.30am Mass

10th September – Rehearsal in Our Lady of Grace Church at 11.30am

24th September – First Holy Communion at Our Lady of Grace Church at 10.30am

Please note there will be no Mass on the following days –
Wednesday 13th and Saturday 16th September 9am at OLOG, as Fr
Tony will be away/Synod.
We welcome Fr Rod Milne who will be joining us on 16th and 17th September.



Social Justice Week: 10th-16th September 2017
Weaving bonds of belonging: Knowing our neighbours. *“I wish to insist that love always proves more powerful. Many people are able to*

weave bonds of belonging and togetherness which convert overcrowding into an experience of community in which the walls of the ego are torn down and the barriers of selfishness overcome.” – Pope Francis. Each year in September, the New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference promotes Social Justice Week.

During this week we apply Catholic Social teaching to one particular issue of social justice in New Zealand. This year the theme for parishes is **Weaving bonds of belonging: Knowing our neighbours.** Pope Francis highlights that many of the social issues we face today reflect a decline in social connectedness. This Social Justice Week, we invite everyone to take up the challenge to creatively reach out and weave deeper bonds of belonging in our whanau, our parish and our wider community.

New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference

Bishops’ statement on 2017 General Election – We support efforts to bring about affordable housing.

Excessive rents and inflated house prices are leaving families homeless and young couples despondent. Without effective policies to support regional and provincial economic development and consequent employment we miss opportunities to alleviate this problem, which is worst in our biggest cities.



The Sept. 10 - 23 issue of NZ Catholic is out now. Some headlines are: General Election party policies regarding bishops’ key points. 2000 respond to bishops’ youth survey.

Smartphones and distracted parenting. Building a bridge: our gay brothers and sisters.

Grace Anointing Retreat 2017 - Fr Dominic Valanmanal-International Catholic preacher will conduct a healing spiritual retreat on Wednesday 27th & Thursday 28th September from 9:30am – 1:00pm at St Teresas Catholic Church, Karori. On 27th Wednesday September Cardinal John Dew will be celebrating Holy mass at 9:30am. Only street parking available. For further information contact Ted Jordan ted.j@xtra.co.nz See notice board for more details.





Stokes Valley Saint Vincent de Paul Society are celebrating their 50 years anniversary on Sunday the 1st October at 11am. We would like anyone who has been associated with the conference in the last 50 years to get in touch with either Chris Henley at 563 6899 or Gordon Holmes at 938 2750 as soon as possible.



We wish to offer thanks to the loving Creator for the noble gift of creation and to pledge commitment to its care and preservation for the sake of future generations... An objective of our prayer is to change the way we perceive the world in order to change the way we relate to the world. The goal of our promise is to be courageous in embracing greater simplicity and solidarity in our lives.

Pope Francis and Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew: Message on the World Day of Prayer for Creation, September 2017

Quiz Evening - A fantastic, fun filled evening was experienced by nineteen teams as they pitted their general knowledge against the quiz master and each other at Friday night's quiz evening. Laughter, shouts of joy and groans of " Oh no, we had that but changed it!" filled St Brendan's hall as the quiz master read out the answers at the end of each round. The atmosphere was one of conviviality, fun and good humour as parishioners and friends conversed, enjoyed a tippie and got to know new acquaintances within the parish. Quiz masters John and Susan Lloyd and Christine McCartney delivered a range of questions and recorded scores in a slick professional manner. Thank you to John, Susan and Christine for your time and expertise and all those who helped - John Benvenuti, Trish Leahy, Chris Wasson, Kathleen Emmerson, Paul and Sally Armitage, Jess our quiz score keeper, all those who lent a hand to set up the hall before and after and those who helped in the kitchen. A big thank you to all those who attended and provided the delicious supper. The evening raised \$2500.00 towards paying off the mortgage for the church strengthening and re-cladding of the presbytery.



The Circle of Friendship gathering last Saturday brought 27 women together to listen to Annette Reid speak about her journey as a gardener. She advised us how to build good soil for growing plants, advice on the growing and tending of roses and many other gardening hints. Annette answered the many questions and conversation continued over a cup of tea. The ladies brought plants to sell on the sales table and proceeds from donations and sales went to El Pozon and the Parish.



2018 Columban Art Calendar - \$12.00 – These are now available. Please contact the Parish Office if you would like to purchase one or Margaret Lanigan 971 7564 at St Francis Xavier

Every life is precious! 40 years since the passing of the Contraception, Sterilisation and Abortion Act almost 500,000 preborn New Zealanders have been aborted and countless women have been wounded physically, emotionally and spiritually. There is an increasing call for abortion laws to be liberalised for social reasons right up to birth. **Join pro-life New Zealanders in Wellington Saturday 9th December 2017 at 2pm for a National March for Life.** Be a voice for the voiceless and let New Zealand know that we love them both! Limited cost effective accommodation available. The March starts at the Civic Square and will end in the Parliament Grounds. More information at marchforlifenz.org.nz and Facebook or phone/text Michael Loretz 021 825 955. See notice board for more details.

Engagement Manager, Catholic Enquiry Centre (CEC) Part time - We are looking for a creative and innovative person to help take the message and mission of the Catholic Church into the digital continent! The Catholic Enquiry Centre (CEC) connects people to the message and mission of the Catholic Church and has been helping people for nearly 60 years! We're moving from a reliance on print and television advertising to a focus on digital and social forms of media and we need someone to lead us through the implementation of a new strategy. The Engagement Manager will work closely with the NZCBC Communications Adviser and will require expertise in digital media and communications, project management skills, and the ability to build relationships, influence others and champion change. For more details on the role or to apply contact Amanda Gregan at agregan@nzcbc.org.nz or on 021 611 052. Applications close on Monday, 18 September.



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, that they may rest in peace and those whose anniversary occur around this time.

Weekly Collection: \$1379.40  Maori Pastoral Care: \$30.00

Our Lady of Grace Church 5 Palmer Crescent, Heretaunga

Mass Times Sunday –10:30am

Samoan Community - Mass 3rd Sunday – Church 12 noon

Weekdays Wed, Fri, Sat 9:00am Mass

Reconciliation – Please ring for an appointment

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament Friday (during school terms) 9.30 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

El Pozon Mission

Tony Packer 527 3001

Jim Stott 972 9515

Sunday Readings		Sunday Readings	
10 September – 23 rd Sunday in Ordinary time		17 September – 24 th Sunday in Ordinary time	
First Reading	Ezekiel 33: 7-9	First Reading	Ecus 27:30-28:7
Second Reading	Romans 13: 8-10	Second Reading	Romans 14:7-9
Gospel	Matthew 18: 15-20	Gospel	Matthew 18:21-35