



**LEVIN-TAITOKO**  
**“A COMMUNITY RADIATING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST”**  
**ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC PARISH**  
56 Weraroa Road, Levin  
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Office — [office@stjosephlevin.com](mailto:office@stjosephlevin.com).

## FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

Tēnā Koutou katoa,

An engineer has driven a huge truck loaded to double its normal payload into the middle of the long bridge he had just created. One worker asked, “Are you trying to break this bridge?” “No,” the builder replied, “I’m trying to prove that the bridge won’t break.”

I think this is what we can see in the gospel reading today. Jesus was brought to the desert by the Spirit of God not to see if he would sin, but to prove that he would not sin. God was not excitingly waiting for Jesus to fall. After all, just before this scene, Jesus was baptized and God announced to the whole world, “This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased!”

It is in this context that we can better appreciate the Gospel story on Jesus’ temptations. We can say that temptation comes from the devil but trials and tests can bring us closer to God. What is the difference anyway? Temptation is seduction to evil; solicitation to go wrong. On the other hand, trial seeks to uncover our moral qualities, our character. Temptation leads to deception and sin. Tests lead to truth and virtue about ourselves.

Temptation or test? We might say that it is just a question of perspective. But I think it is more of a question of faith. Admittedly, we sometimes fall because we fail to believe that God is love and wants the best for us.

Hence, in this season of Lent, there is a deeper reality which we have to work out – to believe in the love and grace of God.

When we can do that, trials and tribulations are not to weigh us down but to lift us up. God, who loves us so much, believes that there is some goodness in our heart which can overcome and win the struggles happening in our life.

Let us turn to Jesus. He understood the Father’s grace and intentions during trying moments. He will show us that what we have are not temptations but trials. He will help us emerge victorious. He will help us rise again when we fall. He will deepen our belief that God is rich in mercy and love.

Nāku noa nā  
Pā Dennis

### DIVINE MERCY DEVOTION

If you want to start a devotion to the Divine Mercy. Please approach Fr. Dennis after Mass, or email him or give him a call.



**ARE YOU HOUSEBOUND?  
Or do you know anyone who is?**



You are still welcome to receive Communion in your own home. You can also enjoy a visit from the ministers. Just phone the **PARISH COMMUNITY LINE: 022 314 4642**

# PARISH NOTICES



The deadline for notices is 10am Wednesday

**COMMUNITY LINE PHONE.** There are still people who ring Fr Dennis when their query could easily be answered by your friendly phone operators. Fr Dennis is not going to be here all the time this year. So, please, use the Community Line where possible. Telephone **022 314 4642**

**CARITAS LENTEN PRAYERS** The theme this year is 'I am the light of the world'. Consider forming a scripture/prayer group to meet weekly, or devoting personal time, to use the excellent resource material from Caritas. To get a copy of the prayer booklet for each week in Lent, please contact Bridget on 021482178 or [bybridget@xtra.co.nz](mailto:bybridget@xtra.co.nz)

**OP SHOP** needs volunteers once a month, 10am to 12.30pm or 12.30pm to 3pm. The shop is manned by 2-3 assistants during the open time. If you are able to assist or would like a few more details, please contact the Shop Manager, Elaine Horne, on 368 4786.

**MEALS ON WHEELS** If you can help us with deliveries between 27 February and 3 March please contact Yoka Dekker on 022-5022645 or [dekkernz@gmail.com](mailto:dekkernz@gmail.com).

**TUESDAY SOCIALS** Everyone is invited to join the socials every Tuesday from 1pm till 2.30pm at the Parish Centre. Bring your friends with you.

**LENTEN PRAYER FOR LIFE:** This Lent, join in prayer, fasting and reparation, especially for the 36 pre-born babies who lose their lives through abortion every single day of the year in New Zealand. If possible, please join the peaceful, prayerful witness outside Wellington Hospital every Wednesday in Lent 9 am to 4pm. For all enquiries or to register for a vigil hour, call or txt 021 231 7954 (Family Life International)

## CYCLONE GABRIELLE

My Caring Foundation is accepting donations to help our partner agencies deliver vital help to so many. You can make an online donation at <https://caringfoundation.org.nz/donate-3/> Your donation will be used for food, shelter, clothes and other essential supplies and support services. Steve Lowe, Bishop of Auckland.

**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER** This is an interchurch prayer service celebrated in over 170 countries on the 3rd of March. The service this year is written by the ladies of Taiwan. St Joseph is the host. 3rd March 2pm a plate toward afternoon tea would be appreciated. Everyone is Welcome.

## COME AND SEE - Vocations Morning with Cardinal John and Archbishop Paul

Come and explore the vocation to the priesthood with other young Catholic men.

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> March, 8:30 – 11:30am, starting with Mass in Connolly Hall, Hill Street, Thorndon.

To register text 021 164 5800 or email [I.hensel@wn.catholic.org.nz](mailto:I.hensel@wn.catholic.org.nz)

**ST BERNARD'S COLLEGE LOWER HUTT RE-UNION** - all old boys and their families are invited to a weekend of activities between Friday 17th March and Sunday 19th March 2023! To register please visit: [www.sbob.org.nz](http://www.sbob.org.nz) or SBC Old Boys on facebook. Can't wait to catch up with you all.

**ALTAR SERVERS PRACTICE** Calling the attention of all altar servers. There will be a training of new and refresher for old altar servers every Wednesday from 3.30pm. Please contact Peter Shaughnessy.

## St VINCENT de PAUL CORNER

Today's readings talk about holiness – being holy in the sense of loving one another. Of being like the Father, which might seem to us humans as a little crazy at times, but it is "wisdom" for God. Reflecting that great commandment to love God and love our neighbour is entrenched in the Vinnies mantra "We help people". No boundaries and with a focus on that personal connection to lift the spirit of those that we encounter as well. If you wish to join us to help, please just pick up the phone and give one of us a call. Blessings to you all.

## BABY ASSIST

We have an increasing number of referrals for families with young children who would benefit from gifts of clothing, blankets etc. If you have any donations that would assist, please leave them in the Baby Assist container at the back of the church, or contact Bridget on 021482178 or [bybridget@xtra.co.nz](mailto:bybridget@xtra.co.nz). Thank you. The next Mum's and Babies morning tea will be held at the Vinnies Centre on Tuesday 7 March at 10.00am. If you would like some flyers to distribute, please contact Bridget.

**Bernie** 021 406 427  
**John** 06 367 2467  
**Kilian** 06 367 0474

SVD Levin Bank Account  
for donations:  
**11 6932 0308328 11**

# On Social Justice...

## CYCLONE GABRIELLE FUNDRAISING APPEAL 1st and 2nd Sundays of LENT

The devastation wreaked by the recent Cyclone is massive and heart breaking for many and was an even worse event that followed the heavy rains of a week or so before. Precious lives have been lost and thousands with their lives upturned now face a future full of uncertainty.

Our Parishioners have been asking "how can we best help" so this weekend and next we will hold a retiring collection for the Cyclone Relief Fund.

If you miss the bucket at Church and wish to donate directly online the Parish Bank Account is BNZ 02-0668-0115553-000 or the Vinnies account is ANZ 11-6932-0308328-11 Please enter "Cyclone Relief" for either of the accounts that you choose to use. (*All proceeds will be forwarded directly to Saint Vincent de Paul Wellington for on forwarding.*)

# On Liturgy...

## STATIONS OF THE CROSS

This is done every Friday at 6pm. Everyone is invited. We shall use the prayers for Ukraine as recently it has been a year already since the invasion.

# On Youth...

Please help promote this in your family, community, and school. This is a wonderful opportunity for them to create a closer relationship with God.



(School Years 7-11)  
6:30-7:30pm Every Friday of the school term  
St. Joseph's Parish Center



(School Years 4-6)  
5:00-6:00pm Every Friday of the school term  
St. Joseph's Parish Center



(College Years 12 - Young Adults)  
10:40-12pm Sundays after Mass  
St. Joseph's Parish Center



If you know how to play an instrument or love to sing, come along and share your talents!

**Who:** Year 5 and older  
**When:** Every Monday from 6:30 - 7:30pm  
**Where:** St Joseph's Parish Center



May the souls of our beloved dead and  
the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.

Leo McKeefry Ian Vincent Conlon Helen Johnson

Johanna Beers Maria Vanderle Epifania Villagonzalo

## THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

How will you make Lent a special time? Pope Francis proposes that we ask for the grace to 'Listen to Him' -through the Word of God and as He speaks to us through our brothers and sisters.

# On Finance...

## Income - January 2023

Automatic payments	\$5059.00
Cash	\$2428.90
Envelopes	\$2090.00
Building Maintenance Fund	\$50.00

# On Property...

## FENCE FIXING

Thank you to all who came and helped in the fixing of our fence. The parish has saved a lot of money by your acts of generosity. May God return to you in manifold your generosity.



# Suzanne Aubert says...

What is sanctity? Sanctity is the imitation, as perfectly as possible, of Our Lord Jesus Christ. Every time that God entrusts an employment to

a soul, He gives it all the necessary graces to fulfil it faithfully and worthily.

## Reflection:

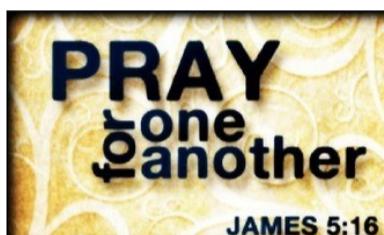
Several times in my working life, I have been dropped into a position with no guidelines provided and expected to pick up the reins seamlessly. A bit unreasonable, I would have thought.

In God, I have the perfect employer. He not only assigns me a task, but he gives me all the necessary helps to fulfil it. What more could I ask? And what task does he assign me? To become more like his Son every day.



## Prayer:

Lord, fill me with your Spirit that I may become like you in all my actions.



Submit  
your  
prayer request.

your fellow parishioners in your own home and in your own time. Phone the Parish Community Line: 022 314 4642.

## PRAYER CHAIN

Pray for the intentions of



## HOSPITAL CHAPLAIN

Going to the hospital? Just phone the Community Line at 022 314 4642 and let us know your details before you go. The chaplain will be there for you.

## W E E K L Y S C H E D U L E

Monday, 27th Feb	9:30am	Liturgy of the Word with Communion, St Gregory of Narek
	6.30pm	Youth Music Jam at the Parish Centre
Tuesday, 28th	9:30am	Holy Mass
	1:00pm	Tuesday Social Group
Wednesday, 1st Mar	9.30am	Holy Mass
	10am	Holy Rosary in the Chapel
Thursday, 2nd	9:30am	Holy Mass
	7pm	Meditation in the Christian Tradition
Friday, 3rd	11:10am	Exposition, Ember Day
	12:10pm	Holy Mass
	2pm	International Day of Prayer
	5pm	IGNITE Youth Group in the Parish Centre
	6pm	Stations of the Cross
	6:30pm	EDGE Youth Group in the Parish Centre
Saturday, 4th	5:30pm	Vigil Mass
Sunday, 5th	9:30am	Morning Mass
	10:40am	ELEVATE Youth Group in the Parish Centre
	11am	Legion of Mary Kiribati Group (Chapel)

## BOOKINGS

Please book the venues of your events/activities at the foyer of the Church. Those who have booked will have priority. Please follow the **Guidelines for Use**. Clean the kitchen, close the windows, turn off the water heater, etc

## Readings at Sunday Mass

(26/2/2023) **1st Reading:** Genesis 2:7-9,3:1-7 **2nd Reading:** Romans 5:12-19

**Gospel:** Matthew 4:1-11

**Psalm Response:** Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

(5/3/2023) **1st Reading:** Genesis 12:1-4 **2nd Reading:** 2 Timothy 1:8-10

**Gospel:** Matthew 17:1-9