



**LEVIN-TAITOKO**

**“A COMMUNITY RADIATING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST”**

**ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC PARISH**

56 Weraroa Road, Levin

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## **FORTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

Dear Parishioners,

As we gather in joyful anticipation of the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, I am filled with gratitude and joy to address a parish that shines brightly in its liturgical celebrations and pastoral ministries.

This Christmas season, I invite each of you to reflect on the profound beauty of the Incarnation and the transformative power of Christ's love in our lives and in our community.

First and foremost, I want to express my gratitude for the dedication and commitment displayed in our parish's liturgical celebrations. The reverence and solemnity with which the Holy Mass is celebrated, the rich and vibrant music that lifts our hearts to God, and the meticulous attention to detail in the liturgical decor all contribute to a truly awe-inspiring worship experience.

Our liturgical ministry volunteers have worked tirelessly to create an atmosphere that draws us into deeper communion with the divine. Let us remember that the liturgy is the "source and summit" of our Christian life, and through our active participation, we are transformed and renewed in Christ.

Additionally, our parish's pastoral ministries have been a beacon of Christ's love and mercy in our community. The outreach to the poor, the sick, and the marginalized exemplifies the Gospel message of compassion and solidarity. The dedication of our parish pastoral team and committees in providing care, assistance, and support to those in need is a testament to the love of Christ alive in our midst. Let us continue to be instruments of God's peace and healing, reaching out to those who are most vulnerable and in need of hope and comfort.

As we celebrate the birth of Jesus, the light of the world, let us be inspired to carry this light into the world around us. Let the warmth of our Christmas joy extend beyond the walls of our parish, reaching out to those who are searching for meaning and belonging.

Let us be beacons of hope, welcoming all who are seeking the love and truth found in the manger of Bethlehem. May the peace and joy of the newborn King reign in our hearts and homes this Christmas, and may the grace of this holy season strengthen and sustain us in the year ahead.

Let us offer our gratitude to God for the blessings we have received and recommit ourselves to continue growing in faith, hope, and love. Merry Christmas to each and every one of you, and may the love of Christ dwell richly in our hearts now and always.

As a way of signing off for the holiday season and as my last greeting to you in the newsletter, MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!

With heartfelt blessings,

Pa Dennis

THANK YOU!!!

It is time to thank all the people who work tirelessly to be able to send newsletters weekly: Bruce, for the lay out, Kilian and Bridget for recurring contents, Bernie for the SVdP section, C Gepetto for the occasional articles, Gemma for managing the website, the crew at Otaki Printers for the printing, and especially the person who removes all the mistakes (mostly)... Pa Dennis, you will leave a gap when you leave

**TUESDAY SOCIAL GROUP** will have a rest during the holiday season. Notice will be made when to start next year.

**WALKING GROUP** has been replaced by the Sitting Down and Having a Rest Group. The walkers will start again in the New Year.

**BIBLE DIARIES 2024** are now for sale at the Pleroma Stall for \$20 and \$25 each.



**YOUR CAR PROBABLY WON'T BE TOWED** by the council if you park in an unsafe place outside the church, but there are lots of spaces in the school grounds,

**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**

THOUGHT OF THE WEEK:

*'The church is most beautiful when the doors are open.'*

Cardinal Tobin at the Synod, 2023

**2024 LITURGICAL PLAN** is now available in the foyer. Please check it out.

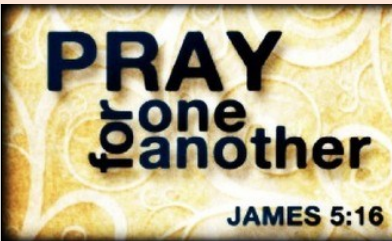
**JANUARY TO JUNE 2024 LITURGICAL MINISTRY ROSTER** is now available for collection at the foyer. Please check them out.

**CHILDREN ALTAR SERVERS 2024 ROSTER** is also available in the foyer.

**2024 CHOIR ROSTER** is also available in the foyer. Please take note of your turn to lead in the singing.

**LINEN ROSTER** from January to June 2024 is in the church foyer. Thank you all for your support. Any queries please contact Teresa on 022 139 7623.

**AUTOMATIC PAYMENT** forms for weekly church donations are available in the foyer.



Submit  
your  
prayer request.

**PRAYER CHAIN**

Pray for the intentions of

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



**HOSPITAL CHAPLAIN**

Going to the hospital? Just phone the Community Line at 022 314 4642 and let us know your details before

you go.

**St VINCENT de PAUL CORNER**

Here we are at the 4th Sunday of Advent followed by Christmas Day on Monday. That is the day on which we celebrate the birth of Jesus and also to pause and take time with loved ones on this special day of the year. Vinnies will continue to support those in need during the Christmas/New Year time and will be on hand to collect any food offerings that you wish to leave in the basket in the Church porch during the holiday period. It has been a hectic year noted for the outstanding support from so many in our Parish. Our heartfelt thanks to you all and we wish you all many blessings at Christmas and kind wishes for the coming New Year from the Levin Conference Vinnies.

**Bernie** 021 406 427  
**John** 027 626 4792  
**Kilian** 022 695 0056  
**Bridget** 021 482 178

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

**BABY ASSIST**

Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas – give the knitting needles a rest, and I look forward to great things in 2024!





**ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SCHEDULES**  
23rd December - 4th Sunday in Advent, 5:30pm  
24th December - 4th Sunday in Advent, 9:30am  
Christmas Family Mass, 6pm  
Carols, 9pm  
Christmas Midnight Mass, 9:30pm  
25th December - Christmas Day Mass, 9:30am  
30th December - Holy Family Feast Day, 5:30pm  
31st December - Holy Family Feast Day, 9:30am  
Mary, Mother of God, New Year's Eve Mass, 11pm  
1st January 2024 Mary, Mother of God, New Year's Mass - 9:30am

<b>Planned Giving</b>	
<b>Income - November 2023</b>	
Automatic payments	\$4642.00
Envelopes	\$1929.10
Cash	\$1962.90
Misson Sunday	\$ 421.80
	<b>\$8955.80</b>

**RESOLUTION FOR DECEMBER 2023**

This month we think about joy and hospitality. How about setting up an Advent wreath; visiting a neighbour; sharing a meal; making a small gift for a child. Read the Magnificat Luke 1:46-55:

*And Mary said: "My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,*  
*for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant.*  
*From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me— holy is his name.*  
*His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation.*  
*He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts.*  
*He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble.*  
*He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty.*  
*He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful to Abraham and his descendants forever, just as he promised our ancestors."*

**CHRISTMAS GIFTING TREE**

Thank you very much for your support to the Christmas Gifting Tree initiative. We have delivered gifts four boxes full! I am certain that there will be children happy this Christmas because of your gifts.



**ECUMENICAL CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE**

The carol service was well-attended and people were very happy singing carols with other denominations. Thank you very much for your participation.



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

Fr Tom O'Connor SM   Aunty Isapela   Maria Theresa Tinga   Brian Moore  
Colleen Rakena   Lawrence Warwick   Michael O'Hagan   Patricia Richardson  
Judy Paurini   Max Roffe   David Price   Joy Harding   Rosalyn Schaeffer   Gliceria Nacorda



Suzanne Aubert says...

The virtue of silence does not consist only in not speaking when we must not speak, but also, when we are permitted to speak, in saying nothing that we ought not to say.

Reflection:

Which of us has never said anything we later regret? Which of us would not sometimes give the earth to undo what our words have done? How right the letter of James is when it says that the tongue is a fire difficult to control. How much easier to prevent the fire in the first place.

Words come very cheaply, of course. And I do like the sound of my own voice. Perhaps I should develop the habit of never speaking until I have weighed the effect of what I say. Jesus expects that of me.



Prayer:

Lord, teach me to control my tongue and to speak only your words.

A BIBICAL WALK THROUGH THE MASS

This is a five once-a-week session with 30-minute video presentations that would help us understand the words, the gestures, and the rituals of the Mass as they are rich in meaning. Everything we say and do in the Liturgy is steeped in biblical language. This explores the extraordinary biblical roots of the Liturgy and reveals what it all means and why it all matters. This fascinating tour of the Mass will renew your faith and deepen your love and devotion to the Holy Eucharist.

We are looking at beginning this in February 2024. Please contact Harry Bennik on 027 454 8927 or at [bennik@xtra.co.nz](mailto:bennik@xtra.co.nz) if you are interested in participating. The people who have already expressed their interest, please reconfirm as well.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Monday, 25th	9:30am	Christmas Morning Mass, The Nativity of the Lord
Tuesday, 26th	9:30am	Holy Mass, St Stephen
Wednesday, 27th	9:30am	Holy Mass, St John, Apostle and Evange
	10:00am	Rosary in the Chapel
Thursday, 28th	9:30am	Holy Mass, The Holy Innocents, Martyrs
	7:00pm	Meditation in the Christian Tradition
Friday, 29th	11:10am	Exposition, St Thomas Becket
	12:10pm	Holy Mass
Saturday, 30th	5:30pm	Vigil Mass
Sunday, 31st	9:30am	Morning Mass
	11:00am	Legion of Mary Kiribati Group (Chapel)
	11:00pm	New Year's Eve Mass
Monday, 1st Jan	9:30am	New Year's Mass

**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

(24/12/2023) **1st Reading:** 2 Samuel 7:1-5,8-12,14,16 **2nd Reading:** Romans 16:25-27  
**Gospel:** Luke 1:26-38  
**Psalm Response:** *For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.*  
(31/12/2023) **1st Reading:** 2 Genesis 15:1-6,21:1-3 **2nd Reading:** Hebrews 11:8,11-12,17-19  
**Gospel:** Luke 2:22-40