



LEVIN-TAITOKO

“A COMMUNITY RADIATING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST”

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC PARISH

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SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT — DAY OF PRAYER FOR CHILDREN

Today is the Day of Prayer for Children. A passage in psalm says, “Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, the fruit of the womb a reward” (Psalm 127:3). The word “*heritage*” means “*inheritance*.” Of course, today, whenever we think of the inheritance people receive, we think of money and property. However, in the Bible, children are God’s extraordinary riches given to us. Fundamentally, this is why great offsprings were a critical part of God’s promise when God made a covenant with Abraham, “I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you . . . and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you” (Genesis 12:2–3).

On the other hand, infertility should never be considered a sign of God’s punishment or less important to God. Just like the argument of the apostle Paul for single people in 1 Corinthians 7:32-33, parents without children can see it as an advantage because they can devote more time to serving God.

But how do they be a blessing? The next verse from the quote above says, “*Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one’s youth*” (Psalm 127:4). Arrow was a common weapon for battles or wars in the Bible. Hence, God has designed the children to be like warriors providing protection or safety for their parents. This is, perhaps, especially in old age when parents can no longer effectively “defend” themselves.

Having this said, all parents must recognize that no one becomes a warrior without adequate training. Hence, households are places of “training for good warriors.” The over-arching element in training is love.

It is innate for parents to love their children. It is an instinct, like a recessive DNA turned on upon a child’s conception, to embark on a whole new level - a journey of loving through caring, rearing, and training. In the same way, this journey profoundly reconfigures the parents’ whole being.

However, many parents struggle to do so. As a result, some children suffer from violence and a lack of compassion and love. The number of government agencies, NGOs, and initiatives reflects the dire need to avert this situation.

There is another kind of violence and lack of love that children are predisposed to, especially when they are unborn. Abortion. They are treated as of less value when they have not traversed the boundary of the womb. Why so? The church always upholds that life begins at conception, not at birth.

Hence, on this Day of Prayer for Children, let us celebrate the precious gifts God has given us - our children. Let us remind ourselves that our noble duty is to uphold their dignity and worth by providing a loving environment. Likewise, the church’s sacred duty is to promote their welfare, born and unborn.

Pā Dennis

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. Please, use the Community Line where possible: **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 bybrid-get@xtra.co.nz

ST BERNARD'S COLLEGE Lower Hutt Reunion. All old boys and their families are invited to a weekend of activities, 17-19th March 2023. Register at www.sbob.org.nz or SBC Old Boys on Facebook.

Can't wait to catch up with you all.

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.

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.

BUILDING FUND for the maintenance of the parish buildings. Envelopes available in the foyer. Bequests for the building fund are welcome as well.

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.

Bernie 021 406 427

John 06 367 2467

Kilian 06 367 0474

SVdP Levin Bank Account
for donations:

11 6932 0308328 11

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 bybrid-get@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.

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.

"FROM THE HEART"

Rev Bob Eyles offers 50 reflections on life, written over the year he was recovering from bowel cancer, a stroke and Covid-19. The reflections are written from a Christian perspective, cover a wide range of topics and are offered in the hope that readers may be encouraged to find hope and purpose in their own experiences. The book is in large print and is available at \$20 from Bob - email loisandbob@xtra.co.nz or phone 368 8813.

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

To register text 021 164 5800 or email l.hensel@wn.catholic.org.nz

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.)*

LENTEN PRAYER FOR LIFE

Join in prayer, fasting and reparation for the 36 babies who lose their lives through abortion every day in New Zealand. Join the peaceful, prayerful witness at Wellington Hospital, Wednesday, 9 am to 4pm. Family Life International 021 231 795 4.

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.

RECEIVING COMMUNION SEATED

Space is reserved in the second pew from the front, on the chapel side for those who have difficulty, walking up to receive Communion. The Minister of Communion will come to you.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

“Each of us is the result of a thought of God, each of us is willed, each of us is loved, each of us is necessary. There is nothing more beautiful than to be surprised by the Gospel, by the encounter with Christ. There is nothing more beautiful than to know Him, and to speak with others of our friendship with Him.” Pope Benedict XVI

On Formation...

MARCH RESOLUTION SCHOOL SUPPORT

Our school is a precious taonga. Already several people from the parish are volunteering their help in different ways. During March when we will celebrate the Feast of St Joseph – Patron of both our parish and our school, please take a moment to consider how you could be involved in our school community – maybe assisting students with their work; sponsoring a child, especially for special events like camp; attending school Masses; donating towards school fees etc. Such kindness would be an example to the children and assist them in developing a service heart. The school and parish are considering the idea of having parishioners ‘adopt’ a child and their family; getting to know them and helping them grow in faith. If you feel able to assist the school in any way, please contact the Principal, Maria Lyne, on maria@stjoeslevin.school.nz

ROSARY AT HOME

LEGION OF MARY — Bukin Kabaiara Presidium of the Kiribati community invites you to take home the statue of Mary, our Blessed Mother and pray the rosary at your own home. There is a booking planner in the foyer to log in. Please write your name, address, and contact details.

SUGGESTIONS welcome to help improve the life of the parish. Everything will be followed up and you will be advised of the outcome.



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

Cecily Gregory Whitehouse and Gregory families Joseph Carson
Mele Anna Pini Fonoti Ellen Rings Johanna Beers Joyce Watson

Suzanne Aubert says...

Our Lord willed to be tempted to encourage us in our temptations, to show that the greatest Saints have been exposed to them, and to

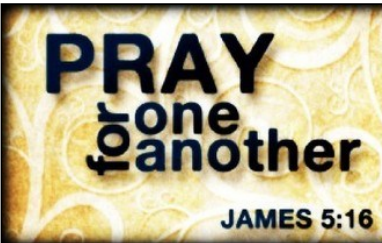
show us the means to resist them.

Reflection:

A TV ad shows a pohutukawa blossom afloat on a river. It is helpless against the force of the water beneath it and must go where the river takes it. Only if it is washed up on a rock can it get out of the current. I am surrounded by temptations of all kinds. Often, I feel like that blossom, helpless. The enticements of the devil are so strong. I feel abandoned. Faith tells me that Jesus is with me, especially when the going is rough. He knows – he was tempted, too. If I could remember that, I have landed on the rock.

Prayer:

Lord, make me aware of your presence beside me when I am being tempted.



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. The chaplain will be there for you.

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

Monday, 6th March	9:30am	Liturgy of the Word with Communion
	6.30pm	Youth Music Jam at the Parish Centre
Tuesday, 7th	9:30am	Holy Mass, Sts Perpetua and Felicity
	1:00pm	Tuesday Social Group
Wednesday, 8th	9.30am	Holy Mass, St. John of God
	10am	Holy Rosary in the Chapel
Thursday, 9th	9:30am	Holy Mass, St. Frances of Rome
	7pm	Meditation in the Christian Tradition
Friday, 10th	11:10am	Exposition
	12.10pm	Holy Mass
	5pm	IGNITE Youth Group in the Parish Centre
	6pm	Stations of the Cross
	6:30pm	EDGE Youth Group in the Parish Centre
Saturday, 11th	5:30pm	Vigil Mass
Sunday, 12th	9:30am	Morning Mass (with Fr. Tikoua)
	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

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

Gospel: Matthew 17:1-9

Psalm Response: Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

(12/3/2023) **1st Reading:** Exodus 17:3-7 **2nd Reading:** Romans 5:1-2,5-8

Gospel: John 4:5-42