



LEVIN-TAITOKO

“A COMMUNITY RADIATING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST”

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC PARISH

56 Weraroa Road, Levin

Website: www.stjosephlevin.com

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Phone: 06 210 2891

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THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

Thirst is a very common human experience. I wonder if we still know how it feels to be really thirsty. Water is readily available here in New Zealand. We even bring our own water bottles. But definitely, in one way or another, we have experienced that longing for something to quench and satisfy our thirst.

In the first reading, the Israelites were just beginning their journey from slavery in Egypt to freedom in the Promised Land. They feared that they would die in thirst in the desert. It was critical moment: would their thirst lead them to greater trust in God or to rebellion against Him. Their thirst was no longer just an issue of drinking water. Their thirst led them to quarrel with and test God who promised them a land overflowing with milk and honey. Is this not also what we often resort to? When we are tired and thirsty and weary from life's journey, do we not also at times find ourselves testing God? We grumble before Him. We look for other things to quench our thirst.

Jesus in the Gospel was also thirsty. He asked for water from a Samaritan woman. But notice that in this episode, Jesus did not drink. So, what was He thirsting for? In the conversation, we learn that Jesus was not just thirsty for water. He was thirsty for woman's faith. This woman who lived a rather wayward life; this woman who was tired and weary; this woman who herself is thirsty - thirsty for love, for acceptance, for true relationship.

Indeed, Jesus thirsts for our faith - we who are tired and weary, who live a rather wayward life, who seek to satisfy our thirst with passing things. This thirst of Gd proves His love for us: that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us, even if we do not merit it.

We, too, are all thirsty. Let us not harden our hearts to God who offers us Living Water. This Living Water is not something. It is Someone - Jesus Himself. May we feel that thirst for God, who in turn thirsts for us to return to Him.

P.S.

Fr. Dennis will be away from the 8th May 2023 to July 9th 2023 for a holiday. He has not been home since 2019. He will endeavour to fix his home which was under water in January this year. None of his belongings were saved.



If you like to be part of the Divine Mercy Devotion, please contact Fr. Dennis Nacorda.

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

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.**

PARISH NOTICES



The deadline for notices is 10am Wednesday



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER Thank you for all those who took part in the World Day of Prayer last Friday. CWL appreciates your support. \$156.40 was raised for the charities. Special thanks to Father Dennis.

ST PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATION Social Group. Shared lunch, music and don't forget to wear your green. Tuesday 14th from 1145 until . . .



LECTOR'S MEETING at 10 am on Sat 11th March. In the parish centre. It is not a training session. There are a number of matters to discuss and your input would be greatly valued. Looking forward to seeing you there.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS every Friday at 6pm. Everyone is invited.

Office Manager wanted for NZCBC and Catholic Enquiry Centre

The NZ Catholic Bishops Conference and the Catholic Enquiry Centre are looking for an experienced Office Manager to help make our Wellington office in Thorndon Quay run smoothly. The CEC helps to make the Church more alive and Christ more known by informing and inspiring faith inquirers. The NZCBC is an agency for the national work of the Catholic bishops of Aotearoa NZ. The two agencies work closely together, side-by-side on L5, 204 Thorndon Quay.

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 book is in large print and is available at \$20 from *Loisandbob* @xtra.co.nz or phone 368 8813.

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.

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.

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.sbcb.org.nz or SBC Old Boys on Facebook. Can't wait to catch up with you all.

St VINCENT de PAUL CORNER

Many thanks for your continued support for the Vinnies foodbank. With the current cost of living "crisis" we are seeing a significant increase in requests for help from families struggling to make ends meet. We provide a balanced food pack including protein, fresh vegetables, and grocery items. While the food collection is usually a monthly event, donations can be left anytime in the basket in the Church foyer. With the Vinnies shop hours being extended there is opportunity now for more volunteers. Come and join the happy crew which already numbers some of our Parishioners. Just pick up the phone and give one of us a call.

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

SVdP Levin Bank Account
for donations:
11 6932 0308328 11

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 container at the back of the church, or contact Bridget on 021482178 or bybridget@xtra.co.nz. 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. Thank you.

CYCLONE GABRIELLE HAMPER RAFFLE

A parishioner donated a hamper to be raffled and the proceeds will go to the Cyclone Gabrielle victims in addition to our second collection. The tickets are available in the foyer. \$2 dollars per ticket. This will be drawn next Sunday regardless of how many tickets are sold. Thank you for your generosity,

SEMINARIAN ON PASTORAL PLACEMENT

Seminarian Emilio Capin is coming back to St. Joseph's Parish, Levin for his pastoral exposure during the Holy Week. He was here for ten days last year. The expectation is that he would have an experience on how liturgy is run during this busy time in the church.

SAFEGUARDING DAY

Richard Finau, Tony Clifford, and Fr. Dennis Nacorda are going to Wellington to attend the Safeguarding Workshop from 9.30am to 4pm. It is helpful for everyone to know that Safeguarding is part of our Mission as a Church. Safeguarding is promoting an environment which respects and acknowledges the dignity of each human being, and where people feel valued and safe.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

1st/2nd April - Palm Sunday, regular Sunday Mass schedule

3rd April - Chrism Mass (Monday, 7pm) at the St Teresa's Pro-Cathedral, Karori

Sacred Triduum

6th April - Mass of the Last Supper (Thursday, 7pm) *Adoration will be until midnight.*

7th April - Seven Last Words (Friday, 10am) *this is an ecumenical service.*

- Friday of the Passion of the Lord (3pm)

8th April - Easter Vigil

9th April - Sunday of the Resurrection

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Thought for the week 11/12 March 2023.
"Take care of the children. Take care of what they hear, take care of what they see, take care of what they feel. For how the children grow, so will be the shape of Aotearoa.

Dame Whina Cooper.

CYCLONE GABRIELLE SECOND COLLECTION

Many thanks to all of you for your generosity to help those people who are affected by Cyclone Gabrielle and on a long journey towards recovery. We were able to raise **\$3, 784.00**. We are not having second collection anymore. But we shall give another Sunday (this Sunday) before we forward the amount to the SVdP account. There may still be few envelopes coming. May God return your generosity in manifold.

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



May the souls of our beloved dead and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.
John Shaughnessy Monica Liddell Barry Gray Patrick Curran
Francis Keeling Kevin Crombie Reinalda Vandersman

Suzanne Aubert says...

It is always through our fault that we lose Jesus, and how are we to find Him again? In searching for Him? Yes. And for that end we must part with

all that is not Himself, with all that displeases Him in our heart.

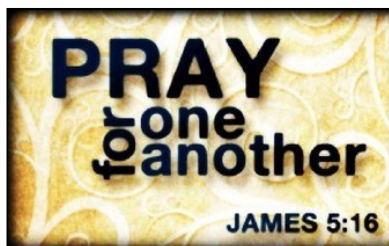
Reflection:

The Ashes I received on Ash Wednesday are a reminder that I am not yet perfect. I am human, made of dust. Often I have failed to live up to my calling as a Christian – to love God totally, and my neighbour as myself, to be like Jesus.

I need to find Jesus again, and that is what Lent is all about. It is too easy for me to stop smoking or eating sweets and think that is enough. It isn't. I need to focus on an area in my life which really needs changing so I can come to Jesus joyfully at Easter.

Prayer:

Lord, help me to be serious about Lent and to make a genuine adjustment to my life.



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, 13th March	9:30am	Liturgy of the Word with Communion
Tuesday, 14th	9:30am	Holy Mass
	1:00pm	Tuesday Social Group
Wednesday, 15th	9.30am	Holy Mass
	10am	Holy Rosary in the Chapel
Thursday, 16th	9:30am	Holy Mass
	7pm	Meditation in the Christian Tradition
	6.30pm	YOUTH MUSIC Jam at the Parish Centre
	11:10am	Exposition
Friday, 17th	12.10pm	Holy Mass, St. Patrick
	5pm	IGNITE Youth Group in the Parish Centre
	6pm	Stations of the Cross
	6:30pm	EDGE Youth Group in the Parish Centre
Saturday, 18th	5:30pm	Vigil Mass
Sunday, 19th	9:30am	Māori Miha
	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

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

Gospel: John 4:5-42

Psalm Response: If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

(19/3/2023) **1st Reading:** 1 Samuel 16:1,6-7,10-13 **2nd Reading:** Ephesians 5:8-14

Gospel: John 9:1-41