



LEVIN-TAITOKO

“A COMMUNITY RADIATING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST”

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC PARISH

56 Weraroa Road, Levin

Website: www.stjosephlevin.com

Facebook: [St Josephs Catholic Church Levin](https://www.facebook.com/StJosephsCatholicChurchLevin)

Phone: 06 210 2891

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SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

In the parish, the Legion of Mary Bukin Kabaiara presidium of the Kiribati community came to life. The SVdP group were also commissioned in the Mass. Also, the PPC decided to move the weekday Mass from 9 am to 9:30 am to avoid accidents using the car park with parents dropping off their children for school.

The Parish Office were graced with many volunteers — one for the newsletter, a few for the parish records, and one for setting up the functionality of the office. We acquired a computer for office works. I donated a big printer for the parish. A good number volunteered to clean up the garden, maintain the hedge, and mow the lawn.

The parish, and across the motu, was brought to a standstill with Covid19. There were fears and anxiety that swept over the parish community. The government imposed Alert Level System and then Traffic Light System. The lockdowns implemented by the government for good reasons also brought loneliness and isolation, particularly for the vulnerable. The social justice committee was swift in action to support the vulnerable ones. Shopping, transport, and visitation ministries were born. The youth committee quickly changed gears by organizing a zoom session for the youth. Also, the PPC decided to have Masses for the unvaxxed, particularly on Sundays. One could still vividly remember that we were asked to scan the QR Code at the entrance, to log in as you come, and then eventually to book for Masses as limits were imposed.

By November 2021, a parish "synod" was organized by the Formation Committee using discernment as a tool. Before this, Bridget directed a retreat for the parish, "Come Away and Rest Awhile." Meanwhile, the Finance Committee pushed for a Building Maintenance Fund and bequests to be promoted in the newsletter.

December began with Prize-giving for four of our dedicated parishioners. Marie Carmody, Bev Foubister, Carolyn Johns, and Brian Nolan received Fitzgerald Awards for their service to the parish. The Filipino community led Christmas Novena Masses. This was the first time the parish had three night Masses and two day Masses for Christmas Day.

2021 was a memorable year on every front. We can only look back with gratitude to God for carrying us tenderly as a community in the palm of his hand.

(to be continued in the next newsletter)

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 COMMU-**

NITY LINE: 022 314 4642

ADVENT ACTIVITIES

9th (6pm) and 10th (10am) December— Formation on Desiderio Desideravi (Liturgical Formation of the all the faithful) by Fr. John O'Connor and Catherine Gibbs. All particularly those carrying out ministry should attend.

10th (from 10am) December—Altar servers Christmas Party at Lido in Palmy.

11th (9.30am) December—pastoral visit by Archbishop Paul Martin. Please bring a plate to share after Mass.

11th (10.30am) December— Nativity Play first meeting after mass in the Parish Centre. We require children 9 or older for Narrator, Joseph, Mary, Caesar, Innkeeper, 2 shepherds, 3 kings. Younger children will be able to take part as angels, sheep and other animals. Principal actors will need to be at 6pm Christmas Eve Mass, as well as rehearsals. Rehearsals will be in the church on December 18 (after mass), 20 and 22. Teresa Mason 022 139 7623.

11th (7pm) December—Advent Communal Reconciliation at St. Mary's Church, Otaki. Open to St. Joseph's parishioners. Cuppa follows.

15th (7.30pm) December—Combined Churches 9 Lessons and Carols Service at Levin Uniting Church from 7.30pm. Everyone welcome!

16th –24th (6am) December—Christmas Novena Masses at the main church. If you want to serve in these Masses, please fill in the ministry participation form in the foyer.

BRAIN TEASER What is the origin of custom of having a Christmas tree?

Answer: It started in Germany where tree branches were used to decorate houses. Queen Victoria's German husband brought the custom to England. After seeing a picture of the royal family gathered around a full tree, decorated trees became popular in the English-speaking world.

CWL CHRISTMAS RAFFLE Raising funds to send delegates to Invercargill National Conference. 3 prizes. 3 tickets for \$5 or \$2 a ticket. On sale first 3 Sundays of Advent.

TUESDAY SOCIAL GROUP on Tuesdays at the Parish Centre from 1 pm. Everyone welcome!

FOOD + FUNDS COLLECTION for St Vincent de Paul will be on 3rd and 4th December after the masses. As Christmas is approaching, items such as tinned fruit, jellies, cereals, biscuits and other treats would be appreciated. Together we will be able to supply a special "surprise" in each of the food parcels delivered this month. Thank you for your generous support.

ACCOMODATION REQUIRED

I am Stacy, a new teacher at St. Joseph's. I am looking to rent a flat in Levin from around the 9th of January. I don't smoke and I don't have any pets (although I absolutely adore all animals). I would appreciate any info on with regards to accommodation options. Thank you in advance. Here are my contact details:

Email: staceyjg02@gmail.com, Cellphone number (WhatsApp): +27 78 384 1469

St VINCENT de PAUL CORNER

December already!! Hard to believe that Christmas is almost upon us. It has been something of a "watershed" year for SVdP Levin (Vinnies). Not just that the weather played a big part but with the establishment of a Vinnies Centre in town, the moving of our Foodbank that has positioned us much better to meet the needs in the community, the opening of the Vinnies shop, the start-up of the baby-assist programme, and our involvement with the arriving refugees to Levin have all contributed to a very busy but fulfilling year. With the growth of the Vinnies ministry and the development of the community centre outreach in 2023 there is plenty to keep us going.

Thought of joining the team? Give us a call for a chat.

Bernie 021 406 427

John 06 367 2467

Kilian 06 367 0474

SVdP Levin Bank a/c for direct donations:
11 6932 0308328 11

BABY ASSIST

As we have been able to assist some families recently, we would welcome some more small baby tee-shirts and/or onesies, as well as knitting for new-borns. Also quilts for bassinets or larger cots. If you can make a quilt top, contact Bridget (bybridget@xtra.co.nz 021 482 178) to arrange for the quilt to be backed and quilted.

CATECHISM ON CHRISTMAS NOVENA MASSES

Christmas Novena Masses is a four-century old tradition in the Philippines. This has become the most famous faith tradition in the Philippines that is being practiced around the world where there are Filipinos.

The early Filipinos were typically a farming people, and they greeted the dawn of a new day in the fields while working the land. The missionary fathers decided to integrate to the custom of early Filipinos, the substance of the Catholic religion. Hence, the birth of Christmas Novena Masses.

During Advent, the missionary friars held nine days of Masses leading to Christmas day which were celebrated typically at about 4:00 AM when the roosters crow to announce the coming of a new day. Hence, it is called “Misa de Gallo”.

It was in the 16th century when Pope Sixtus V decreed allowing the “Misa de Gallo” be held in the Philippines starting every Dec. 16. The Holy See is cognizant of the pastoral implications of the Christmas Novena Masses to the Filipinos.



Only in this century that things started to change. For pastoral care for Filipinos who works during the night till morning, the “Simbang Gabi” or anticipated Christmas Novena Masses were developed. The Christmas Novena Masses are celebrated during the night, typically when darkness starts to sit in.

This year there will be a good number of parishes in the archdiocese that will celebrate the Christmas Novena Masses, recognising the great number of Filipinos in their community. However, these Masses are for everyone in the parish. Hence, though the Filipinos take lead in the celebrations, everyone is welcome and can fully participate and exercise ministries as the Masses will be celebrated in English. Please refer to the poster in the foyer for more information.

In our parish, Masses will start at 6am. Everyone is encouraged to bring some goods that could go to any food bank in your parish. Also, please bring a plate to share after Mass. We hope to see you there.

Brother Peter Bray FSC, the Kiwi Vice-Chancellor of Bethlehem University, is touring all our Catholic Diocese on behalf of the NZ bishops, to talk about the Holy Land, his work with his students, and the lives of other ordinary Palestinians. He is also making three videos; the second video which is very powerful, can be viewed here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R17kia53-GY>

Wellington Venue: St Thomas More (Wilton) Monday 30th January 2023, 7pm Start . Tea and Coffee available from 6.30pm. Please register by January 25th with Christine at c.walkerdine@wn.catholic.org.nz or phone (04) 496-1706

ADVENT JESSE TREE SYMBOL 2ND WEEK IN ADVENT 2022



Joseph

Symbol: Joseph's coat of many colors

Scripture: Genesis 37:1-36

God Chooses David to be King

Symbol: Crown

Scripture: 1 Samuel 16:1-15



Ruth and Boaz

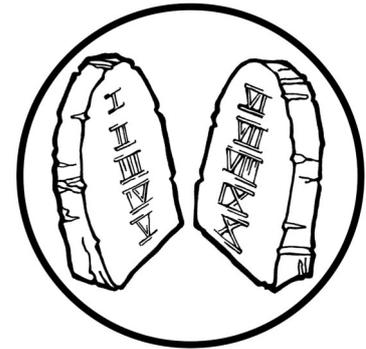
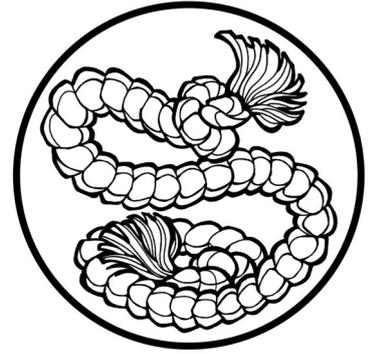
Symbol: Grain

Scripture: Ruth 2:1-4:12

Rahab

Symbol: Red rope

Scripture: Joshua 2:1-21



The 10 Commandments

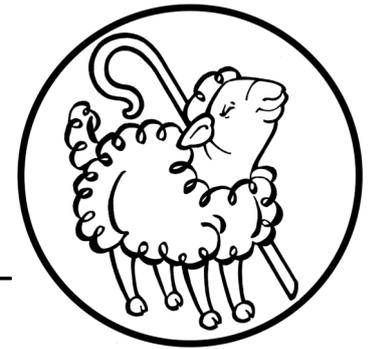
Symbol: Tablets

Scripture: Deuteronomy 5:1-22

David the Shepherd-King

Symbol: Sheep/shepherd's crook

Scripture: 2 Samuel 5:1-5



CHRISTMAS NOVENA MASS PASTORAL NOTES

Christmas Novena Masses are celebrated in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Expectant Mother of God, and in preparation for the commemoration of the birth of our Savior. Therefore, the Mass formularies for these Masses (*Collect, Prayer over the Gifts and Prayer after Communion*) should be taken from the Common of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Advent, except for the Preface which will take the Preface of Advent II.

The Gloria is sung in Christmas Novena Masses and white vestment is used even on Sunday Mass allocated as a Christmas Novena Mass.

There is no Credo during Christmas Novena masses, except for Sunday advent Masses because we are using the Sunday Liturgy for that Masses.

We shall take the 4th Sunday of Advent for the 3rd Christmas Novena Mass (Dec 18th). However, white vestment is used, Gloria is sung and Credo is prayed.

These Masses alone are considered Christmas Novena Masses. Other Masses celebrated during the nine days before Christmas are celebrated as Masses of the Advent season, and should follow the norms of the liturgy of the Advent season.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS

The Social Justice Team is having a

Christmas Wish Tree

Wish cards are hung on
the Christmas tree branches.

Please take a card
and fulfil the wish inside!

Please place the gifts under
the Christmas tree labelled with the wish
by 20th December 2022.

All gifts will go to the BIRTHRIGHT.

Let us make someone else's Christmas a
joyful and memorable one.

The Committee on Socials
invites you
to the

Parish Christmas Lunch

on 25th December, 11 am
at the Parish Centre.

Please contact Hilary Sheeran
hilary0205@gmail.com
before 13th December 2022.

Also, everyone is invited to offer a plate for
the Christmas Meal.

CHRISTMAS MASSES

Christmas Eve Mass
(Family Mass)

6 pm

(There will be a Children's play!)

Christmas Vigil Mass

9.30 pm Christmas Carols

10 pm Mass

Christmas Morning Mass

9.30 am

Synod on Synodality.

Themes submitted to Rome.



Mission: Formation is needed for mission,
and help with engaging in mission collec-
tively. Ecumenical activity and interfaith di-
alogue need to be embraced as part of
mission. Shame related to abuse in the
Church makes evangelisation difficult. Pro-
phetic leadership is needed in the commu-
nity on social justice, ecological and bicultural
issues. The only public voice of the
Church for many is euthanasia and human
sexuality.

ADVENT WREATH CANDLES



The second candle, also purple, repre-
sents faith. It is called the "Bethlehem Can-
dle" as a reminder of Mary and Joseph's
journey to Bethlehem.

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 provide name, address, and contact details.

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

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

TIME and TALENT FORMS are in the foyer. Drop
them in the suggestion box in the foyer after filling in.

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

Paul Russell Grace Devlin Ruffa Illuminada Tapay

Giuseppe Squatriti Eutiquio Nacorda Jr. Cayden Arch Alaba

Rest in
Peace

Suzanne Aubert says

Oh, how many crimes men have committed, and commit, in the name of liberty!

Reflection: The French

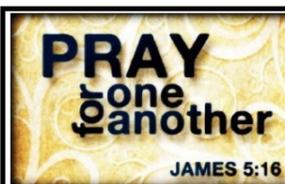
Revolution was the great declarer of liberty, and we all know what a horror that turned out to be in terms of persecution and slaughter. In our day, how many wars are being waged in the name of freedom, and how many of them end up being a more constricting regime than what went before? When will humanity learn from its history? And just what is freedom anyway?



I am fortunate to live in a country where freedom of speech, religion and lifestyle is largely respected. But am I truly free in myself?

Can I look into my heart and say truthfully that the Spirit has set me free from all the things I have been attached to in my life? What about my tendency to judge others, my insistence on my way of doing things, my reluctance to show kindness to certain people, my lack of forgiveness of others? If not, why not?

Prayer: Lord, may your Holy Spirit free me from all those tendencies which hinder me on my journey to heaven.



PRAYER CHAIN

Pray for the intentions of your fellow parishioners in your own home and in your own time.



HOSPITAL CHAPLAIN

Going to the hospital? Please phone the Community Line at 022 314 4642.

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

| | | |
|-----------------|---------|---|
| Monday, 5th Dec | 9.30am | Liturgy of the Word with Communion |
| Tuesday, 6th | 9.30am | Mass, St Nicholas |
| | 1.00pm | Tuesday Social Group |
| Wednesday, 7th | 9.30am | Mass, St Ambrose |
| | 10am | Holy Rosary in the Chapel |
| Thursday, 8th | 9.30am | Holy Mass, The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary |
| | 5pm | Meditation in the Christian Tradition |
| | 6pm | Filipino Choir practice |
| Friday, 9th | 11.10am | Exposition, St Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin |
| | 12.10pm | Hoy Mass |
| | 6pm | Youth Session at the Parish Centre |
| Saturday, 10th | 5.30pm | 3rd Sunday Advent Mass |
| Sunday, 11th | 9:30am | Mass by Archbishop Paul |
| | 11am | Baptism at the main church |
| | 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 comply with the **Guidelines for Use**. Clean the kitchen, switch off the water heater, close the windows, etc.

Readings at Sunday Mass

(04/12/2022) **1st Reading:** Isaiah 10:1-10 **2nd Reading:** Romans 15:4-9

Gospel: Matthew 24:37-44

Psalm Response: Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace forever.

(11/12/2022) **1st Reading:** Isaiah 35:1-6,10 **2nd Reading:** James 5:7-10

Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11