



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

Parish Community Line: 022 3144642

Email: Fr Dennis — pp@stjosephlevin.com

Office — office@stjosephlevin.com.

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR A

Tēnā koutou katoa,

Ngā mihi o te tau hou!

Indeed, the First Sunday in Advent marks the new liturgical year. From Year C to Year A Sunday Cycle. From Year II to Year I Weekday Cycle. Please go to the subsequent pages to understand what the Advent Season is all about.

The Parish Pastoral Council would like to devote the last four editions of the newsletter as an act of reminiscing the past since we were restored as a parish. By doing this, the council hopes to evoke a feeling of gratitude for the blessings received. Also, a sense of joy for the milestones reached. A sense of wonder about how my gifts can contribute to the church's life. And excitement for what beholds the years ahead.

February 28th 2021, marked a new beginning for us. Cardinal John issued a Decree restoring the St. Joseph's community church community into a parish. This was a piece of great news for everyone.

Since then, we rolled our sleeves and had our hands dirty doing the mahi. By March 2021, the Benefit Impact Week was held, and many Levinites availed the advocacy. The Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) finished drawing the Pastoral Plan for 2021 - 2023 in July 2021 based on the vision and mission of the parish.

The newly-formed Finance Committee members brought their heads together on the requirements for a new parish and how to comply. Indeed, a new territory for everyone is enrolment in the Charities Commission, IRD, Xero accounting software, and opening a bank account. Amazingly, the parish was able to issue tax receipts by April 2021.

The PPC members each handled a committee. The Youth Committee were up to it and started running sessions by July 2021. Then the Liturgy Committee organized the Time and Talent Sunday. The Formation Committee invited Chris Duthie-Jung for a talk on Synod on Synodality. A Bible study group was also formed with a couple from Paraparau-mu as coordinators. The RCIA formators journeyed with two young ladies wishing to become part of our faith.

The Communication Committee also assessed and improved the newsletter, organized a new parish roll, and created the website, Facebook page, and parish emails for communication. The committee also organized the Parish Helpline (now called Parish Community Line) with the help of Brian Nolan. The Health and Safety committee went around to check issues that were potentially hazardous to the community members. Can you still remember those shrubs and trees on the school side close to the fence?

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

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.

CHRISTMAS CHILDREN'S PLAY Children are welcome to join the play. Please contact Teresa Mason 022 139 7623 or Whaea Bridget.

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

MASS FOR LIFE on Friday 2 December, at 7 pm at St Mary of the Angels, 17 Boulcott Street, Wellington. Cardinal John Dew will be the principal celebrant. For more information please visit fli.org.nz/prolifeevents or phone Clare 021 231 7954.

MARCH FOR LIFE Wellington on Saturday 3 December. A celebration of life that also peacefully protests the practice of abortion. Gather at 1 pm in Civic Square for entertainment, food and stalls. March to Parliament from 2 - 4 pm. www.marchforlife.nz

ROSARY FOR LIFE distance makes it difficult for us to join the Mass and the March for life. We shall have a rosary offered in support to the intentions of the March for Life on Saturday 3rd December from 2pm.

St VINCENT de PAUL CORNER

Vinnies calling is to be the helping hand of Christ to those around us most in need. Whether it be the suffering or disadvantaged in our own community, or the new refugees moving into the area some of whom have suffered unimaginably. It takes courage and strength to pray for guidance to reach out to those in need of a helping hand showing the presence and the hand of Christ. A big call indeed – a very humbling one but our faith teaches us that we have an obligation to the poor, whatever their need.

You are welcome to come and join us. If you have given it thought, then 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

FOOD + FUNDS COLLECTION 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 as donations. Together we will be able to supply a special "surprise" in each of the food parcels delivered this month. Thank you for generous support.

BRAIN TEASER

What does the word 'Satan' mean?

*who tempts humans to sin.
sary, considered to be a rebellious angel
Answer: From the Hebrew - an adver-*

YOUTH FUNDRAISING!

The youth will be selling
SAUSAGE SIZZLE



**every after Mass this weekend,
First Sunday in Advent.**

Please support this initiative.

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

The readings today remind us to be vigilant to the presence of the Lord among us. The

BABY ASSIST

Our shelves are FULL



A typical gift parcel
☺ THANK YOU ☺

SEASON OF ADVENT

A Catechesis

Advent comes from the Latin word ad-venire which means “to come to.” The earliest mention of Advent in Church documents comes at the Synod of Saragossa in 380.

This season marks the beginning of the Church's new liturgical year. This season encompasses four Sundays (and weekdays) leading up to the celebration of Christmas. This year, it starts on the 27th November as the First Sunday of Advent.

Advent has a twofold character:

1. *It is a time of preparation for the Solemnities of Christmas, in which the First Coming of the Son of God to humanity is remembered;*
2. *By remembrance of the above, our minds and hearts are led to look forward to Christ's Second Coming at the end of time.*

For these two reasons, Advent is a period for devout and expectant delight.

GOSPEL READINGS

Hence, the gospel readings have distinctive themes:

- First Sunday of Advent: *the Lord's coming at the end of time*
- Second and Third Sunday of Advent: *John the Baptist*
- Fourth Sunday: *the events that prepared immediately for the Lord's birth.*

WEEKDAY READINGS

There are two series of readings:

- From the beginning of Advent until 16th December: the readings direct the mind and heart to await Christ's Second Coming;
- From 17th to 24th December: the readings focus on our preparation for the celebrations of the Nativity of our Lord at Christmas.

PURPLE COLOUR

Like Lent, the liturgical colour for Advent is purple since both are seasons that prepare us for great feast days. Advent also includes an element of penance in the sense of preparing, quieting, and disciplining our hearts for the full joy of Christmas. However, on the third Sunday of

Advent, the colour changes to rose. It is because the Third Sunday is also called “Gaudete” Sunday – meaning “rejoice”. (GIRM 316)

CHURCH DECORATION

During Advent the floral decoration of the altar should be marked by a moderation suited to the character of this time of year, without expressing in anticipation the full joy of the Nativity of the Lord. (GIRM 304) For example, fresh evergreens may be used, and fresh flowers may be added on the Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday). Artificial greens should always be avoided.

CHURCH MUSIC

Proper advent hymns and songs are encouraged to be sung. The use of the organ and other musical instruments should be marked by moderation. Gloria is a hymn of praise and is not sung or said on Sundays during the Seasons of Advent and Lent because of the penitential tone of the season. (GIRM 313)

ADVENT DEVOTIONS

Advent Wreath

Traditionally, Advent wreath is a circle of evergreen branches into which four candles are inserted, representing the four weeks of Advent.

Ideally, three candles are purple, and one is rose. The purple candles symbolize the prayer, penance, and preparatory sacrifices and good works undertaken at this time. The rose candle is lit on the third Sunday, Gaudete Sunday, when the priest also wears rose vestment at Mass marking the midpoint of Advent.



Christmas Lanterns

Christmas is also known as the “feast of light”, as Jesus, the Light of the World, and is to be revealed to the Nations is born. In the Church, huge Christmas Stars hanging from the ceiling is a Filipino tradition. This will be hang closer to Christmas Day.



Christmas Nativity Scene

From a strictly liturgical standpoint the prepara-



tions for receiving the Christ Child intensify from 17th December onward and this is probably a good time to slowly set up the parish nativity scene, ex-

cept for the image of the child, which is often added just before Midnight Mass in more or less solemn fashion.

Christmas Wish Tree

The Social Justice Team is organizing a Christmas Wish Tree where one can fulfil someone's wish this Christmas. Please take one card hanged on the tree. Wrap your gift with the card stuck on top and put it under the Christmas Wish Tree.



Christmas Novena Masses



Philippines and some Latin American countries celebrate a special "Cockcrow" Mass celebrated at 5 am each day leading to Christmas. In the

parish, the Filipinos are leading it from 16th to the 24th December from 6am.

CHRISTMAS CHILDREN'S PLAY

*Children of any age are welcome.
More details will be announced soon.*

Please approach
Bridget Mettrick or Teresa Mason
022 139 7623.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

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.

THE ADVENT WREATH CANDLES

The first candle, which is purple, symbolises hope. It is sometimes called the "Prophecy Candle" in remembrance of the prophets, especially Isaiah, who foretold the birth of Christ. It represents the expectation felt in anticipation of the coming Messiah.

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

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.*

Some gifts will go to the BIRTHRIGHT.

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

JESSE TREE: DO IT AT YOUR HOME

This year, the liturgy committee invites you to do your own Jesse Tree at home. Every Sunday in Advent, there are six symbols that you can colour, cut, and hang on your Jesse Tree. You can do one symbol a day during the week. This is to encourage you to spend a prayerful time with each symbol. The meaning of each symbol is also included.

1



The Jesse Tree

Symbol: Stump with branch

Scripture: Isaiah 11:1-2

*A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.*

2



Creation of Humans

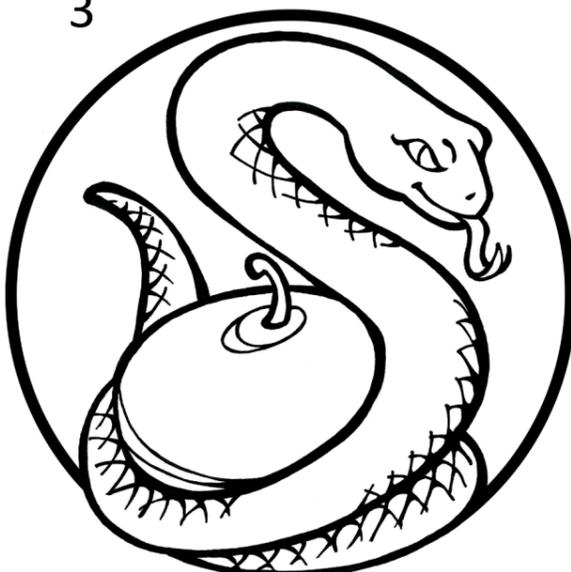
Symbol: Globe/Adam and Eve

Genesis 1:26-31

Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth."

*So God created humankind in his image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.*

3



The Fall

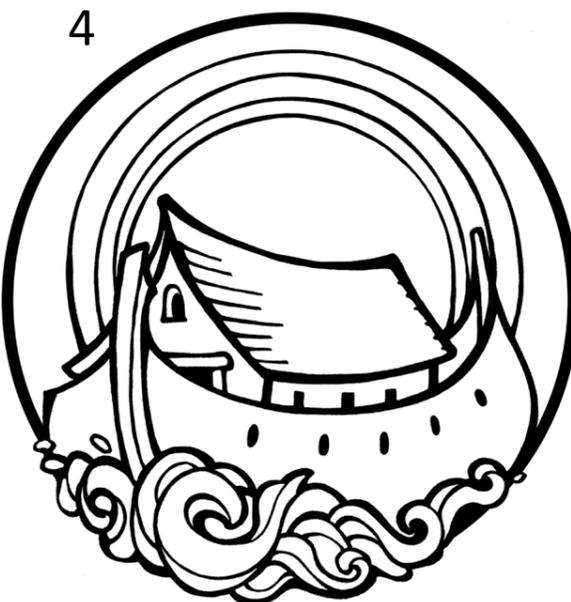
Symbol: Snake and apple

Scripture: Genesis 3

God placed Adam and Eve in the beautiful garden. He let them use all its plants and animals except for one tree in the middle of the garden.

Adam and Eve disobeyed God's order and ate the fruit of that tree so God sent them out of the garden to manage for themselves. This was the first sin of the human person

4



Noah's Ark

Symbolism: Noah's Ark

Scripture: Genesis 6:11-9:13

When there were lots of people on the earth and they disobeyed God's law and sinned, God decided to send a big flood and drown them all. But there was one man, Noah, who with his family tried to do what God wanted. He was told to build a boat and take his family and some of all the creatures on the earth so they did not drown.

5



The Promised Land

Symbol: Tent and Camel

Scripture: Genesis 12:1-7

Abraham was a good man and God loved him. He sent him away from his father's house and into a strange land. He promised Abraham that his family would have the land for themselves and would stay there for a long, long time.

6



God's Promise to Abraham

Symbol: Starry sky

Scripture: Genesis 15:1-6

Abraham was getting old and he had no children so he asked God why. And God gave Abraham and his wife Sarah a son, Isaac. God promised Abraham that after many years his family would be so big they would not be able to be counted,

CHRISTMAS NOVENA MASSES

From 16th to 24th December 2022

6am, at the main Church.

If you want to serve in these Masses, please fill in the ministry participation form in the foyer.

Catechism about these masses will be in the next newsletter

ADVENT COMMUNAL RECONCILIATION

St. Mary's Church, Otaki

Sunday 11th December

7.00 p.m.

Open to St. Joseph's parishioners.

Followed by cuppa and supper if you bring a plate!

St Joseph's Parish ~ Levin



2022 First Holy Communion

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 book in the foyer for you to log in. Please provide your name, address, and contact details.

Combined Churches 9 Lessons and Carols Service

Levin Uniting Church

From 7:30pm

Thursday 15 December

Everyone welcome!

POPE FRANCIS DESIDERIO DESIDERAVI



ON THE LITURGICAL FORMATION
OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD
Apostolic Letter

Talk/Formation by
**Fr. John O'Connor and
Catherine Gibbs**

On December 9th from 6pm
and 10th from 10am.

Parish Centre

Please register. Form in the foyer.

Just a Thought

What does the liturgy mean to you?

Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, has written a letter to the whole church in his desire to see our Catholic liturgy come to life in our ordinary lives. The title *Desiderio Desideravi* means "I have earnestly desired..." and echoes the words of Jesus on the night of the Last Supper: "I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer". In his letter, Pope Francis offers us some prompts or cues for reflections which can help us appreciate the beauty and truth of the Christian celebration.

So, what does the liturgy mean to you? Is it merely a rite to be gone through every Sunday, or is it an encounter with Jesus, as it is meant to be? Either way, the more we understand its meaning and symbolism, the more likely is it that the liturgy becomes something precious to our Christian living. This is our Holy Father's earnest desire.

Come and hear what Pope Francis has to say to us as Catholics and be inspired.

Kilian De Lacy

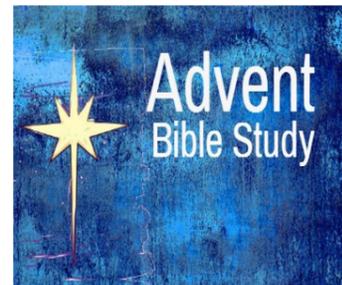
Synod on Synodality. Themes submitted to Rome.



Leadership: Collaborative ministry should become the norm, with greater sacramental involvement for lay people. Co-responsible leadership with barriers to lay participation in decision-making removed. Women participate equally in decision-making, and have greater participation in liturgical roles.

ADVENT SUNDAY READING REFLECTION GROUP

The faith formation committee is encouraging parishioners to meet in small house groups to pray with and reflect on the Scriptures for the four Sundays of Advent. If you would like to host a group or participate in one, please let Marie Vaney know and indicate whether daytime or evening would suit you best. Reflections from Fr. Alan are available each week and Fr. John's O'Connor's Food for Faith reflections are available online. Please contact Marie Vaney, Bridget Taumoepeau, Harry Bennik, Helen Clifford, Carolyn Johns



ARCHBISHOP PAUL MARTIN



is coming to St. Joseph Levin on the 11th December 2022 for the first time. He will be the presider for the morning Mass. Please mark your calendar and bring a plate to share.

WATCH: The Letter: Laudato Si Film

The Pope, the Environmental Crisis, and Front-line Leaders

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rps9bs85BII>

The Letter tells the story about the Pope's call to care for our planet. For more info, visit <https://TheLetterFilm.org>

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

Rest in
Peace

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

Rende Family Clinton Handcock John Hayward Maureen Taru

Maureen Wallace David and Sasha Gibbs Hoskins and Graves families

Suzanne Aubert says ...

We must have a large heart and a fine character in order to cross the torrent of the foolish talk of this world without letting a word of it penetrate into our souls.

Reflection: As I go about the town, I am constantly subjected to noise – from traffic, people, television and particularly from advertising. It hits at me everywhere. Most of it is promoting a secular ideal which is contrary to the Christian Gospel I profess to follow. I can be praised or insulted at times without justification. How does it affect me?



The only way I can protect myself from this barrage of noise is to keep a quiet space in my heart for Jesus. Do I have a quiet place where I can go on a regular basis to reinvigorate my soul and spend some time with Him? Or is it that I avoid silence in order not to have to think about the more spiritual and challenging aspects of being a Christian living in this world?

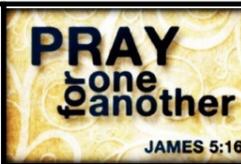
Prayer: Lord, in the midst of all the chatter and noise surrounding me, help me to keep a quiet heart.

HOSPITAL CHAPLAIN



Going to the hospital? The Catholic Chaplain is there for you.

Phone the Community Line at 022 314 4642 let us know before you go.



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.

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

Monday, 28th Nov	9.30am	Liturgy of the Word with Communion, The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Tuesday, 29th	9.30am	Liturgy of the Word with Communion
	1.00pm	Tuesday Social Group
Wednesday, 30th	9.30am	Liturgy of the Word with Communion
	10am	Holy Rosary in the Chapel St Andrew, Apostle
Thursday, 1st Dec	9.30am	Liturgy of the Word with Communion
	5pm	Meditation in the Christian Tradition
Friday, 2nd	11.10am	Exposition
	12.10pm	Liturgy of the Word with Communion
	6 pm	Youth Session
Saturday, 3rd	11am	Baptism
	2pm	Rosary for Life
	5.30pm	Holy Mass, St Francis Xavier
Sunday, 4th	9:30am	Holy Mass
	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

(27/11/2022) **1st Reading:** Isaiah 2:1-5 **2nd Reading:** Romans 13:11-14

Gospel: Matthew 24:37-44

Psalm Response: Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

(4/12/2022) **1st Reading:** Isaiah 11:1-10 **2nd Reading:** Romans 15:4-9

Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12