



LEVIN-TAITOKO

“A COMMUNITY RADIATING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST”

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC PARISH

56 Weraroa Road, Levin

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PENTECOST SUNDAY - 8th JUNE 2025

Pentecost: The Spirit's Fire and Our Calling

Today, we celebrate Pentecost, the day when the Holy Spirit descended upon the apostles, transforming them from hesitant followers into bold messengers of Christ. It is a day of renewal, empowerment, and divine presence - a reminder that God's Spirit is alive and active in our lives.

Pentecost fulfills Jesus' promise: "I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Advocate to help you and be with you forever" (John 14:16). The Spirit came as tongues of fire, resting upon each disciple, igniting their hearts with courage and wisdom. This fire was not destructive but purifying, not consuming but illuminating. It was the fire of divine love, spreading across nations and generations.

The Spirit's arrival was not just a historical event - it is an ongoing reality. We, too, are called to receive the Spirit, to allow His presence to shape our lives. He is the breath of God, guiding us in truth, strengthening us in trials, and inspiring us to live as witnesses of Christ's love.

Pentecost reminds us that the Church is not merely an institution but a living body, animated by the Spirit. It is a call to unity, breaking barriers of language, culture, and division. Just as the apostles spoke in different tongues yet were understood, we are called to speak the universal language of love, compassion, and justice.

The Spirit does not come to make us comfortable but to send us forth. He challenges us to step beyond fear, to embrace our mission, and to proclaim the Gospel with boldness. The same Spirit that empowered the apostles is available to us today, urging us to be instruments of peace, reconciliation, and hope.

Pentecost also reminds us of the transformative power of the Spirit. He takes ordinary people and fills them with extraordinary grace. He turns doubt into faith, weakness into strength, and hesitation into conviction. When we open our hearts to Him, we become vessels of God's love, carrying His light into the world.

Let us open our hearts to the Spirit today. May His fire burn away our fears, His wind carry us forward in faith, and His presence transform us into bearers of God's light in the world.

Come, Holy Spirit, fill us anew!

JUBILEE YEAR 2025 Celebrate on a pilgrimage! Join the Family Pilgrim Walk *Walk for a Cause on Saturday, 28 June, the Memorial of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.* Pilgrims will meet at 8am at Parliament, visit the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart and St. Mary, his mother, then head to St Mary of the Angels Church The National Shrine that is dedicated to Mary Assumed into Heaven for the culminating mass at 11:00am. Register: *family-pilgrim-walk,raiselysite.com.* \$15 or \$50 for a family.

TAX RECEIPTS from St Vincent de Paul and the Parish are both available in the foyer. Thank you for your support.

TUESDAY SOCIAL CLUB At 1pm in the Parish Centre for a gathering of friends for fellowship and warmth.

COMMUNITY LINE PHONE Do you happen to have a little time on your hands? We are in desperate need of people to answer the Community Line phone. This is a service to the parish which is not too taxing – the more people we share it with, for a week at a time, the less often you are needed. If you could do this, please contact Kilian – 022-695-0056.

MISSING! WHERE IS IT? The key from the lock-box in the flower room has been missing for some weeks. Please leave it somewhere we can find it in the church.



CONFIDENTIAL PRAYER INTENTIONS

- Prayer Intentions are collected twice a week
- They are given to the Prayer Chain in complete privacy.
- You can use the language with which they feel comfortable because we have people in the Prayer Chain able to translate
- The Prayer Intentions will then be destroyed.



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

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE recently hosted WUCWO day (World Union of Catholic Women's Organisations) celebrating families. Members from other Wellington branches of CWL joined with us to enjoy a warm and prayerful morning followed by morning tea.



St VINCENT de PAUL CORNER

Saint Paul tells us that everyone moved by the Spirit is a child of God. It seems to me that we at the Vinnies are surrounded by the children of God in our efforts to feed and support those in need. Each week we supply food for families of all sizes – one recently for 11 people of three generations living in the one household – and it is only your support which enables us to do so. May you be truly blessed by the Spirit.

SVdP Levin Bank Account for donations: 11 6932 0308328 11



John 027 626 4792

Kilian 022 695 0056

Brigette 027 379 2802

BABY ASSIST

As we have recently prepared several Welcome parcels for newborn babies, we would appreciate donations of blankets: both cot and bassinette sizes, and knitted garments of all sizes, to replenish our supplies. Many thanks.

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS TO OFFICE@STJOSEPHLEVIN.COM BY 9AM WEDNESDAY
POPE LEO'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR JUNE 2025

That the world might grow in compassion Let us pray that each one of us might find consolation in a personal relationship with Jesus, and from his Heart, learn to have compassion on the world.

FROM THE JUNE LETTER OF ARCHBISHOP PAUL

What a month we have just experienced with the death of Pope Francis and the election of Pope Leo. It has been a time of grace and blessing for us as a Church and for the focus of the world on the Church and both popes. In our secular world the outpouring of appreciation for the life of Pope Francis and the fascination with the election of the new pope gives us an entrée to be able to speak with many people about things of faith. We can often feel like the Church gets a lot of bad coverage, some deserved, others not, but this has certainly been a time when the Holy Spirit can be seen to be working in the midst of so much strife and difficulty.

It was with great pride we watched Cardinal John make his pledge at the conclave and then take part in the deliberations and voting for our new pope. The way that +John conducted himself and the interviews and insights he gave were a great witness to faith, and brought a true connection between the Church in New Zealand and the universal Church. I know it was a privilege for him to be part of the conclave and I want to thank him on our behalf for his witness to faith and for all the work that he does as a cardinal, most of which is unseen and not really understood by so many of us.

In the coming months the Archdiocesan team will be working with parishes to look at a planned gifting programme. It has been quite a while for many parishes since working with their people around gifting. We are all aware of the real costs of being a parish and the challenges that it brings. Most of us are reluctant to talk about money with our people, we don't want to be seen to be focusing on that. We also know that times have been difficult for many. However, if we are to continue to be able to function as a Church community and to celebrate the sacraments, and provide the support to our communities that they need, then we have to address this part of Church life and do it well.

+Paul Martin SM
Archbishop of Wellington

PRAYER AND FASTING FOR PEACE AND THE RELIEF OF SUFFERING

Catholics, moved by confronting images of children in Gaza, invite other Catholics to take part with them in Twenty-four hours prayer and fasting for Peace and the relief of children suffering starvation, injury and death due to wars being fought by adults. You are invited to fast from food, or if health excludes food fast, fasting from another activity on Friday 30th of May and to Pray for Peace in all places of conflict. You may choose to donate to Caritas the amount you will not pay for food that day. You may also choose to continue this fast on Fridays until there is an end to the children in Gaza being denied food and safety.

We suggest praying "Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us" (as in the Mass) and or the Litany of saints we were asked to pray for the election of Pope Leo XIV.



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

SUPPORT A STUDENT - BE PART OF THEIR JOURNEY

At St Joseph's School, we believe every child deserves the chance to thrive, participate fully in school life, and grow into the person God has created them to be.

To help make this a reality, we're undertaking fundraising efforts to support students in areas such as attendance dues, uniforms, camps, and other special learning opportunities. From time to time, these costs can place extra pressure on families - and your support can make all the difference.

Specifically, this year, a number of classes have the opportunity to take part in exciting trips - an overnight camp and an education-based day trip later in the year. We'd love to ensure every child is able to take part, regardless of financial circumstances.

If you feel called to support this initiative, donations can be made to the following school account:

St Joseph's School Account Number: 12-3157-0123950-00

(Please use "camp" as the reference for student trip support or "student support" for general sponsorship)

Every contribution, big or small, helps remove barriers and creates a more inclusive experience for all our learners.

Thank you for being a valued part of our faith-filled and caring community.





ARCHBISHOP OF WELLINGTON

1 June 2025

What a month we have just experienced with the death of Pope Francis and the election of Pope Leo. It has been a time of grace and blessing for us as a Church and for the focus of the world on the Church and both popes. In our secular world the outpouring of appreciation for the life of Pope Francis and the fascination with the election of the new pope gives us an entrée to be able to speak with many people about things of faith. We can often feel like the Church gets a lot of bad coverage, some deserved, others not, but this has certainly been a time when the Holy Spirit can be seen to be working in the midst of so much strife and difficulty.

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In order for that to happen there will be a coordinated programme, which is guided by the people in the Curia, as a support for you and your parish teams. It is not the Archdiocese running a programme, it is our parishes doing this with support from the Curia. As priests you have a key part to play in this and so it is important that you understand what is being asked of you and how you can work with your parish teams in this process. We will have some time in July when we gather to work on this together and August will be the month when we focus on this.

Recently at the Council of Priests we discussed the OCIA programmes and how we might work more collaboratively between parishes going forward. Last Easter there were 36 people received into the Church in our Archdiocese. Given we have 23 parishes it is not a huge number of people. I would ask that you talk with your parish leadership teams/councils about what, as a parish, is happening regarding encouraging people to join us. Some parishes are running Alpha courses which are a good way of bringing people in to ponder the bigger questions. It would be helpful to keep this matter on the agenda for your meetings and for reflection. We do need to be creative in how we structure our programmes and make use of the skills and personnel in our areas, not just within our parish.

Last week we celebrated Catholic Schools Day. It was a chance to give thanks for our Catholic schools and the links between schools and parishes. Sometimes people talk about the school being the parish, but we know that this is not sustainable in terms of what happens when young people leave school. As priests we need to keep working as closely as possible with our school communities and our principals and teachers. I know it can be hard work at times, or relationships can be tetchy, but it is a vital relationship and one we have to go the extra mile to keep strong. Kelly Ross, the Vicar for Education, is always available to you should you have any questions or need any support in this area.

Catholic Archdiocese of Wellington

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We are pleased to welcome two new priests who are joining the Archdiocese. Fr Sony Marsilin CSP will be the new parish priest of Our Lady Star of the Sea and will be joining the Passionist community there. Fr John San Le SVD will be joining Raja to work in Te Awakairangi Parish alongside Noel Corcino. Both men will take part in the Landing the Waka programme which runs for priests from overseas who are new to New Zealand.

I am keen that as many of us as possible attend the *Hope and Renewal Summit* in Palmerston North 2-4 October. There is a clergy day on the 2nd and then two days for all people. Early Bird registrations close on the 15th of this month. The link is <https://hoperenewalsummit.com/>

Please keep in your prayers Deacon Kinh Nguyen who is preparing for his priestly ordination on 12 July. We are delighted that his father and brother have received their visas and will be here for the celebration.

Pre-seminarian Long Tran has been in Vietnam and waiting for his visa. He will be back soon and will reside in Lower Hutt with the SVD community. He will spend the rest of the year developing his English skills and participating in the life of the parish.

Our retreat this year has been a challenge to organize in terms of accommodation. Fr Mark Chamberlain will be the retreat preacher and it will be held at the Cathedral. We will stay at the Atura Hotel which is around the corner in Hawkestone Street. Lunch and dinner will be in Connolly Hall. It is a little different in style than we are used to, but it will enable us to use the Cathedral for our prayer and conferences. It will begin at 9am Monday November 16 and finish on Friday with Mass at 12.05.

We have heard back from the Minister of Education who has agreed to cancel the integration agreements for Cardinal McKeefrey Wilton and St Bernard's Brooklyn. They will close at the end of the year. It is not an easy time for any involved in this process and we give thanks for these two schools and for their contribution to the life of their church communities. Currently St Pius X in Titahi Bay is in a consultation process regarding its future.

Congratulations to Sister Cyprian CSB who is celebrating her 100th birthday in June. There will be celebrations for this in St Francis of Assisi parish where she has been living and working for many years.

We continue to remember in our prayers our brothers who are unwell including Fr Beniata Bakatete MSC who returned to Kiribati for his father's funeral and has become unwell himself.

It is important that we keep supporting one another. I encourage you to reach out for help if you need it, and to keep an eye out for those who might be struggling or who need some fraternal support at this time.

Yours in Christ

+ Paul sm

+Paul Martin SM
Archbishop of Wellington

Birthdays for June

- 16 David Orange
- 18 Isaac Songa MF
- 21 Joseph Keegan
- 23 Raja Kommareddy SVD
- 26 Doug Shepherd

Anniversary of Ordination June

- 3 Eddie Condra 1970
- 7 Rico de la Torre 2005
- 17 Tom O'Brien 1962
- Alan Roberts 1972 ←
- 18 Julian Wagg 1972
- 19 Ron Bennett 1972
- 20 Isaac Songa MF 2012
- Leone Iosefa 1991
- 23 Kevin Mowbray SM 1976
- 24 Bruce England 1978 ←
- 26 David Gledhill SM 1966
- 28 Phil Cody SM 1969 ←
- 29 Owen Sinclair 1963
- James Dooley SM 1963
- Neil Vaney SM 1969
- Bernard Carney SM 1971
- 30 Jeff Drane SM 1979

We pray for our Deceased Priests June

- 2 John Durham 1994
- 3 Timothy Linehan 1956
- 5 John Kelly 1959
- 8 Petelo Mauga 2024
- 7 James McDonnell 1999
- 9 Edmund Little 2013
- 15 Cyril Donoghue 1979
- 17 Jeremiah McGrath 1978
- 20 Basil Hayes 1989
- 26 William Heavey 1988
- David Monaghan 2000

Suzanne Aubert says...

Life is great, it is beautiful, it is a stepping onwards towards heaven; it gains for us merits; and it is death that teaches us what life really is.

Reflection:

I went to visit a non-Catholic friend who was dying of cancer. She was sitting up in bed, looking yellow and emaciated, but smiling radiantly. When I asked her how she was feeling, she replied simply, “I am not afraid of dying. It is only another step on my journey. Soon I will be with God.”

I am lucky. I have been given the gift of faith, a faith which assures me there is life after death. So there is no excuse for me not to find life great and beautiful, and death a simple progression to eternal life with God.



Prayer:

Lord, thank you for showing me that death is only a step towards life with you.

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

Monday, 9th June	9:30am	Liturgy of the Word with Communion Mary Mother of the Church
Tuesday, 10th	9:30pm	Holy Mass
	1:00pm	Tuesday Social Group
Wednesday, 11th	9:30am	Holy Mass, St Barnabas, Apostle
	10:00am	Rosary in the Chapel
Thursday, 12th	9:30am	Holy Mass
	7:30pm	Christian Meditation in the Side Chapel
Friday, 13th	11:00am	Exposition, St Anthony of Padua
	12:10am	Holy Mass, Reconciliation
Saturday, 14th	5:30pm	Vigil Mass, Blessed Virgin Mary
Sunday, 15th	9:30am	Holy Mass
	11:00am	Legion of Mary Kiribati Group (Chapel)

Readings at Sunday Mass

(8/6/2025) **1st Reading:** Acts 2: 1-11 **2nd Reading:** 1 Corinthians 12: 3b-7, 12-13
Gospel: John 20: 19-23

Psalm Response: *Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.*

(15/6/2025) **1st Reading:** Proverbs 8: 22-31 **2nd Reading:** Romans 5: 1-5
Gospel: John 16: 12-15