



**LEVIN-TAITOKO**

**“A COMMUNITY RADIATING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST”**

**ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC PARISH**

56 Weraroa Road, Levin

**Website:** [www.stjosephlevin.com](http://www.stjosephlevin.com)

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

**Parish Community Line:** 022 3144642

**Email:** Father Bruce — [pp@stjosephlevin.com](mailto:pp@stjosephlevin.com)

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**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT - 1st DECEMBER 2024**

**Dear Friends**

As we come together light the first candle of our Advent Wreath, we're called to a season of hopeful anticipation. In today's Gospel from St Luke, Jesus speaks of signs in the heavens and invites us to “stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand.” These words might seem unsettling, but they're meant to prepare us spiritually. Jesus encourages us to be alert and prayerful, avoiding distractions that pull us away from God's love.

Advent is a time to begin again, not only marking the start of our liturgical year but also offering each of us a fresh chance to deepen our relationship with Jesus Christ. The season asks us to slow down, to reflect, and to let go of spiritual complacency. It's a journey from darkness to light, guiding us toward the true hope that Jesus brings into the world.



Inspired by the values of Divine Renovation, let us approach Advent with a heart ready for transformation. Divine Renovation emphasises a vibrant and mission-focused parish community, where all are called to actively engage in faith and service. During this Advent, consider how you can deepen your own spiritual life and contribute to the renewal of our Parish. Whether it's through daily prayer, small acts of service, or inviting a friend to Mass, each step helps build a community that reflects Jesus Christ's love.

Let's use this Advent to prepare our hearts for the coming of Jesus and to renew our commitment to being a Parish filled with joy, hospitality, and active faith. May we support one another as we prepare to welcome the Lord, both in the celebration of Christmas and in our daily lives.

**Advent Blessings**

**Fr Bruce**

**ADVENT ANOINTING MASS** at 2pm on Wednesday 11th December. All welcome. Enjoy a convivial cuppa after Mass. If you need transport please contact the Church Community Line: 022 3144 642.

**VOCATION TO PRIESTHOOD** Contact Father Andrew Kim at *wellingtonpriests@gmail.com* or visit *wellingtonpriests.org* to find out more.

**PRAISE AND INTERCESSION** Wednesday 11th December at 7.00 pm in the side Chapel. If you feel called to intercession or want to deepen your prayer life, we would love to see you at our next intercession prayer evening. Contact: Josephine 027 367 4453.

**‘Intercession is the need for the hour.’**

### FROM THE FAITH FORMATION

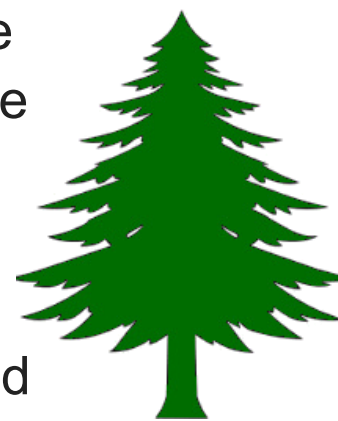
**COMMITTEE** We will hold an Advent afternoon of silent reflection on Saturday 7 December in the Parish Centre. The theme is ‘Finding God in the mess.’ The reflection will run from 3.00 pm – 5.00 pm. You are welcome to come from 2:30 onwards for a cuppa and to greet others. We will finish at 5:00pm, to allow those who wish, to attend the Vigil Mass. Please register with Bridget on 021 482 178 or by email at *bybridget@xtra.co.nz*

### 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.

**SECOND RITE OF RECONCILIATION** Will be on Friday 6th December at 7pm. All are welcome. There will be a number of priests in attendance.

**ADVENT GIFTING TREE** Once again there will be a tree at the back of the church during Advent to donate gifts for Birthright. Please take a set of tags. Buy a gift for the age and gender on your tag. Attach one tag to your wrapped gift and the other tag to the tree. Thank you for your generosity



**TUESDAY SOCIAL CLUB** At 12pm in the Parish Centre for a cosy gathering and a shared lunch.

### St VINCENT de PAUL CORNER

All peoples belong to the flock of Jesus with no discrimination. Our Vinnies Mission is to reach out that hand of Christ to all those needing support and comfort and to do so with compassion, empathy and love. The practicality of this is done in many different ways including support for the Refugee families, clothing and warmth for those without, and food for the hungry to name just a few. In a world facing so many challenges the needs of many just continue to grow and we do our best to respond to this challenge.

**SVdP Levin Bank Account for donations: 11 6932 0308328 11**



**Bernie** 021 406 427

**John** 027 626 4792

**Kilian** 022 695 0056

**Bridget** 021 482 178

### BABY ASSIST

As Christmas approaches maybe you know of a family who would appreciate some help in the form of clothes or gifts for their small children. If so, please let Bridget know on 021 482 178. Thank you for your support.



## **POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTION FOR DECEMBER 2024**

We pray that this Jubilee Year strengthen our faith, helping us to recognise the Risen Christ in our daily lives, and that it may transform us into pilgrims of Christian hope.

### **THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

The First Sunday of Advent marks the beginning of a new liturgical year and a season of hope and anticipation. As we light the first candle on the Advent wreath, we are reminded of the light of Christ that is coming into the world. This candle, often called the "Prophet's Candle," symbolizes hope and the promises made by God through the prophets.

In the readings for this Sunday, we hear from the prophet Isaiah, who speaks of a time when nations will beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks. This vision of peace and harmony is a powerful reminder of the hope we have in Christ. Isaiah's words encourage us to look forward to the coming of the Messiah, who will bring about a new era of justice and peace.



The Gospel reading for the First Sunday of Advent often focuses on the theme of watchfulness. Jesus urges His disciples to be vigilant and prepared for His coming. He tells them to stay awake and be ready, for they do not know the hour when the Son of Man will come. This call to watchfulness is a reminder for us to live our lives in a state of readiness, always prepared to welcome Christ into our hearts and our world.

As we embark on this season of Advent, we are called to embrace the hope and anticipation that comes with the promise of Christ's coming. This time of year, we see a flurry of activity - decorating, shopping, and preparing our homes for the holidays. But the most important preparation is within our hearts. Advent invites us to pause, reflect, and ready our spirits for the arrival of our Savior.

Let us take this opportunity to deepen our faith through prayer, reflection, and acts of kindness. By doing so, we prepare not only for the celebration of Christ's birth but also for His second coming. May this season of Advent be a time of spiritual renewal and a reminder of the enduring hope we have in Christ. As we light the first candle on the Advent wreath, may our hearts be filled with the light of Christ's love and the promise of His peace.

*Suzanne Aubert says...*

*If we had not so many defects ourselves, we would not take such pleasure in finding them in others.*

**Reflection:**

What is it in me which causes me to criticise others' faults? Surely, my impression that I do not have the same imperfections. It is a case of my perceived superiority, of feeling that I am better than they.

Often I fail to recognise that the skeleton I pick up in someone else is most likely to be one which is in my cupboard also. Why else would I be so aware of its presence in others? I recognise it, of course. So by criticising others, I actually demonstrate my own failings. It's a pity I don't think of that before I open my mouth.



**Prayer:**

Lord, curb my tendency to criticise others and show me my own shortcomings instead.

**W E E K L Y      S C H E D U L E**

Monday, 2nd Dec	9:30am	Liturgy of the Word with Communion
Tuesday, 3rd	11:00am	Holy Mass
	12:00pm	Tuesday Social Group, St Francis Xavier
Wednesday, 4th	9:30am	Holy Mass, St John Damascene
	10:00am	Rosary in the Chapel
Thursday, 5th	9:30am	Holy Mass
	7:00pm	Christian Meditation in the Side Chapel
Friday, 6th	11:10am	Exposition, St Nicholas
	12:10pm	Holy Mass, Reconciliation
Saturday, 7th	5:30pm	Vigil Mass, St Ambrose
Sunday, 8th	9:30am	Holy Mass
	11:00am	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 **Guide-lines for Use**.  
Clean the kitchen, close the windows, turn off the water heater, etc.

**Readings at Sunday Mass**

(1/12/2024) **1st Reading:** Jeremiah 33:14-16 **2nd Reading:** c

**Gospel:** Luke 21:25-28,34-36

**Psalm Response:** *To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.*

(8/12/2024) **1st Reading:** Baruch 5:1-9 **2nd Reading:** Philippians 1:4-6,8-11

**Gospel:** Luke 3:1-6