



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)

Parish Community Line: 022 3144642

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SEVENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME - 23rd FEBRUARY 2025

In this Sunday's Gospel (Luke 6:27-38), Jesus challenges us with a radical call: *“Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.”* These words may seem difficult, even impossible, yet they reveal the heart of Christian discipleship—love without limits.

This Gospel is at the core of what Divine Renovation encourages us to embrace: a Parish that is outward-looking, merciful, and mission-driven. A vibrant Parish is not just about programs or Sunday attendance; it is about transformation—allowing Christ's mercy to shape our lives so that we reflect His love in our families, workplaces, and communities.

Jesus calls us to go beyond what is comfortable. He asks us not just to forgive but to bless those who hurt us. He asks us to give generously, expecting nothing in return. This is the love that renews hearts and Parishes. When we choose mercy over resentment and generosity over selfishness, we become a witness to Our Lord Jesus Christ's presence in the world.

As we pray and reflect on this Gospel, let us also remember Pope Francis, who has continually urged the Church to be a “field hospital,” a place of healing and encounter. We pray for his speedy recovery, that he may continue to lead us with wisdom and strength.

Prayer for Pope Francis

Loving God, we lift up our Holy Father, Pope Francis. Bring him healing and strength. May he continue to guide Your Church with wisdom, courage, and compassion. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

May our Parish be a place where love overcomes division, mercy triumphs over judgment, and generosity knows no bounds. Let us go forth and live this Gospel of Mercy!

Blessings for the week!

Father Bruce

MEALS ON WHEELS We are rostered to do the week of 3rd March to 7th March , If you can help please contact Yoka on 022 502 2645 or dekkernz@gmail.com



TRANSPORT Bill Swann needs a ride to church for the Mass on Saturdays from 7 Lancaster Street. Phone 367 2061 or 027 48000 20. Thank you.

CWL Levin are hosting the Archdiocese. AGM/Conference in the Parish Centre, Wednesday 12th March. Morning tea from 9.30, meeting starting at 10.30. Any ladies of the Parish wishing to attend please contact the secretary Janette Dorward 027 465 2517 or email seccwellevin@gmail.com. Registration \$25 by 26th February.

CONFIDENTIAL PRAYER INTENTIONS

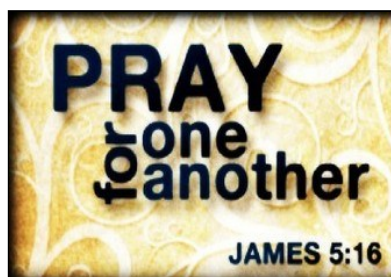
- Prayer Intentions are collected twice a week
- They are given to the Prayer Chain in complete privacy.
- You can use the language with which they feel comfortable because we have people in the Prayer Chain able to translate
- The Prayer Intentions will then be destroyed.



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



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.

St VINCENT de PAUL CORNER

Your gifts of funds and food continue to help significantly with the large number of people that we are assisting. Demand for food assistance continues as does the increase in household items to new migrants, women with children starting afresh etc. Our support to young mothers with babies and young children also grew considerably during the year with the Vinnies "Baby Assist" programme. Our work with Refugees arriving in Levin has now reached just over fifty new families with more planned during the this year. Your support is greatly appreciated and is witness to the living of Gospel values. Many blessings to you all.

SVdP Levin Bank Account for donations: 11 6932 0308328 11



BABY ASSIST

Bernie 021 406 427
John 027 626 4792
Kilian 022 695 0056
Bridget 021 482 178

Brigette Norden, a young parishioner at St Joseph's, has agreed to take over the role of co-ordinating the Baby Assist program. Thank you, Brigette. For the next few weeks, the two of us will be working together. Please consider donating some summer weight clothes, so that we can respond to requests with appropriate clothing. Thank you.

POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTION FOR FEBRUARY 2025

Let us pray that the ecclesial community might welcome the desires and doubts of those young people who feel a call to serve Christ's mission in the priesthood and religious life.

FROM THE FAITH FORMATION COMMITTEE

The Pleroma stall has copies of the 2025 Bible Diary. Please consider purchasing a diary – they have readings for each day of the year; information about Saints' days; a short commentary and prayer for each day, as well as a guide to reading through the Bible. They are a wonderful and easy way to follow the scriptures on a daily basis, short commentary; saint of the day and a daily prayer. And, very importantly, they are a very reasonable price - \$20. Highly recommended.

LENTEN PROMISES There is a basket at the back of the church to receive last year's blessed palms. These will be burned in a ceremony at the school on Tuesday March 4 at 10:30am. They will then become this year's ashes. All parishioners are invited to bring their Lenten Promises to be burned with the palms. If unable to attend, your Lenten Promises may be left at the School Office in advance.



LOVE YOUR ENEMIES

Jesus teaches us to love our enemies, do good to those who hate us, bless those who curse us, and pray for those who mistreat us. This radical call to love goes beyond the natural human inclination to seek revenge or harbour resentment.

These words challenge us to move beyond our natural inclinations and embrace a love that knows no bounds. This is not a call to passivity or weakness, but a call to active, courageous love that can transform hearts and communities.

Jesus continues by instructing us to turn the other cheek and give freely to those in need. He emphasises the Golden Rule: "Do to others as you would have them do to you." This principle of reciprocity encourages us to break the cycle of retribution and violence, fostering a culture of kindness and respect. In a world where revenge and retaliation often prevail, Jesus' teachings offer a path to true peace and reconciliation.

Furthermore, Jesus speaks of forgiveness and generosity. "Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you." These words remind us that our actions have consequences, and that our generosity will be rewarded by God. By extending grace to others, we mirror the abundant grace that God has lavished upon us.

Living out these teachings is no easy task. It requires us to let go of our pride, our desire for revenge, and our need for recognition. It calls us to love unconditionally, even when it is difficult or painful. But in doing so, we become true disciples of Christ, embodying His love and bringing His kingdom to earth. May we strive to live out these radical teachings, knowing that in doing so, we reflect the very heart of God.

C Geppetto



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

Ramon and Avilia Tinga

Suzanne Aubert says...

We give way to impatience for the least thing, a fly which bites us finds death, a worm will be crushed – where should we be if God treated us in like manner?

Reflection:

Patience is a virtue which does not adorn the multitudes. It is acquired only with lots of practice and testing.

Suzanne Aubert insisted on her Sisters being patient with those whom they served. In her letter to the novices, she raised the hypothetical question: *So and So is teasing me all day. It plays on my nerves.* Her practical, down-to-earth response was: *Well, patience is an excellent tonic for the nerves. Try it.* And God is patient with me.



Prayer:

Lord, teach me to treat others with the forbearance with which you treat me.

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

Monday, 24th Feb	9:30am	Liturgy of the Word with Communion
Tuesday, 25th	9:30pm	Holy Mass
	12:00pm	Tuesday Social Group, Shared Lunch
Wednesday, 26th	9:30am	Holy Mass
	10:00am	Rosary in the Chapel
Thursday, 27th	9:30am	Holy Mass, St Gregory of Narek
	7:00pm	Christian Meditation in the Side Chapel
Friday, 28th	11:10am	Exposition
	12:10pm	Holy Mass, Reconciliation
Saturday, 1st March	5:30pm	Vigil Mass
Sunday, 2nd	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

(23/2/2025) **1st Reading:** 1 Samuel 26:2,7-9,11-13,22-23 **2nd Reading:** 1 Corinthians 15:45-49
Gospel: Luke 6:27-38

Psalm Response: *The Lord is kind and merciful.*

(2/3/2025) **1st Reading:** Ecclesiasticus 27:5-8 **2nd Reading:** 1 Corinthians 15:54-58
Gospel: Luke 6:39-45