



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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Office — office@stjosephlevin.com.

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT - 9th MARCH 2025

Dear Friends

As we begin the season of Lent, the Gospel for the First Sunday (Luke 4:1-13) invites us to walk with Jesus into the desert. For forty days, He fasted, prayed, and faced temptation from the devil. Though physically weakened, He remained spiritually strong, resisting every temptation by relying on the Word of God. His response teaches us that our true strength comes not from earthly comforts but from our trust in God our Father. Lent mirrors Jesus' time in the wilderness. It is a sacred season of conversion, a time to reflect, repent, and prepare our hearts for the joy of Easter. The Church calls us to embrace the three great Lenten disciplines: **prayer**, **fasting**, and **almsgiving** (sharing).

- ◆ **Prayer** is our lifeline to God. This Lent, consider deepening your prayer life by attending weekday Mass, praying the Rosary, the Jubilee Prayer, spending time in Eucharistic Adoration on a Friday morning before Holy Mass, or reflecting on the Stations of the Cross. Making a good intention to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and continuing to pray for Pope Francis and for his health and wellbeing. Even a few moments of silent prayer each day can transform our hearts.
- ◆ **Fasting** is more than just giving up food; it is about self-discipline and making space for God. We can fast from habits that distract us - like excessive screen time or gossip - and replace them with acts of love and kindness.
- ◆ **Almsgiving** calls us to share with those in need. For example, donating to the Caritas Lenten appeal, supporting the local food bank, or simply offering a kind word to someone struggling, our generosity reflects God's love.

As we journey through these forty days, let us embrace this season of grace. By strengthening our faith through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, we prepare our hearts to rejoice in the victory of Jesus Christ at Easter.

A Happy Lent

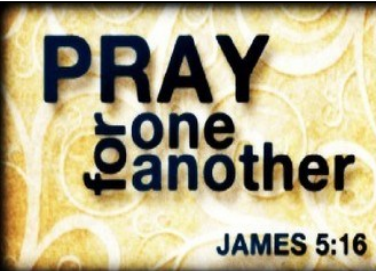
Father Bruce

SUNSHINE ROCKERS PASSIONIST FAMILY GROUP - Meet at Kimberley Reserve for picnic lunch on Sunday, March 16 at 12 noon. BYO food, drink and something to sit on. All are welcome. Call Leonie Strawbridge at 021 143 8043 for more information.

CWL LOTTO BONUS NUMBER RESULTS
»Week 1 19th February. Winner: Mark D. Consolations Barbara B and Susan L.
»Week 2 26th February. Winner: Barbara B. Consolations Mark D and Ross H.Thanks

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.

TRAILER FOR SALE Tidy, clean car trailer for sale. Please contact Father Bruce.



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.

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?

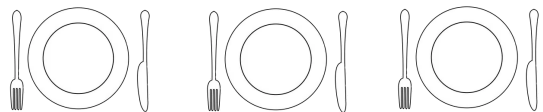
Or do you know anyone who is?
You are still welcome to receive Communion in your own home. You can also enjoy a visit from the ministers, Just phone the

PARISH COMMUNITY LINE: 022 314 4642



TUESDAY SOCIAL CLUB

At 12pm in the Parish Centre for a happy gathering and a shared lunch.



St VINCENT de PAUL CORNER

We are asking for your prayerful support as we consider the challenge of responding to the many calls for help whilst facing dwindling resources in the numbers of people we have committed to this ministry. We are thankful to the few who responded to our presentation at Mass a couple of weeks ago but would dearly love to see some more come forward. You can choose the activity and join us either as a member or a volunteer. Food delivery is the focus right now, which is a rostered activity ideally a weekly turn once every two months. Give one of us call to learn more and we will meet you for a cuppa and a chat.

SVdP Levin Bank Account for donations: 11 6932 0308328 11



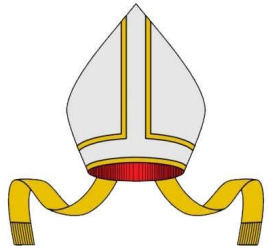
Bernie 021 406 427
John 027 626 4792
Kilian 022 695 0056
Bridget 021 482 178

BABY ASSIST

Thank you for all your donations. We are still in need of summer - type clothing. There is still a large amount of wool available for knitters at the Vinnies Centre - please call in at the shop and ask to pick up your choice of wool.

POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTION FOR MARCH 2025

For families in crisis Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each other's gifts, even in their differences.



PRAYER FOR THE HEALTH OF POPE FRANCIS

O God, shepherd and ruler of all the faithful,
look favorably on your servant Francis,
whom you have set at the head of your Church as her shepherd;
grant, we pray, that by word and example
he may be of service to those over whom he presides
so that, together with the flock entrusted to his care,
he may come to everlasting life.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever. Amen.

SECOND RITE OF RECONCILIATION

Our Lenten Rite of Reconciliation will take place on Friday March 21 at 7pm. There will be a number of priests in attendance. Everyone is welcome. If you need transport please call our Parish Community Line on 022 3144 642.

THE CHOSEN: SEASON 1

This lent Season 1 of The Chosen will be shown in our Parish Centre. This is a beautiful opportunity to learn more of Christ's Mission while He was here on Earth and how "He called us each by name". Season 1 focuses on Him choosing his disciples and starting His ministry. We will screen two episodes each week for a total of four weeks. Though not required, there will be opportunity for discussion following as it will surely spark some insights! Our first two episodes will run on Monday 17 March from 6pm in the Parish Centre. Any questions please contact Nicole on 027 340 0340.

TRIP TO JERUSALEM

Catholic Women's League, arranged a trip to Jerusalem in Wanganui. Members from other Wellington branches joined us in Levin where the pilgrimage started. We stopped briefly in Levin before beginning the one and half hour drive along the narrow winding road to Jerusalem. The tiny Catholic settlement founded by Suzanne Aubert is an oasis of peace and serenity. We came away refreshed and grateful for the visit, hoping to return.



THINKING OUTSIDE THE BOX - PREPARING FOR END OF LIFE.

Advance care plans, enduring power of attorney, funeral planning, coping with grief. Thursday 27 March, 10-11:30am at Mezzanine Room, Levin Library. A koha will be appreciated. RSVP and enquiries : Eileen: 027 4698 113, eileen@gordon.kiwi or Vic: 021 311 686, vjgregory@gmail.com.



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

Fr Paul O'Connor Vicente Verano

Suzanne Aubert says...

Were we guilty of all the sins of all men, we should hope in God; his mercy surpasses all our iniquities when we repent of them.

Reflection:

When I read the news, I am constantly reminded of the necessity for justice in dealing with crime and criminals. We humans insist that evildoers must be punished according to the severity of what they have done. The punishment must match the crime.

I am lucky God does not treat me that way. No matter how greatly I offend him, he is always prepared to grant me home detention and wait for me to change my attitudes and my conduct. There is no crime so great on my part that God is not ready to forgive me. Do I really believe that?



Prayer:

Lord, help me truly believe in your desire to forgive me.

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

Monday, 10th March	9:30am	Liturgy of the Word with Communion
Tuesday, 11th	9:30pm	Holy Mass
	12:00pm	Tuesday Social Group
Wednesday, 12th	9:30am	Holy Mass
	10:00am	Rosary in the Chapel
Thursday, 13th	9:30am	Holy Mass
	7:00pm	Christian Meditation in the Side Chapel
Friday, 14th	11:10am	Exposition
	12:10pm	Holy Mass, Reconciliation
Saturday, 15th	5:30pm	Vigil Mass
Sunday, 16th	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

(9/3/2025) **1st Reading:** Deuteronomy 26:4-10 **2nd Reading:** Romans 10:8-13
Gospel: Luke 4:1-13

Psalm Response: *Be with me, Lord, when I am in trouble.*

(16/3/2025) **1st Reading:** Genesis 15:5-12,17-18 **2nd Reading:** Philippians 3:17-4:1
Gospel: Luke 9:28-36