



LEVIN-TAITOKO

“A COMMUNITY RADIATING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST”

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC PARISH

56 Weraroa Road, Levin

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THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - 15th DECEMBER 2024

Dear Friends

The Third Sunday of Advent, known as Gaudete Sunday, is a time to rejoice as we draw nearer to the celebration of Christ's birth. In today's Gospel from St Luke, we see John the Baptist continuing his call to prepare the way for the Lord. When people ask him, "What should we do?" he gives simple, practical guidance: share with those in need, practice fairness, and treat others with integrity. John's message is clear—our preparation for Jesus must show in our daily lives and how we treat others.

This weekend, we're reminded that true joy comes from a life lived in harmony with God's will. John's words encourage us to move beyond good intentions and make real changes, however small, to reflect God's love in our actions. This call to intentional discipleship is a core value of Divine Renovation, which invites us to live actively as Christians and build a Parish community focused on mission and service.



Divine Renovation emphasizes transforming Parishes from maintenance to mission. As we approach Christmas, let's consider how we can live this out. Could we volunteer to help with a Parish event, reach out to a neighbour in need, or deepen our own prayer life? These actions, small as they may seem, create a ripple effect of joy and faith within our Parish and beyond.

This Advent, let's embrace John's call to "do what we can" to prepare for Jesus Christ. As we light the pink candle on our wreath, symbolizing joy, may we reflect that joy in our words, actions, and attitudes. Through a spirit of generosity, fairness, and love, we can truly "prepare the way of the Lord" and make our Parish a beacon of hope and welcome radiating for all who seek Jesus.

Advent Blessings

Fr Bruce

SUNSHINE ROCKERS PASSIONIST FAMILY GROUP Sunday 15 December at Levin Community Hall at 4pm for Avenue of Trees Display (\$2 Donation) followed by Cinema Snacks at Focal Point. All Welcome Contact Leonie and Tony Strawbridge, telephone 06 222 5030 or email tonyleonie@gmail.com.



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**

YOUR CAR WILL BE TOWED by the council if you park in an illegal place outside the church or on a footpath or over a driveway or on the yellow lines. You need to arrive a bit early so you aren't in a hurry. There are lots of spaces in the school grounds, why not park there?

TUESDAY SOCIAL CLUB At 12pm in the Parish Centre for the



CHRISTMAS PARTY

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.

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/gender on your tag. Attach one tag to your wrapped gift and the other tag to the tree. Thank you for your generosity



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

Taking food to the doors of those needing help has become an almost daily task so far this year as the impact of the financial situation and the low socio-economic level of our hometown bites deeper with no signs yet of a let up. The gravity of this situation is partly alleviated by the sheer joy and thankfulness of the recipients as Vinnies and those who support us keep up taking the hand of Christ to those suffering hardship. The support we receive is an essential part of this ministry and could not be done without it. We pray blessings on you all. If you feel inspired to join the Vinnies team helping others, then give us a call – anytime.

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

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 021482178. 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.

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Gaudete Sunday we are to rejoice and be glad. In all things we should give thanks. You think you are the poorest person on earth you are not. Just put your trust in God. So the Advent Candle changes from purple to Rose pink. It is a time for Joy within the penitence period.

Happiness and joy are often used interchangeably, but they are fundamentally different in their depth and source. Understanding this difference can profoundly impact our spiritual journey and our approach to life's ups and downs.

Happiness is typically a fleeting and momentary emotion. It arises from external circumstances and is dependent on our environment and experiences. When things are going well - when we receive good news, achieve a goal, or enjoy a pleasurable experience - we feel happy. But because happiness is tied to external factors, it can be inconsistent and temporary. It ebbs and flows with the events of our lives, sometimes leaving us



feeling empty when those events change or pass.

Joy, on the other hand, is a deeper, more abiding state of being. It is not dependent on external circumstances but is rooted in our relationship with God and our understanding of His presence in our lives. Joy comes from knowing that we are loved and cared for by our Creator, regardless of our circumstances. It is a fruit of the Spirit, as described in Galatians 5:22, and is a gift that sustains us through both good times and challenging times.

In the Bible, joy is often associated with the presence of God. In Psalm 16:11, we read, "You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore." This joy is not fleeting but is a constant and sustaining force in our lives. It is a joy that comes from knowing we are part of something greater than ourselves, that we are loved unconditionally, and that we have a

Suzanne Aubert says...

Three labourers do more than ten when God puts His Hand to the plough, and He always puts it when He deprives us of human means, and places us under the necessity of doing things above our strength.

Reflection:

Have you ever felt that you have been dropped in at the deep end of the pool and don't know how to swim? There is a horrible sensation of helplessness and the fear of drowning.

It's a bit like that when God asks me to do something I feel unprepared or unfit for. That sinking feeling is not pleasant. But, unlike earthly employers, God does not ask me to do something he is not prepared to give me the strength to fulfil. Do I believe this? Really?



Prayer:

Lord, may I never attempt to plough the field on my own.

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

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| Monday, 16th Dec | 9:30am | Liturgy of the Word with Communion |
| Tuesday, 17th | 11:00am | Holy Mass |
| | 12:00pm | Tuesday Social Group |
| Wednesday, 18th | 9:30am | Holy Mass |
| | 10:00am | Rosary in the Chapel |
| Thursday, 19th | 9:30am | Holy Mass |
| | 7:00pm | Christian Meditation in the Side Chapel |
| Friday, 20th | 11:10am | Exposition |
| | 12:10pm | Holy Mass, Reconciliation |
| Saturday, 21st | 5:30pm | Vigil Mass, St Peter Canisius |
| Sunday, 22nd | 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 **Guidelines for Use**. Clean the kitchen, close the windows, turn off the water heater, etc.

Readings at Sunday Mass

(15/12/2024) **1st Reading:** Zephaniah 3:14-18 **2nd Reading:** Philippians 4:4-7

Gospel: Luke 3:10-18

Psalm Response: *Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.*

(22/12/2024) **1st Reading:** Micah 5:1-4 **2nd Reading:** Hebrews 10:5-10

Gospel: Luke 1:39-45