



LEVIN-TAITOKO

“A COMMUNITY RADIATING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST”

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC PARISH

56 Weraroa Road, Levin

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32ND SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME YEAR B

Church Synodality: A Personal Reflection

What holds me back in being Christian is my prejudice; the prejudice of others whom I consider not to be in my norm, like their haircut, their dress, their politics, their sexuality, the way that they smell, the music they listen to, their tattoo, their culture, their circumstances.

But when I celebrate in the Holy Mass, a magical thing happens to me. For in that moment of time I am free from that prejudice and find myself in a state of grace and in total union with my fellow brothers and sisters I congregate with, In that communion the Holy Spirit instills into my soul that all people have the same right to sit at the table of the Lord, as I do. I receive the understanding that in Christ Jesus, we all are equal and there is no more distinction between people.

The Holy Mass is one of the many unique treasures of faith we have within Catholicism and I firmly believe that it is one that should always be respected, be central and retained. The prime mission of the church going forward for me is the same prime mission it had at its conception, it is salvation, bringing souls to God, and in whatever millennium humanity finds itself in, that prime mission of salvation will always be the same. But what has happened over time is that the dynamics of the world and the way we live in the modern world has evolved enormously, so to the dynamics in the way the modern church must manifest itself to humanity in culture and structure must also evolve. Central to that is the conversion of the heart, to give dignity to all people, show true love and acceptance and respect for all individuals, lose our prejudice and acknowledge that all people are unique creations with their own unique personalities and circumstances, and so they have their own unique relationship with God.

The church should therefore be there to nurture, to guide, to listen and to be a servant to all people on that journey we are all walking on together towards the Holy Kingdom of God.

Harry Bennik

TIME AND TALENT FORMS need to be returned as soon as you can so that the Liturgy Committee can start organising and planning for next year's rosters for different ministries. If you have not filled one in, please do so. We need you to be actively involved in the Church.

Saturday Vigil Mass
Sunday Morning Mass
Weekday Masses

Liturgy of the word with Communion
Adoration
Reconciliation

5:30 pm
9:15 am
9.30 am Tuesday to Thursday
12:10 pm Friday
9.30 am Monday
11:10 am Friday
Friday after Mass

PARISH NOTICES

MEMORIAL MASS FOR THE RECENT DEATHS in the parish on 11th November at 7pm. No morning Mass on that day.

MISSING KEY – for some weeks now one of the keys for the Parish Centre has been missing. Please return it ASAP to the lockbox or to Kerry. To all those who hold keys for the lockbox, please do not lend your key.

MALE AND FEMALE HELPERS NEEDED. Please could you give us 3 hours a month to serve Levin people in the **Opportunity Shop**, opposite the Council Building on the Main Highway? It is manned by volunteers from Catholic, Baptist, Anglican and Uniting Churches. Ring Tony Strawbridge 222 5030 (home) or 022 3001423 (mobile) for more information.

CHURCH CLEANING - New church cleaning rosters are now available. If you haven't already received your roster by email, please collect from the church foyer. Any questions please contact Leonie Strawbridge 222 5030.

80TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION is cancelled due to the covid restrictions. Thanks to all those who planned to celebrate with us.

MANNA PASSIONIST FAMILY GROUP will meet this Sunday, 12 noon at Kathryn and Dennis Mark's house 64 Muhunoa West Road, Ohau ,

MEALS ON WHEELS deliveries 15th-19th November. contact Kerry 027 358 6108

DISPOSE MASKS OFF PROPERLY

ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL CORNER

Facebook page: www.facebook.com/stjoeslevin.school.nz

Website: www.stjoeslevin.school.nz

BRAIN TEASER Can you name the 7 Laudato Si goals? When were they launched and how long we have got to achieve them?

Answer: The cry of the earth; the cry of the poor; ecological economics; simple lifestyles; ecological education; community engagement and participatory action. Launched 4/10/21 (Feast of St Francis of Assisi) for 7 years.

PARISH FINANCE

The parish finances have been adversely affected by the lack of Masses. Thanks to those who are enrolled in automatic payments and envelopes there has been a good amount coming in. The bills do not stop during lockdown. Hence, we are to spend money for it. I invite everyone to please consider moving to automatic payment if you haven't yet. It is a great help for the parish to be able to finance the different activities of the Parish and Archdiocese.

PARISH BANK ACCOUNT: St. Joseph Catholic Parish (BNZ) 02 0668 0115553 000.

PARISH REGISTRATION and AUTOMATIC PAYMENT FORMS available in the foyer and at the website: www.sjosephlevin.com.

Online Masses

Bishop Steve Lowe (Hamilton) is saying Mass everyday at 9am at <https://www.cdh.org.nz/livestream>

TV Mass at Shine TV Channel at 2pm.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL CORNER

Quoting Pope Francis: "The heart of Christianity is God's love for all peoples and our love for our neighbours, especially those in need." Reaching out to those in need remains a significant challenge – to be easily seen and found, available, welcoming, and able to assist. Meeting the challenge needs a different level of visibility for those needing our help. Saint Vincent de Paul Kapi Mana and particularly the Conferences located in Levin, Otaki and Kapiti are moving to meet this challenge head on. In the coming weeks we will share with you some important news of an extended outreach to our community. You are welcome to join us anytime to share in this ministry.

(SVdP Levin Bank A/c for direct donations: 11 6932 0308328 11)

SYNOD ON SYNODALITY

HOW TO RESPOND



There are various ways to participate in the Synod.

- **SMALL GROUPS IN THE PARISH.** You may like to meet in groups with which you are already involved. Leaders of the groups have already been contacted to involve you in the process and arrange a time to meet. Assistance for facilitators will be provided.
- **WHOLE OF PARISH.** There will be small group sharing sessions for the wider community on Wednesday 17th November at 7pm in the school hall Durham Street. Please be messengers and reach out to people you know who may like to come and share their thoughts on church affairs and possible reforms. This invitation is not just for church goers and Catholics alone, its open to any person to have their say. If you would like more information contact the parish office.
- **ONLINE:** Visit www.wn.catholic.org.nz/about/archdiocesan-synod and follow the link to the questions. Alternatively you can access the link through the news item on the Archdiocesan homepage: "Take part in the Synod".
- **E-MAIL:** Download the Word document "Synod participation response" from the Archdiocesan website. To do this go to www.wn.catholic.org.nz/about/archdiocesan-synod/. Parish Offices are also able to provide the Word document. Email your response in Word format to synod@wn.catholic.org.nz.
- **POSTAL RESPONSE:** handwrite or type your response to the questions and post it to: Office of the Archbishop, Archdiocese of Wellington. PO Box 1937, Wellington 6140.
- **VERBAL RESPONSE:** if there are reasons why you find it difficult to make a written response you are welcome to ring us to see if it is possible to provide a verbal response. Call 04 496 1715.

THE THEMES OF THE SYNOD ON SYNODALITY

Your response can cover all the themes, just one theme or a selection of them. The questions accompanying each of the themes can be used as a starting point or helpful guideline. Your response to the theme should not be limited by the questions.

1. COMPANIONS ON THE JOURNEY

In the Church and in society we are side by side on the same road. In our local Church, who are those who “walk together”? Who are those who seem further apart? How are we called to grow as companions? What groups or individuals are left on the margins?

2. LISTENING

Listening is the first step, but it requires an open mind and heart, without prejudice. How is God speaking to us through voices we sometimes ignore? How are the laity listened to, especially women and young people? What facilitates or inhibits our listening? How well do we listen to those on the peripheries? How is the contribution of consecrated men and women integrated? What are some limitations in our ability to listen, especially to those who have different views than our own? What space is there for the voice of minorities, especially people who experience poverty, marginalization, or social exclusion?

3. SPEAKING OUT

All are invited to speak with courage and parrhesia, that is, in freedom, truth, and charity. What enables or hinders speaking up courageously, candidly, and responsibly in our local Church and in society? When and how do we manage to say what is important to us? How does the relationship with the local media work (not only Catholic media)? Who speaks on behalf of the Christian community, and how are they chosen?

4. CELEBRATION

“Walking together” is only possible if it is based on communal listening to the Word and the celebration of the Eucharist. How do prayer and liturgical celebrations actually inspire and guide our common life and mission in our community? How do they inspire the most important decisions? How do we promote the active participation of all the faithful in the liturgy? What space is given to participating in the ministries of lector and acolyte?

5. SHARING RESPONSIBILITY FOR OUR COMMON MISSION

Synodality is at the service of the mission of the Church, in which all members are called to participate. Since we are all missionary disciples, how is every baptised person called to participate in the mission of the Church? What hinders the baptised from being active in mission? What areas of mission are we neglecting? How does the community support its members who serve society in various ways (social and political involvement, scientific research, education, promoting social justice, protecting human rights, caring for the environment, etc.)? How does the Church help these members to live out their service to society in a missionary way? How is discernment about missionary choices made and by whom?

6. DIALOGUE IN CHURCH AND SOCIETY



Dialogue requires perseverance and patience, but it also enables mutual understanding. To what extent do diverse peoples in our community come together for dialogue? What are the places and means of dialogue within our local Church? How do we promote collaboration with neighbouring dioceses, religious communities in the area, lay associations and movements, etc.? How are divergences of vision, or conflicts and difficulties addressed? What particular issues in the Church and society do we need to pay more attention to? What experiences of dialogue and collaboration do we have with believers of other religions and with those who have no religious affiliation? How does the Church dialogue with and learn from other sectors of society: the spheres of politics, economics, culture, civil society, and people who live in poverty?



7. ECUMENISM

The dialogue between Christians of different confessions, united by one baptism, has a special place in the synodal journey. What relationships does our Church community have with members of other Christian traditions and denominations? What do we share and how do we journey together? What fruits have we drawn from walking together? What are the difficulties? How can we take the next step in walking forward with each other?

8. AUTHORITY AND PARTICIPATION

A synodal church is a participatory and co-responsible Church. How does our Church community identify the goals to be pursued, the way to reach them, and the steps to be taken? How is authority or governance exercised within our local Church? How are teamwork and co-responsibility put into practice? How are evaluations conducted and by whom? How are lay ministries and the responsibility of lay people promoted? Have we had fruitful experiences of synodality on a local level? How do synodal bodies function at the level of the local Church (Pastoral Councils in parishes and dioceses, Presbyteral Council, etc.)? How can we foster a more synodal approach in our participation and leadership?

9. DISCERNING AND DECIDING

In a synodal style we make decisions through discernment of what the Holy Spirit is saying through our whole community. What methods and processes do we use in decision-making? How can they be improved? How do we promote participation in decision-making within hierarchical structures? Do our decision-making methods help us to listen to the whole People of God? What is the relationship between consultation and decision-making, and how do we put these into practice? What tools and procedures do we use to promote transparency and accountability? How can we grow in communal spiritual discernment?

10. FORMING OURSELVES IN SYNODALITY

Synodality entails receptivity to change, formation, and on-going learning. How does our church community form people to be more capable of “walking together,” listening to one another, participating in mission, and engaging in dialogue? What formation is offered to foster discernment and the exercise of authority in a synodal way?

CHALLENGE FOR US:

Pope Francis has asked us to include those even who feel rejected, hurt, and left by the Church, those who left the Church, those who still claimed to be Catholics but have not been to Church, those who parted ways and joined another Church. Who are they? It might be your spouse, your son, your daughter, your grandson, granddaughter, your parents, your grandparents, your aunties and uncles, your cousins, or your friends. Engage with them and seek their insights about the Church with openness of heart. Write them down and send them to us. Their inputs are welcome in this synod. No one should feel excluded and everyone who wants to contribute are welcome.

Would you be willing to go for an extra mile for them?



... a synodal Church is a Church “going forth,” a missionary Church “whose doors are open” ...

(PD 15)

The Hope That Shatters the Boundary of Death

Death is an inescapable reality for all creatures. For us human beings it is a tremendous mystery that confronts us all without exception. Both the rich and the poor; the powerful and the weak; the oppressors and the oppressed; the bad and the good . . . will inevitably reach that finish line whose time, place and circumstances are known to God alone.



We Christians believe that not everything ends with death. The spiritual component of man, his immortal soul, lives on. While death does conclude the earthly phase of human life, it is also a “passage,” a transformation of the human situation into something absolutely “new,” though closely dependent on the way we fared in the days of our earthly life, especially the final moments.

The new form of existence which all the souls enter is not the same for all. A judgment determines it – the conclusion of a very personal encounter between God and the soul of every individual, in an atmosphere of absolute truth and justice. A judgment which will be made known to all only at the final judgment.

All this is part of the “mystery of death.” But our present ignorance of the destiny of the departed should not paralyze or frighten us, for we know that God is not only just, but also merciful and does not reject any of those who approach Him with humble trust (see *Jn 6:37*).

But this is not all. Our Catholic faith tells us that a vital link, the “Communion of Saints,” still binds together those who are still living on earth with those who have crossed the border of death.

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With our prayers, sacrifices, offerings and words of charity we may be of help to those who have preceded us in the “afterdeath.” The prayers offered today can help save a person who died thousands of years ago, for with God every moment, no matter how remote in time for us, is still “now.” All this is not a “pious invention” propagated to console people who feel so much the loss of their dear ones. It is a consoling truth which the Church, instructed by the Spirit, teaches us all in order that our view of death may be filled with hope and love.

We are filled with hope that no one should ever despair of the eternal salvation of anyone, not even of those who may have died without the sacraments and apparently unrepentant of their sins. In the top-secret encounter behind close doors between God and each soul, everybody else is shut out, but not the intercessory power of Jesus Christ and all his “friends” . . .

Such a God-given hope spurs us to perform those “works of love” like prayer, the offering of personal sacrifices and especially the holy Sacrifice of the Eucharist in behalf of the deceased. This is all that we can do – but it is really a lot! – for all our brothers and sisters who have passed away from this life.

Our presence in the cemeteries, especially on All Souls’ Day, our prayers, our lighting of candles and bringing of flowers are meant to say just this: “We believe that our dead are alive in God, and we intend to show our hope and love for them through these works of piety which become precious through Jesus Christ our Lord.” He it was who – through his death and resurrection – made death not only “bearable,” but actually transformed it into a “Passover,” an entrance into everlasting life.

JOIN US! A CAREER WITH A MISSION

Saint Gianna's Home for Mothers and Babies, a programme of Family Life International NZ, is seeking a mature married couple, or single woman, to live in at our beautiful and well appointed home in Pukekohe - to provide acceptance, love and care for pregnant mothers in need, and for their babies and perhaps toddlers, in a faith based setting.

To learn more and to obtain a Position Description, and Terms of Employment, please email: Dame Colleen Bayer DSG col.fli@xtra.co.nz or Mrs Clare McClean clare@fli.org.nz (Coordinator - Gianna's Choice Pregnancy Options and Support).



In this month of November, please pray for all the souls departed, those who are dear to our hearts, those who belong to our parish family, those whom we have not reconciled with before their death, and those who have nobody to remember them in prayer.

HEARTS AFLAME

is a national Catholic event for young adults that has been running for 30 years. At Hearts, people are drawn into a deeper relationship with Christ through the Sacraments, formation, and community. Many participants describe it as life-changing. The Planning Team invites parishioners to support the anniversary. If you would like to make a donation, please visit the website at www.heartsaflame.org.nz/donate/. Above all, prayer is always appreciated!

CALLED TO SERVE - COULD GOD BE CALLING YOU?

Visit wellingtonpriests.org to watch some of our priests and seminarians speak about their vocation to the priesthood. Has anybody ever said to you that you would make a good priest? Have you thought about the idea, but tried to put it out of your mind? Do you think you might have a vocation? To find out more, visit our website or follow our Facebook page: Wellington Priests – Archdiocese of Wellington



Why do we... practise Confirmation?

Confirmation is one of the Sacraments of Christian Initiation and follows Baptism. It strengthens the bond of the recipient with the Church and the faith. While Baptism incorporates people into Christ, Confirmation gives the recipient further spiritual strength and grace to live more fully the Christian life. Distinct ritually from Baptism, Confirmation is the complement to that Sacrament, perfecting it and orienting the confirmed towards the Eucharist.

The anointing of Confirmation consecrates the person in two ways: a) priestly, bringing the person more deeply into Eucharistic worship; b) prophetic, fortifying the Christian to bear witness before the world to Christ, his or her Saviour and the founder of the Church. Ordinarily, the Sacrament is administered by the bishop, but under special circumstances parish priests can be authorized to do so. It is also customary in many places for the recipient to take a saint's name as a spiritual reinforcement, as it were. This is a sign that the person is entering upon a new way of life and is ready to bear closer witness to Christ.

W E E K L Y S C H E D U L E		
Monday, 8th Nov	9.30am	Liturgy of the Word with Communion
Tuesday, 9th	9.30am	Holy Mass, The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica
	1pm	Tuesday Social Group when in Level 1
	6pm	Divine Mercy, Samoan Group at the side Chapel
Wednesday, 10th	9.30am	Holy Mass, St Leo the Great
Thursday, 11th	9.30am	Holy Mass, St Martin of Tours
	5pm	Meditation in the Christian Tradition at the Chapel
	7pm	Mass for the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed
Friday, 12th	11.10am	Exposition,
	12.10pm	Holy Mass, St Josephat
	5.30pm	Reading practice
	10am	Baptism
Saturday, 13th	5:30pm	Vigil Mass
Sunday, 14th	9:15am	Morning Mass

Please book the venues of your events/activities at the foyer of the Church. Those who have booked will have the priority to use the venue.

Readings at Sunday Mass

(7/11/2021) **1st Reading:** 1 Kings 17:10-16; **2nd Reading:** Hebrews 9:24-28;
Gospel: Mark 12:38-44

Responsorial Psalm: "Praise the Lord, my soul."

(14/11/2021) **1st Reading:** Daniel 12:1-3; **2nd Reading:** Hebrews 10:11-14, 18;
Gospel: Mark 13:24-32



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