



LEVIN-TAITOKO

“A COMMUNITY RADIATING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST”

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC PARISH

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33RD SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME YEAR B

The synod.

Time is moving along very quickly and the Parish Meeting on Wednesday November 17 at 7.00pm is almost upon us. I know, that for many people, this whole process probably still feels a bit strange; outside our comfort zone; something new that we have to deal with; and all this while we are still worried about Covid and how that will continue to affect us, including in our parish life.

I do not want to put words into people's minds nor influence the way you will think about this, but I thought it might be useful to let you know the sort of things that have come to my mind in preparing to participate. Most of you will know that I am a convert, so I have chosen to belong to the Catholic Church, rather than having been brought up in that faith. That probably changes my relationship a little, in that I feel a particular attachment to the Church, where I have been very happy. I have never regretted my decision and so I may fall into the trap of finding it difficult to look at what needs to change in the Church. In doing so, I would be doubting my decision to be received into the Church, and that would be intolerable for me. However, my professional training and my study of Scripture and Church History helps me to try and see the way things have unfolded and where the Church has strayed from the Gospel message.

On the one hand, the last few years have been difficult to be Catholic – the scandals in the Church; the increasing secularization of society; the campaigns to liberalize abortion and euthanasia, which have resulted in difficult conversations and tested our faith; the walking away of our family members from the church. All these things have caused us sorrow and hurt.

On the other hand, there has been the joy of the election of Pope Francis. My well-known admiration of him revolves around his willingness to acknowledge these pressures; to help us deal with these difficulties and his ability to always take us back to the Gospel values and the knowledge that we have a tender, ever-loving and forgiving God.

So, my attitude to the request of the Synod is that it is time for me to give Turn to page 7

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

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.

PLEROMA SHOP will open from this weekend. Columban Calendars have arrived \$12 each. There will be no Christmas cards This year.

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

PLEASE DISPOSE OF MASKS PROPERLY

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.

BRAIN TEASER

14 November 2021

What is the Pope’s prayer intention for November?

Answer: For people who suffer from depression or burnout.

PARISH SYNOD MEETING

The Parish Meeting to help us contribute to the Synod will be held on Wednesday 17 November from 7.00-8.30 pm in St Joseph’s School Hall, Durham St.

There will be a general introduction to familiarize everyone with the process, and then we will work in small groups.

We would love to see as many people as possible there. If you are planning to also meet in your own individual groups, eg. Cultural groups, Passionist Family groups, special interest groups, etc. please also come to the November 17 meeting, as that may help you run your own groups later to develop your ideas. All welcome!!

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.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL CORNER

Request for Patchwork fabric – if anyone has any spare patchwork/quilting fabric (Cotton only) can you contact Bridget on 021482178 or bybridget@xtra.co.nz It will be made up into quilts for de Paul housing agency in Auckland, so that kids and teenagers will have a new quilt of their own to take with them when they are rehoused.

On this last Sunday in Ordinary time for 2021, and with Advent getting closer, we are drawn to reflect on the upcoming celebration of the birth of Christ and his example and message during his time on earth. This message was strongly heard by St Vincent de Paul and Frederic Ozanam resulting in their focus to live in personal contact with those who suffer following Christ’s teaching to love God and our neighbour. Introduced into New Zealand in 1868, today we continue the work and calling of these inspired founders. 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

THE PEOPLE OF GOD JOURNEYING TOGETHER

THE BIG QUESTION

HOW DO CATHOLICS 'JOURNEY TOGETHER'?

HOW MIGHT WE DO IT BETTER?

1. OUR JOURNEY TOGETHER

Jesus wants us to walk together, side by side.

- How do you feel we as Catholics are doing at walking side-by-side?
- Who do you feel is included / welcome on the church's local journey?
- Who is not included or welcomed?

2. OUR LISTENING

Listening is the first step - it requires an open mind and heart, without prejudice.

- How good are we Catholics at listening?
- Who do we need to listen to more? (Consider – men, women, young people, lay people, those on the margins of society, minority groups, the socially discarded and excluded.)
- What stops us from listening more carefully?

3. OUR SPEAKING UP

Everyone is invited to speak boldly and courageously in freedom, truth, and love.

- How good are we as Catholics at speaking out in public?
- How do we say what is important to us as Catholics?
- What helps or hinders our public visibility?

4. GATHERING

For Catholics, 'togetherness' is based on gathering to explore the Gospels (Word) and to break bread (Eucharist).

- Are our Catholic gatherings achieving their purpose for our people?
- How does our gathering for prayer (including Mass) meet people's needs?
- How do they fail to meet people's needs?

5. OUR MISSION

Walking together enables us all to accept our mission to share the Good News.

- Do we as Catholics take this mission seriously?
- How exactly do we as Church members spread the Good News of Jesus Christ?
- What stops us from being active in mission?

6. OUR CONVERSATION

Genuine conversation requires perseverance and patience but leads to understanding.

- As Catholics, how good are we at conversation – both listening and sharing?
- Good conversation (dialogue) leads to collaboration – how, and how well, do we collaborate as Catholics in our local community?
- In what ways could we dialogue and collaborate better with others in society
(e.g. in politics, economics, culture, civil society, and those who are poor or disadvantaged?)

7. WITH OTHER CHRISTIANS

Walking with other Christians is essential to our mission to share the Good News of Jesus Christ.

- How well do we as Catholics know our sisters and brothers in other churches?
- What do we share and how do we journey with Christians from other churches
(denominations)?
- Why don't we do more together?



8. SHARING RESPONSIBILITY

Our Church is all about participation and shared responsibility.

- Catholics aim to balance authority and governance with teamwork and co-responsibility. How well do we achieve this?
- How could we balance these better?
- How do we encourage lay involvement, participation and leadership?

9. OUR DECISION-MAKING

Our aim is to make decisions by discerning what the Holy Spirit is saying through our whole community.

- How well do you feel we do this?
- What methods or processes do Catholic communities use to include people in discernment and decision-making?

- What do you think we should do to improve our efforts in this?

10. LEARNING TO JOURNEY TOGETHER

All of us need to be open to change and ongoing learning.

- To what extent do you find Catholics are open to change and new learning?
- How do we as a Catholic community form our people to listen, participate and be open to change?
- Have you found Church leaders to be willing to listen, participate and remain open to new ways?

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.



From first page back; to reflect; to contribute; to be able to say I was part of what may lead to many changes in the church; not to be a passive bystander. Some of the themes that have come to mind are: my desire for the Church to have closer relationships with the other denominations in our area, in a practical and everyday way – after all we have more that unites us than divides us. Another theme would be how can we increase our knowledge of our faith, particularly our understanding of the Church's social teaching and put that into practice.

I hope these comments are helpful in getting your head around this process. Please attend the November 17 meeting, as everyone has something to contribute. Even if you belong to a specific group, come on November 17 and then maybe later you could continue the discussions in your own groups. All are welcome!!!

Bridget Taumoepeau

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.



**... a synodal Church
is a Church "going
forth," a missionary
Church "whose doors
are open" ...**

CHILDRENS LITURGY - ADVENT 2021

Covid restrictions has made it difficult to plan a full programme this term. We appreciate that families are hesitant to attend Mass so we have decided to run the first three Sundays of Advent only this term. The dates are 28 November, 5 December, and 12 December. Children aged 4- 8 years are welcome to attend. Parents will need to sign in for Mass and then bring their children over to the Parish Centre, it will be open from 9am. Names will be recorded and correct sanitising procedures will be undertaken. It is difficult to use distancing with such a young age group but we will do our best! There will be two leaders present at each session. All Adults will be expected to wear masks and it is preferable that under 4 years do not attend .. The children will be brought back to Mass before the Offering as usual but won't go up to the altar. Instead they will be taken

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM (FIRST COMMUNION) will start on the 21st November, Sunday, from 10.30pm. The venue is the same: Parents at the Parish Centre and children at Whaea Anna's classroom.

ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL CORNER

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

Website: www.stjoeslevin.school.nz

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.sjoesphlevin.com.



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.

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).

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!



Why do we... Practice the Imposition of Hands?

This is the ritualistic gesture of holding the hands on or over things or persons to transfer some power, duty, favour or blessing. It is an ancient custom. Used by Jesus when curing and blessing people, the ritual entered into the Liturgy readily and has been used with different meanings.

It is the essential part of the Sacrament of Holy Orders when deacons, priests, or bishops are ordained. It is part of the blessing for healing and pardon when anointing the sick. In the Rite of Penance it becomes a symbol of reconciliation with God and the Church. During the Eucharistic prayer, the celebrant extends his hands over the gifts, as some say, to symbolize the placing of the sins of the world on Christ Who becomes the Victim Who gives His life for us.

The imposition of hands is also practiced by charismatic Christians to convey the Holy Spirit coming upon the recipient to heal both physically and spiritually. It is a powerful symbol.

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

Monday, 15th Nov	9.30am	Liturgy of the Word with Communion, St. Albert the Great
Tuesday, 16th	9.30am	Holy Mass, St. Margaret of Scotland
	1pm	Tuesday Social Group when in Level 1
	6pm	Divine Mercy, Samoan Group at the side Chapel
Wednesday, 17th	9.30am	Holy Mass, St Elizabeth of Hungary
	7 pm	Synod Event at the School Hall, Durham Street
Thursday, 18th	9.30am	Holy Mass, Dedication of Sts Peter and Paul Basilicas
	5pm	Meditation in the Christian Tradition at the Chapel
Friday, 19th	11.10am	Exposition
	12.10pm	Holy Mass,
	5.30pm	Reading practice
Saturday, 20th	5:30pm	Vigil Mass
Sunday, 21st	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

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

Responsorial Psalm: "Keep me safe, O God, you are my hope."

(14/11/2021) **1st Reading:** Daniel 7:13-14; **2nd Reading:** Apocalypse 1:5-8;
Gospel: John 18:33-37

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