



LEVIN-TAITOKO

“A COMMUNITY RADIATING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST”

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC PARISH

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1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Tena koutou katoa,

In last week's edition, the pastoral letter from the New Zealand Bishops was inserted for everyone to read. Now that the date is set for us to move into the traffic light system, the Parish Liturgy Committee had met to create a policy and plan surrounding the celebration of Mass.

Cardinal John have these objectives in his letter to all priests in the archdiocese:

- To make vaccinated people feel safe, given that vaccination does not protect against transmission of the virus
- To ensure priests and lay pastoral leaders are safe as they carry out their ministry
- To be inclusive and ensure ministry can continue safely to those who are unvaccinated.

Considering these objectives, we can identify two “kinds” of Mass according to attendance: the My Vaccine Pass Mass (requiring a My Vaccine Pass – meaning the person is fully vaccinated or has received two doses of the vaccine) and the Restricted Number Mass (the person is either unvaccinated or has not received a full dose of the vaccine).

Taking into account the government policy and the guidelines from the cardinal, we came up with the policy and plan. These will continue to be evaluated to ensure that people would feel safe in the Church.

POLICY

Red

The two Sunday Masses (5.30 vigil Mass and 9.15 am Mass) will be the My Vaccine Pass Masses with a 100-person limit. A Restricted Number Mass with a 10-person limit will be on Sunday at 1pm.

Orange

The two Sunday Masses (5.30 vigil Mass and 9.15 am Mass) will be the My Vaccine Pass

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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

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM (FIRST COMMUNION) 2nd session today, 28th November, Sunday, from 10.30am. The venue is the same: Parents at the Parish Centre and children at Whaea Anna’s classroom.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY starts this week. Parents with children aged 4- 8 years are invited to bring them to the Parish Centre before Mass. The leaders will return the children to their parents before the Offertory. COVID procedures will be observed. You will need to include the children in your designated space in church.

MALE AND FEMALE HELPERS NEEDED— 3 hours/month at the Opportunity Shop, opposite the Council Building on the Main Highway. Ring Tony Strawbridge 222 5030 (home) or 022 3001423 (mobile) for more info. PLE-ROMA SHOP Columban Calendars at \$12 each. No Christmas cards.

REQUEST FOR PATCHWORK FABRIC – anyone has any spare patchwork/quilting fabric (Cotton only)? You can donate it to de Paul Housing Agency in Auckland. Will be made into quilts children and teenagers. Contact Bridget on 021482178 or bybridget@xtra.co.nz.

BIBLE DIARIES 2022 consists of daily prayers, readings, short reflections, saints of the day and short quotes for the whole year. Please make an order now with the link: <https://www.cognitofirms.com/AlexBailey1/AotearoaNewZealandBibleDiaries2022>. For those that do not use electronic devices, please seek assistance from your fellow parishioners or contact Fr Prakash, directly on 022 585 2875.

BRAIN TEASER

When was the Feast of Christ the King instituted?

Answer: 1925, between the two World Wars. This is significant, as those wars were the results of leaders wanting absolute power and control over countries. The Kingship of Christ is utterly different and reminds us that the universe belongs to God.

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.

PARISH FINANCE

The parish finances have been adversely affected by Covid19. Thanks to those who continue to donate directly to the bank, envelope, and through the basket in the mass.

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.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL CORNER

With the growing needs in the community the SVdP Society is now setting up a Centre in Levin as a positive way of furthering the mission to those most wanting support. Providing companionship to the elderly and lonely, a gathering point for refugees, a “drop in” place for a coffee and chat, social services, outreach programmes for young mothers, continuing the supply of household goods and clothing, the setting up of a Vinnies shop providing good quality at reachable prices, expanding the food bank service, and more! Located in Prouse Street, Levin, we expect to open initial activity early in the New Year. We will keep you informed as start-up draws nearer. Meantime, please keep us and this new venture in your prayers. To contact us call Bernie (021 406427), John (06 367 2467) or Kilian (06 367 0474) (SVdP Levin Bank A/c for direct donations: 11 6932 0308328 11)

Masses with no limit. A Restricted Number Mass with a 50-person limit will be on Sunday at 1pm.

Green

The two Sunday Masses (5.30 vigil Mass and 9.15 am Mass) will be the My Vaccine Pass Masses with no limit. A Restricted Number Mass with a 100-person limit will be on Sunday at 1pm.

It is important to note that the cardinal has instructed that all people involved in the mass, including priest, for the My Vaccine Pass Mass have to have full vaccination and thus possess a My Vaccine Pass.

PLAN

A plan for implementation should be prepared for each color scheme.

Red

St. Joseph's Church can be in red color in the first Sunday after the traffic light system takes effect.

My Vaccine Pass Mass

The Alert Level 2 protocols that are in place at the moment shall be observed. People are used to this system now that we do not need to reinvent the wheel. The only additional thing needed is to include the checking and verifying of the My Vaccine Pass at the entry of the Church. People need to come early to enable a smooth flow of the process.

Restricted Number Mass

One thing to consider is that the number of unvaccinated in the parish and would like to come to Mass is not known. Also, to consider is St. Mary's Parish, Otaki is not having Mass for the unvaccinated. Also, to consider is that we can only have 10 people allowed in Restrictive Number Mass.

In order not to discriminate people, the fol-

lowing approach will be followed for the Restricted Number Mass:

- The parish will provide Mass on a Sunday (1 pm) as a Restricted Number Mass. This will be the main Mass for this (meaning fixed schedule all throughout in the traffic light system).
- Additional Masses will be provided on Saturday evening at 7 pm and Sunday evening at 6 pm should the need arise.
- To be able to know if there is a need to provide additional Masses, a local booking system will be implemented. Please look down for the booking system.

Orange

St. Joseph's Church will most likely to be in orange color in following Sunday after the traffic light system takes effect.

My Vaccine Pass Mass

Since there is no limit for this type of gathering, no booking system needed. The only thing needed to do is the checking and verifying of the My Vaccine Pass at the entry of the Church. People need to come early to enable a smooth flow of the process. Signing up or scanning the QR Code is still required.

Restricted Number Mass

In Orange color, 50 people at most can be accommodated in the Sunday Mass which will be at 1 pm. This will be the main Mass for this (meaning fixed schedule all throughout in the traffic light system). Additional Masses will be provided on Saturday evening at 7 pm and Sunday evening at 6 pm should the need arise. Local booking system will be in place to be able to know if there is a need to provide additional Masses. Please look down for the booking system.

Green

St. Joseph's Parish will most likely be in this color if the double dose vaccination rate reaches 90%.

My Vaccine Pass Mass

Since there is no limit for this type of gathering, no booking system needed. The only thing needed to do is the checking and verifying of the My Vaccine Pass at the entry of the Church. People need to come early to enable a smooth flow of the process. Signing up or scanning the QR Code is still required.

Restricted Number Mass

In Orange color, 100 people at most can be accommodated in the Sunday Mass which will be at 1 pm. This will be the main Mass for this (meaning fixed schedule all throughout in the traffic light system). Additional Masses will be provided on Saturday evening at 7 pm and Sunday evening at 6 pm should the need arise. Local booking system will be in place to be able to know if there is a need to provide additional Masses. Please look down for the booking system.

It is also important to keep record of those who have presented My Vaccine Pass so that we do not have to ask for it all the time. The greeter will just have to tick your name upon entry. You may notice that Kerry is ticking names as you come in. This is for the Archdiocesan Booking System perusal.

STRATEGIC IMPLEMENTATION

Booking system for the My Vaccine Pass Mass will continue as usual for red color scheme. There will be no need for booking once we are in the orange and green as there are no limits to numbers.

Booking System for the Restricted Number Mass is as follows:

1. Parishioners and non-parishioners can book in our local restrictive number Mass.

2. It is encouraged that the fully vaccinated ones will not book in this system. That would maximize the opportunity for unvaccinated ones to be able to come to Mass.

3. The booking for Mass can be done in many different ways Please go to the Different Booking System Section.

4. All bookings will be received until Friday afternoon at 3 pm.

5. (for the red color) If it is found out that there are more than 10 people registered for the 1 pm Mass, the first 10 shall be accommodated to that particular time. The other ones will be scheduled at a different time: either 7 pm Saturday vigil Mass or Sunday 6 pm Mass or both. They will be notified with the change by Friday afternoon.

Different Booking System For Restricted Number Mass

Website:

1. Go to www.stjosephlevin.com and click the yellow button for the "Restricted Number Mass."
2. Scroll down and you should be seeing the upcoming events.
3. Click RSVP button. It will take you to the booking form.
4. Fill in the needed information and click the "Next" button. You cannot go to the next page if you do not complete the form.
5. Tick the box to agree with the policy for the Restrictive Number Mass.
6. Then click submit.
7. You will receive a confirmation email that you have booked in successfully.

*Do not forget to scroll down every time after you click a button.

Text or Call:

Please contact the office number (06 210

2891) or Fr. Dennis personal number (0220406399) and provide your complete name and contact details.

Email

You can email the office at office@stjosephlevin.com with your intent to attend the Mass on that particular Sunday with your name and contact details.

Facebook Messenger

You can also leave us a private message through our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/St-Josephs-Catholic-Church-Levin-102314338086230/>.

My Vaccine Pass Verification

Please do not forget to register for Mass. Registration opens Wednesdays from 9 am until Fridays at midday.

Please do not forget to bring your My Vaccine Pass to the Church. At the Church foyer, the greeters will ask for your My Vaccine Pass and they will scan it for verification. After the verification.

They will then keep a record of those who have presented a My Vaccine Pass so that you do not have to present all the time your My Vaccine Pass. And it will help streamline the whole entry process.

Full copy of the document is available in the website and is sent to your email.

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.

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

SCHEDULES

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION MASS 6pm

CHRISTMAS NOVENA MASSES

From 16th December at 6am till the 24th December. Filipinos will take lead in the celebration.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMETABLE:

- Christmas Eve Mass 6 pm (with Children's Play and My Vaccine Pass Mass)
- Christmas Eve Mass 10pm (preceded with Christmas Carols and My Vaccine Pass Mass)
- Christmas Midnight (Restricted Number Mass)
- Christmas Day: 9.30 am (My Vaccine Pass Mass)
- Christmas Day 1pm (Restricted Number Mass)

Bookings will be essential for all Masses.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

- Fridays after the mid-day Mass
- Saturday 4pm
- Or you may contact the office for a special time.

SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING

Because of the restrictions we have at the moment, may I ask people who want to be anointed to stay after Mass and let Brian Nolan or Peter Shaughnessy know that you wish to receive anointing after Mass.

ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL CORNER

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

Website: www.stjoeslevin.school.nz



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.

SEASON OF ADVENT

A Catechesis

Advent comes from the Latin word ad-venire which means “to come to.” The earliest mention of Advent in Church documents comes at the Synod of Saragossa in 380.

This season marks the beginning of the Church's new liturgical year. This season encompasses four Sundays (and weekdays) leading up to the celebration of Christmas. This year, it starts on the 5th December as the First Sunday of Advent, 5th as Second, 12th as Third, and 19th as Fourth.

Advent has a twofold character: for it is a time of preparation for the Solemnities of Christmas, in which the First Coming of the Son of God to humanity is remembered; and likewise, when, by remembrance of this, minds and hearts are led to look forward to Christ's Second Coming at the end of time. For these two reasons, Advent is a period for devout and expectant delight.

GOSPEL READINGS

Hence, the gospel readings have distinctive themes:

- First Sunday of Advent: the Lord's coming at the end of time
- Second and Third Sunday of Advent: John the Baptist
- Fourth Sunday: the events that prepared immediately for the Lord's birth.

WEEKDAY READINGS

There are two series of readings:

- From the beginning of Advent until 16th December: the readings direct the mind and heart to await Christ's Second Coming.;
- From 17th to 24th December: the readings focus on our preparation for the celebrations of the Nativity of our Lord at Christmas.

PURPLE COLOUR

Like Lent, the liturgical colour for Advent is purple since both are seasons that prepare us for great feast days. Advent also includes an element of penance in the sense of preparing, quieting, and disciplining our hearts for the full joy of Christmas. However, on the third Sunday of Advent, the colour changes to rose. It is because the Third Sunday is al-



so called “Gaudete” Sunday – meaning “rejoice”. (GIRM 316)

CHURCH DECORATION

During Advent the floral decoration of the altar should be marked by a moderation suited to the character of this time of year, without expressing in anticipation the full joy of the Nativity of the Lord. (GIRM 304) For example, fresh evergreens may be used, and fresh flowers may be added on the Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday). Artificial greens should always be avoided.

CHURCH MUSIC

Proper advent hymns and songs are encouraged to be sung. The use of the organ and other musical instruments should be marked by moderation. Gloria is a hymn of praise and is not sung or said on Sundays during the Seasons of Advent and Lent because of

the penitential tone of the season. (GIRM 313)

ADVENT DEVOTIONS

Advent Wreath

Traditionally, Advent wreaths are constructed of a circle of evergreen branches into which four candles are inserted, representing



ing the four weeks of Advent. Ideally, three candles are purple, and one is rose. The purple candles symbolize the prayer, penance, and preparatory sacrifices and good works undertaken at this time. The rose candle is lit on the third Sunday, Gaudete Sunday, when the priest also wears rose vestments at Mass marking the midpoint of Advent.

Jesse Tree



The Jesse Tree is an Advent tradition which recalls the family tree of Jesus Christ. The tree of Jesse was a common subject in medieval and early Renaissance art representing the royal genealogy of Christ from Jesse, the father of David.

Christmas Lanterns

Christmas is also known as the “feast of light”, as Jesus, the Light of the World, and is to be revealed to the Nations is born. In the Church, huge Christmas Stars hanging from the ceiling is a Filipino tradition.



Christmas Nativity Scene

From a strictly liturgical standpoint the prep-

arations for receiving the Christ Child intensify from 17th December onward and this is probably a good time to set up the parish nativity scene, except for the image of the child, which is often added just before Midnight Mass in more or less solemn fashion.



Christmas Tree



Dec. 17 or the nearest Sunday might also be a good date to set up Christmas trees, but it really depends on local custom and tradition. Christmas trees are preferably located outside the sanctuary and are best left in foyer or church grounds.

Novena Masses

Philippines and some Latin American countries celebrate a special "Cockcrow" Mass celebrated at 5 am each day leading to Christmas. In the parish, the Filipinos are leading it from 16th December at 6 am to the 24th December.





Why do we ... speak of Viaticum?

The term Viaticum refers to Holy Communion given to someone near to death. It should not be deferred until such time as the person may lose consciousness. The Sacrament may be received frequently so long as the danger of death persists. No laws of fasting apply. All Catholics in danger of death are encouraged to receive the Viaticum so they may be strengthened through the Body of Christ, a pledge of the resurrection, in their passage from this life into the next.

Viaticum is like food for the journey, as it were. In the anxiety and stress of approaching death, it is intended to bring consolation and courage to the dying person. In these circumstances, Jesus' presence is especially vital in bringing the recipient to peace and tranquility. Like Elijah in the Old

Testament, we eat this special food as we set out. As in his case, the food gave him the strength to walk for forty days into the wilderness.

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

Monday, 29th Nov	9.30am	Liturgy of the Word with Communion
Tuesday, 30th	9.30am	Holy Mass, St Andrew the Apostle
	1pm	Tuesday Social Group when in Level 1
	6pm	Divine Mercy, Samoan Group at the side Chapel
Wednesday, 1st Dec	9.30am	Holy Mass
Thursday, 2nd	9.30am	Holy Mass
	5pm	Meditation in the Christian Tradition at the Chapel
Friday, 3rd	11.10am	Exposition, St Francis Xavier
	12.10pm	Holy Mass,
	5.30pm	Reading practice
Saturday, 4th	5:30pm	Vigil Mass
Sunday, 5th	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

(28/11/2021) **1st Reading:** Jeremiah 33:14-16; **2nd Reading:** Thessalonians 3:12-4:2
Gospel: Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

Responsorial Psalm: "To You, O Lord, I lift my soul."

(5/12/2021) **1st Reading:** Baruch 5:1-9; **2nd Reading:** Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11;
Gospel: Luke 3:1-6



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