



LEVIN-TAITOKO

THE COMMUNITY OF ST JOSEPH

O TE PARIHI O HATO MERE RAUA KO HOHEPA

Priest in Residence

Fr Raymond Soriano

56 Weraroa Rd

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St Joseph School

48 Weraroa Rd

Ph 06-368 8017

Mass Tuesday to Thursday 9am

Liturgy of The Word with Communion

Adoration Friday 11:10am

(15-12-18) Saturday Vigil Mass 5:30pm

(16-12-18) Sunday Mass 9:15am

Friday 12:10pm

Monday 9am

HOPE AND JOY

What an overwhelming message carried in today's liturgy: "Rejoice in the Lord always! May we experience the joy of salvation! Shout for joy! Sing joyfully! Cry out with joy and gladness!"

There is a profound sense of hope for a better world to come, a world in which, the prophet says, "you have no further misfortune to fear and the apostle tells us to dismiss all anxiety from your minds."

The reason for this joy and hope is clear: "The Lord himself is near" (Second Reading); "there is one to come who is mightier than I" (Gospel).

It is within this context of joyous and hopeful expectation of the coming of Christ that we must understand the exhortations of John to the people. Our work for a better world is preparation for the coming of Christ. It is also a sign that the coming of Christ is near.

"The Spirit of the Lord sent me to bring Good News to the poor." That is the message which we are to shout with joy: Jesus is coming with Good News for all those who are suffering because of injustice and peacelessness. (*Gerald Darring*)



This Third Sunday of Advent draws our gaze towards Christmas, which is now near....The coming of the Lord must fill our hearts with joy. The prophet in whose very name — Zephaniah — is inscribed the content of this announcement, opens our hearts to trust: “God protects” his people. In a historical context of great tyranny and violence, especially by men of power, God makes it known that he will reign over his people, that he will no longer leave them at the mercy of the arrogance of their leaders, and that he will free them from all anguish.

Pope Francis: Opening of the doors of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy at the Basilica of St John Lateran, December 2015

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Your thoughts and opinion, please: **The TABERNACLE or a PATAKA**. You may give your responses verbally to team members or write them and place them in the boxes in the foyer and chapel.

PARISH HANDBOOK ... a reminder

Attention: All Parish Groups. Your pastoral team is considering producing a parish handbook which is intended to give information, particularly to new parishioners, about the various groups which operate in the parish. Please let me have this by Tuesday.

ST JOSEPH'S JANUARY ROSTER This is on display in the side-chapel

If you are available for ministry during January, would you please either fill in your details on the clipboard at the back of the church, or phone Anna on 368 4757, as soon as possible.

6pm CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY MASS Nativity Play

Calling all children and young people. Will your whanau be coming to Christmas Eve Mass? We need you to play a part in the nativity play.

Practices will be on Sunday 16 and 23 December straight after Mass.

The more the better. We especially need wise people who could bring and wear traditional Maori/Tongan/Filipino/Samoan/Fijian/Kiribati/Indian clothes. It will be mimed so no reading and speaking required.

NOVENA MASSES IN PREPARATION FOR CHRISTMAS

@ 6am from the 16th to the 24th apart from the usual 9am weekday masses and the Friday 12:10 mass. Everybody welcome!

BRAIN TEASER The Virgin Mary is usually depicted holding the infant Jesus. Can you think of images of apparitions of Mary where she is depicted alone?

FROM THE LITURGY COMMITTEE

- 18th December, Tuesday @ 7pm Parish Service of Reconciliation
- 16th—24th @ 6am Novena Masses to prepare for Christmas except the 23rd Sunday

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|------------------------|-------|--------|--------------------------|
| • Christmas Mass Times | Vigil | 6pm | Children's Mass (Family) |
| | | 10pm | |
| | | 9:15am | Day Mass |
| • New Year Mass Times | | 10pm | Vigil |
| | | 9:15 | Day Mass |

SUPPORT FOR LIFE

It would be helpful if any or all of you and your own networks could vote in this poll. <https://www.stuff.co.nz/dominion-post/108916922/More-than-a-moral-dilemma-The-religious-and-community-views-on-euthanasia>. It includes a poll — please vote and circulate through your networks. God bless



HELP FOR STRUGGLING FAMILIES

St Vincent de Paul - Levin. Emergency Food Parcels. The Holiday season will, unfortunately, mean an increased demand from struggling families for help with food. In consultation with the Levin Interchurch Foodbank, it has been agreed that all donations of food left at St Joseph's Church during December and January will be designated to the St Vincent de Paul food store. Please put an extra article in your shopping trolley and leave in the baskets in the church foyer.

Both the St Vincent de Paul Society and the Levin Interchurch Foodbank wish to take this opportunity to thank all our parishioners who have contributed so generously towards our mission to provide food for the needy in Levin. Your generosity does make a difference and is greatly appreciated. Bill Hinkley - Levin Interchurch Foodbank. Pat Hannan - SVdP Levin.

BLESSINGS OF THE SEASON TO ONE AND ALL!



May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed
through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen.

JV DAWANG

ANTHONY AND MAURICE CONAGLEN

GAUDETE WEEK

Our week begins with “Gaudete Sunday.” Gaudete means “rejoice” in Latin. It comes from the first word of the Entrance antiphon on Sunday. The spirit of joy that begins this week comes from the words of Paul, “The Lord is near.” This joyful spirit is marked by the third candle of our Advent wreath, which is rose coloured, and the rose coloured vestments often used at the Eucharist.

The second part of Advent begins on December 17th each year. For the last eight days before Christmas, the plan of the readings changes. The first readings are still from the prophesies, but now the gospels are from the infancy narratives of Matthew and Luke. We read the stories of faithful women and men who prepared the way for our salvation. We enter into the story of how Jesus' life began. These stories are filled with hints of what his life will mean for us. Faith and generosity overcome impossibility. Poverty and persecution reveal glory. (*Creighton University Online Ministries*)

Readings at Sunday Mass

Zep 3:14-18a Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6 Philippians 4:4-7 Lk 3:10-18

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

Mic 5:1-4a Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 Heb 10:5-10 Lk 1:39-45

Answer: Some examples are: Our Lady Fatima; Our Lady of Lourdes; Our Lady of Guadalupe.



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