



# SELWYN CATHOLIC PARISH

## Parish Contacts

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Office Hours: Wed & Fri 9.00am-1pm

<https://selwyncatholic.nz/>  
<https://www.facebook.com/selwyncatholicparish>

The Christchurch Diocesan Website:  
<https://chchcatholic.nz>

## Fourth Sunday of Advent

Year A

18th December 2022.

### Readings

Isaiah 7:10-14  
Romans 1:1-7  
Matthew 1:18-24



## WEEKEND MASSES

**Lincoln:** Saturday Vigil - 5.30pm  
Sunday - 8.30am

**Darfield:** Sunday - 8.30am  
**Leeston:** Sunday - 10.00am

### Weekday Masses:

**Lincoln:** Tuesday - Friday 9.00am  
**Leeston:** Wednesday 5.30 pm  
**Darfield:** Thursday 10.00am

**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:**  
Friday February 3rd after Mass until  
Midday

**Reconciliation:** Saturday 10.00am at  
Lincoln

A Funeral Mass will replace the  
advertised mass in the same church.

## From Fr Brian:

- Final **Adoration** of the Blessed Eucharist will be on next Friday, 23 December. Adoration will recommence on Friday 3 February.
- This is the last newsletter until the end of January.

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It is hoped to have a **Christmas Pageant at Darfield** during the carols on Christmas Eve.

Fr Brian requires at least 14 children to participate.

There is only 1 narrator ... so the children don't have to remember any spoken parts.

There will be a **rehearsal on Thursday 22 December, at 10.30am**. It will take about an hour.

**Food For Faith for Advent** (by Fr John O'Connor) - Subscribe at [www.foodforfaith.org.nz](http://www.foodforfaith.org.nz) to receive daily email encouragements in preparation for Christmas.

**Brother Peter Bray** will provide a brief historical perspective of the Israel / Palestine situation and particularly the effect of the conflict on the students at Bethlehem University.

Br Peter Bray is a De La Salle Brother who grew up on the banks of the Waitara River in Taranaki.

He went to Bethlehem in 2008 to be Vice Chancellor of Bethlehem University.

He will consider what justice issues are involved and what needs to happen for peace to come.

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February, 7.30pm**  
**Villa Maria College Auditorium**

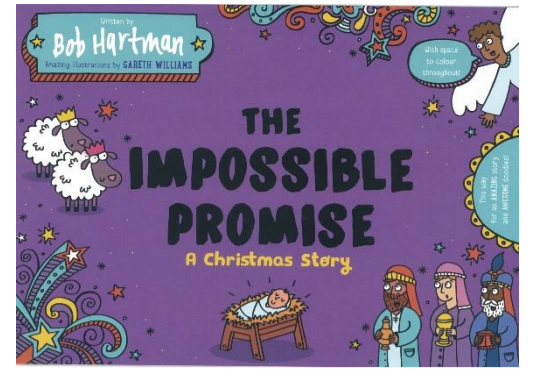
In preparation for his tour, he is making three videos; the second has just been issued. View it here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R17kia53-GY>

There are a few **free copies** of the 'Impossible Promise' – a Christmas Story – at the 3 churches.

Please take a copy/copies.

Even grandparents may like to take a copy and place it in the grandchildren's Christmas Stockings.



The Advent issue of **Inform** is available at the church entrance. Please take a copy.

## **Advent Programme**

### **Sacrament of Reconciliation**

**Leeston:** this Sunday, 18 December after Mass (Fr Chris will be available).

**Darfield:** Tuesday, 20 December, 7.00pm. (both Fr Brian & Fr Chris)

### **Christmas Masses – Christmas Eve, Saturday 24 December**

**Leeston:** 5.30pm carols for 6.00pm mass

**Darfield:** 8.00pm carols for 8.30pm mass

**Lincoln:** 5.30pm carols for 6.00pm mass

8.00pm carols for 8.30pm mass

\* **Parishioners are invited** to the presbytery after the 8.30pm Lincoln Vigil Mass for some 'Christmas Cheer'.

### **Christmas Day Mass**

**Lincoln:** 9.00am

**New Year's Day** is the regular weekend timetable.

There will be **NO weekday masses** in the Selwyn Parish: 26 - 29 December.

There will be **NO weekday masses** in the Selwyn Parish: 2 - 5 January 2023.

**There will be Mass on Fridays** 30 December & 6 January, 9.00am at Lincoln.

**The first Parents' Meeting for the First Reconciliation and First Communion Programme for 2023** will be on Sunday 12 February, 7.00pm, in the Lincoln Church Centre.

Children who have reach 8-years are eligible for the Programme.

There are 12 children's sessions & 5 parent meetings.

Please contact the Parish Office to enrol: [selwyncatholicparish@gmail.com](mailto:selwyncatholicparish@gmail.com)

**Darfield Church:** Flowers required for Christmas. Preferable white but other colours welcome. Please bring to church Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> or contact Helen 03 318 1780.



**Trip to the Holy Land with Bishop Steve Lowe:** this 20-day pilgrimage commences on 5 March 2023. For further information contact Colleen Duffy: [colleenD@harvestjourneys.com](mailto:colleenD@harvestjourneys.com)

## Lincoln: CHRISTMAS EVE NATIVITY PLAY

We will be having our final rehearsal for the Christmas Eve nativity play this Sunday at 8.30am Mass. We need children to attend this rehearsal please. We will also require children who are performing on Christmas Eve from 5pm on the day. We will meet in the parish centre. Any questions please email [aimee.stewart2424@gmail.com](mailto:aimee.stewart2424@gmail.com)

**St John the Evangelist Leeston.** Christmas Nativity Play. Christmas Eve Mass 5.30 pm Carols. 6.00 pm Mass All children who are interested please let me know as soon as possible. If you know of children who are interested, please let them know they are welcome. Practices at the church, are on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> December and Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> December both at 9am Costumes are provided Children will need to arrive at the church by 5.15pm on Christmas Eve. Parent assistance is very appreciated. Anna Carter 027 235 0869

**Lincoln Christmas Eve and Christmas Morning** - Volunteers for all Ministries are required. Lists are on the notice board for you to put your name. Thank you.

**Lincoln Projector Operators and Greeters urgently** required for 5.30pm Vigil Mass - Lists on noticeboard for you to put your name down as a volunteer. Thank you.

**The Lincoln Prayer Group** has gathered for the last time this year and will recommence at the start of the school term in 2023 every Wednesday evening from 7.00-8.30 in the Parish Centre. Many thanks to all who have attended and supported the prayer group. Have a very blessed Christmas.

**New Year's Day – Feast of Mary, the Mother of God** – Following the 8.30am Mass, Tea & Toast will be served in the Church centre.

An opportunity for a chat and fellowship to start the year. All Welcome.

## An early notice so mark the date on your calendar

The Selwyn Parish picnic is going to be held on Sunday 12th February at the property of Helena and Mike Hanning's starting with Mass at 12 noon.

More details later but keep this day free

**The Catholic Women's League** thank everyone for their support of their Christmas Raffle. We made \$501 which will go towards our at home and abroad appeals. We wish you all a Merry Christmas.

1<sup>st</sup> Prize J McPhee 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize Gill Smith.

## St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal

We would be grateful for any donations of edible Christmas treats (chocolates, biscuits, Christmas mince pies etc) or toiletries (body wash, shampoo, conditioner, soap etc). Please leave them in the Christmas SVDP box. It would be much appreciated if anyone has fresh produce from their garden that they would like to donate to the Christmas Appeal. Please bring these to mass on the 18th December.

We will be hosting a simple get together for the families we are assisting this Christmas between 11-1pm in the parish centre at Lincoln. This is a great way for us to build and develop relationships with the families. This is where they will be able to select treats and fresh produce thanks to your generous donations. They will also receive a small food voucher. Thank you for your ongoing support. We wish you and your family and safe and holy Christmas SVDP Selwyn



THE  
BISHOP'S  
CARE APPEAL 2022

Food OR a doctor visit?  
Food OR petrol in the car?  
Food OR the power bill?

When you donate to the Bishop's Care Appeal, you're helping those in need not to have to choose between essentials.  
A portion of appeal proceeds will be used to provide struggling families with food parcels through Catholic Social Services.

Please scan to  
donate today



*"To live charitably means...  
carrying the burdens of the  
weakest and poorest among us."*

- Pope Francis

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There are green Giving envelopes in the porches.

For the past 2 Sundays, Selwyn Parish has  
donated \$1045.00

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## Planning for Alpha 2023

Alpha is an opportunity to explore life and the Christian faith, in a friendly, open and informal environment. The 2023 Alpha Program will run from March until June, over 11 weeks on a Thursday night. A shared meal begins each session which allows people to get to know each other. This is followed by a film covering a different topic each week, and discussion of the film topic. These are opportunities to listen, learn, discuss and discover the aspects of the Christian Faith. Alpha is for everyone and anyone. Bishop Michael has a vision for our diocese of 'vibrant and thriving parishes of faith'. He encourages parishes to prioritise running Alpha programmes to help people connect with each other and encounter Jesus.

Following this call, Selwyn Parish is assembling an Alpha-Team to help run a pilot Alpha program next year and we need some help. Some of our parishioners have already signed up to help, and we are so grateful for those taking on these responsibilities. But we need some more help for the program to be a success. Many of our parishioners have a deep understanding of our faith, and we would love if some of you could help with the discussion groups. Or maybe you can help with the meal or hospitality at each session. Details of the roles are as follows:

### Food & Hospitality

ALPHA and food goes hand in hand. It's a great way to connect and get to know everyone there. These roles can be rostered so that you may only need to help 2 or 3 times in the program. The practical help we need to put this together is as follows:

- Set-up of tables and chairs - We need at least one person that can come in before the session to come and do this.
- Decorating and setting of the tables – Anyone who can put out cutlery (silverware), crockery and make it look nice, you are the person we are looking for!!
- Preparing meals for the evening – We need a few helpers (depending on the number of participants) that can cook for us on a given night. We want to try to get as many people as possible to be on a rotating roster so that our cooks are on at most 3 times or less during the 11-week course. The warm food can be delivered or cooked in the parish centre and you are invited to stay to enjoy the meal with us. If you can't stay that is okay as well.
- Servers and cleaners – These volunteers serve the delivered meal to the participants. Afterwards they do the clean-up in the kitchen of the dishes.

### The Discussion Group

After the video (about 30 minutes long) the big group breaks into smaller groups to discuss the talk, share their thoughts and ideas. The help we need to put this together does require a commitment to the entire program, to help build relationships and confidence in the group:

- Group Leaders/Host – We need people to facilitate the small group gatherings. Leading an Alpha small group is very different from other Christian groups, so all hosts must attend training in running small groups, pastoral care and ministry before each Alpha course, no matter how many times they have been small group hosts before. The purpose of the small group is to allow the guests to share their opinion and explore together, not to talk to them more about the Christian viewpoint. Therefore, it is helpful that the group hosts be confident with letting the discussion follow a natural path, facilitating the discussion rather than participating in it. There would be at most 8 participants in a small group.
- Group Helper – These helpers are called to support the group with helpful comments to engage participants. The helper can sometimes be called to be a silent "participant" that gives the other participants the "okay" to be silent and not forced to speak.

### Prayer support

We ask for all parishioners in the Selwyn Parish to pray for the Alpha team and those who will sign up to participate in our pilot program. In your prayers, please give thanks for Alpha and the 27 million people who have already tried Alpha worldwide (in 169 countries). Consider praying about people you could invite to Alpha asking God to open their hearts to your invitation.

Once the program commences, please pray for our guests and team each week. Pray that the team work well together, that all the practical arrangements go smoothly, that good relationships are built and for good conversations with guests. Most importantly, please pray that everyone grows in their journey with Jesus.

For any further information contact [alphaselwynparish@gmail.com](mailto:alphaselwynparish@gmail.com) If you can commit to a role, please come to the Lincoln Parish Centre on **Tuesday 20 December at 7pm.**