



SELWYN CATHOLIC PARISH

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

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

Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time.

Year A

29th January 2023.

Readings

Zephaniah 2:3, 3:12-13
1 Corinthians 1:26-31
Matthew 5:1-12



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:

- Holy Water has been replaced in the 'holy water fonts'. The blessing of oneself with holy water is a reminder of our baptism. The holy water in Lincoln was from the last baptism in the church. Parents may once again have to teach/remind their children of this ritual.
- After 33 years, I have retired from Military Chaplaincy; They were great years. I am now, what is termed, on the Stand-By Reserve List for 2 years. To fill the gap, I have now taken up a position as a **Sacramental Chaplain in the Prison Service**. They are a different clientele, but a worthwhile ministry. I'm following the tradition of Fr Paddy Cahill, Pat Crawford & Frank Kelly. Fr Chris normally visits the Public Hospital on Fridays as his chaplaincy day.
- **Adoration** of the Blessed Eucharist re-commences next Friday, 3 February, after mass until midday.

Darfield was able to have a **Christmas Pageant** on Christmas Eve.

I was only able to get 13 kids, however, after only 3 run-throughs, the kids were excellent.

'Thanks' to the parents who helped.

If there is an interest - I will repeat the Christmas Pageant in Darfield this Christmas. I hope a few more kids volunteer their services.



RIP

Recently Decesed: Les Maloney (ex Leeston), Avila Power (Australia)

Anniversary: Gordon & Jeanne Gallagher

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 2nd 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>

Or: <https://www.youtube.com/@nzcbc2977>

The first **Baptism Programme** for 2023 - for Parents wishing to have a child baptised will be on **Sundays 12 & 19 March, 7.00pm – 8.15pm**, in the St Patrick's Church Centre.

At the conclusion of the Programme a date is set for the celebration of Baptism.

Enquiries: contact Fr Brian/Chris, or the Parish Office.



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.



So far, there are about 29 children from Lincoln; no one from Leeston or Darfield has enrolled in the Programme.

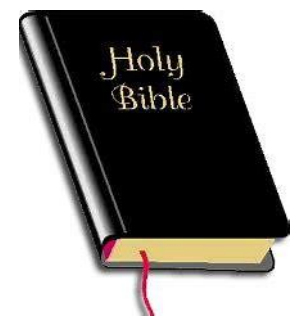
There are 12 children's sessions & 5 parent meetings.

Please contact the Parish Office to enrol: selwyncatholicparish@gmail.com

Lenten Bible Study of the Book of Joshua.

The Book of Joshua follows the Books of Exodus and Numbers and focuses on the settlement of the Promised Land.

- ❖ **Mondays in Darfield:** 27 February, 6 & 13 March, 7.00pm in the Darfield Church Centre.
- ❖ **Tuesdays in Lincoln:** 28 February, 7 & 14 March, 7.00pm in the Lincoln Church Centre,
- ❖ **Leeston** at a later date.



Ash Wednesday is 22 February. Besides the Parish masses, there will be an Anglican-Catholic Combined Service, at St Stephen's Church, 7.30pm. Fr Chris will be the preacher this year.

The monthly **Filipino Mass** will be on Sunday 5 February, 3.00pm, in St Patrick's Church, Lincoln.



The Parish offers its appreciation to Fr Benito Velasco who has donated a set of Green Vestments to the Lincoln Church in appreciation of his Silver Jubilee.

The vestments were given in conjunction with *U1 Dream Homes* – Rhon Sacdalan & Family; and *Elegant Kiwi Homes* - Ivan Presquito & Family.

Friendship Group – next gathering is Friday 3 February in the Parish Centre following the 9am Mass. Please bring a small plate of food to share for morning tea. All welcome.



Selwyn Parish picnic: to be held on Sunday 12th February, beginning with Mass at 12 noon. It will be held at Mike and Helena Hanning's property 4/ 1608 Main West Coast Road, Highway 73, West Melton. Their property is a Five of kilometres west of West Melton township. It will be sign posted there is plenty of parking so follow the signs. (Same venue as last year.)

We would love a big crowd as Mike and Helena have a fabulous place with plenty of shady areas if required and things for the kids to do enjoy well.

BYO food, drinks and a chair

There will be games for the children

If it is wet the picnic will be Postponed. If you are unsure if it is still on here are a couple of phone numbers that you use. Lyn 03 3217445 or Jo 03 3257771

We hope to see you there

Lincoln Prayer Group

The prayer group based at Lincoln meets weekly every Wednesday 7.00pm-8.30pm in the Parish Centre. Be supported as you grow in exercising your spiritual gifts through prayer, intercession, praise and worship, with reflections on church teachings. All age groups welcome. For more details contact Marge Newburry phone 338 6793, or leave a message for her at the parish office.

Craft and Friendship Group: is held Tuesday 1.30pm to 3.30pm in the Lincoln Church centre. For further details contact Yvonne 3669795 or 0273341151

Valentine's Day Mass: Tuesday 14 February, 6.30pm @ St Mary's Pro-Cathedral - reflecting on God's gift of love in marriage. Hospitality to follow. Come and celebrate with others.

The **Catholic Women's League Opening Mass** for 2023: Saturday 11 February, 10.00am, at St Bernadettes Church, 76 Hei Hei Road, Hornby. Light refreshments to follow.

Submissions on the Human Rights Amendment Bill (Incitement on grounds of religious belief) closes on 2nd February. Interested parishioners may like to write a Submission.

Geraldine Holiday House- The Presbytery

Is available and sleeps 6. Provide your own linen

Reasonable rate with condition the hirer leaves the house clean and in the same state as when you arrived.

For bookings and more details please contact geraldine.presbytery@gmail.com or 027 321 4216

Accommodation wanted. “Responsible family of five 3 children & 2 adults. Looking for a house sit in Selwyn area from now until Easter We are building in Lincoln “Phone Ally. 0212238796.

Planning for Alpha

Alpha is an opportunity to explore life and the Christian faith, in a friendly, open and informal environment. The Alpha Programme 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 programme next year. Details of the roles are as follows:

Food & Hospitality

ALPHA and food go 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 programme. 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 programme, 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.