OUR LADY OF THE PLAINS PARISH

SELWYN

Incorporating the churches of: St Joseph's, Darfield: St John the Evangelist, Leeston, St Patrick's, Lincoln and including parishioners from the Rolleston area.

Parish Contacts

31 Gerald Street, Lincoln, 7608
Ph: 03 325 2770

Parish Priest: Fr Brian Fennessy
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Assistant: Fr Chris Orr
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Parish Secretary: Mary Prendergast
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Office Hours: Wed & Fri 9.00am-1pm

Pastoral Assistant: Brigid McIndoe
E: pastoralassistantselwyn@gmail.com
Office hours: Tue 9.30am – 12.30 pm
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Parish Safeguarding Officer
Sophia Tionko -
E: olpsafeguarding@gmail.com

https://selwyncatholic.nz/

https://www.facebook.com/selwyncatholicparish

Seventh Sunday of Ordinary time.

23rd February 2025.

Readings

1 Samuel 26:7-23

1 Corinthians 15:45-49

Luke 6:27-38

WEEKEND MASSES

Lincoln: Saturday Vigil - 5.30pm
Sunday - 8.30am

Darfield: Sunday – 8.30am
Leeston: Sunday - 10.00am
Rolleston: Sunday 11.00am

Weekday Masses:
Lincoln: Tuesday, Friday 9.00am
Leeston: Wednesday 5.30pm
Darfield: Thursday 10.00am
Akaroa: Wednesday 10.00am

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:
Friday after Mass until Midday

Reconciliation: Saturday 10.00am at Lincoln

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

The Christchurch Diocesan Website: https://cdoc.nz/.

From Fr Brian:
As we begin 2025 – there are a couple of vacancies on the *Our Lady of the Plains Parish* **Leadership Team.**
A couple of members retired at the end of 2024.
Would you - or can you nominate a parishioner to - serve on the Leadership Team.
Over the past few years, the Leadership Team has made great contribution to the formation of the Selwyn Parish.
There was a Report on the Leadership Team in the Christmas Booklet.
Appointments are normally for a 3-year term, but renewable.
Please contact Frs Brian or Chris with any nominations … please speak to them beforehand.
This is a good and practical way to serve the Parish.

- There will be **NO LINCOLN Thursday mass** this Thursday, 27 March.

- **Sophia Tionko** is the new **Safeguarding Officer** for Our Lady of the Plains, Selwyn Parish.
  She may be contacted on: olpsafeguarding@gmail.com

Ash Wednesday: is 5 March.
Ash Wednesday is traditionally a day of fasting & abstinence from meat as we begin the Season of Lent.
Masses & Distribution of Ashes:
* **Lincoln:** 9.00am
* **Akaroa:** 10.00am
* **Leeston:** 5.30pm
* **Darfield:** will observe Ash Thursday on 6 March, 10.00am.

* As has been the tradition for the past many years, there will be a **Lincoln Combined Catholic-Anglican Service** on Ash Wednesday at 7.30pm. This year the Service will be in St Stephen's Anglican Church.

Akaroa: on Ash Wednesday, 5 March, 2.30pm, Fr Brian will lead an Ecumenical Service at the Akaroa Health Centre Rest Home. Any parishioner is welcome to join-in the Service.

Planned Giving. As we approach the month of March and the end of the financial year. We start to look at ordering the envelopes for the new year. If you want to avoid the hassle of finding cash each Sunday, you may like to consider changing to an automatic payment straight from your bank account. If you wish to do this, please contact the office. Receipts for the end of year will be available as soon as possible after the end of March. Please be aware there is a process to follow before they are available.
We have also amended some Newsletter groups, if you no longer belong to the parish or wish to receive them via email. Please let us know.

The next **Baptismal Preparation Session** for parents wishing to have a child baptised commences this **Sunday 23 February & on 2 March, 7.00pm – 8.15pm** in the Lincoln Church Centre.
Please contact the parish office to register for the programme: **selwyncatholicparish@gmail.com**

The First Communion Candidates will receive a copy of the New Testament at masses this Sunday 8.30am i n Lincoln & Darfield. Children are to bring their completed lesson one worksheet. Registrations for 2025 have now closed. Coordinator Brigid McIndoe pastoralassistantselwyn@gmail.com

World Day of Prayer 7th March 2025 Theme "I made you wonderfully" prepared by the Cook Islands.
Leeston: St John the Evangelist, Leeston at 2 pm. All Welcome. (Please note change of time.)
Lincoln: St Stephen's Anglican Church, 7.00pm. Supper to follow. (Please note change of time)
Darfield: Baptist Church, 10.00am.

International Women's Day - Saturday 8 March. All ladies of the Parish are invited to Breakfast at Robert Harris, Lincoln at 8am. If you are able attend, please write your name and contact on list on table in Narthex or email me on: tric1948@gmail.com

Youth Mass Rolleston: We will be holding a Youth Mass in Rolleston on the 23rd March in the Rolleston School Hall. We have many roles available for the children to participate in, which are Musical Ministry: Choir/Musical instrument, Musical Ministry: Pack up/Pack down. Greeting, Offertory, Collection, Reading the Welcome/First Reading/Responsorial Psalm/Second Reading/Prayers of the Faithful, Setup/Pack down of the hall. The last date to register your child/children's interest is the **14th March** at 5pm at the absolute latest, to allow maximum time for rostering. The children will have mentors to help them along, and this is such a great way for them to get involved in mass, serving within the parish, and gain confidence in doing so. Please contact ***Telly Power*** on ***rollestonmass@gmail.com*** for more information and questions you may have. I will send you everything you need once you have made contact.

Parish Men's Breakfast 29th March (Saturday) @ 8.00 am
Where, **"The PANTRY"**, (Rosemerryn Shopping Complex, opposite the former Lincoln HQ which is now called the Sparrow) See the Pantry website for menu and prices. Names will be taken nearer the date to confirm numbers for the Pantry Staff. OR, phone Ray on 366 9795 to leave your name. Leave your name on the answer phone if no one answers.

An **Online Programme for Lent: Strength to Strength** – the practical benefits of daily prayer. A six-session series designed to give practical help to those wishing to pray more in their daily lives. Inspired by the Catechism of the Catholic Church. Presented by various speakers in an engaging way. Starting: Tuesday 4 March, 7.30pm. Information/registration: **www.fdm.org.nz/strength**

Breakfast for Men with Bishop Michael: the next Men's Breakfast will be on **Saturday 1st March, at St Bede's College.**

There will be adoration in the school chapel from 6.30am with breakfast at 7.30am.
Suggested koha of $5 to cover the cost of a cooked breakfast.
Come and be with other men of the diocese for food and encouragement.
Registrations open soon by visiting **www.cathmen.nz** or contact Mike Stopforth, 027 5398 542

CATHOLICISM IN KAZAKSTAN: come and learn something about the universality of the Church through the lens of Fr. Leopold Kropfreiter, from Kazakhstan. Imagine being a Catholic, numbering less than 1% of a population of 19 million with the majority being Muslim.
Date: Sunday 2 March,
Time: 11.30 am (after 10.30am Parish Mass)
Venue: Sacred Heart Church Hall, Spencer Street, Addington.
A koha on the day to support the Pontifical Mission would be appreciated.
Inquiries: Fr Michael Pui, 021-1737 992 or **michaelpui@missio.nz**

Diocesan Women's Retreat Day: Marian College, 5 April, beginning at 9.30am for mass with Bishop Michael. All women are invited to join us.

Catholic Women's League – Diocesan Conference: Saturday 8 March, 9am Mass @ *Holy Name Church*, Sealy St, Ashburton.
Conference at M.S.A. Havelock St. Ashburton. Registrations close 28 February.
Info: Joy O'Connell: Ph 027 622 5618; email: **joymoc14@gmail.com**

GREATER COMPANY OF MARY MASS: Saturday 8 March, 10.30am @ Mary Potter Community Centre, 442 Durham St North. All welcome.
Morning tea will follow. For catering purposes, rsvp by Monday 3 March, to the Little Company of Mary office, ph. 372 9224

The Bishops' Conference has launched the renewed **CathNews New Zealand project.** This ministry supports Catholics and people interested in the Church in accessing news and other content of interest. It draws from material that has already been published and includes original content.
The best way to receive **CathNews New Zealand** is by signing up to the newsletter, which is sent on Tuesday and Friday mornings.
Visit the CathNews New Zealand website and sign up: **https://cathnewsnz.com**

With no Catholic publications, except *Inform* and *Welcom*, this is a good site to receive Catholic news.

Fostering Vocations in the Parish Community – a half day Vocations Conference - for interested parishioners to learn about the role of the parish community in fostering vocations to the priesthood and Religious Life.
The Conference will be on **Saturday 15 March, 10am-1pm, @ the *Lamb of God Centre,*** St Albans.
This Conference would interest parishioners about creating environments in parishes so that more young people will hear the call to the Priesthood and Religious Life.
The Conference will include practical tips on how to do this, focussing on the upcoming Vocations Week in May.
For more details and to register please contact the Diocesan Vocations Coordinator, Matt O'Connell, moconnell@cdoc.nz ; or 366-9869.

From Bishop Michael:
Ash Wednesday is approaching. Bishop Michael wishes to bring to your attention the optional diocesan wide **Lenten Devotional Programme** - ***Exodus 40*** for men and ***Fiat 40*** the Women. I believe this will be a real blessing to parishes and communities.
Info on the diocesan website:
Exodus 40: https://cdoc.nz/news-events/exodus-40
Fiat 40: https://cdoc.nz/news-events/fiat-40

Lent Men's Programme – *Exodus 40*
Brothers, do you have a hole in your heart you cannot satisfy? Is there a habit you want to be rid of? Are you isolated? Are you frequently distracted? Do you want more time in your life for reflection? Do you feel not present enough for your loved ones? Are you approaching this Lent either with no plan or unsure of what to "give up "?
Well, we have something that will transform your life and give your lent this year structure like nothing you've done before. Join us this lent on ***Exodus 40*** for men. These structured challenges are a path to gaining Christian freedom from the things shackling us based on three pillars: **prayer, brotherhood and a set of physical disciplines.**
These challenges are designed to make your Lent journey with our Lord more fruitful and deliberate. We know this will be a blessing to you like no other. Register online on the diocesan website or contact Mike Stopforth: mstopforth@cdoc.nz ; ph. 366-9869.
A "tips and tricks" night for those undertaking *Exodus* will be held on **Thursday 27 February, 7.30pm, Assisi Lounge, St Mary's Pro-Cathedral** to hear from those who have done Exodus in previous years.

Lent Women's Programme – *FIAT 40*
Fiat 40 invites women who are seeking to grow closer to Christ by embracing the virtues of Mary: faith, humility and devotion.
Inspired by Mary's fiat - her wholehearted 'YES' to God, this programme combines daily prayer and intentional lifestyle sacrifices to create space for God's grace and deeper spiritual growth.
With the support of a small group, women are invited to simplify their lives, strengthen their faith, and model Mary's trust and obedience in their walk with Christ.
Like the men's Exodus programme there are three core elements: **a routine of prayer, disciplines such as no meat on Wednesday and Friday and support with others taking part in the programme.**
For more information visit the diocesan website or contact Jacinta Nicholls: jacinta@sjr.nz ; ph. 022 677 4249.

Health Care Workers Mass: all those involved in health care - nurses, doctors, rest home staff, pharmacists; to celebrate this healing ministry and to acknowledge and pray for the challenges faced.
Bishop Michael warmly welcomes you to Mass on **Sunday 6 April,** 6pm, @ St Mary's Pro-Cathedral, followed by hospitality in the Assisi Lounge afterwards.
information: Mike Stopforth, mstopforth@cdoc.nz , ph. 027 539 8542.

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: Tuesday 1.30pm to 3.30pm on Lincoln Church centre. Enquiries to Yvonne 0273341151 or 3669795

Legion of Mary (Mother of Mercy) All Catholics of the Selwyn parish are invited to join our meeting's, held Saturday 3.30 pm to 4.45pm in Lincoln Catholic Church centre. For further information contact Catherine 027356 0916

Rolleston Mothers' Prayer Group: Mondays 10am. An opportunity to meet with other Mothers, discuss some scripture or share a reflection, prayer or song & finish with a coffee. Babies/preschoolers welcome. Contact Brigid on 02108176358