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

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https://selwyncatholic.nz/

https://www.facebook.com/selwyncatholicparish

Second Sunday of Lent

16th March 2025.

Readings

Genesis15:5-18

Philippians 3:20 - 4:1

Luke 9:28-36

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, Thursday, 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 ***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 from 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.
The role of the Leadership Team is to give guidance and coordinate the Pastoral Life of the Selwyn Parish.
So far, no one has offered or been nominated for these positions.

- **Monday is St Patrick's Day** – the Patronal Feast for the Lincoln Church. There will be mass at 9.00am.

- **Next Sunday, 23 March, Fr John O'Connor** will be the celebrant at Darfield and Rolleston. Fr Brian will be able to go to Akaroa for a Sunday mass.

- At long last, the **Shands Road Property**, is on the market. The process has taken about 16 months. The property is a Deadline Sale - hopefully we will have a decision by the end of March.

- The family of Kay Rivers has donated a medium grand piano to the Lincoln Church. Kay has been in a Rest Home for the past year. The home is on the market and Bruce is moving to the city. I am thankful for their gift. Musicians are welcome to play it.

- **Daylight Saving** finishes on the weekend of 5-6 April. **Darfield Sunday mass** will be at 9.00am from 6 April.

On Monday we'll celebrate St Paddy's Day - green beer, green sausages and a nice cool Guinness are part of the Day. Rolling out the 'green carpet' is now a commercial money-spinner.

Legend tells us that Patrick was born about 400AD, near the English-Scottish border. He died about 460AD. As a youth he was captured by a raiding party and taken as a slave to Ireland where he worked in the fields and as a herdsman. After 6 years he was able to escape; he then made his way to France where he trained for the priesthood. Patrick eventually returned to Ireland to preach the Christian message to its 'wild' and pagan inhabitants.
Patrick is a good example of a person whose personal circumstances enabled him to reflect on life and to deepen his awareness of God. As time passed, he grew in his desire to share his Christian Faith with his former masters.

Patrick's Christian mission was not without rejection and abuse. At first, the Irish didn't flock to conversion. Patrick's real life, rather than the myth (driving out snakes) and legend (being an instant success) is worthy of reflection.
It was his perseverance and love of the Irish that enabled him to ultimately make headway. At the end of 33 years his missionary endeavours had effectively converted Ireland.

St Patrick's Day is more than singing 'Whisky in the Jar'. It's a day to acknowledge support and encouragement in times of difficulty; it's a day to appreciate that sincere personal witness, rather than advocating an aggressive 'pay-back' mentality, will eventually change people and even nations.
Today, it seems that the more society has been cushioned against misfortune, the more its members turn on each other when things go wrong.
St Patrick reminds us that a vindictive spirit ultimately leads nowhere. Rather, it's the possession of a forgiving spirit that ultimately brings change. The way of forgiveness brings healing to both the hurting and the hurt, to the victim as well as to those who have done wrong.
In reality, civilised society depends on learning and applying the value of forgiveness.

Behind the popular celebration of St Patrick's Day lies a day that celebrates hope.
Many people and nations could gain by taking a lesson out of Patrick's book of life.

A prayer attributed to St Patrick:
Christ be with me and within me.
Christ be behind me and before me.
Christ be beside me to comfort and restore me.
Christ be below me and above me in peace and in danger.
Christ be within the hearts of all who love me.
Christ be in the words of friend and stranger.

Lenten Programme

***Caritas* Lenten Appeal Envelopes** are available at the entrances to the churches. *Caritas* is the Catholic Church's Development and Aid Agency.
You may place the *Caritas Envelope* in the Collection Basket; or make a Bank Deposit **03 0518 0211216 03**

Stations of the Cross:
Lincoln: Fridays of Lent, 7.00pm.
Leeston: before Sunday mass – about 9.30am

Reconciliation
Lincoln: Tuesday 8 April, 7.00pm. **Darfield:** Sunday 13 April, 7.00pm

Sacrament of Anointing:
Leeston: Wednesday 9 April, 2.00pm. (there will be a cuppa in a local café).
Darfield: Thursday 10 April, 10.00am (there will be a cuppa in a local café).
Lincoln: Friday 11 April, 2.00pm, followed by afternoon tea.

Easter Triduum

Chrism Mass: St Mary's Pro-cathedral, Monday 14 April,7.30pm. At this mass, the Bishop blesses the Holy Oils that will be used in Parishes during the coming year.

Holy Thursday - Mass of the Lord's Supper.
Lincoln: 7.00pm – The Altar of Repose will be open for prayer for about 30 minutes after mass.
Darfield: 7.00pm

Good Friday – Commemoration of the Lord's Passion.
Leeston: Midday; **Darfield:** 3.00pm;
Rolleston: 3.00pm. (There will be **no Service in Lincoln** – it will be held in the Rolleston School Hall, Tennyson Street.

Easter Vigil (19 April)
Lincoln: 7.00pm (**no** 5.30pm mass). Parishioners are invited to the presbytery for some 'Easter Cheer' after the Vigil.

Easter Sunday
Lincoln: 8.30am; **Darfield:** 9.00am; **Leeston:** 10.00am; **Rolleston:** 11.00am

Akaroa Easter Services
Fr Michael Mahoney SM will be in residence in the Akaroa Presbytery from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday.
He will celebrate masses on Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday.
He will also preside at the **Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper @ 7.00pm;**
and the **Good Friday Commemoration of the Lord's Passion @ 3.00pm.**

There will be **masses in Akaroa on Sundays**: 23 March, 4 May, 25 May, 20 July.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS ON-DEMAND: journey through the' Stations of the Cros's at your own time and pace.
Not everyone is able to attend in person - you can now experience the 'Stations of the Cross' 'On Demand' at https://www.fdm.org.nz/
Visit the website anytime to reflect and pray in a way that best fits your schedule.

The First Communion Candidates will receive a copy of the **Creed** at masses this weekend.

The Second Parents' Meeting for Darfield parents will be held **this Sunday**, after mass.
Queries, please contact Brigid on pastoralassistantselwyn@gmail.comi

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.

The SAT team would like to invite a couple of parishioners from the Rolleston area who would like to join our team. We only meet about three or four times a year to organise different activities in our parish of Our Lady of the Plains. You will see in this newsletter the different things we have organised already and we thought that maybe there was some parishioners who would like to help but also give us some new ideas of things we can do as a parish. If this appeals to you, please contact Margaret on 021 1731316 or ring Mary at the office and she will put you in touch with us. Please give it some thought.

Prayer Blankets are given to the sick and those who are going through a distressing period of their lives. They are Blessed at mass and from then on, the person is kept in our prayers. Contact Yvonne 366 9795 or 027 334 1151 if you would like one for someone or for yourself.

Darfield Gardening: our team of Gardeners will meet Tuesday 18thth March 9am to 12 pm. Please come along to help keep our grounds looking good.

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 **16th 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.

"The Society of St Vincent de Paul is hosting a free Immigration Seminar at the **Assisi Lounge on the 24th of March at 6:30pm**. A licensed and experienced Immigration Officer will be speaking with free information and advice in the latest NZ Immigration and Visas laws. Spaces are limited so please email **Cyrene: cyrene@svdpcanterbury.nz** to RSVP your place."

CATHOLIC BUSINESS NETWORK LUNCH: 'Building Character to Shape our Future'.
Peter de Keratry will be the Guest Speaker at the first Catholic Business Network lunch of 2025 on Thursday, 3 April @ Rydges Latimer.
Peter has led significant church projects in the US & Australia and will share his powerful story of leadership in church initiatives, offering insights into how personal growth can positively influence people and communities around them.
For more information or to register: cbn@cdoc.nz

***LAUDATO SI* RETREAT** - 29 March, 10am - 4pm, at Catherine McAuley Centre, Villa Maria College. Pray and reflect on Pope Francis' encyclical, *Laudato Si*.
Register: roho@xtra.co.nz ; Ph 379-1298. Tea & Coffee provided. Bring own lunch,
Cost – koha.

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.

VACANCY - The diocese is seeking a part time Archivist (5 hours per week) to join our team. The Archivist is responsible for managing and preserving the diocese's archival collection, ensuring the accurate inventory, maintenance, and accessibility of materials that document the history, mission, and activities of the Catholic Diocese of Christchurch.
This role supports the Church's mission by safeguarding its heritage and enabling effective communication of its values and history. Job Description: https://cdoc.nz/news-events/vacancy-archivist . Enquiries/applications to Janice Rennell at jrennell@cdoc.nz

A Lenten Reflection Day, The Soul of a Pilgrim - facilitated by Sr Lyndall Brown rsj - Tuesday 18 March, 10.30am -2.30pm @ Catherine McAuley Centre, Villa Maria College.
We will pause to open our hearts to letting go, surrendering and embracing the possibility of wonder, delight, and inner freedom. Bring own lunch. Tea, coffee provided. Koha Donation.
Register: roho@xtra.co.nz ; Ph379-1298

FOOD FOR FAITH Fr John O'Connor offers brief daily encouragements for Lent
To receive daily emails: www.foodforfaith.org.nz

ROCHESTER LECTURE: FREE. All Welcome - 26 March, 7.30pm, Rochester Hall, 77 Ilam Road.
Maria Owen - CEO Impact Lab. Impact Lab connects decisionmakers in the social sector with data they can trust, use and learn from to do good, better for their communities. Maria has a BA in Politics, Psychology and Sociology from Cambridge University, an MBA from Stanford University and was New Zealand's Hi Tech Young Achiever of the Year in 2021