OUR LADY OF THE PLAIN'S PARISH

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

8th Sunday of Ordinary Time **Sunday 2nd March 2025**

Readings: Ecclesiasticus 27:4-7, St Paul 15:54-58, Luke 6:39-45

Drawing closer to Jesus this Lent

This Ash Wednesday we begin the Penitential Season of Lent. During these 40 days we walk with Jesus, remembering the 40 days he spent fasting in the wilderness as a preparation for his 3-year Ministry that would lead to his Passion, Death and Resurrection.

During this time, we have a wonderful opportunity to look at our lives and ask ourselves "how am I doing as a follower of Jesus". I love this Season because I take a good look and see the bad habits that are present in my life and the areas of sin and to know that these get in the way of my relationship with God. I pray that I may be sorry for my failings and I know that with the help of the Holy Spirit I can improve as his follower.

During this Lenten Season may all of us grow in loving friendship with Jesus and follow him more closely, knowing that this entails taking up our cross and denying ourselves. May we make time to be with Jesus in Prayer knowing that we can be completely open and honest with him and being receptive to all he wishes to do in, through and with us. May we be conscious of the needs of others and to provide for them through almsgiving, knowing that what we do to others we do to Jesus. Finally, may we make an effort to Fast; in this way we can more closely empathise with the suffering of Jesus and our brothers and sisters who live in poverty. It also helps to strengthen our will in being able to say "No" when temptations come and to say "Yes" to God.

May all of us have a blessed and fruitful Lent.

God bless Fr Chris

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.

Our Parish
31 Gerald Street, Lincoln. 7608
Ph: 03 325 2770

Parish Priest: Fr Brian Fennessy
E: bfennessy@inet.net.nz
M: 027 6758456

Assistant: Fr Chris Orr
E:christopherjohnorr@gmail.com
M:027 6591962

Parish Secretary: Mary Prendergast
E:selwyncatholicparish@gmail.com
Office Hours: Wed & Fri 9am-1pm

Pastoral Assistant: Brigid McIndoe
E: pastoralassistantselwyn@gmail.com
Office Hours: Tue 9.30am-12.30pm
M 021 08176358

The Christchurch Diocese website:
https://cdoc.nz

Weekend Masses

Lincoln Saturday Vigil: 5.30pm
Sunday:8.30am
Darfield Sunday: 8.30am (Summer)
9.00 am (Winter)
Leeston Sunday: 10.00am
Rolleston Sunday: 11am

Weekday Masses:

Lincoln: Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 9.00am
Leeston: Wednesday 5.30pm
Darfield: Thursday 10.00am
Reconciliation: Saturday 10.00 am at
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament Friday after mass until midday.
A Funeral mass will replace the advertised mass in the same church.

The Bishops' Lent Appeal for Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand begins next week**,** Envelopes are available at each mass centre.

First Communion Programme. Lesson 2 this week for registered participants. Children will be presented with a Bible this Sunday. Classes are held during Sunday Mass 8.30am Lincoln, roll check and hand in completed lesson between 8.15 -8.25am in the foyer.8.30am Darfield If your child is unable to attend due to sickness. Please email Brigid on pastoralassistandselwyn@gmail.com

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.

Lincoln Prayer Group wish to inform parishioners that we won't meet on the evening of Ash Wednesday,5th March but will return the following Wednesday as usual,

Darfield Gardening: For those willing and able to meet Tuesday 4th March 9am to 12 pm

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.
Lincoln: St Stephen's Anglican Church, 7.00pm. Supper to follow.
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. The last date to register your child/children's interest is the **14th March** at 5pm 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). Names will be taken nearer the date to confirm numbers for the Pantry Staff. OR, phone Ray on 366 9795 to leave your name.

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.

The SAT team have got all the dates of the activities they are planning so put these dates in your dairy now.
The Picnic was held on 2nd February and that was a success
Men's Breakfast Saturday 29th March at the Pantry in Rosemerryn, Lincoln at 8am. Ray will be taking names for that soon
Mid-Winter Luncheon Sunday 30th July after Mass at Rolleston. this will be a pot luck finger food meal
Housie will again run every Wednesday of August at 1pm
Quiz night at the meeting room in Lincoln Friday 3rd October it is always a good night
Christmas pot luck dinner after Saturday night Mass Saturday 8th November
The SAT team are also doing the food for Alpha on Thursday 6th March at Rolleston