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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Parish Safeguarding Officer
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https://selwyncatholic.nz/

https://www.facebook.com/selwyncatholicparish

Third Sunday of Easter

4th May 2025.

Readings

Acts 5:27-41

Revelation 5:11-14

John 21:1-19

WEEKEND MASSES

Lincoln: Saturday Vigil - 5.30pm
Sunday - 8.30am

Darfield: Sunday – 8.30 am (Summer)
9.00 am (Winter)
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/.

Next Sunday is traditionally called **'Good Shepherd Sunday or Vocation Sunday'**: a day to pray for Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life.

Note of condolence from Rev Mark Barlow - Anglican Vicar: On behalf the Anglican Parish of Lincoln, I extent to you our dear and beloved sisters and brothers in Christ, our deepest and most sincere love and condolences upon the death of The Holy Father, Pope Francis. He has been a worldwide inspiration to all who long for peace, equity and justice, as well as an example to all Christians who seek to follow in the way of our Saviour. Our prayers will be with and for those who, by God's grace, are called to discern and consecrate his Successor.

The next **Baptismal Preparation Programme** for parents wishing to have a child baptised will be on **Sundays 11 & 18 May**, 7.00pm - 8.15pm in the Lincoln Church Centre. Contact the Parish Office to register.

The Catholic Shop: coming to Lincoln this Sunday evening. Vicki from the Catholic shop will be setting up a mini store in our church centre from 6-7pm this Sunday 4th May to enable parents/families & friends to purchase a gift for First Holy communion candidates. All welcome

First Holy Communion; Sunday lessons recommence this Sunday, 4 May at 8.30am Lincoln mass. Children will be presented with a copy of the Prayer of Sorrow at masses this weekend.
Parents' 4th session will be this Sunday 4th May 7.00pm, at Lincoln. The topic will be "The Sacraments".
Darfield Parents will meet after 9.00 am mass next Sunday, 11th May

First Reconciliation will be celebrated in Lincoln, this Tuesday 6th May, 6.30pm. Please be seated by 6.20pm. Children to bring their Act of Sorrow Card and Bible. Fr Dan and a priest from Our Lady of Victories will be assisting.

Darfield Gardening: our team of Gardeners will meet Tuesday 6th May, 9am to 12 pm. Please come along to help keep our grounds looking tidy.

The Catholic Women's League is having their Mothers' Day raffle this weekend and the following weekend. This is our fund raiser for KidsCan and all money made goes entirely to KidsCan, tickets will be available at Masses at Lincoln and Rolleston this weekend and again at Lincoln the following weekend
Tickets are $2 per ticket or 3 for $5 Please support this worthy cause.

Lincoln Prayer Group. The prayer group based at Lincoln will not meet next Wednesday 7th May but will return from the following Wednesday each week at 7.00pm-8.30pm in the Parish Centre.

Rolleston - Children's Liturgy. Due to two of our volunteers moving out of Selwyn we need some more parents to assist in order to be able to offer a weekly children's liturgy. Training will be given and assistance with forms required for safeguarding provided. The lesson plan & materials for each week will be provided. Contact Brigid on pastoralassistantselwyn@gmail.com or 02108176358

The Selwyn Legion of Mary invites parishioners to a 3-day Healing Seminar.
This week Wednesday to Friday 7th – 9th May
The 90-minute sessions will be animated by Fr Alliston Fernandes - he initially came from Malta. He has worked in NZ for several years.
The sessions will focus on:

- What the Scriptures reveal on the Truth about God's love and what it means to be His beloved children.
- In Jesus we focus on the restoration to that identity of being God's sons and daughters.
- We are empowered by the Holy Spirit as God's love is poured into our hearts thereby freeing us to carry out our God-given mission.

There will also be Songs of Praise, Testimonies, Exposition, Reconciliation, Anointing.

The Catholic Women's League is holding their Annual High Tea for the ladies of Our Lady of the Plains, Selwyn Parish which includes Darfield, Leeston, Rolleston and Lincoln. High Tea Monday 12th May in the Lincoln Church Centre at 2pm and we invite the ladies of our parish to join us. There will be food and laughter with lots of chatter. We warmly invite you to come along and join us. Hope you see you there

From Bishop Michael: PRIESTS' RETIREMENT VILLAS UPDATE
A Heartfelt Thank You – We're Nearly There! We are delighted to share that, through the generosity of our community, $2.7 million has now been pledged toward the Priest Retirement Villas Campaign, nearly 80% of our overall target. This is a tremendous milestone and a testament to the love and appreciation so many people have for the priests who have faithfully served. The vision for the Priest Retirement Villas has always been about providing our retired priests with a comfortable place to live, offering both community and independence. While this is a great achievement, we still need support to reach our $3.5 million goal. Construction will commence later this year. You can still pledge your support, by visiting: https://cdoc.nz/support/donate/prv

Copy of Bishop Michael's Homily at the Diocesan Requiem Mass for Pope Francis,

25 April 2025:

Just one week ago, we stood together at the foot of the Cross. Good Friday - heavy with sorrow, shadowed by suffering. We remembered Jesus, abandoned and broken, taking upon himself the weight of the world's sin. And yet, in that place of darkness, we witnessed something deeply profound: a love that did not run away. A love that embraced suffering. A love that trusted in the Father even when the way forward seemed impossible. Jesus, our Lord, placed his life into the hands of his Father and believed - believed that God still had a plan.

And today, one week later, we stand in the light of the Resurrection. Hope has broken through the darkness. Death was not the end. The stone has been rolled away. In our Gospel today Jesus now sits with his disciples, eating with them, speaking peace to them, restoring them. What once seemed hopeless has now become the

foundation of everlasting hope. It is in that light that we gather today - on this Anzac Day of all days - remembering the sacrifice of many and now mourning the death of one. We come to commend our beloved Holy Father, Pope Francis, to the mercy and love of God.

Pope Francis, like the Lord he followed, did not run from suffering. He too embraced the trials of this life. He trusted - often with no clarity of where the path would lead - in the hope that God still had a plan. I remember vividly being in St. Peter's Square the night he was elected. The world waited in silence, and then - there he was. A simple man standing before us. No grand proclamation. No long speech. Just a gentle greeting: "Buona sera… Good evening." And then, astonishingly, he asked us to bless him. The man who had just become the Vicar of Christ on earth - bowing before the people of God, asking for their prayer. Not long after that, I met an Argentinian priest who knew him well from Buenos Aires. He was amazed in the transformation of his Cardinal. "What has happened to him?" he asked. "Where is the tired, aging cardinal who was ready for retirement?" Jorge Mario Bergoglio had his plans. He even knew which retirement home he would go to. But as he himself would later say, "God had another plan… and gave me a new lease on life."

There is no instruction manual for how to be Pope. Instead, he took the name and example of a humble friar who gave his life in service of the poor, St Francis of Assisi.
Over thirteen years of faithful service Pope Francis allowed the Holy Spirit to lead him, to shape him, and to guide our Church. He lived not by a blueprint but by a trustful openness to God's surprising call.

He became a pilgrim of hope. An early and striking example of this came shortly after his election. Vatican officials began requesting state visits, diplomatic trips, grand appearances. But Pope Francis had something else in mind. He wanted to go to Lampedusa - a small island off the coast of Sicily, where desperate migrants and refugees from Africa were being held in refugee camps. The officials said it was impossible. Soon after, Air Italia called the Vatican to confirm a curious booking: a man named Jorge Bergoglio had made a booking to Lampadusa. The Vatican officials responded quickly to arrange a more formal booking.
This was the first visit of 53 Papal visits he would make throughout his pontificate. It became a defining moment. He stood before the world and said, "I come as a pilgrim of hope and peace."

Pope Francis lived for 88 years. He experienced hardship in all its forms. He served in the slums of Buenos Aires, washed the feet of prisoners, and called the Church to care for the earth as our common home. He lived through economic crisis, pandemic, and chronic ill health. And yet - he remained full of hope.
In the face of poverty, hatred, war, and despair, Pope Francis never gave up. Speaking on a visit to a war-torn nation in Africa, he said: "We need to keep hope alive. And we need to give hope. Being a pilgrim of hope means choosing not to give in to despair."
In the last year we have witnessed his strength ebbing away and his body failing him as he struggled under the burdened by years of illness and age. In the face of this suffering, Pope Francis has lifted his voice one more time to the world, by proclaiming a Jubilee Year of Hope - a bold cry from a weary shepherd, calling all people to return to the heart of God, the God whose mercy who has no limits and whose love never fails.

This Anzac Day, we also remember the great sacrifices made by others who journeyed into darkness for the sake of light. Who, like Pope Francis, were pilgrims of hope. Their courage, their self-giving, their vision for a better world - it echoes in his legacy. Like our fallen service men and women gone before us, Pope Francis too has finished his race. The pilgrim has reached his destination. He has walked through this life as a messenger of mercy, a prophet of peace, a man of hope.

In the hope of the resurrection we pray, may our risen Saviour now greet Pope Francis, as we hope He has greeted all who have given their life in service of others: "Well done, good and faithful servant. Enter into the joy of your Master."

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Abbeyfield Ellesmere would like to welcome you to their OPEN HOME to enjoy a relaxed tour, meet some of our wonderful residents and enjoy tea, coffee and light refreshments with them. Whether you are considering future living options or simply curious, please join us on Sunday 18th May 11am – 1pm @ 33 Flannery St, Leeston.

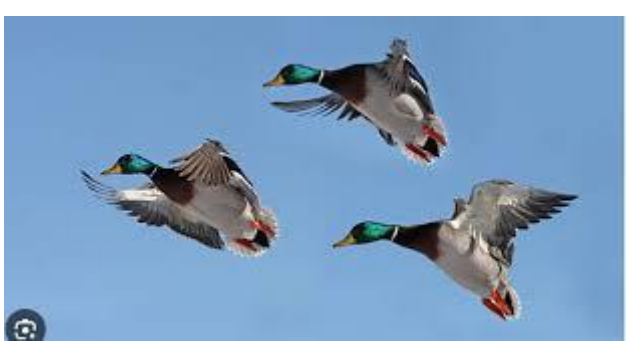
Year of Jubilee: the Christchurch Diocese is offering a 6-day pilgrimage, 26 - 31 October, to the sacred places of the foundation of the Catholic Faith in NZ. The pilgrimage will begin in Auckland and will explore the sites of the first missionaries that brought the faith to NZ.
Matt O'Connell is leading the tour and there will be a priest chaplain. Bishop Michael will also join the pilgrimage for two days.
Information/itinerary: contact Matt O'Connell, ph. 366-9869; moconnell@cdoc.nz

St Thomas of Canterbury College: Open Morning - Wednesday 14 May, 9 am - 12 pm.

Marian College: Open Day, Tuesday 20 May, 2pm - 6.30pm.

St Joseph's Parish Hawera: 150th Jubilee, Labour Weekend, 24-26 October. Past parishioners are invited. Info: stjosephshawerajubilee@gmail.com

St Therese of Lisieux Retreat Day: Saturday 17 May at the Carmelite Monastery; to celebrate 100 years since St Thérèse's canonisation. Sr Lauren will share about her life and writings. Begins 8.30am with Mass, finishing 1pm. Morning tea provided. BYO lunch. Cost: Donation. Register: laurenbutler76@gmail.com

A group of ladies from our parish who attended the Diocesan Women's Retreat held on the 5th April at Marian College.

HAPPY DUCK SHOOTING WEEKEND