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 Priest: Fr Brian Fennessy
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Assistant: Fr Chris Orr
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Pastoral Assistant: Brigid McIndoe
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https://selwyncatholic.nz/

https://www.facebook.com/selwyncatholicparish

Fourth Sunday of Easter

"Good Shepherd Sunday or Vocation Sunday"

11th May 2025.

Readings

Acts 13:43-52

Revelation 7:14-17

John 10:27-30

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, 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/.

Today is traditionally called **'Good Shepherd Sunday or Vocation Sunday'**: a day to pray for Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life.
There is a Special Collection on 'Vocation Sunday' to support the running of the Seminary in Auckland.

This Sunday we welcome Fr Ben who will be the celebrant at the Lincoln & Leeston masses. Fr Ben id in New Zealand finishing his PhD in Philosophy. He resides at the Cathedral.

NO Lincoln Thursday masses until the second Thursday of July: Fr Chris will be going to the Chatham's and then Fr Brian will be going on holiday.

There are still some **Tax Receipt** in the Lincoln Church Narthex and at Rolleston. Parishioner are reminded that if they use envelopes or bank online – then they are entitled to ⅓ rebate on their giving.

Darfield: the Gardening Group have fundraised and dedicated a rose bush & plaque in memory of Margaret Brenmuhl who was tragically killed, with her husband, Frank.
After mass this Sunday – we'll Bless the plague in Thanksgiving of Margaret's dedication to the Darfield Church Gardens.

Papal Medal. This is to advise that Bishop Michael will be celebrating a Mass for Michael McEvedy at 12.05pm on Wednesday 14th May at St Mary's Pro-Cathedral, Manchester Street.
Michael passed away on 27th November last year. At the time of his death, he had been nominated for a Papal Award, which was granted posthumously by the late Pope Francis. This will be presented to his family at the end of Mass. All are welcome to attend.

RIP

Recently Deceased: Carol George (previously Lincoln); Bishop Owen Dolan; Purita (Philippines).

Anniversary: Gerald McDrury 5/5. Pat Healy 13/5

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 Women's League is having their Mothers' Day raffle this 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.

Darfield: Morning Tea After mass this Sunday for Mother's Day.

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 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

First Holy Communion - Lesson 10 to be handed in this Sunday. Lincoln -8.30am -Children's Lesson. **Darfield** 9.00am -Children's Lesson. Parents Meeting - After Mass.

CWL. On Wednesday 14th May, seven Selwyn Parish ladies are boarding a 50-seater bus to join other Catholic Women 's League members of the Christchurch Diocese and the CWL chaplain Father Peter Farrant, on a Pilgrimage of Hope. The bus picks up members after leaving Sockburn's OLV church at 4 stops along the way. The late Pope Francis called 2025 a Jubilee year for pilgrimages of hope and Bishop Gielen chose 4 local sites as possible destinations for a pilgrimage. The Christchurch CWL are heading to Temuka to St Mary Mackillop Chapel and Heritage Centre where Greymouth and Timaru CWL branches will join us and Temuka parishioners for Mass, lunch and a visit to the pilgrimage chapel.

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.

Craft Group: You are invited to visit The **Gerbera cut flower Nursery** on Days Road with the Craft and Friendship group on Tuesday the 3rd of June. We will Carpool from the Parish Centre at 1.30.pm. We do need names could you please ring Yvonne on (03) 3669795 by Thursday the 31st of May.

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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

Thinking about a Vocation to the Priesthood or Religious Life?
On this Vocations Sunday are you being called to Shepherd others as a Priest or Religious? Pope Francis wrote: “Hearing that divine call is the surest way for us to fulfil our deepest desire for happiness”.
Contact the Vocations Director: Fr Tien Cao. petercaochitien@yahoo.com;
or the Vocations Coordinator, Matt O’Connell, moconnell@cdoc.nz .

Praying for Vocations & Priests on Thursday: the diocesan family dedicates Thursdays to pray for priests and vocations to the priesthood. You might like to come to Mass on Thursdays, if possible, but all are invited to pray for this intention using a prayer for vocations written by Pope Francis.
Prayer cards are available at the back of the church
For more information contact the Vocations Coordinator, Matt O’Connell, 366-9869;
or moconnell@cdoc.nz

Understanding & Practising Synodality: join us on Saturday, 7 June, 1–4pm, at Rosary House, for a session on how we can be Pilgrims of Hope in today’s world, facilitated by Kevin Gallagher. All are welcome RSVP via text 027 227 2471 or email rogerandannemarie@hotmail.com

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

Leo XIV is the new Pope

"Peace be with all of you!" - the first words of Pope Leo XIV. The Conclave has elected Robert Francis Cardinal Prevost as the 267th Bishop of Rome”.

He was born during 1955 in Chicago and was ordained a priest in 1982. He was consecrated a Bishop in 2014 and made a Cardinal in 2023. He was a member of the Augustinian order and spent most of his priesthood in Peru – going there in 1985.

Mothers' Day Prayer

Good and Gentle God,
we pray in gratitude for our mothers
and for all the women of history
who have joined with you in the wonder of bringing forth new life.
You who became human through a woman,
grant to all mothers
the courage they need to face the uncertain future
that life with children always brings.

Give them the strength
to live and to be loved in return,
not perfectly, but humanly.

Give them the faithful support of husband,
family and friends
as they care for the physical and spiritual growth of their children.

Give them joy and delight in their children
to sustain them through the trials of motherhood.
Most of all, give them the wisdom
to turn to you for help when they need it most.
In Jesus' name we pray.
Amen.