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: Chi Abadom
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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 -
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https://selwyncatholic.nz/

https://www.facebook.com/selwyncatholicparish

First Sunday of Advent,

Year A

30 November 2025

Readings

Isaiah 2:1-5

Romans 13:11-14

Matthew 24;37-44

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/.

From Fr Brian:

- Fr Chris is on holiday for the next 2 weeks.
- We welcome Fr John O'Connor as the celebrant in Darfield & Rolleston this Sunday. I'm going to Akaroa on Sunday to celebrate mass for the First Anniversary of Fr Geoff Gray's death.
- We welcome Fr Ben Asare as the celebrant in Lincoln & Leeston this Sunday.
- There will be **no Lincoln Thursday mass** on 4 December.
- Fr Dan Doyle will celebrate Mass in Akaroa, next Sunday, 7 December, 9.30am.

- The **re-oiling of the cedar cladding on St Patrick's Church** will commence on Tuesday 2nd December - and given ideal weather conditions should be complete in the week before Christmas; '*Canterbury Waterproofing'* are the contractors.
  Maintenance on the cedar is a big expense - it has to be oiled every ~3 years. Scaffolding is now one of the major expenses. In hindsight, I don't think it was a good choice for the cladding of the church.

The Rolleston Christmas Parade is next Sunday, 7 December - there will be parking restrictions on Tennyson Street and the surrounding Streets.
The Parade begins at 1.30pm, but I believe various Roads will be closed from mid-morning.
Please be aware….and be observant of 'No Parking' signs.

WANTED - NEEDED - WANTED - NEEDED

There is a desperate need for more parishioners to volunteer to clean St Patrick's Church, in Lincoln.
Several senior parishioners have retired from this role and there have recently been 2 deaths of parishioners who undertook this role.
Each weekend - about 250 people attend mass in Lincoln – we need families and individuals to volunteer to go on a roster for this role. The duties includes: cleaning the church & narthex, clean the Church Centre, clean 6 toilets & hand basins and floors. Three people are normally rostered each week.
Please place your name, email, phone on clipboard in the narthex – we need more volunteers.
Equipment and cleaning supplies are in the cupboard within the women's toilet.
If several parishioners volunteer - the roster could be once every 2-3 months.

Advent Anointing Masses:

- **Lincoln: Friday 5 December, 2.00pm (no 9.00am mass).** Followed by Afternoon Tea in the Church Centre.
- **Leeston: Wednesday, 10 December, 2.00pm;** followed by Afternoon Tea in a café.
- **Darfield: Thursday, 11 December, 10.00am;** followed by Morning Tea in a café.

Advent Reconciliation: Thursday 11 December, 7.00pm, Lincoln; Frs Dan Doyle & Monty Bamford will be the visiting priests.

Darfield Christmas Carols: Sunday 14 December, at the Baptist Church, 13 Greendale Road, 7.00pm.

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CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES
Wednesday 24 December

- **Rolleston Primary School Hall,** (11 Tennyson Street): Carols 5.30pm, Mass 6.00pm.
- **St Patrick's Church, Lincoln:** Carols 8.00pm, Mass 8.30pm.
- **ST John the Evangelist Church, Leeston:** Carols 5.45pm, Mass 6.00pm.
- **St Joseph's Church, Darfield:** Carols 8.00pm, Mass 8.30pm.

CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES
Thursday 25 December

- **St Patrick's Church, Lincoln:** 9.00am
- **St Patrick's Church, Akaroa:** 9.30am

There will be NO weekday masses in the Selwyn Parish:
26, 30, 31 December
2, 6, 7, 8, 9 January 2026

MASS ON 'NEW YEAR'S DAY'
Thursday 1 January

- **St Patrick's Church, Lincoln:** 9.00am. Followed by Morning Tea.

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Christmas Eve Mass @ Rolleston - Children's Nativity Play: 5.30am carols, 6.00pm mass.
Practices will be at Rolleston at 11.00am during Children's Liturgy time on 14th & 21st December. Please email Aimee if your child is interested. They need to be able to be at both rehearsals, if possible, please.
If they have a request for a certain part, we will see what we can do to make it happen, depending on numbers.
aimee.stewart2424@gmail.com

Registrations are now open for the Selwyn Parish 2026 **'First Holy Communion Programme'.**
The link to the Schedule & Registration Form can be found on the Parish website:
https://selwyncatholic.nz/communion/ Brigid McIndoe: passtoralassistantselwyn@gmail.com

RIP: Recently Deceased: Don McIntyre (OLA), Rana McGurk (Lincoln), Jill Moore (Darfield).
Anniversary: Fr Geoff Gray 29/11. **Masses** for the Holy Souls.

2026 Columban Calendars are now on sale: cost $13. They are good value and a way to support the St Columban's Mission Society.

St Vincent de Paul Society, Selwyn, advises the Winner of their Christmas Hamper raffle was Tyrone, from North Canterbury. Thanks to all who supported us.

The Selwyn Parish Craft Group: Sale of handmade goods **next Sunday, 7 December**, after 8.30am Lincoln mass. All proceeds will go towards the Parish Building Fund. Come and get some early Christmas gifts. Knitted goods, chutneys and jams, etc. Cash only.

Filipino Mass: Sunday 7 December, 5.00pm, @ St Patrick's Church, Lincoln. Fr Rex Ramos will be the celebrant.
Filipino Christmas Novena & mass: beginning Monday 15 December, 7.00pm @ St Patrick's Church, Lincoln.

Women's Retreat Day: *"No longer forsaken - the Lord delights in you".*
Saturday 6 December, 11.45am - 5.00pm @ St Teresa's Church & Hall. Cost: $30 - Lunch Included. (An Advent Refection). Facilitated by the 'Sisters of Life'.
Registration: www.holyfamily.nz/nourish-your-faith/womens-retreat

The **Catholic Outdoor Club** has a Holiday House available in Arthur's Pass, on Sunshine Tce (behind the Police Station). The house has 3 bunk rooms to accommodate 18 people. It has a good lounge and kitchen. Ideal for an economical family holiday in the mountains. Cost from $90 a night.
Bookings may be made on the website: https://www.holidayhouses.co.nz/listing/55811

Great Saints of Italy Tour 2026: Fr Chris Friel, from Timaru, will lead a 2-week tour to Italy in May 2026. Contact Pilgrimage Tours: Ph 0800 99 77 88 or www.theTOURcompany.net for the full itinerary and price.

Catholic Social Services has relocated to join the Diocesan Offices @ 391 Moorhouse Avenue.

Food for Faith: daily reflections in preparation for Christmas. Sign up to receive daily emails during Advent at www.foodforfaith.org.nz

Handel's *Messiah:* by the Cathedral Choir & Orchestra, Sunday 7 December, 1.30pm @ St Mary's Pro-Cathedral. Admission is $30.

Closing Mass for Jubilee Year of Hope: Sunday 28 December, 9.30am; @ St. Mary's Pro-Cathedral.

New Zealand Christians in Science is hoping to run a third mentoring group starting in March 2026, and extending until December 2026. We are looking for science students or theology students, undergrad or postgrad, or young professionals or post-docs, who would like to dig deeper into the science and theology literature and discuss this material with their peers, and mentors from NZCIS. Commitments would include one to two hours a month of meeting online, and reading at least one book a month.
NZCIS would cover the cost of books.
If you are interested in applying, please contact Dr Nicola Hoggard at admin@nzcis.org as soon as possible.
We are happy to answer any questions you might have.
Sr Kathleen Rushton.

In 1975, Pope Paul VI published his Apostolic Exhortation, *Evangelii Nuntiandi*. It identified evangelisation as the task of all Christian people. Join Bishop John Adams and several others - as they share their insights on the wisdom of the document and how it can be lived out in today's context.
The event is live on Tuesday 2 December, 7pm Register at: https://bit.ly/december2webinar

Advent Sunday Mass Readings Reflections: Fr Frank Bird has for several years been helping people make those preparations through his Living the Word project. You can download the resources, and access other rich content, at www.livingtheword.org.nz/pray

Darfield Mass 10am Thursday 4th December - I will be attending this Mass and will have 3 spare seats in my car if anyone would like to come with me. Phone Tricia Smith 021 181 1501 for a ride. Will stay on for coffee at Dalethorpe House after the Mass.

Friendship Group - will combine with the Mass of Anointing next Friday 5 December at 2pm. Please bring a small plate of afternoon tea to share. All welcome.

Confirmation Group – Saturday 22 November
~ with Bishop Michael

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Scenes from the Parish Pot-Luck Christmas Dinner, 8 November