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
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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

Third Sunday of Advent,

Year A

14 December 2025

Readings

Isaiah 33:1-6,10

James 5:7-10

Matthew 11:2-11

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/.

From Fr Brian:

- Fr Mike Mahoney will celebrate mass at Akaroa on Sunday 21 December (Fourth Sunday of Advent).
- Fr Mike Mahoney will celebrate mass at Akaroa on Christmas Day, 9.30am.
- Fr Dan Doyle will celebrate mass in Akaroa on Sunday 4 January.

WANTED - NEEDED - WANTED - NEEDED

In response to last weekend's notice: – there were several more volunteers to clean St Patrick's Church on a roster.
'Thankyou' to those who volunteered. Is there anyone else who would like to join the roster ???????
As I mentioned - there is a desperate need for more parishioners to volunteer to clean St Patrick's Church.
The duties include: 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.

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

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The **Selwyn Parish Annual Picnic** will be on again at Helena and Mike Hanning's place, om West Coast Road, near West Melton, on **Sunday 15 February commencing with Mass at 12 noon**.
This is an advance notice so mark it on your calendar for next year.
It is always a great day so please come and join us.
More details early in the New Year.

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.
  Parishioners are invited to the presbytery for some 'Christmas Cheer' after the Lincoln Vigil Mass

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

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

St Patrick's Church, Lincoln: 9.00am.
Feast of *'Mary, Holy Mother of God'* - mass will be followed by tea & toast in the Church Centre.
All welcome.

There will be **NO weekday masses in the Selwyn Parish**:
26, 30, 31 December
2, 6, 7, 8, 9 January 2026
No weekday masses in Leeston or Darfield until mid-January.

No Akaroa Wednesday Masses on 31 December & 7 January.

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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'.** So far 24 families have registered for 2026. **We need registration before the end of the year.**
The link to the Schedule & Registration Form can be found on the Parish website:
https://selwyncatholic.nz/communion/
Brigid McIndoe: passtoralassistantselwyn@gmail.com

2026 Columban Calendars are now on sale: cost $13.

Copies of the latest ***Inform*** are available at the entrances to the churches. Please take a copy. It is also available online at: https://cdoc.nz/inform

Filipino Christmas Novena & mass: beginning Monday 15 December, 7.00pm @ St Patrick's Church, Lincoln. See Lincoln Notice Board for the timetable.

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

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

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

Closing Mass for the Jubilee Year of Hope: Sunday 28 December, 9.30am @ St. Mary's Pro-Cathedral.
All are invited to join Bishop Michael in celebrating the closing Mass of the Jubilee Year.

SVDP Christmas Appeal: We are now entering the Christmas Season and have our usual Christmas Appeal, which shall run for the next two weeks, ending on Sunday 14 December. This year, as previously, we are hoping to provide presents for children and food for families at this time of year, which can be stressful for so many in our communities.
If you wish to contribute, we would be very grateful to accept UNWRAPPED presents (so we can ensure the present will be suitable for its recipient) and or NON-PERISHABLE food items for the Christmas hampers we prepare. Food can be left in the container in the Church foyer in Lincoln, or at any of the other Mass venues.
Thank you to all parishioners who have been so generous in helping with our mission of helping those in need in our parish and the wider community during this last year. We cannot do our work without your help and support. Lastly, we wish everyone a very happy and holy Christmas and New Year.
This appeal is also being supported by *Lone Star* in Rolleston. They have a Christmas Tree where you can leave items. This is being advertised to the wider community. Ian Tennant

Christmas Mass Times throughout the Diocese, plus Diocesan News, can be checked on the website:
https://cdoc.nz/

Formed is an online media platform filled with over 4,000 programmes about the bible, faith, parenting, religious movies, talks and even cartoon for children.
It is an amazing website to enrich, deepen and inspire your faith.
This material is free for all Selwyn Parishioners (The Selwyn Parish has a subscription to this worthwhile website).

You can gain access to all **FORMEDs** content by following these simple steps:
* Go to: https://signup.formed.org
* Enter Selwyn - in the parish slot;
* Enter your name and your email address.

You are then registered.
Once you are registered: a confirmation email is often send.
Along the top row of icons – there are many good resources. The 'program' icon will content you to many study sites.

The new plaque for the **Memorial Stone on Shands Road** is in process. The new plaque will be stone, rather than bronze. Robertson Memorials are the stonemasons - which will be installed when 'they get round to it' in the New Year. The Memorial Stone marks the site of the first church & presbytery in the New Headford Parish, as it was known in the 1870s. The Shands Road Church was demolished when the Lincoln Church was opened in 1956.

A Christmas Refection: Fr Brian

When the shepherds conveyed, to Mary and Joseph, their encounter with the angel and the announcement about the birth of the Saviour, the Gospel tells us that Mary *'treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart'* (Luke 2:19).
Again, a few years' later, when Jesus is found in the Temple, the Gospel tells us that '*his mother stored up all these things in her heart'* (Luke 2:51).

In these two events, Mary reflected on God's revelation and action. In other words, Mary was attentive to God's word, she absorbed God's action, and she allowed God's word to find depth in her heart. She was a person of prayer.

The celebration of Christmas is a time for us to do likewise – to treasure God's action in our hearts and then to act upon it.

When the angel appeared to the shepherds he said, *'I bring you news of great joy, joy to be shared by the whole people'* (Luke 2:10).
Relationship to Jesus is not restricted by family, ethnic or societal ties, but everyone who hears the Good News, become like the shepherds, witnesses to the person and message of Jesus.

Mary is known as the 'First Disciple' – who shows us how to respond to God's revelation.
When we treasure God's word and ponder upon it then we are also strengthened in our sensitivity to the presence and movement of God.

The shepherds and Mary encourage us to not only hear God's revelation, but to sense the action of God, reflect upon, personalise, and then to act upon it to become an effective disciple.

Christmas is a great 'call to action': to prayer and discipleship.

The **Marian Movement of Priests** invites you to join Fr Donal McIlraith, for Mass and prayers on Thursday 22 January, 5:00pm, at *Sacred Heart Church*, 70 Spencer Street, Addington. Information: contact Jeanette, ph 325-7066; email: info@mmp-oceania.net

Vinnies - Conference Coordinator: part time permanent role - 20 hours per week.
The role of the Conference Coordinator involves responsibility for implementing membership programmes, supporting local Conferences in their charitable activates and fostering community engagement to ensure effective delivery of the Societies mission. The role supports local conferences by enabling spiritual formation, programme delivery and facilitating training for Vincentians that strengthen skills.
For a role description: contact Bill Manning - Area President: bill@svdpcanterbury.nz or Clodagh Ward: clodagh@svdpcanterbury.nz . Closing Date for application is 15 January 2026.

The **Diocese is looking to recruit a Chief Finance Officer** (CFO) to lead a team and be a key strategic partner in shaping the future of the Catholic Diocese of Christchurch.
The CFO will be accountable for the Diocese's financial and IT performance.
The primary responsibility of the role is to safeguard and improve the financial position and performance of the Diocese, enabling the achievement of its pastoral and property objectives.
To apply - attach your cover letter and CV to applications@cdoc.nz with 'Chief Financial Officer Job Application' in the subject line.
Applications close: Thursday, 15 January, 11.59pm. For more information: phone Annette Pugh 378-3647.