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
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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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Parish Safeguarding Officer
Sophia Tionko -
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https://selwyncatholic.nz/

https://www.facebook.com/selwyncatholicparish

Second Sunday of Advent,

Year A

7 December 2025

Readings

Isaiah 11:1-10

Romans 15:4-9

Matthew 3:1-12

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 Chris is currently on holiday.
- We welcome Fr Alister Castillo as the celebrant in Lincoln & Leeston this Sunday.
- Thursday mass returns to Lincoln this Thursday.
- Fr Dan Doyle will celebrate Mass in Akaroa, this Sunday, 7 December, 9.30am.
- 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.

- The **re-oiling of the cedar cladding on St Patrick's Church** commenced last Tuesday - hopefully, everything should be completed during 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.

The Rolleston Christmas Parade is this 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

In response to last weekend's notice: – I received 2 volunteers for cleaning the Lincoln Church.
As I mentioned - there is a desperate need for more parishioners to volunteer to clean St Patrick's Church.
Each weekend - about 250 people attend mass in Lincoln. From 250 parishioners we should be able to get 12 volunteers - which means an extra month for the roster.
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.

Advent Anointing Masses:

- **Leeston: this Wednesday, 10 December, 2.00pm;** followed by Afternoon Tea in a café.
- **Darfield: this Thursday, 11 December, 10.00am;** followed by Morning Tea in a café.

Advent Reconciliation: this Thursday 11 December, 7.00pm, Lincoln; Frs Dan Doyle & Peter Costello 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.

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 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

RIP: Recently Deceased: Don McIntyre (OLA), Rana McGurk (Lincoln), Jill Moore (Darfield), Anne Wagner (Sydney).

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

The Selwyn Parish Craft Group: Sale of handmade goods **this 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: this 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. 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

Handel Messiah by the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament Choir & Orchestra, 1.30pm, Sunday, 7 December, St Mary's Pro-Cathedral. Admission: $30. Info: Don at don.whelan@xtra.co.nz

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.

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.

Liturgy of the Word for Weekday Mass - Alex Chia, from the Diocese, is coming to give some instruction for this Ministry for anyone interested: Tuesday 9 December @ midday in the Lincoln Church Centre.

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

AN ADVENT PRAYER

God our Father, we are getting ready for Christmas:
buying presents,
preparing for carol services,
rehearsing nativity plays.

We thank you for all the preparations you made for the first Christmas:
~ through the Prophets you told people to get ready for Jesus;
you gave a baby boy, John, to Zechariah and Elizabeth, to be the Messiah's herald;
you chose Mary to be the mother of Jesus, the Lord of the universe, wrapped in swaddling clothes, the Saviour of all, lying in a manger,
and you chose Joseph to provide a home for them.

As we prepare to celebrate and enjoy Jesus' birthday, make us ready to listen carefully to the Christmas story and to make room for Jesus in our hearts.

Draw us into the mystery of your love.
Join our voices with the heavenly host
that we may sing your glory on high.

Give us a place among the shepherds
that we may find the one for whom we have waited,
Jesus Christ, the Messiah and Lord,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. Amen.

Christmas Mass Times throughout the e and **Diocesan News** can be checked on the website:
https://cdoc.nz/