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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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 Lent

Year A

1 March 2026

Readings

Genesis 12:1-4

2 Timothy 1:8-10

Matthew 17:1-9

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://doc.nz/.

LENT

Stations of the Cross: this is a good traditional devotion for Lent.
Lincoln: Fridays during Lent, (except 6 March), 7.00pm.
Leeston: Sundays, 9.40am, before Sunday mass.
Darfield: Wednesday, 11.00am.

***Charitas* Lenten Appeal:** there are Giving Envelopes for donations to the *Caritas* Lenten Appeal in the porches of the churches - or just write your name/number on an envelope and place in the Collection Basket. Alternatively, you may make a deposit in the *Charitas* Bank Account via the website: https://www.caritas.org.nz/ways-to-give
Money from the Lenten *Caritas Appeal* goes towards the Catholic Church's Relief and Development Programmes.

Caritas Lenten Webinar Series: parishioners are invited to take part in the Lent Webinar Series, a 6-week national online journey with New Zealand's Catholic Bishops. Each session includes guided reflection, insights from Catholic social teaching, and moments for quiet contemplation as we prepare our hearts for Easter. To register: www.caritas.org.nz/lent-webinars

Lenten Anointing Masses:
Leeston: Wednesday, 18 March, 2.00pm. followed by a cuppa in a café.
Darfield: Thursday 19 March, 10.00am, followed by a cuppa in a café.
Lincoln: Friday 20 March, 2.00pm, followed by afternoon tea in the Church Centre.

Lenten Reconciliation:
Lincoln: Thursday 19 March, 7.00pm
Darfield: Sunday 22 March, 7.00pm

Akaroa: Fr Dan Doyle will celebrate mass this Sunday, 9.30am.

Benemerenti Medal

Bishop Michael will present Anne Wilson with her ***Benemerenti Medal*** at Darfield this Sunday.
Benemerenti Medal means 'Cross for Meritorious Service'
There will be Morning Tea after mass to celebrate with Anne her Papal Honour.

Anne's active participation in Darfield began in 2000, when she & Chris moved to Darfield.

'World Day of Prayer' – this Friday, 6 March
The prayers this year have been prepared by women in Nigeria: the themes is: "I Will Give You Rest'.
Lincoln: will be at St Patrick's Church, 7.00pm. As we are the Host Church, we invite you to attend and to also bring a plate for supper.
Darfield: will be at Trinity Church, 10.00am. Required: 2-3 St Jospeh's parishioners to read.
If you are able/willing: contact Teresa – 03.3188461.
Leeston: will be at the Co-Operating Parish Church, 2.00pm.

Youth Led Mass: Rolleston, Sunday 22 March, 11.00am: We would like to invite students & young adults to participate in this mass. If you would like to share your musical talents or be part of a choir that day - please email Cyrene Tionko, cye.pia@gmail.com .
If you would like to volunteer to take part in the mass as a Greeter, Usher, Reader, Collector - Text Brigid on 021 08176358 or email pastoralassistantselwyn@gmail.com

The **candidates in the First Holy Communion Programme** will receive a copy of the Creed at Lincoln & Darfield masses this Sunday.
Over the next few months, the St Patrick's 8.30am Sunday mass will be at capacity.
Programme Coordinator: Brigid McIndoe, pastoralassistantselwyn@gmail.com ;
Phone: 021 08176358

RIP: Recently Deceased: Kathleen McMahon (Leeston); Allan Knowles (Amberley).
Anniversary: Bernadette Mohekey 22/2.

Defibrillator Training: there's a refresher course for the defibrillator at St Patrick's Church Centre on Monday 16 March, 7.00pm. It is being run by a St. John Officer.
It is important to know how to use the defibrillator - so parishioners are invited to attend.

Lent with 'Food for Faith': visit www.foodforfaith.org.nz and sign up to receive daily email encouragements from Fr. John O'Connor.

Praying for Vocations and Priests on Thursdays: 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 online on the Diocesan website: https://cdoc-craft.s3.amazonaws.com/News-Events/Vocations-Prayer-Card.pdf
For more information contact the Vocations Coordinator: Matt O'Connell moconnell@cdoc.nz ; Ph 366-9869.

Lincoln Prayer Group: meet on Wednesday evenings, in the Church Centre, 7pm - 8.30pm.
All age groups are welcome. For more details contact Marge Newburry phone 338 6793, or leave a message for her at the parish office.

St Patrick's School, Kaiapoi Centenary Mass: Sunday, 8 March, 9,00am @ St Patrick's Church in Kaiapoi. The school was established in 1926 by the Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions; enquiries: stpatrickskaiapoicentenary@gmail.com

Catholic Business Network: the first Catholic Business Lunch for 2026 will feature guest speaker Rt Hon Sir Bill English. The lunch will be held on Thursday, 7 May, 12.00pm - 2.00pm.
The event will bring together business leaders, professionals and executives from across the diocese for an afternoon of connection and faith-filled conversation. Venue TBC.

The first **Jesus Youth MeetUP** event for the year for all university students is happening on Wednesday 11 March @ St. Teresa Church Hall. This event will provide an opportunity for students to connect, pray and have fun.
Register: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1Trofs44-jbRMVJKP4QLNG_pCWrlsXhaVPdyBTL4tHJk/viewform?edit_requested=true

Greater Company of Mary Mass: Saturday 7 March, 10.30am @ the *Mary Potter Community Centre*, 442 Durham St North. Morning tea will follow; for catering purposes, rsvp by Monday 2 March, ph 372-9224.

A weekly feast of music will return at 1.10pm on 4 March @ the Pro-Cathedral or CBS Music Centre at 373 Manchester Street. This first event will feature Hans U. Hielscher, German concert organist. Enquiries to don.whelan@xtra.co.nz

St Thomas of Canterbury College: Open Morning on Thursday 30 April; from 9 am to 12 pm.

Rosary House: Programme Brochures for 2026 are in the narthex**.**

Movie: 'Holy Days' - the Kiwi comedy-drama 'Holy Days' follows a young boy on a road trip with three eccentric nuns - a story that blends humour, hope, and redemption.
The film, will be released nationwide on 26 February, is directed by Nat Boltt and based on Joy Cowley's acclaimed novel. Read more: https://cdoc.nz/news-events/holy-days-movie.

Lent Reflection
~ Pope Francis

Lent is a new beginning, a path leading to the certain goal of Easter, Christ's victory over death.
This Season calls us to conversion - we are invited to return to God, in the words of the Prophet Joel, 'with all their hearts'; we are also encouraged to refuse settling for mediocrity; and to grow stronger in our friendship with the Lord.

Lent is a favourable Season for deepening our spiritual life through the means of sanctification offered us by the Church: fasting, prayer, and charity.

Lent is the favourable season for renewing our encounter with Christ - living in his word, in the sacraments, and in our neighbour.
The Lord, who overcame the deceptions of the Tempter during his forty days in the wilderness, shows us the path we must take.

Jesus on Mt Tabor with Elijah and Moses =
Jesus is the fullment of the Prophets and the Law.

From Fr Brian:

Fundraising Account:

In response to the fundraising efforts by the 'Craft Group' - towards the end of last year, I have established a **'Selwyn Parish Fundraising Bank Account'.**
This Account will enable all fundraising funds to be kept separate.

The Bank Account is with Westpac – however, I would have to give Westpac a "1" out of "10" for their efforts.
It has been a marathon of perseverance in establishing this Account.
It has taken 2 months to set-up the Account. It has truly been a performance of waiting-and-waiting.
However, the process of setting up a new Bank Account also involves the Diocesan Office.

Any fundraising efforts would be appreciated … and feel free to deposit any funds in the Account with your name/number and particular church **fundraising**.

In the near future, the Parish will commence an official Fundraising Programme for the new churches in Rolleston and Leeston; and strengthening of the Darfield Church; and the paying-off the balance for the Lincoln Church.
However, we are still in the process of discerning the property-issue on East Maddison Road.

The new Fundraising Account Number is:
The Roman Catholic Diocese of Christchurch - The Catholic Parish of Selwyn: **03-1592-0207180-022**

PARISH PICNIC - LAST SUNDAY - A SUNNY DAY