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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Parish Secretary: Chi Abadom
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Office Hours: Wed & Fri 9.00am-1pm

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

Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time

Year A

15 February 2026

Readings

Ecclesiasticus 15:16-21
1 Corinthians 2:6-10
Mathew 5:17-37

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

Ash Wednesday is on 18 February

Ash Wednesday (along with Good Friday) are observed as 2 days of Penance and Abstinence from meat - they are acts of penance.

Masses:
Lincoln: 9.00am
Leeston: 5.30pm
Akaroa:10.00am
Lincoln Combined Catholic-Anglican Service: St Patrick's Church 7.00pm. This year, we are the Hosts and Rev Mark Barlow, from St Stephen's Anglican Church, will give the Homily. There will be a simple supper in the Centre after the Service.
We need a volunteer for the projector and to do a reading. Contact Fr Brian.

Darfield: on Ash Thursday (19 February), 10.00am.

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

***Charitas* Lenten Appeal:** there are Giving Envelopes for donations to the 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.

Benemerenti Medal

Pope Leo XIV has awarded **Ann Wilson**, from Darfield, and **Margaret Rea**, from Lincoln, the *Benemerenti Medal* for faithful and dedicated service.
Benemerenti Medal means 'Cross for Meritorious Service'

- ❖ Bishop Michael will present Ann with her *Benemerenti Medal* on Sunday 1 March at the 8.30am mass. There will be Morning Tea after mass to celebrate with Ann her Papal Honour.
- ❖ Margaret will receive her *Benemerenti Medal* on Sunday 12 April, Second Sunday of Easter, at the 8.30am mass. Fr Brian will preside.

Both Margaret and Anne have served their respective Church Communities for many years.

The current version of the *Benemerenti Medal* was crafted under the direction of Pope Paul VI.
The medal is a gold Greek Cross depicting Christ with his hand raised in blessing. On the left arm of the cross is the tiara and crossed keys symbol of the papacy.
On the right arm is the coat of arms of the current Pope – Pope Leo XIV. The medal is suspended from a yellow and white ribbon, the colours of the Papacy.

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Picnic Postponement

Due to the unfavourable weather forecast for Sunday – the **Selwyn Parish Annual Picnic is postponed until the following Sunday, 22 February.**
It will still be at Helena and Mike Hanning's property, at **4/1608 West Coast Road,** just on the westside of West Melton, and commencing with Mass at midday followed by lunch and mixing with parishioners.
There will be races for the young and not so young, plus lolly scramble and ice blocks. Just bring your chair and lunch and sun-screen as we are hoping for a sunny day.

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The first **Baptismal Preparation Programme** for Catholic parents wishing to have a child baptised will be on **Mondays: 23 February & 2 March**, 7.00pm – 8.15pm, in the Lincoln Church Centre. Contact the Parish Office to register: - selwyncatholicparish@gmail.com

Lincoln World Day of Prayer will be at St Patrick's Church on **Friday 6 March, 7.00pm**. The Prayers have been prepared by women in Nigeria: the themes is: "I Will Give You Rest'. As we are the Host Church this year we invite you attend and to also bring a plate for supper.

RIP: Recently deceased: Therese Snopovs (Rangiora)

First Holy Communion Parents' Meeting, **Sunday 15 February** - first Parents' Meeting commences this Sunday evening … lease arrive between 6.30-6.50pm to register & receive the lesson sheets before the meeting starts.
Please be aware of the significant roadworks on Gerald Street and allow extra time.
Tea & Coffee will be available prior to the meeting so come early & enjoy the opportunity to meet other parents.
Programme Coordinator: Brigid McIndoe, pastoralassistantselwyn@gmail.com
Phone 021 08176358

Journey to Fatih Programme.
Last Sunday we celebrated the Rite of the Catechumenate with 9 candidates on the *Journey to Catholic Faith Programme*:
Ano Sujeevkanth, Suji Sujeevkanth, Sophia Verwoerd, Nicola Besnley, Sean Wansbrough, Tamsin Traylor, Glenn Harrison, Caroline Hay, Lee Hurring,
This weekend we will celebrate the Rite of the Catechumenate for Hannah Robert, Nicola D'Arcy, and Madison Tourle.
Carlo Keil is currently serving at Waiouru, so he will take up the Journey when he returns to Burnham.
The Rite of the Catechumenate is the first step towards being baptised. Several will be baptised at the Easter Vigil; the remaining will be baptised at later dates.

In addition to the candidates who received the Cross on their foreheads are 5 candidates who have already been baptised: Leon Vannoort, Mariah Vannoort, Rachel McGregor, Sarah Kippax, James McCraig.
The majority of these candidates will be received into Full Union with Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil, the remaining will be received at appropriate dates.

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 ; register by 22 Feb so rehearsals can begin.
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

Parishioners are invited to join Bishop Michael and Christians from across Canterbury at **Open Heaven 2026** - a combined prayer meeting. It will be a powerful night of worship and intercession for New Zealand - a special evening of prayer and worship. To be held at *Wolfbrook Arena* on Thursday, 19 February.
Doors open at 6:30pm, the prayer meeting will begin at 7:00pm. This is a free event, open to everyone. For more info visit our website: https://cdoc.nz/news-events/open-heaven

Lent with 'Food for Faith': visit www.foodforfaith.org.nz and sign up to receive daily email encouragements from Fr. John O'Connor. Prepared especially for those seeking greater maturity of faith.

In preparation for **World Youth Day 2027 in Seoul, Korea**, Catholic Theological College invites young people and everyone to grow in their faith, hope, and missionary discipleship, with this year's webinar series, "Take Courage! I have overcome the world" (John 16:33). More information at: www.tekupenga.ac.nz/webinars-2026

Canterbury University's Catholic Society is launching an alumni network for Catholics of any age who have studied at UC. Our purpose is to foster Catholic student life on campus by providing a place of community, formation, and outreach. Alumni members receive our termly newsletter and invitations to networking events. There are also opportunities to support Catholic youth through student mentoring or by supporting the Society financially. Membership is free.
Student membership for 2026 is now open.
To join, email: cathsocuc@gmail.com
or scan the QR code -

CBS Music: 'Beloved Bach', Brandenburg Concerto No.2, Cantata 147 Jesu, Joy Victoria, Casals, Mozart and Mawby by the CBS Orchestra and Choir: Sunday, 1 March, 2.00pm, @ St Mary's Pro-Cathedral. Enquiries to don.whelan@xtra.co.nz

Seminary Visit

Last Wednesday, Akaroa hosted 31 seminarians from the 6 dioceses of NZ, plus staff, for mass and to visit the site of the first Catholic Mass in the South Island on 23 August 1840.
The seminary is in Auckland.
Bishop Pompallier visited Akaroa 4 times during the 1840s; his first visit was on 2 October 1840, on his ship *Sancta Maria*.

The seminarians also visited Timaru and Temuka. St Mary MacKillop visited and stayed in Temuka on 3 occasions.

A 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.