# 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**
E: bfennessy@inet.net.nz
M: 027 6758456

**Assistant: Fr Chris Orr**
E: christopherjohnorr@gmail.com
M: 027 6591962

**Parish Secretary: Chi Abadom**
E: selwyncatholicparish@gmail.com
Office Hours: Wed & Fri 9.00am-1pm

**Pastoral Assistant: Brigid McIndoe**
E: pastoralassistantselwyn@gmail.com
Office hours: Tue 9.30am – 12.30 pm
M:021 08176358

**Parish Safeguarding Officer**
Sophia Tionko -
E: olpsafeguarding@gmail.com

https://selwyncatholic.nz/

https://www.facebook.com/selwyncatholicparish

**Palm Sunday**

**Year A**

**29 March 2026**

## Readings

Isaiah 50:4-7

Philippians 2;6-11

Matthew 26:14 – 27:66

## 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 this week:**
**Lincoln:** Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 9.00am

**Leeston:** Wednesday 5.30pm
**Darfield:** Thursday 10.00am
**Akaroa:** 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

***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, visit www.caritas.org.nz/lent-webinars

**Darfield:**
Daylight Saving ends on Easter Sunday Morning, next Sunday - so Darfield Sunday mass will be at 9.00am beginning on Easter Sunday.

**Darfield Driver for Thursday mass:** a new resident at 'The Peaceful Pines Rest Home' would like a ride to the Thursday, 10.00an, mass. If able to assist - even on an irregular basis - please contact Fr Brian.

**Selwyn Men's Breakfast:** at the Pantry Café, Eastfield Drive, Rosemerryn, on Saturday 11 April, 8.00am. Names will be taken – or ring Ray Morgan: 366-9795 and leave a message.

**Note: Holy Week Timetable on Holy Thursday & Good Friday takes precedence.**

**NO Newsletter next weekend** – as it's Easter.

## OUR LADY OF THE PLAINS - EASTER SERVICES

**Mass of the Holy Oils (Chrism Mass):** this Monday 30 March, 5.30pm, at St Mary's Pro-Cathedral.
At this mass Bishop Michael will bless the Holy Oils that will be used within Parishes during the following year.

**Holy Thursday: Mass of the Lord's Supper** (after mass, the Blessed Eucharist is placed on the Altar of Repose – there will be a 30-minute period of prayer in front of the Altar of Repose after mass.
**Lincoln:** St Patrick's, 7.00pm
**Darfield:** St Joseph's, 7.00pm

**Good Friday Ecumenical Walk:**
**Leeston:** Commence @ Anderson Square (War Memorial), 10.00am.
There will be 7 Stations.
End Location: Life Church; followed by Morning Tea.
**Darfield:** Starts at Baptist Church,9.30am, the Service beginnings at 10.00am.
**Lincoln:** Gathering at St Stephen's Anglican Church, 9.30am, & processing to Lincoln Baptist Church. Followed by Reflections on the Stations of the Cross & Morning Tea.

**Good Friday: Commemoration of the Lord's Passion**
(There is a Collection for the Holy Places at the Good Friday Commemorations – this Appeal supports the shrines that the Catholic Church has responsibility for in the Holy Land).
**Leeston:** St John the Evangelist, midday
**Darfield:** St Joseph's, 3.00pm
**Rolleston:** Rolleston Primary School Hall (11 Tennyson Street), 3.00pm

**EASTER VIGIL** – Saturday 4 April
**Lincoln:** St Patrick's, 7.30pm (**NO** 5.30pm mass) The Candidates in the 'Journey to Faith Programme' will be Baptised or Received into the Catholic Church during the Vigil.
There will be supper, and some 'Easter Cheer', in the Church Centre after the Vigil.

**********

**Akaroa:** Fr Michael Mahoney will be in residence at Akaroa for 'Holy Week'.
He will celebrate Palm Sunday Mass and the Easter Sunday Mass, 9.30am.
Also:
Wednesday 1 April: Anointing Mass, 10.00am.
Holy Thursday, 2 April: Mass of the Lord's Supper, 7.00pm.
(Sacrament of Reconciliation available prior to Mass starting at 6:15pm).
Good Friday, 3 April: Commemoration of the Lord's Passion, 3.00pm.
Easter Vigil, Holy Saturday, 4 April, 7.00pm.

**First Holy Communion Programme:** Third Parents' Meeting **this Sunday,29 March**, 7.00pm.
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

**Right to Life – AGM -** Members and supporters are invited to attend the AGM of *Right to Life New Zealand Inc*, on Friday 17 April, 7.00pm, @ Assisi Lounge, St Marys Pro-Cathedral; Guest Speaker - Brian Whitaker.

**Women's Christian Convention:** Biblical Theology Workshop, @ Lincoln Event Centre, Saturday 2 May, 9.00am- 4.15pm. Morning Tea & lunch provided. Facilitated by Nacy Gurthie. There is an Invitation to all Churches. Info & Registration: https://womensconvention.nz/share/
There are flyers @ the church entrance for programme & cost.

**Men's Breakfast with Bishop Michael:** on Saturday 18 April, @ Catholic Cathedral College, 62 Ferry Road. There will be adoration in the college hall from 6.30am with breakfast at 7.30am.
Suggested koha of $5 to cover the cost of a cooked breakfast.
Come and be with other men of the diocese for food and encouragement.
Registration now by visiting www.cathmen.nz or contact Mike Stopforth ph 366-9869 or 027 5398 542.

**Journey to Faith Programme.**
Over the past 3 Sundays, the Candidates in the 'Journey to Faith Programme', were present for the 3 Scrutinies as preparations for their Baptism or their Reception into the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil, 7.30pm.
The Vigil begins outside for the Blessing of the Fire and the Lightening of the Easter Candle.

Ano Sujeevkanth, Suji Sujeevkanth, Sophia Verwoerd, Caroline Hay, Nicola Besnley, Sean Wansbrough, Tamsin Traylor, Hannah Robert, Nicola D'Arcy, and Madison Tourle will be baptised at the Easter Vigil.
In addition, 5 candidates who have already been baptised: Leon Vannoort, Mariah Vannoort, Rachel McGregor, Sarah Kippax, James McCraig will be Received into the Catholic Church.
The Candidates will also receive the Sacrament of Confirmation and the Eucharist.

Glenn Harrison, Lee Hurring & Carlo Keil will be Baptised at a later date.

Parishioners are invited to join the Candidates for Supper, in the Church Centre, after the Vigil.

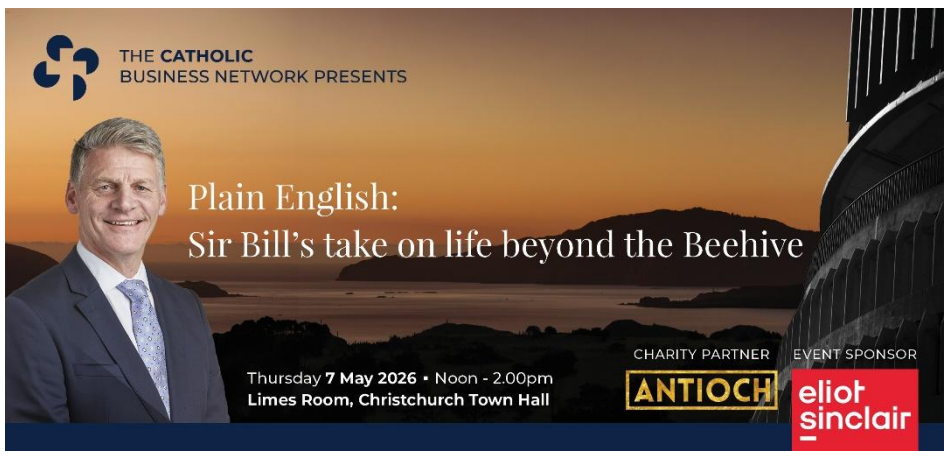
**Leeston Co-Operating Parish- Invitation to Opening of their new hall extension:** at St David's Church, located at 75 High Street, Leeston.
The celebration will take place on **Sunday, 26 April,** beginning with a special service at 11.00 am, followed by morning tea.

We would be delighted to have you join us for this long-awaited and joyful occasion, as we give thanks for the improved facilities that will serve both our congregation and wider community.

Please RSVP by email by Monday, 20 April, if you are able to attend to Rev Willem A van der Walt; email: wavdwalt@gmail.com ; Mobile: 027 316 9368.

Fr Brian will attend, plus any other St John the Evangelist parishioners - I think we can finish mass at 10.45am on that day ….by having a short homily.

**Catholic Business Network:** will feature guest speaker Rt Hon Sir Bill English on 'life beyond the Beehive'.
The event will bring together business leaders, professionals and executives from across the diocese for an afternoon of connection and faith-filled conversation.
Thursday 7 May, midday - 2.00pm @ Limes Room, Christchurch Town Hall.
Register: https://www.cbn.nz/



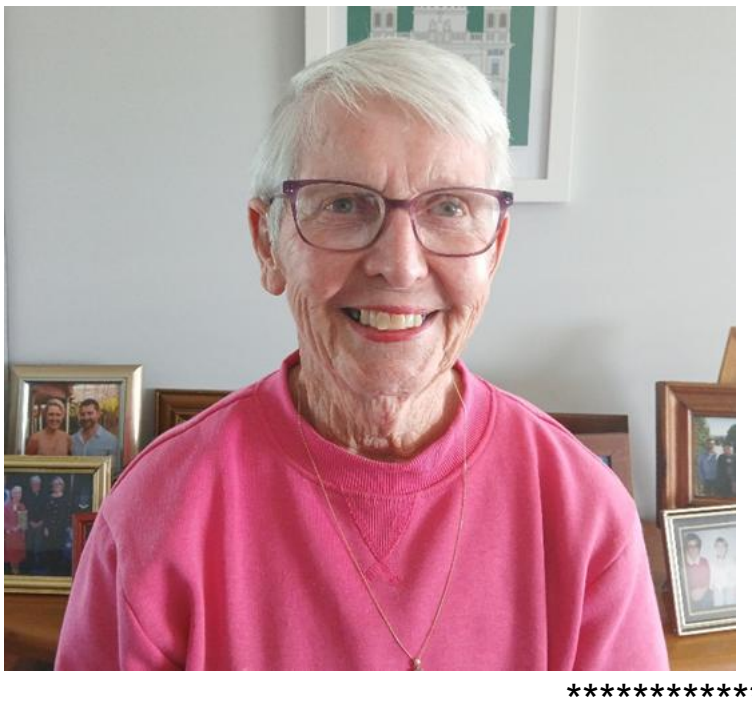

**CBS Music:** Bach's St John Passion will be performed on Good Friday @ 8.00pm @ St Mary's Pro-Cathedral. Written for Good Friday, in 1724, the Passion is a compact and intensely dramatic setting of St John's description of Christ's last hours.

**Divine Mercy Sunday:** @ St Mary's Pro-Cathedral, Sunday 12 April, 2.45pm, with confessions from 1.30pm. Book sales & refreshments to follow. Note: no parking on pro-cathedral grounds until after 2pm.

**The Selwyn Parish Catholic Women's League** are going on an outing to visit Cholmondeley Children's Centre, in Governor's Bay, on Monday 13 April.
We are booked into the Otoromiro Governor's Bay Hotel for a meal at 11.30am and going to visit the Centre at 1.30pm.
We are car-pooling from the Lincoln Church carpark meeting there at 10.30am or if you wish to make your own way there be at the hotel by 11.30am
Please advise us - as we need to let the hotel know numbers
Also, they love to receive Children's Beanies - so if you have some please bring them along.
Also, any ladies from the Parish are more than welcome to join us.
Please just let us know: Margaret, 021731316 ; or Colleen, 0274424116.

There are copies of ***Inform*** at the entrances to the Churches. Please take a copy.
Inform can also be read online at https://cdoc.nz/inform

**Margaret Rea** will be presented with her Papal *Benemerenti Medal* for faithful and dedicated service - at the Lincoln 8.30am mass on 12 April, the Second Sunday of Easter.
There will be Morning Tea afterwards, to join with Margaret and her family to celebrate the bestowing of the Papal Medal.



**********

**Sunday 29 March is Palm Sunday** – the beginning of Holy Week.
On Palm Sunday we commemorate Jesus' entry, riding on a donkey, into Jerusalem. For us in New Zealand, a donkey doesn't portray an image of elegance or strength. However, for Jesus, and his contemporaries, the donkey represented an animal of peace, hard work and a fulfilment of Old Testament motifs. (Due to their expensive upkeep, horses were only used for sport or war).
By riding on a donkey, Jesus entered the Holy City as a 'King of Peace'.

In this event there is a lesson for us about the importance of symbols and gestures to convey our intentions.

On 11 December 1917, two days after the capture of Jerusalem by British Forces, General Sir Edmund Allenby entered Jerusalem, through the Jaffa Gate, on foot.
Rather than riding into Jerusalem on a military vehicle or a horse, General Allenby chose to walk into Jerusalem in order to show his respect for the holy city.
New Zealand troopers, serving in Palestine, were part of the Honour Guard.
General Allenby's gesture was not lost on the people at that time or by history. General Allenby wanted to convey a powerful message about respect and the end of conflict in Palestine.

All the gates of Jerusalem have actual gates except for the Jaffa Gate. The Jaffa Gate is open; there is no gate-door.
General Allenby knew the story of Kaiser Wilhelm II who had visited Jerusalem on 4 November 1898

Prior to the Kaiser's visit to Jerusalem, the Jaffa Gate had a gate-door.
However, Kaiser Willem was a tall man who rode a tall horse, plus wearing the spiked helmet on his head. This made it impossible for him to ride under the Jaffa Gate, into the city, without bending his head.
Since that would be insulting to him, he prevailed upon his Turkish hosts to take the Gate down – the Gate had been constructed by Suleiman the Magnificent in the 16th century and was a great piece of architecture.

General Allenby knew the significance of his gesture of entering the City to take its surrender.

We are only too aware of family-violence in New Zealand and tension-spots within today's world, especially Ukraine, Gaza, and now Iran.
'Fire & Fury' rhetoric doesn't enhance dialogue, respect, collaboration, or resolution to tension.
To people with the right disposition, the gestures of Jesus, on Palm Sunday, and General Allenby, during World War I, can teach us how to lower the confrontational rhetoric and convey openness to dialogue.

The gestures and message of Palm Sunday provide a lesson for us to be instruments of respect, reconciliation, and peace, whether it's in our own homes or in the international arena.