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

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Year A

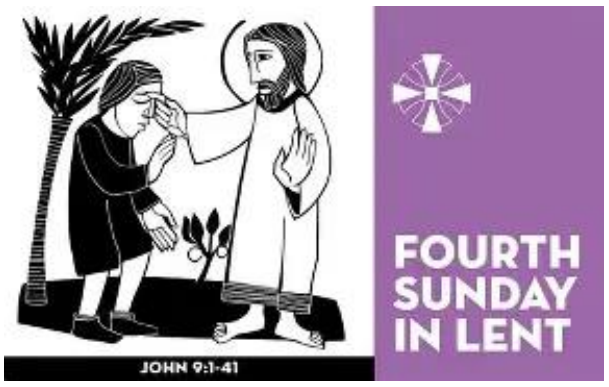
15 March 2026

Readings

1 Samuel 16:1-13

Ephesians 5:8-14

John 9:1-41



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, 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 – this week:
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. (**No** 9.00am mass).

Lenten Reconciliation:
Lincoln: this **Thursday 19 March**, 7.00pm: - Frs Peter Costello, Dan Doyle & Monty Bamford will be the visiting priests.
Darfield: Sunday 22 March, 7.00pm

There will be **NO Lincoln Thursday** mass on 26 March.
Tuesday 17 March is **St Patrick's Day** – Patronal Feast of the Lincoln Church.

OUR LADY OF THE PLAINS - EASTER SERVICES

Palm Sunday: 29 March.
We will commence masses outside with the blessing of the palms.

Mass of the Holy Oils (Chrism Mass): Monday 30 March, 5.30pm, at St Mary's Pro-Cathedral.
At this mass the Bishop blesses 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 in 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 Walk:
Leeston: Commence @ Anderson Square (War Memorial), 10.00am.
There will be 7 Stations.
End Location: Life Church; followed by Morning Tea.

Good Friday: Commemoration of the Lord's Passion
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)

Easter Sunday - 5 April ~ **Mass of the Lord's Resurrection**
Lincoln: St Patrick's, 8.30am
Darfield: St Joseph's, 9.00am
Leeston: St John the Evangelist, 10.00am
Rolleston: School Hall, 11.00am, (11 Tennyson Street)

Akaroa: Fr Michael Mahoney will be in residence at Akaroa for Holy Week.
He will celebrate Palm Sunday Mass and the Easter Sunday Mass.

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

Youth Led Mass: Rolleston, next Sunday, 22 March, 11.00am: We would like to invite students & young adults to participate in this mass. Parent presentation on youth ministry & how our children can become involved. 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

First Holy Communion Programme: the candidates will receive a copy of the 10 Commandments at masses this Sunday, 15 March.
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

Men's Breakfast: The SAT have arranged for a Men's Breakfast again this year
It is to be held at the Pantry Cafe, Eastfield Drive Shopping complex, Rosemerryn, at 8. 30am on 11th April 2026
Names will be taken for numbers attending in the near future. Phone Ray Morgan on 366 9795 and leave a message if you wish to attend.

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.

This weekend the **Candidates in the *Journey to Faith Programme*** will be presented at masses for their Second Scrutiny.

Daylight Saving ends on Easter Sunday Morning - so Darfield Sunday mass will be at 9.00am on Easter Sunday.

Fundraising Account: a 'Selwyn Parish Fundraising Bank Account' has been established.
This Account will enable all fundraising funds to be kept separate.

Any fundraising efforts would be appreciated … and feel free to deposit any funds in the Account with your name/number and particular church fundraising.
If any parishioner has ideas for fundraising or would like to initiate fundraising activities - then please let us know and we will inaugurate.

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

Leeston Container: The container is leaking and is not fulling a purpose. There is very little of value in the container.
However, we need a parishioner who is willing to **store the church bell** in a shed/garage. This is part of Leeston's heritage.
Other items in the container are chairs and crockery … that have been there for 15 years.
If anyone would like a chair ... please give a donation towards the Building Fund.

There are copies of ***'Grapevine'*** at church entrances – it is Christian magazine. Please take a copy.

Lincoln: Sunday Cuppa – volunteers are needed to serve the tea/coffee at morning tea. If you can assist please write your name on the roster on the kitchen bench.
Also, the cupboard is bare – biscuits are required please.

Lincoln: Tuesday is St Patrick's Day – patronal feast of the church. There will be morning tea after mass; a small plate for morning tea would be appreciated.

Lincoln Craft & Friendship: meet every Tuesday, 1.30pm – 3.30pm. All welcome. You might like to bring a craft you are doing, or you may like to come for some friendship and a cuppa. Enquiries: Yvonne – 027 334 1151.

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

Lenten Reflection

Lent is a special time. In past years the Lenten Season had many more practices and, all over the world, Catholics experienced the pangs of fasting and the discipline of abstinence from meat on Fridays. We also gave up sugar in our tea, lollies, alcohol, and often entertainment, and we took on extra prayer obligations, such as early morning mass at 6.00am.
Through these activities we eagerly looked forward to the joy of Easter.
In the years following the Second Vatican Council, and with the growing secular influences within society, much of Lent's former vigour has disappeared.
Lent can therefore slip by without us fully realising. When Holy Week arrives, we often say, "where did Lent go?"

However, Lent is still a special time - it's an opportunity to deepen our discipleship and turn to the Lord.
The penitential focus is our response, but it is difficult to observe Lent on our own; we need the support and witness of one another to help us assimilate the meaning of Lent.
To renew our faith-commitment requires a conscious effort: so, we undertake works of self-denial, engage in study, reflection and prayer, and reach out in a practical concern for the needy.

We undertake extra activities because we know that for our Christian Faith to be true, then it has to be generous and loving.
The Church gives us these 6 weeks to help us focus on how to live the Gospel.
As we continue this Season of Lent let us choose one activity, as a personal incentive, in order to prepare for Easter.

Weekly Diocesan Notice:
The link to the notices online is https://cdoc.nz/news-events/weekly-notices-15-mar-2026