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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Parish Secretary: Chi Abadom
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Pastoral Assistant: Brigid McIndoe
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Office hours: Tue 9.30am – 12.30 pm
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Parish Safeguarding Officer
Sophia Tionko -
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https://selwyncatholic.nz/

https://www.facebook.com/selwyncatholicparish

Third Sunday of Lent

Year A

8 March 2026

Readings

Exodus 17:3-7

Romans 5:1-8

John 4:5-42

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:
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: 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 12 & 26 March.
Tuesday 17 March is St Patrick's Day – Patronal Feast of the Lincoln Church.

Benemerenti Medal

Last Sunday Bishop Michael presented Anne Wilson with her Benemerenti Papal Medal.

There was a full church of parishioners and visitors.

Anne & Chris Wilson with Bishop Michael & Fr Brian

Anne with family members

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

First Holy Communion Programme: Parents' Second Meeting this Sunday, 8 March, 7.00pm – 8.30pm. The topic is: 'The Effects of Sin, and Reconciliation'.
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

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

RIP: Recently Deceased: Kathleen McMahon (Leeston).

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.

Sunday Cuppa's: Volunteers are needed to serve the tea/coffee at morning teas following the Sunday Mass. If you can help, please write your name on the roster on the kitchen bench. Also, the cupboard is bare - biscuits are required please.

International Women's Day: Sunday 8 March. To acknowledge the day all ladies of the parish are invited to breakfast at Robert Harris, Lincoln, Saturday 14th March at 9am. Please let Tricia Smith know numbers asap - tric1948@gmail.com or phone 021 181 1501.

St Patrick's Day: Tuesday 17 March is Lincoln's Feast Day and will be celebrated with Mass at 9am followed by morning tea in the Church Centre. A small plate of Morning Tea would be appreciated.

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**.**

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.

Bishop Michael has given permission for the **Little River Church** and Site to be sold. We will have a Closing Liturgy in the near future. The Little River Church was opened in early 1925. Due to the Earthquakes the church has been closed for the past 15 years.

This weekend the **Candidates in the *Journey to Faith Programme*** will be presented at masses for their First Scrutiny.
This is a Prayer of Preparation based on the Gospel Reading of the 'Samaritan Woman at the Well'.
The Candidates to be baptised are: Ano Sujeevkanth, Suji Sujeevkanth, Sophia Verwoerd, Nicola Besnley, Sean Wansbrough, Tamsin Traylor, Hannah Robert, Nicola D'Arcy, Madison Tourle, Glenn Harrison, Caroline Hay, Lee Hurring.
Majority of these Candidates will be baptised at the Easter Vigil; the remaining will be baptised at later dates.

In addition, Leon Vannoort, Mariah Vannoort, Rachel McGregor, Sarah Kippax, James McCraig have been baptised and will be Received into Full Union with the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil.
Carlo Keil is currently serving at Waiouru, so he will take up the Journey when he returns to Burnham.

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

Fundraising Account: in response to the fundraising efforts by the 'Craft Group' - towards the end of last year, a 'Selwyn Parish Fundraising Bank Account' has been established.
This Account will enable all fundraising funds to be kept separate.
Already there is $4,000 in the account.

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

Craft and Friendship meet every Tuesday from 1.30pm till 3 30pm in the parish Centre. All are welcome. You may like to bring a craft you are doing or you may like to come for some friendship and a cup of tea or coffee. You are very welcome. Any inquiries call Yvonne on 027 334 1151.

If you or someone you know is going through a tough time for whatever reason you may like a Prayer Blanket. Call Yvonne on 027 334 1151. We have a good selection at the moment.

Lincoln Prayer Group: The Lincoln Prayer Group meets every Wednesday in the Parish Centre from 7pm - 8.30pm. Join us as we reflect and discuss God's great love for each of us as expressed through passages of the 23rd Psalm. All age groups are welcome. For more details contact Marge Newburry phone 338 6793, or leave a message for her at the parish office.