# 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**
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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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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

**Fourth Sunday of Easter**

**Year A**

**26 April 2026**

**'Good Shepherd Sunday'**

## Readings

Acts 2:14-41

1 Peter 2:20-25

John 10:1-10

## WEEKEND MASSES

**Lincoln:** Saturday Vigil - 5.30pm
Sunday - 8.30am
**Darfield:** Sunday - 9.00 am
**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:** 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://cdoc.nz/

This weekend, **Stephen Challies - the Chairperson of the newly composed Selwyn Parish Leadership Team** - will speak to Darfield & Rolleston parishioners about the Vision & Goals of the new Leadership Team.

**Fr John O'Connor** will be the celebrant at Darfield & Rolleston this weekend.

**Masses this week:**
There will be **NO Lincoln, Leeston or Darfield Weekday Masses on Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday** – as Fr Brian is on a St Mary MacKillop Pilgrimage to Sydney, and Fr Chris is on 'Sick Leave'.
However, there will be a Funeral Mass for Terry Hughes on Thursday, at Lincoln, @ 11.00am.
* There will also be a **Lincoln Mass on Friday @ 9.00am,** followed by Adoration & Morning Tea.
* There will be **Wednesday mass in Akaroa** at 10.00am.

This Sunday is observed as **"Good Shepherd Sunday**", when the Catholic Church prays for Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life. Please pray that the *"Lord of the harvest will send labourers into his harvest"* Please pray that young men and women will hear and respond generously to the Lord's call for their lives.

Pope Leo XIV encourages all young people to: *"listen to the voice of the Lord who invites you to a full and fruitful life, calling you to put your talents to use". "In coming to know the Lord … you will 'discover your vocation', which is an immeasurable gift for the Church and for those who receive it with joy"*.

For more information contact the Vocations Director, Fr Monty Bamford: frmonty@cathedralparish.nz or the Vocations Coordinator Matt O'Connell on 366-9869 or moconnell@cdoc.nz
if you want more information or to talk about a possible vocation.

There are Offering Envelopes in the porches to support the running of the Seminary in Auckland.

The **Little River Church of St John the Evangelist** has been closed since the Earthquakes.

Due to an Agreement with the Christchurch City Council, that was associated with the temporary strengthening of the church, the church was not able to be sold or demolished until August last year.
The Akaroa Parish has now received approval from Bishop Michael to sell the property.

**There will be a Closing Service on Saturday 9 May, @ 11.00am,** followed by a finger-food lunch at the Little River Tavern (drinks at peoples' cost).

Former parishioners and interested people are welcome to participate in the Closing Liturgy of the Church - prior to the property being placed on the market.
The Liturgy will be in a marquee adjacent to the church (please bring a fold-up chair). The church is not open for public use.
The church was built of Halswell blue stone with Oamaru stone facings.
The roof is of Welsh slate. Rennell Brothers were the builders. It was opened on 15 November 1925.

**Firewood:** Get ready to have a warm winter.
Fundraiser Special: April & May only.
Firewood (shed stored), clean & dry. Mixed load: $100/m³. 10% towards our Fundraising Account.
Contact: Trevor – 027 280 9039

***Rosary House Programme:***
**'Songs from the Heart to Inspire and Renew':** Fr Chris Skinner SM will lead a reflection day with music: on Saturday 9 May, 10am – 4pm at Catherine McAuley Centre, Villa Maria College. He will encourage all to take time to listen, learn, sing and move to times of quiet reflection.
Bring own lunch; tea/coffee provided.
Koha/Donation appreciated.
Registratioms helpful to roho@xtra.co.nz or ph 379 1298.

**Guided Three Day Silent Retreat** (Non-Residential) Monday 11 May – Wednesday, 13 May; 10am – 4pm. Lead by Fr Chris Skinner SM. This will be an Ignatian Retreat drawing on scripture and music leading into an atmosphere for silent reflection and personal prayer; opportunity for some individual spiritual direction. Daily Eucharist is part of the retreat.
Venue: Catherine McAuley Centre, Villa Maria College.
Bring own lunch, snacks provided. Come for all 3 days or a single day - $70 per day suggested or confidential koha/donation according to means.
Registration helpful to Rosary House: roho@xtra.co.nz ; or ph 379 1298.

**St Michael's Troops:** is an event for men aged 16-35 seeking strength, discipline, and purpose rooted in Christ.
This morning's event in St Teresa', Riccarton, includes Mass and formation, physical activity, and shared BBQ.
On Saturday 9 May. Join us, and bring a mate.
Register at https://fitforthekingdom.com.au/

There is a new edition of 'Grapevine' in the entrances to the churches - please help yourselves.

**RIP: Recently Deceased:** Terry Hughes (Lincoln), Mary Killick (Sockburn).

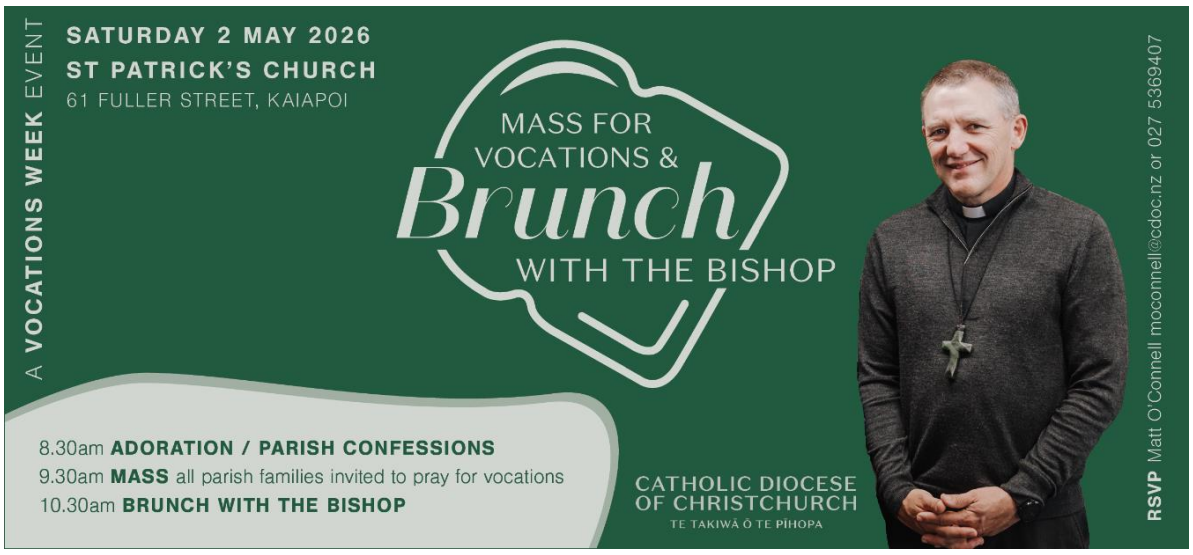
**No** Newsletter next weekend.

Fourth **Parents' Meeting - for the First Communion Programme** on Sunday 3 May, 7.00pm, at Lincoln Church Centre.

**Friendship Group**: Our next gathering is Friday 1 May following the 9am Mass. Please bring a small plate of Morning Tea to share. All welcome.

The end of March was the **End of the Financial Year: Tax Receipts are still available at the entrances of the churches.**
Some Rolleston parishioners may have their Receipts at Lincoln.
If new parishioners would like to have 'Giving Envelopes' or go on Automatic Banking - then please ring Chi or send her an email: selwyncatholicparish@gmail.com; ph 325-2770.

The Selwyn Parish Bank Account is: 03-1592-0207180-02.
We have also introduced a separate Bank Account for Fundraising: 03-1592-0207180-022
Parishioners who use envelopes or AP are entitled to a ⅓ rebate on their giving.




***Invitation for men discerning a Vocation*** *- to join Bishop Michael for Mass & Brunch @ Kaiapoi, Saturday 2 May, 8.30am.*
Contact Matt O'Connell: 027 536 0407; moconnell@cdoc.nz

Bishop Michael has appointed Danny Nicholls as the **new Education Manager for the Diocese**.
Danny Nicholls is a parishioner and member of the Senior Leadership Team at St Peter Chanel Parish, Waimakariri.
He has contributed extensively through Board of Governance and education consultancy roles across several dioceses.
He has served as National President of the NZ Catholic Primary Principals' Association and, more recently, as an Executive Member of the Canterbury Primary Principals' Association.
Currently he is Deputy Principal at Catholic Cathedral College.
Earlier in his career, Danny was the Foundation Principal at Te Matauru Primary and has served as Principal at St Patrick's in Taupō, St Joseph's in Taihape, and St Patrick's in Kaponga.

**World Youth Day in Korea 2027:** the Christchurch Diocese is organising a pilgrimage to Seoul for those aged between 18 and 35. The best way to keep in touch with info is to sign up on our expressions of interest form at https://cyt.org.nz/world-youth-day
We're expecting proper applications to open in the next couple of months ahead of an incredible experience in July and August next year. For enquiries, please contact: mcurrie@cdoc.nz

**Stouthearted: Men of Sexual Integrity:**
Inviting all adult men to take part in a supportive 8-week programme tackling the impact and challenges of becoming the men God has called them to be.
Each session involves engaging videos, reflection, discussion and activities to build essential practical strategies. If you want more information without the commitment, come along to our info night on:
Tues May 5, 7.00pm – 9.00pm
Christchurch RSVP: moconnell@cdoc.nz ; https://stouthearted.com/

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

**Mariah & Leon Vannoort**
**Received into the Catholic Church at Darfield on Sunday 12 April**
(Second Sunday of Easter)

With their Sponsors: Brigid Conroy & Anne Wilson

**Legion of Mary: Encounter the Lord's Healing Mercy**

The Selwyn Parish Legion of Mary is hosting a 3-day healing seminar on 29 & 30 August, & 1 May, 6:30pm - 8:00pm at St. Patrick's Lincoln. These 90-minutes sessions will be animated by Fr. Alliston Fernandes – he is a member of the ICPE Mission and a priest from Malta.

These sessions will be focusing on: (1) What the Scriptures reveal on God's love. (2) In Christ we focus on being sons and daughters of God. (3) We are empowered by the Holy Spirit to carry out our mission.

Come and be blessed!

**THREE *HAIL MARY'S* FOR VOCATIONS:** This week is Vocations Awareness Week.
Bishop Michael invites every parish, family, school, classroom, prayer group, and community to pray three Hail Mary's a day for vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life, along with a prayer to Our Lady.
We ask Our Lady's intercession because she also was a young person whom God called to be the mother of Jesus.
Mary, known as the Queen of Vocations, responded with all her heart, saying that she was God's servant and would do what was being asked of her.
We ask for her intercession for all the young people of the Diocese of Christchurch; that they may respond generously and courageously to God's call on their lives.

**Prayer**

O Mary, Mother of Jesus and Mother of the Church,
We turn to you as Queen of Vocations,
Intercede for all young people as they discern their path in life.
You believed and responded generously to God's call.
Help the Young People of this Diocese to hear the voice of your Son,
to follow Him with courage, and to say 'Yes' to his call.
Our Lady Assumed into Heaven, Patroness of New Zealand, pray for us.