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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Office hours: Tue 9.30am – 12.30 pm
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Parish Safeguarding Officer
Sophia Tionko -
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https://selwyncatholic.nz/

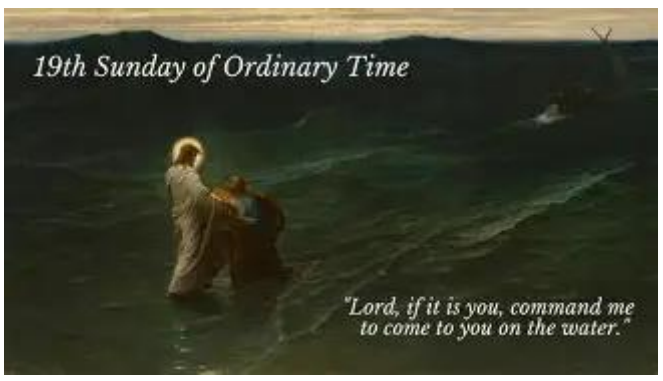
https://www.facebook.com/selwyncatholicparish

19th Sunday of Ordinary Time

9 August 2026

Readings

1 Kings 19:9-13
Romans 9:1-5
Matthew 14:22-33



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

Darfield: Thursday, 10.00am
Akaroa: not during winter
Leeston: not during winter

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/

Fr Chris is going on holiday after next Sunday's masses.
While Fr Chris is on holiday - there will be **NO Lincoln Thursday masses until 24 September.**
There will be Thursday 10.00am masses at Darfield.

This weekend the Leadership Team will be giving a short presentation, with some PowerPoint slides, on the recent **Parish Survey**.
There will more details on the Parish's Facebook Page.

Next Weekend we will celebrate the **Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary** into heaven. It is a Feast that celebrates the fulfilment of the Resurrection of Jesus for his disciples.

The Selwyn Parish will be celebrating the **Sacrament of Confirmation** at the Saturday Vigil Mass on 7 November (Election Day). Bishop Michael will be the celebrant.
Confirmation is for Students in Years 7, 8, 9 & above.
Adults, who have not been Confirmed, are invited to also participate in the Programme - there will be a couple of separate sessions for adults.
Contact: Brigid McIndoe, the Pastoral Assistant: pastoralassistantselwyn@gmail.com to enrol in the Confirmation Programme.

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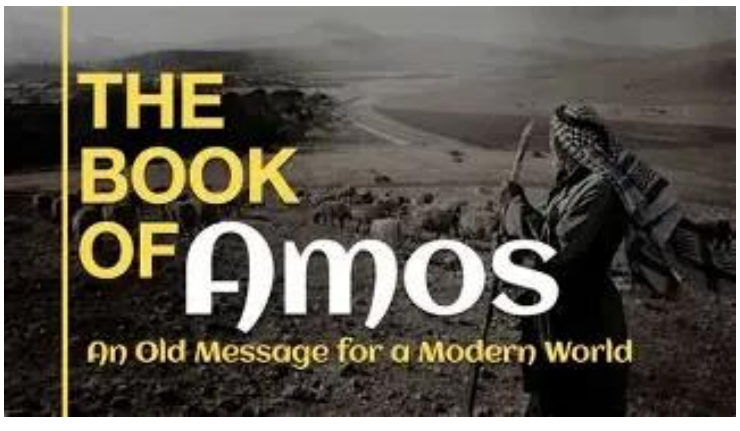
Study of the Book of Amos – led by Fr Brian.
Amos is a great Prophet of 'Social Justice'; his preaching is relevant for today.
Amos' preaching is full of imagery which needs to be understood.

- Study Sessions: **Sundays 9,16, 23 August, 7.00pm**
- Lincoln Church Centre; Bring a Bible.
- This Sunday we will look at chapters 3&4.



St John Paul II Centre Race Night: Join 200+ people from across the Diocese for a lively night at the trots & a 2-course dinner &our famous Priest Punter of the Year competition.
Every ticket goes toward our work of helping marriages and families to flourish across the Christchurch Diocese.

- Friday, 28 August, Addington Raceway.
- Book at https://jp2.org.nz/racenight
- Selwyn Parish normally has enough punters to fill 1 or 2 tables.
- It's a great evening out .

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Diocesan One-Day Prayer Conference is being held on **Saturday, 12 September** at *Holy Family Parish*, Timaru. It will begin at 9.30am with Mass and finish at 5.00pm.
The conference will include 2 keynote talks, workshops on different aspects of prayer, mass, Adoration and more.
Bishop Michael will be attending and will give a keynote talk. Three Nashville Dominican Sisters, based in Australia, will give a keynote and workshops.
Registrations are open; cost is $49, visit: https://cdoc.nz/news-events/prayer-conference
For more information contact Matt O'Connell, moconnell@cdoc.nz ; ph 366-9869.

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The next **Diocesan Women's Retreat** will be on Saturday, 5 September, 9.00 am–3.00 pm
The theme is: *Seek His Face*, and will be led by the Dominican Sisters

CWL FUNraiser & fun-afternoon: this Monday, 10 August, beginning at midday @ Lincoln Church Centre. It is also a fundraiser for the new Cathedral. Cost $15.
Midday: Soup & Savoury Lunch; 1.00pm: quiz; also, a raffle.

New World Supermarket Stickers: CWL are collecting New World Stickers.
If you don't want your stickers - then please donate your stickers to the CWL: Annette James in Leeston; Colleen MacKay in Rolleston and Margaret Rea in Lincoln … or just place them on the Collection Basket.

The **Hoon Hay CWL** is holding a Fabric Fair on Saturday, 15 August, 10.00am - 1.30pm @ Catholic Cathedral College.
Donations of clean fabrics, wool and haberdashery appreciated and can be donated at St Vincent de Paul shops in Papanui, Stanmore Road or Manchester Street.
Information/ book a table: cwlhoonhay@gmail.com

Bingo/Housie: on the Wednesdays of August, beginning at 1.00pm in the Lincoln Church Centre.
$10/card, with each additional card $1. Afternoon Tea provided. Come along.

Creation in John's Gospel by Sr Kath Rushton: **Tuesdays 11 August, 7.30pm & 8 September, 7.30pm.**
Reflection on illusions and symbols in **John's Gospel 1:15 – 5:47** - which may evoke the seven days of creation in Genesis. At Catherine McAuley Centre, Villa Maria College.
Indication of attendance to roho@xtra.co.nz or ph 379-1298.

Villa Maria College & SVdP 'Evening of Style'
Join us for a fun, fashion event with renowned local stylist, Becks Mason, raising funds for our Villa Maria College PTA and Villa Maria Foundation. Proceeds benefit current students and future students whose families could not otherwise afford a Catholic education.

- Thursday, 13 August, @ Villa Maria College Hall
- Doors open at 6.30pm, refreshments available, event starts at 7.00pm

Raffles, stalls, spot prizes.
Don't miss this opportunity to plan your spring wardrobe; Cost: $30.00
Tickets available at: https://events.humanitix.com/evening-of-style or contact Yvonne: 0273534450

Bishop Michael recently launched the official campaign for the building of the **new Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament.**
Here is a design of the new Catredral.
See more information on: https://cdoc.nz/news-events/plans-for-new-cathedral-released

Each Parish has been asked by Bishop Michael to participate in and raise funds for both Parish projects and the Cathedral campaign. These efforts are designed to work together, not compete.
In the **Selwyn Parish** we also need to **fundraise for a new church in Rolleston and for a new church in Leeston; we also need to strengthen the Darfield Church**. In addition, fundraising to pay the balance of the Lincoln Church needs to continue.
We hope that the Rolleston Land Issue can be resolved in the near future.
Of the $80 million needed for the project, about $45 million was available through asset sales and residual insurance proceeds. About $19 million has already been raised or pledged through fundraising, leaving about $16 million still to find.
As a member of the Selwyn Parish - and if you wish to support the Cathedral campaign, it will help offset our Parish's pledge.
It is important that when you make your donation/pledge, use this form: https://blessedsacrament.nz/donate/ - and nominate *Our Lady of the Plain's Parish*, Selwyn. This will ensure your contribution is attributed to the Selwyn Parish's overall pledge to the Cathedral.
A pledge may be paid up to five years, aligning with the planned five-year building timeline to ensure funds are available as construction progresses.
The Diocese will need pledged funds to flow in steadily during this period to align with the project's progress.

Some information about the new Cathedral:

- The Cathedral project will not be commencing construction until there is sufficient funds to complete the project. That has been determined to be 90% of the project cost.
- Construction of complex buildings takes time and there is still a lot of design, engineering and consenting work to complete before any construction can commence. Once commenced, construction is likely to take about four years.

Some information about the new Cathedral continued:

- The cladding of the building will be constructed of brick from the local **Darfield Brick Company**. It is good that local material and local business, within the Selwyn Parish, is being utilised.
- The Cathedral will seat 800 people in the body of the church, with additional capacity available in the narthex and the adjacent *Te Rangimarie Community Centre*.
- The *Te Rangimarie Community Centre* will be accessed through the main foyer of the Cathedral. It will be able to host events for up to 300 people, with flexibility to create smaller breakout spaces.
- A small number of objects have been salvaged from the Cathedral. Some, including three stained-glass windows that will feature at the Cathedral entrance, will be restored and reused.

Bishop Michael has expressed his gratitude that your gift will assist fulfilling from planning to completion.

Alpha: We would like to invite you to join our Alpha Team. Our meetings include coming together for prayer, music discernment & to build a strong team with a goal of launching our next Alpha in early 2027. Next Meeting this **Tuesday 11th August 7pm**-Lincoln Parish Centre
If you would like more information email Brigid on pastoralassistantselwyn@gmail.com
or just come along to the next meeting with an open mind & heart.

PRAYER GROUP –**Mondays 10.00am -Rolleston**. Connect with other Mothers in the Parish /Community- Start the week by putting aside time to pray and be uplifted in a small group environment. We meet in private homes, discuss a scripture reading or share a reflection. Preschoolers welcome.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S MOVEMENT: RETREAT DAY led by Linda Polaschek
Linda, an Oblate within the Benedictine monastic tradition, spiritual director, mother of 3 and grandmother of 8 from Wellington.
THEME: **PRAYER IN EVERYDAY LIFE. Saturday, 19 September, 9.30 am – 4.00 pm** at Mary Potter Centre, 442 Durham Street North. Cost $60 includes Morning tea and lunch.
Payment: Catholic Women's Movement - 38-9028-0042676-01. Include your name and ref. RETREAT
Please confirm payment and advise of any dietary requirements to Helen Warren: helenterry9@outlook.com; 021 133 5132

SURVEY FINDINGS: The complete results, and how we've linked them to the parish goals shared earlier this year, are now on the parish website — the link is in today's newsletter for anyone who'd like to explore further. https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:AP:c29c3dec-9816-47fc-a4c6-5b9fc18db636

A MESSAGE FROM THE PARISH LEADERSHIP TEAM

Parish Survey Results — Thank You

Why We Listened

The past four years have brought real change and challenge to our community. On 23–24 May, the Leadership Team asked every parishioner to share where they're really at.

Thank You

We're deeply grateful to everyone who responded. Your honesty has given us a much clearer picture of our demographics, our faith life, and how connected you feel to your parish.

What Happens Next

This is our first survey in some time, and we've learned a great deal. The findings will help our leadership, finance, and ministry teams serve you better — key results are on the next page and in today's newsletter insert.

Read the Full Report

The complete results, and how we've linked them to the parish goals shared earlier this year, are now on the parish website — the link is in today's newsletter for anyone who'd like to explore further.
https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:AP:c29c3dec-9816-47fc-a4c6-5b9fc18db636

"Our Lady of the Plains Catholic Parish strives to support and strengthen our communities in holiness while proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ."

— Our Parish Vision

With gratitude for your trust and generous support — Our Lady of the Plains Parish Leadership Team · Selwyn District, New Zealand · 2026

PARISH NEWSLETTER · AUGUST 2026

Six Ways We're Moving Forward — Together

Your feedback points to six shared priorities, each connected to one of our parish goals.

1. Grow Through Evangelisation
GOAL · Evangelise
Welcoming newcomers warmly and building a culture of inviting others to Mass.

2. Deepen Faith Formation
GOAL · Prayer & Holiness
More ways to turn personal prayer into shared learning — like Alpha and OCIA.

3. Develop Future Parish Leaders
GOAL · Service
Growing new leaders now, so our ministries thrive for years to come.

4. Invest in Families & Young People
GOAL · Communication & Engagement
Fresh, relevant faith experiences for children, youth, and families.

5. Build Community & Belonging
GOAL · Communication & Engagement
More chances to connect, and better care for those we haven't seen in a while.

6. Strengthen Stewardship
GOAL · Service
Encouraging everyone's generosity of time, talent, and treasure.

Thank you for being part of this journey of faith — watch upcoming newsletters as each priority takes shape.

PARISH NEWSLETTER · AUGUST 2026

Thank You, Our Lady of the Plains!

What Your Voice Told Us — 2026 Parish Survey Results

In May, 431 of you shared your experience of faith and life at OLOTP. Your honesty gave us a clear picture of our parish today — and six shared priorities to help us grow together.

431	86%	30%	52%	47%
Respondents	Attended Mass Last Sunday	Invited Someone	Daily Devotion	Volunteer in the Community

EVERY PRIORITY AHEAD CONNECTS TO ONE OF OUR FOUR PARISH GOALS

Evangelise · Prayer & Holiness · Service · Communication & Engagement

"We are a welcoming community of disciples, growing in faith, serving one another and the world."

Our Lady of the Plains Parish · Selwyn District, New Zealand · Full survey report available from the parish office