# 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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**Parish Safeguarding Officer**
Sophia Tionko -
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https://selwyncatholic.nz/

https://www.facebook.com/selwyncatholicparish

**22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**30 August 2026**

**Readings**
Jeremiah 20:7-9
Romans 12:1-2:
Matthew 16:21-27

## 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, Friday, 9.00am

**Darfield:** **not this week**
**Akaroa:** Wednesday, 10.00am
**Leeston:** next Wednesday

**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/

While Fr Chris is on holiday - there will be **NO Lincoln Thursday masses until 1 October.**

- There will be Thursday 10.00am masses at Darfield.
- However, there will be **NO** Thursday Mass in Darfield this Thursday, 3 September.

**This Sunday:**

- Fr John O'Connor will be the celebrant at Darfield and Rolleston

**Akaroa Wednesday mass** will recommence this Wednesday, 2 September, 10.00am.
**Akaroa Parish Council Meeting:** this Wednesday, 2 September, 1.30pm.
**Leeston Wednesday mass** will recommence next Wednesday, 9 September, 5.30pm.

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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.
The **Parents' Meeting** will be next **Tuesday 8 September, 7.00pm**, in the Lincoln Church Centre.
**Candidates' first meeting** is on Sunday 13 September.
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 ,or speak to Fr Brian, to enrol in the Confirmation Programme.

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**RIP: Recently Deceased:** Keira D'Arcy (Rolleston); Maureen Devlin (Lincoln); Heather Donley (Leeston).

**Rosary Beads for sale** after mass this Sunday @ 11.00am Rolleston Mass.
Handmade Catholic Rosaries. Beautifully crafted with faith & love. A meaningful gift of prayer.

**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.

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF CHRISTCHURCH
TE TAKIWĀ Ō TE PĪHOPA
SUPPORT OUR SACRED PROJECT

Bishop Michael has launched the campaign for building the **new Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament.**
See more information: https://cdoc.nz/news-events/plans-for-new-cathedral-released

Bishop Michael is asking for pledges - gifts paid over five years that allow you to make a lasting impact without financial strain.

If/when you make your donation/pledge towards the new Cathedral, 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.

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 for the Lincoln Church needs to continue.
We hope we will be able to make public our plans in the near future. We are just waiting for a few 'loose ends to be tidied up'.

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**The Selwyn Parish** has established a Fundraising Account.
This Account will enable all fundraising funds to be kept separate.
The new Fundraising Account Number is:
The Roman Catholic Diocese of Christchurch - **The Catholic Parish of Selwyn: 03-1592-0207180-022**

**Request for Rental Accommodation:** **f**rom Rebekah & Sam,
My husband and our 2 kids (2.5yrs + nearly 1yr) are a young Catholic family from North Canterbury.
My husband Sam (a builder) has been working in Akaroa and loves it, so we have made the decision to move this way.
Our ideal situation would be a 3-bedroom home in Little River, with room for chickens and a garden.
A huge bonus would be a bit of land for our horse, but he can be grazed elsewhere if not.
We don't have any other pets. Thank you and God bless: rebekahsmjones@gmail.com

***World Youth Day:*** young adults, now is the time to move for the opportunity of a lifetime - joining with Catholics from all over the Diocese, and the world, for an incredible experience.
The pilgrimage will be approximately 18 days in length and will include time in Vietnam before joining pilgrims from around the world for the official World Youth Day celebrations in South Korea.
All 6 Bishops are intending to attend and they're expecting to have over 250 pilgrims from NZ.
Promo video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DgtBKDW8iq0
All the information is at www.cyt.org.nz/worldyouthday
Applications are now open; with applications closing at the end of September.

**Diocesan One-Day Prayer Conference: Saturday, 12 September @ Holy Family Parish, Timaru** - begins @ 9.30am with Mass and finish @ 5.00pm.
Bishop Michael and 3 Nashville Dominican Sisters, based in Australia, will give Keynote Talks.
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.

**CBS Choir & Orchestra:** Heavenly Haydn, Salve Regina, Symphony 98 Heiligmesse.
Leader: Natalia M. Lomeiko.
On Sunday, 6 September, @ 2.00pm @ St Mary's Pro-Cathedral. Programme Admission $30 & $25

## Gratitude as future of St Thomas of Canterbury College secured

A joint statement from Bishop Michael Gielen and Steve Hart, August 21, 2026.

It is a with a deep sense of gratitude that we announce the future of St Thomas of Canterbury College has been secured, with the Catholic Bishop of Christchurch to take over as proprietor.
For more than six decades, St Thomas' has been an integral part of Catholic education in Christchurch, with the Christian Brothers serving as custodians of the site the then Bishop of Christchurch transferred to them.
Earlier this year, the Christian Brothers asked the Court for permission to be able to sell the College's land and buildings and exit as custodian. We are pleased to announce that the legal case has now been amicably resolved.

We have both been very vocal in recent weeks about our commitment to the future of St Thomas' as a Catholic college, forming young men of faith, character and intellect.
The Bishop will assume the role of Proprietor for the College once necessary approvals have been obtained, and we will all work together with the Ministry of Education to facilitate the smooth transfer of the Proprietor responsibilities. The Bishop already serves as Proprietor of other state integrated Catholic schools, and is committed to the continuation of Catholic education in the Edmund Rice tradition at St Thomas'.
The College will therefore continue in full operation and provide complete ongoing education of its students, and the promise of many more decades of Catholic education has been sealed.
The connection between St Thomas' and the Diocese has been strengthened through this time. Through the transfer of proprietorship, that connection is solidified in governance.
We thank the students and families connected with St Thomas' for your support, your resilience and your patience. We have delivered the outcome we all wanted, with no change to the day-to-day operations of the College.
Together, we will continue to pursue the College's aspiration of Educating Hearts and Educating Minds.

Bishop Michael Gielen
Catholic Bishop of Christchurch

Steve Hart
Principal of St Thomas of Canterbury College

**Jesus Youth Christchurch** is hosting a **'Meet Up'** this **Wednesday, 2 September**, 6:30pm - 9:00pm @ St. Teresa Church Hall, Riccarton.
The event offers young adults an opportunity to grow in faith, connect with others, and build friendships in a welcoming community. Activities include prayer & worship, games, music, entertainment, food, refreshments, and social time.
Register: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1d5lhdYcfuXcEVSvOt1m-TQVwq93i-JxycgKoVlNe48/viewform?ts=6a618c17&edit_requested=true

**Vinnies Youth Holiday Programme:**
Looking for something meaningful and fun to do these school holidays?
**When:** 28 September - 2 October; @ Vinnies, Manchester Street, for Years 6 – 9.
Come along to the **Vinnies Youth Holiday Programme** and spend a few days making new friends, building your confidence, developing leadership skills, and putting your faith into action.
This programme is a chance to connect, have fun, serve others, and make a difference in our community. Whether you're already involved with Vinnies or completely new, you're welcome!
Spaces will be limited, so get in early and secure a spot.
Register: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScD16SXLpg6ysH6xpU-sFo8lN85mIn2EhXq5WgcbinthMekRA/viewform
or contact: cyrene@svdpcanterbury.nz

**Diocesan Women's Retreat: Saturday, 5 September,** 9.00am – 3.00pm at *City Church*, 346 Manchester Street, (opposite St Mary's) Christchurch. Cost $25.
The theme is: **Seek His Face**. Guest Speakers: Dominican Sisters of St Cecilia from Australia
To register: https://cdoc.nz/news-events/diocesan-womens-retreat-2026

**Catholic Women's Retreat Day:** led by Linda Polaschek.
**Theme:** 'Prayer in everyday life'.
On **Saturday, 19 September**, 9.30 am – 4.00 pm @ at Mary Potter Community Centre, 442 Durham Street North. Christchurch. Cost $60 - includes morning tea and lunch.
Contact/register: Helen Warren: helenterry9@outlook.com ; Ph: 021 133 5132

**Catholic Business Network Event:** 'From Amberley to America' with Rosemary Banks.
On **Thursday, 24 September**, 5:30pm - 7:30pm @ Terrace & Fairway Room, Russley Golf Club. Cost $65.
After more than four decades as a New Zealand diplomat Rosemary Banks will reflect on New Zealand's place in a rapidly changing world and the way other countries see us.
Having twice served as ambassador to the United States - she will discuss the way America's view of its global role is changing and what this means for New Zealand. To register/more information: https://www.cbn.nz/

In **2028, Sydney** will host the 54th **International Eucharistic Congress.**
These conferences are held every 4 years.
The event consists of a week of activities, talks, events, processions culminating in a final Mass attended by hundreds of thousands of people, hopefully celebrated by Pope Leo XIV.
There will be an I**nformation Night next Wednesday, 9 September @ Nazareth House,**
beginning @ **7.00pm** with adoration in the chapel, followed by the presentation in the Hall.
Sr Anastasia Reeves, from the Sydney Diocesan Parish Renewal Office, will speak about the Eucharistic Congress and how individuals and parishes can get involved.
For more information and to RSVP please contact Matt O'Connell: moconnell@cdoc.nz or 0275369407

**'Farewell' to St Mary & St Francis de Sales Church in Rangiora:**
The parish community of St Peter Chanel warmly invites parishioners, former parishioners, families and friends to a Farewell and Final Closing Service for St Mary & St Francis de Sales Church, Rangiora.
The church has remained closed since the earthquakes and, following many years of consultation, heritage processes and discernment, all necessary steps towards demolition have now been completed.
This will be a time of thanksgiving for the generations of faith, worship, family celebrations and community life that have been centred around this church for well over a century, while also looking forward with hope to the future rebuilding of a new Catholic church in Rangiora.
**Farewell and Final Closing Service:** next Sunday 6 September, 2.00pm.
All are welcome. Enquiries: admin@waimakariricatholic.org.nz

A **Billings Ovulation Method Natural Fertility Seminar will be held in Christchurch:** Friday 9 - Saturday, 10 October.
This seminar will offer a comprehensive introduction to a natural and scientifically based fertility awareness method that assists couples in planning their families and supports women in understanding their reproductive health.
The seminar is suitable for couples, health professionals, educators, and anyone interested in learning more about fertility awareness. It is also an excellent opportunity for those interested in becoming accredited Billings Teachers, as demand for teaching services continues to grow across New Zealand.
For further information/registration: www.billingslife.org.nz/training-seminar

**Fathers' Day Raffle:** The Catholic Women's League is having their annual Fathers' Day raffle on the next two weekends. On weekend of **29/30 August at all Masses** and **4/5 September only at Lincoln**, it will be drawn on Fathers' Day after 8.30am Mass. Tickets $5 each and there are four prizes to be won.

The parish annual quiz night run by the **SAT team** is on again on **Friday 11th September at 7pm** in the **Lincoln Church Centre.**
Teams of 4 at $5 per person. There will be a raffle on the night $5 with three prizes.
All money raised goes to the Vinnies in our parish to support the family from Afghanistan with school requirements etc. During the next few weeks, we will be taking names so mark the date and gather your teams together!
We can only take 17 teams
Contact Ray on 033669795 or email Margaret on mbmerea@gmail.com

**Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible – 8 Sessions:** Want to understand the Bible but don't know where to start? This eight-session course explores salvation history through the Bible's fourteen narrative books, from Adam and Eve to Christ and the Church, and reveals the connection between the Old and New Testaments**. 7–8.30 pm**, starting **Thursday 1 October** at **Lincoln Parish Centre/Monday 5 October in Rolleston.** Register by **12 September** to allow time to order the Bible Timeline Chart ($15 + postage). Contact Nick Otto: 029 237 8142 | ottofamilynz@gmail.com