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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The Christchurch Diocesan Website: https://cdoc.nz/

https://selwyncatholic.nz/

https://www.facebook.com/selwyncatholicparish

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

25 October 2026

Readings

Exodus 22:21-27
1 Thessalonians1:5-10
Matthew 22:34-40

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

Akaroa has a Communion Service each Sunday, 9.30am.
(Mass on the First Sunday of the month)

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:
Lincoln: Friday after Mass until Midday

Reconciliation: Saturday 10.00am at Lincoln

A Funeral Mass will replace the advertised mass in the same church.

- 2027 Calendars ordered from Rachel are available in the narthex of St Patrick's church. There are still 4 calendars to be up-lifted.
- **2027 Columban Calendars** are available at the doors of the churches: **cost $13** – same as last year.

Last Sunday was **Mission Sunday.**
The day is set aside to pray for the Church's mission and to support those who carry the Gospel to places where hope is fragile, where faith is young and where believers often face hardship or persecution.
That support can be financial and through prayer. Find out more at: https://missio.nz/

Donations, to help evangelisation and the work of missionaries, may be made online: https://missio.nz/donate/
There are Donation Envelopes at the entrances to the churches.
The donations are administered by the Pontifical Mission Societies.

- ❖ Next Sunday, 1 November, is the **Feast of All Saints.**
- ❖ Monday, 2 November, is the **Feast of All Souls** – there will be mass at Lincoln at 9.00am.

There will be boxes at in the churches for parishioners to place names of their deceased - they will be remembered at each mass during November.

The **Annual Parish Bereavement Mass** will be on Wednesday 11 November, 7.00pm, at St Patrick's Church, Lincoln.
This is a mass where we remember parishioners who have died over the previous 12 months.
There will be supper in the Church Centre after mass.

The Sacrament of Confirmation: Bishop Michael will celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation at the Vigil Mass on Saturday 7 November. There will be supper after mass.

The **candidates will celebrate the Rite of Election at parish masses this weekend.**
Reconciliation and Rehearsal: Tuesday 3 November, 6.00pm @ St Patrick's.

Candidates: Hannah Casey, Miles Fox, Mason Fox, Carlos Miguel Mendoza, Heloise-Anne Proust, Nathan Nguyen, Teresa Nguyen, Mikel Antonio Paco, Chiara Monteza, Bella Bamber, Victoria Bambry, Elizabeth Bambry, Jelena Unkovich, James Blackman, Arya Cellis, Juan Arteza, Mary Arteza, Corbin Ibe, Khloe Monoy, Arwana Rosario.

Queries: Brigid McIndoe, pastoralassistantselwyn@gmail.com or phone 021 08176358.

RIP
Anniversaries: Fernanda Carmana 12/9; Ira Hayes 15/9.

Praying for Vocations and for Priests: as in the past, 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 at the back of your church or online at the Diocesan website.
For more information contact the Vocations Coordinator Matt O'Connell on 366-9869 or moconnell@cdoc.nz

Cathnews: What's happening in the Catholic Church in New Zealand? Get Catholic headlines delivered to your inbox each Tuesday and Friday. Sign up today at https://cathnewsnz.com/
Follow https://www.facebook.com/cathnewsnz/ on Facebook.

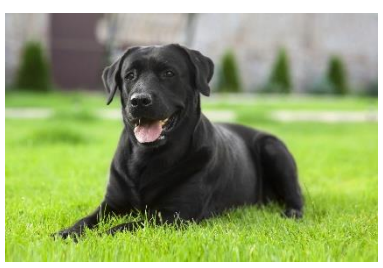
Prayer Vigil for the Unborn: Join us for an afternoon of prayer, hymns, and fellowship as we pray together. We meet on the first Saturday of each month at 3.00pm in Hagley Park, Matai Street east entrance. Next gathering Saturday, 7 November. Contact: info@fftkingdom.com

Catholic Inquiry Centre Newsletters are available church entrance.

Safeguarding Workshop for volunteers in all ministries:
Our Parish safeguarding culture is not just about those who work directly with children or vulnerable adults - it is a shared responsibility of every volunteer, staff member, and member of the faith community. This is because safeguarding is about protecting the dignity, safety, and wellbeing of all people who engage with the Church's life and ministry

Our parish safeguarding culture is achieved through clear policies, training, proactive prevention, and responsive action. In the Catholic Church in NZ, all volunteers - regardless of role - are required to attend a safeguarding workshop every three years.

In September a well-attended Safeguarding Workshop was facilitated at Darfield.
For those volunteers who were unable to attend, the next safeguarding workshop is an **Online one on Wednesday 11 November @ 7.00pm, facilitated by Clodagh Ward, Diocesan Safeguarding Officer.**
To register: https://www.cdocsafeguarding.nz/workshops



House/Pet Sitter:
A pet and house sitter required for a home in Kirwee from Wednesday 2nd December - Monday 7th December inclusive.
We live on a lifestyle block and have an older dog that gets anxious, plus we have sheep and chooks.
We will pay a daily rate. Please contact Christine 0220495509 if this interests you.

Plan for Advent: Fr John O'Connor will give a Retreat Day - at the Darfield Church Centre on **Saturday 20 December, 10.00am - 3.00pm.** Darfield has a good Centre with a good kitchen. Mark it in your diaries.

Theology of the Body: What does it mean to be human, to love, and to beloved?
Join us for a weekend exploring St John Paul II's core teaching, Theology of the Body: God's design for humanity, revealed in the human body.

- Friday 6 November, 6.00pm – Saturday 7 November, 6pm @ St John Paul II Centre, 391 Moorhouse Avenue. Cost: $47 Register: https://jp2.org.nz/theology-of-the-body

Getting married soon? This one-day course is for Engaged Couples preparing to get married in the Catholic Church. It's a chance to pause, reconnect, and invest in your future together. You'll explore what helps marriages thrive, how to navigate differences well, and what those vows actually mean.
When: Sat, 28th Nov. Cost: $140 per couple; (sponsorship available if cost is a barrier).
At St John Paul II Centre, 391 Moorhouse Avenue. Register: https://jp2.org.nz/marriage-prep/

St Vincent De Paul Conference:
Thank you again to all the parishioners who support our work. If you wish to donate food to help us and be part of our mission to assist the needy, please put donated food in baskets at any of the Mass venues. Your support is vital to our ability to help other less fortunate members of our wider community.
If you wish to donate money, there is a donation box in the Lincoln foyer or you can do a direct bank transfer. Details are below.
As mentioned at Mass last weekend, our conference has been in operation for over five years now.
From modest beginnings we have been expanding our mission to meet a growing need and we would welcome any and all new volunteers.
If you missed the opportunity last weekend to put your name on a list, and feel you could help in any way, however small or large, or just would like to know more, please contact one of the Vinnies team, or use one of the contacts below. There is no pressure. Why not see if this is something you could be involved in?
If you are unable to help in any material way, we still ask that you pray for the success of our mission**.**
God bless you all.
Ph: 0210 855 1988 Email: secretary@svdpselwyn.org.nz
Bank account: 03-0767-0082945-000
Give a Little website: https://givealittle.co.nz/org/st-vincent-de-paul-selwyn-conference

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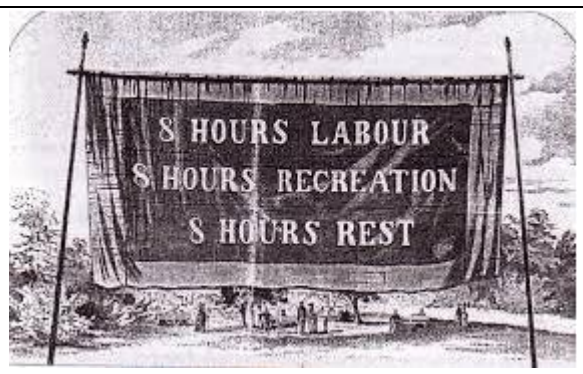
The **Society of St Vincent de Paul Selwyn will be selling Christmas Cards** at masses on the 1st and 2nd Sundays in November including Saturday night.
Pack of 5 cards + envelopes for $5-00.
Cash or payment direct to our Bank account. Pre-orders with payment welcome.
Email details: info@svdpselwyn.org.nz . Thank you for your support.

We're on the move:
Barry & Rosalie Matthews are on the move, but first we need to sell our property.
If you're interested in living in the country with an easy commute only 15 minutes from Lincoln go to: bayleys.co.nz 5531885
Or: https://www.bayleys.co.nz/listings/lifestyle/canterbury/selwyn/481-ridge-road-motukarara-5531885
You could delve into farming; grow crops; or develop a glamping venture.
Alternately lease the land to create a passive income; leaving you with one acre to enjoy that covers the house, garden and orchard.

The **Christchurch City Choir** will present George Frideric Handel's, **Messiah**, @ the Christchurch Town Hall, Saturday, 5 December.
To make this evening accessible - a range of special ticketing options are available:

- Family Packages: Available for 2 Adults & 2 Children.
- Concession pricing available for seniors and children.
- Group Discount Rates: Special savings when attending together as a choir, fellowship group, or parish outing. Bookings: Phone: 09.970-9745; Email: groups@ticketmaster.co.nz



Monday is Labour Day. Labour Day is an annual holiday; but I wonder, in 2026 do we really deserve the holiday? Do I believe in what the Day signifies?

The first Labour Day was celebrated in New Zealand on 28 October 1890 - when thousands of Trade Union members, and their supporters, attended parades in the main centres. Government employees were even given the day off.

The significance of Labour Day was that it celebrated the struggle for an 8-hour working day. A right that was achieved after a hard-fought fight.

The Labour Day Act (1899) created a statutory public holiday on 28 October. The holiday was first celebrated in 1900; it was later “Mondayised” in 1910.

In the early days, Labour Day was a real spectacle - with banners, bands, and a parade, followed by sport events and picnics. However, by the end of WWI its colourful side began to decline, and it became just another holiday.

Labour Day celebrates the 8-hour working day or the 40-hour working week. In 2026, is the Day still meaningful? How many people treasure this practice? How many people work on Labour Day? Most Shopping Malls delight in the extra customers that are lured to their counters on Public Holidays; I’m sure Briscoes and Harvey Norman will have their normal ‘Long Weekend’ specials.

It seems to me that one of the social problems or ‘sicknesses’ in modern New Zealand society is workaholicism. The victims are the workers, as well as their family. How many ‘tear-jerker’ movies are built around a child who has a workaholic parent? How many relationships are put under stress due to the effects of a workaholic?

The 3 monotheist religions: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, all have an official rest day each week – there is some wisdom here; but the modern commercial society says, ‘we know best’. The consequence is not always happiness.

Work is part of being human. Work enables us to extend ourselves, to deepen our understanding about the mystery of life, to add beauty to our environment, it assists in perfecting our world; work also provides security and stability to society, especially when people work together. By our work we give our imprint to our world.

However, there is a risk of work ‘dehumanising’ those who perform it, when they allow work to ‘master’ them - for work is ‘human’ only if it remains intelligent and free.

Labour Day is still a day with a message.
New Zealanders need to remember what the Day signifies - and endeavour to live a balanced life, participate in the world, but also live and enjoy life.

Sunday Cuppa's: Helpers are needed in the kitchen to host our weekly cuppa's after 8.30 Mass. If you can help, please put your name on the roster on the kitchen bench. Milk is in the fridge and biscuits in the cupboard. Also, the cupboard is nearly bare, so if anyone can bring some packets of biscuits along, please leave them in the kitchen cupboard. Thank you.

Tablecloths: The green and white tablecloths from the kitchen seem to be missing. If they have been borrowed, please return to the kitchen drawer. Thank you.