



## The Church of the Nativity

Sunday 1st April 2018

Our Mission is ...

To draw people to faith in Christ

To grow people in their commitment to Christ

To reach out beyond ourselves with the love of Christ

Dear Nativity family and friends,

*"We cannot know the power of the Empty Tomb without first knowing the fear of Good Friday. We cannot know our need of a saviour, both ours and the world's, without first walking the path that leads from the palm strewn road of Palm Sunday to the fear filled road of Good Friday. This last week was not an easy week because in it we discovered once more all that is within us, both light and dark, both good and evil. But all who seek the Garden of the Resurrection must walk this way."*

(Br. James Koester, Society of St John the Evangelist. Adapted)

Welcome to Easter at Nativity! Welcome especially to visitors and those who are returning here. This year we have a strange mix of days all coinciding. Along with this day of resurrection it's also April Fool's Day and the end of Daylight Saving. Hopefully you weren't fooled by the change in time! Interestingly these days bring us the Easter message.

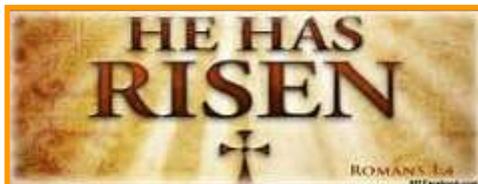
The message of the Bible is that at just the right time in history (Galatians 4:4) the eternal God was born as the human Jesus. He grew as we do. He suffered injustice as we do – but at an extreme level – all for our benefit. That seems like total stupidity to our way of thinking, and that Jesus must be history's biggest fool, until we realise that God's **foolishness** is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength (1 Corinthians 1:25). To think that Jesus dying on the cross could help us is foolishness to those who have no future beyond death, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. (1, Corinthians 1:18)

Are you one of those who have no hope beyond the grave? Or do you choose to accept life? It's well said, if for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. Total fools, and totally fooled. But in fact, Christ has been raised from the dead. (1 Corinthians 15:19,20) You are invited to choose life. Please talk to one of our leaders about that today.

**"CHRIST IS RISEN – HE IS RISEN INDEED!"**

Grace and great joy be yours

Bob and Libby



## Items of Interest

**The Office will be closed Monday.**

**Alison Mexteds** funeral will be at 2pm Tuesday 3rd April at Nativity. Parishioners please bring a plate of finger food for refreshments.

### Senior Citizens Concert 2018

Wednesday 11th April 2-4pm at the Wesley Centre. Enjoy an afternoon of entertainment, cuppa, and biscuits with the music of 30's, 40's and 50's sung by Wayne Love.

**AAW meeting** at Nativity on 4th April at 7.30pm. Please bring a treasure or trinket you would like to speak about. Devotions, overseas and outreach and social concerns reports. Sales table. Supper.

**Offertory Envelopes:** if you need more envelopes please contact Jan at the office ph. 5783909.

### My House Shall Be Called A House Of Prayer! *Luke 19:46*

*Please check out the prayer board in the foyer of the church. Maybe you could take away a sheet of prayer points to pray at home.*



**Jan's Joy:** *Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?"* *John 11:25-26*

### Prayers from Prayer board to pray.

- Safety for the workers and drivers on the roads and the rail, with the highway opened.
- 24-7 youth work at the Girl's College and for its commencement at the Boy's College.
- Work of the agencies who support the persecuted church.
- Unsettled political situations in the world.
- Bread of Life, for its funding and mission in Blenheim.
- Our parishioners in rest homes.
- The Building project for the church

### Missional needs:

- The Corin and Tucker Families – For wisdom and blessing on their ministry and the local church.
- Matt Gwynne – his YWAM leadership responsibilities, progress in learning French and healing of injuries and asthma.
- MAF – For John Neal and Derek Harding in their roles on the board and for more support staff.
- Nathan and Rosey – For their protection and suitable accommodation when they move to K Town.

**Prayer Ministry:** We have people willing to meet with you outside of church service times. If you are in need of more in-depth prayer ministry, speak to any of the clergy, or Jane Sheat (5789004) Prayer Facilitators and they can arrange this for you.

**Prayer Chain:** Bob Barnes (5783909) and Raewyn Parkes (5783909) are our Prayer Chain Coordinators. Please phone them with any requests you have for the prayer chain.

**If you would like to know about the many vibrant Care-cells that make up Nativity please phone 5783909**

## Welcome to our services today! 1st April 2018

**Theme 8am & 10am:** Easter Sunday

**Readings 8am & 10am:** Isaiah 9:2-7 & John 20:1-9 (msg version)



**Sentence:** Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed. To him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Alleluia! *Luke 24:34; Revelation 1:6*

**Collect:** Jesus Christ our Saviour, you have delivered us from death and sin. You have brought with the dawn a new beginning and an empty tomb; grant us strength and humility to enter into life. **Amen**

### Weekly Prayer Focus:

- Mon. Jesus Christ is risen today – we praise You for the hope and joy of this day. We praise You for the assurance Christ's resurrection gives us that Your victory will always have the final word.
- Tues. We praise You that when we go to the empty Cross, we find a living Saviour. We praise You that when we go to an empty tomb we find a living Lord.
- Wed. Jesus, you said from the Cross "It is finished" You have defeated the powers of darkness - and yet the world fails to claim Your resurrection power.
- Thurs. May the risen Christ bring hope and peace to the millions of people who are refugees looking for somewhere safe and secure to live.
- Fri. We pray for people in need of your resurrection power – for those whose hearts are filled with sadness and sorrow as a result of war, conflict, deprivation and suffering.
- Sat. We pray for our own country, founded on Christian principles. but those principles are increasingly eroded. We pray for our country with its frantic activity, where honesty, truth and faithfulness are ridiculed. May our country remember today that Jesus Christ is risen?

IT IS  
FINISHED..  
*Paid in Full!*

## What's on this week

<b>Mon:</b>		Office Closed
<b>Tues:</b>	2pm	Afternoon Care Cell in the lounge
	7pm	Alastair's Group in the lounge
<b>Wed:</b>	7pm	Boy's Group in Barnies
	7.30pm	AAW in the lounge
<b>Thurs:</b>	10am	Eucharist in Barnies followed by
	11am	morning tea in Barnies
	7pm	Choir practice in the church
<b>Fri:</b>	9.30am	Tunes for Tots in the hall
	1pm	LINK in the lounge
<b>Sun:</b>	8am	Traditional Eucharist Service
	10am	All Age Worship Service
	5.30pm	Canvas in the hall



### Our Staff and Parish Leaders

Vicar	Bob Barnes
Assistant Priests	Jonathan Wasley John Neal Miriam Taylor
Youth/24/7 Worker	Rose Newton
Vicar's P/A	Jude Dell
Parish Nurse	Raewyn Parkes
Receptionist	Jan Burrough
Counselling	Kathy Hammond
Care Cell Coordinators	Miriam Taylor & Shirley Ramsay
Women's Ministry	Libby Barnes
Chaplain to the Elderly	Alison Brice
Vicar's Warden	Stephen Sheat
People's Warden	Jennifer Bennett-Burrows

### To Contact Us

#### Nativity Anglican Church Office & Centre

#### Office Hours:

**Monday - Thursday** 9am - 4pm

**Friday** - 9am - 12noon

**Address:** 76 Alfred St,  
Blenheim 7201

**Phone:** 5783909

**Email:** [info@nativity.org.nz](mailto:info@nativity.org.nz)

**Website:** [www.nativity.org.nz](http://www.nativity.org.nz)

**Facebook:** "Nativity Church Blenheim"

#### Staff Days Off/On

Rose and Jonathan: Mondays off.

Bob, Jude and Jan: Fridays off.