



The Church of the Nativity

Sunday 11th February 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,

Pressure to conform is powerful. It always has been. It was just expressed differently in the past. It takes a lot to resist that pressure when you're standing among your peers is under threat.

The church, and anyone who is a follower of Jesus, is in such a position. Around the world that's been normal in many (though not all) Marxist, Muslim, Hindu and Buddhist states. In recent years countries which seemed to be bastions of Christianity have moved subtly yet definitely against Christian principles. They have increasingly been proving themselves, as secular states, to be the greatest threat to Christianity and indeed many faiths.

This Wednesday the church observes Ash Wednesday. It's the beginning of the season of Lent, a 6-week season in which we recognise our need of God, for all sorts of reasons. One reason is how we the church stand for the values of Jesus, especially as we face pressure to accept the values of this secular hedonistic society. In particular, the Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia has been debating for 20 years or more, about the marriage and ordination of people living in openly same sex relationships. Our Diocese, whilst welcoming all to worship, has legislation that will not permit those sacraments to be extended to those living that way. Our difficulty is in how we relate to the rest of the church with these standards.

For that reason, Bishop Richard is calling this Diocese to make Ash Wednesday a day of prayer and fasting, not only for the season of Lent, but also for a special one-day Synod to be held on 10 March. So, this Wednesday

- * between 7 and 8.30am Barnies will be open for you to come and pray. Then and all day please pray for the church and that special Synod.
- * at 7pm in Nativity, you are invited as in years past, to bring your palm/flax cross from Palm Sunday, where they'll be burned as a sign of repentance. We'll pray for the church and be anointed with the ashes.

Newton's Law of Inertia effectively states that a body in motion will remain in motion, and a body at rest will remain at rest. This Lent let's make very certain we know what to set in motion, and what to keep as it is. In the words of the Youth for Christ motto "Geared to the times. Anchored to the rock"

Kia kaha, kia Rangimarie o Ihu Karaiti (In strength and peace of Jesus)

Bob and Libby



Items of Interest

Canvas: 5.30pm Sundays! A colourful, interactive, all age service—you are invited to come and check it out. Contact rose@nativity.org.nz

Freezer Meals Required: We would really appreciate donations of meals for our freezer please. We currently have a small family in need of our support with meals for a couple of weeks, so if you can help out, please drop your meals to the office during office hours. Thank you so much.



Harvest Festival Service
25th February, 8am & 10am. You are invited to bring along tinned or spare produce which will be shared between the Community Food Bank and Nativity Food Bank. This is

a time to give thanks to God for the abundance with which we are blessed. Followed by picnic lunch, bring main meal finger food to share, don't forget the Festival Hat & Scarecrow competition

We will be saying farewell to Susan Howarth on the 25th of February as she leaves to become Vicar of the Havelock Parish. If you would like to make a cash only donation towards a gift from the parish, please do so at Nativity Reception.

I would really like a companion to help me set up communion for the 1st Sunday of each month. I spend a lot of time on my own as I live alone and the cleaning job I do, is on my own as well. It would be great if it was someone who wanted to go for a coffee afterwards as well. It takes me up to 1.5 to 2 hours to do it. If you would like to help me let me know. Gail Pickett ph. 5777274.

Stamps for Mission: Thank you to all those who have given me stamps to send away. BUT- when I was sorting some, I was so disappointed to find that many of them had to be discarded because they had been damaged in the tearing or cutting from the envelope. PLEASE leave 1/4 inch or so all round. Also note that Kiwi Stamps (those with a small fern logo and no printed value) are not wanted now. Margaret Jarman



NZCMS Prayer meeting Sunday 18th February 2018 4-5pm Nativity lounge. All welcome.

Ladies - note this date and time in your diary - March 17th - 10am to 3/3.30pm Theme being - SHE Hopes – mental and emotional wellness seminar with Juliagrace and Ps Amy de Vetter. Venue to be advised. Watch out for more details soon.

We warmly invite you to attend a meeting with guest speakers from Mission Aviation Fellowship. The meeting will be held at 7.30pm on Thursday 22nd February in Nativity lounge. Godfrey and Glenn Sim from Hagen, PNG will speak about their work supporting MAF. Supper to follow.

Meetings to discuss Motion 29 will be on Monday 12th and 19th February at 7.30pm in the lounge and also on Saturday 24th February 9am - 10.30am.

Jan's Joy: *Rejoice, O land, in God your Lord.* Joel 2:21

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

Welcome to our services today! 11th February 2018

Theme 8am & 10am: Movement

Readings 8am & 10am: Isaiah 43:18-19 & Mark 2:23-27

Sentence: The ransomed of the Lord will return; everlasting joy will crown their heads; gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away.
Isaiah 51:11



Collect: Almighty God, the Redeemer of all who trust in you; give heed to the cry of your people, deliver us from the bondage of sin that we may serve you in perfect freedom and rejoice in your unfailing love; through Jesus Christ our Saviour who reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

Weekly Prayer Focus:

Continuing to pray using the Alphabet.

Mon. *G... praying with God's Word.* Recently I heard these words and they had an impact on me. 'If you want to know how much God means in your life, then examine the place You've given his Word in your life.' Jesus is the Living Word of God. The Bible is the written Word of God.'

Tues. *H... prayer and the Holy Spirit.* There are at least three areas that will always be the same. The Holy Spirit exalts Jesus. The Holy Spirit reveals our sinfulness. The Holy Spirit provides guidance and shows us the truth.

Wed. *I... Intercession.* Through intercession we can release the transmitting go-between power of God to every corner of the earth. Think and pray about that today.

Thurs. *J... praying in Jesus' Name.* If we use his Name when we pray – in faith – then we will see miracles happen in our church, families, community and the world.

Fri. *K... untie the knots.* Jesus said, 'I am come that you might have life in all its fullness.' What knots need to be untied so that you can claim that promise?

Sat. *L... Listening.* We need to learn to be silent before God. God spoke to Elijah not in the great wind, or the earthquake, or the fire, but in the still small voice. 'Be still and know that I am God.'

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.

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, Jane Sheat (5789004) or Sheryll Gwynne (5776507) Prayer Facilitators and they can arrange this for you.

What's on this week

Mon:	7.30pm	Motion 29 meeting in the lounge
Wed:	7am	Prayer for Synod March 10th in Barnies
	7pm	Ash Wednesday service in the church
	7pm	Choir Practice in the choir vestry
Thurs:	10am	Eucharist in Barnies
	11am	Pastoral Care meeting in the lounge
Fri:	9.30am	Tunes for Tots in the hall
	1pm	LINK in the lounge
Sun:	8am	Traditional Eucharist Service
	10am	All Age Worship Service
	4pm	CMS meeting in the counselling room
	5.30pm	Canvas in the hall
	6pm	Taizé service in Barnies



Tuesday Prayer time 4.pm-5.pm

We invite you to join us to reflect on the meaning of Easter for four Tuesdays 4 p.m. – 5 p.m. 27th Feb and 6th, 13th, and 20th March at Grace Petrie's home 25 Burleigh Rd.

This focus has been prompted by the weekly prayer group – we are feeling the need to change our emphasis – and we would welcome you to join with us.

**Change
your thoughts
and you change
your world**

Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing.
In every thing give thanks:
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Our Staff and Parish Leaders

Vicar
Assistant Priests

Bob Barnes
Susan Howarth
Jonathan Wasley
John Neal

Youth/24/7 Worker

Vicar's P/A

Parish Nurse

Parish Manager

Receptionist

Counselling

Care Cell Coordinators

Miriam Taylor
Kevin Gwynne
Rose Newton
Jude Dell
Raewyn Parkes
Keith Buck
Jan Burrough

Kathy Hammond
Miriam Taylor &
Shirley Ramsay

Women's Ministry
Chaplain to the Elderly
Vicar's Warden
People's Warden

Libby Barnes
Alison Brice
Stephen Sheat
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

Website: www.nativity.org.nz

Facebook: "Nativity Church Blenheim"

Staff Days Off/On

Susan, Rose and Jonathan:
Mondays off.

Bob, Jude and Jan: Fridays off.

Keith is here Monday to Wednesday
mornings only.