



The Church of the Nativity

Sunday 12th May 2019

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

Today we start a new sermon series: "Living below with saints we know". The series is based on a book by the late Brian Hathaway, former principal of BCNZ or Laidlaw College as it is now. This week we will introduce the passion of Jesus as found in his prayer in John 17. Clearly this is about unity – not uniformity. Diversity is a characteristic of God's Kingdom, but learning to live together in harmony with our differences is a challenge and is what Jesus prayed for. We shall come to see that John 17 also sets out God's agenda for evangelism but it is the one that is most often ignored. Brian writes:

We flock to seminars on evangelism, church growth, worship, signs and wonders and counselling, but what about seminars on unity? Seminars on unity just aren't offered. Nobody would attend! Surely this indicates we are running to our own agendas and not God's agenda. Is it because we have not seen this passion and priority of Jesus? So often those of us in pastoral ministry find it easier to shy away from events that foster unity. We feel threatened, uncomfortable, and defensive.

We need to sense the heart of Jesus on this matter and weep at the mess we have made of the body of Christ. All too often we have legitimised independence, sanctified the sinful nature and worshipped at the shrine of our cultural values.

We must no longer filter the John 17 prayer of Jesus through our own understanding, goals or past experiences of relationships. Let us see it for what it is, the passion of Jesus for deep relationships between his people.

Over the coming weeks we will explore this further – my prayer is that we will capture a fresh vision of what it means to be church and followers of Jesus.

Go well and blessings

Richard



Welcome to our services today! 12th May 2019

Theme: The Passion of Jesus

Readings: Romans 12:3-13 & John 17:20-26

Sentence: "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. *John 17:24,25*

Collect: Alleluia, King Eternal; our guide and our protector: in troubles and uncertainty, lead us; in fearfulness and hardship, secure us; through Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**



Items of Interest



Two bedroom cottage

available 18th May.

Fully furnished

\$330 pw – Inc power and

gas

Call David 0274155013



NZ CMS Sunday 19 May at 2.45pm in Nativity Lounge - you are invited to hear outgoing National Director Steve Maina sharing highlights of his 10 years with NZ CMS.

Volunteers are needed to join The Blue Doors great team of workers. All proceeds from sales go back to the community so if you are interested in being part of this awesome project please contact Kathryn Nicholls, 46 Seymour Street, Blenheim.

Telephone: 03 5794353.

<http://www.thebluedoor.nz/> <https://www.facebook.com/TheBlueDoorInc/>

Wanted: Small chest deep freeze in good condition.

Contact David
phone 0225241030



Flower Arranging Demonstration



Barb Higgins is showing floral arranging in St. Christopher's Hall on Thursday 30th May, 2019 from 2pm till 4pm, followed by 'have

a go', then afternoon tea.

Subject is arranging in the winter with availability of plant material. Plant material provided - bring a vase to arrange in. Come and have some fun.

\$2 per person, All welcome – bring a friend. RSVP Viv Peters, 578 7685 .

Jan's Joy: The whole earth is filled with awe at your wonders; where morning dawns, where evening fades, you call forth songs of joy. Psalm 65:8



As many of you are now aware, Jude Dell's role as Vicar's PA has been disestablished. Kathy Taylor has been contracted for six months to help make improvements to Nativity's administration system, as well as to support Jan 'behind the scenes.' Kathy's hours are Tuesday – Thursday, 8:45am – 2:45pm. Please note that Jan will take enquiries that were formerly directed to Jude.



She Connects: dates for the remainder of the year
 Saturday Aug 24, 7pm – SHE celebrates (bridal themed supper)
 Wednesday 23 Oct, 7.30pm – partnering with CWCI to host Spring Tour

SHE shops

Saturday June 15 @ 2-4pm
Elim Christian Centre
26 Burleigh Rd

\$2 ENTRY
\$1 PER ITEM

All proceeds go to Marlborough Migrant Centre

CLOTHES DROP OFF - Elim Office
 Mon 10 - Thurs 13 June, 9am-5pm
WOMEN'S CLOTHING, SHOES & ACCESSORIES ONLY
 Must be in good condition please

f SHE Connects **✉ sheconnects@outlook.com**

What's on this week:

- Wed:** 4pm Prophetic Intercessory Prayer in Barnies
 7pm Boy's Group in Barnies
 7pm Choir Practice in the church
- Thurs:** 10am Eucharist in Barnies
- Fri:** 9.30am Tunes for Tots in the hall
 1pm LINK in the lounge
 5pm Nativity Kids Movie Night in the centre
- Sun:** 8am Traditional Eucharist Service
 10am Family Service followed by
 5.30pm Canvas in the hall



If you would like to join a care cell, Chris and Susanne Donaldson are our care cell co-ordinators Phone 5783909

Prayer Focus

Although this prayer was written for children – I find the words appropriate for us all whatever our age and circumstances.

Mon. If children live with criticism, they learn to condemn.
If children live with hostility, they learn to fight.

Tues. If children live with ridicule, they learn to be shy.
If children live with shame, they learn to feel guilty.

Wed. If children live with tolerance they learn to be patient,
If children live with praise, they learn to appreciate.

Thurs. If children live with fairness, they learn justice.
If children live with security they learn to have faith.

Fri. If children live with approval, they learn to like themselves.
If children live with acceptance and friendship they learn to find love in the world

Sat. If children live with encouragement, they learn confidence.
If children live with love, they learn that God is Love.



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) Prayer Facilitator, or ring the office and they can arrange this for you.

Prayer Chain: Jane Sheat is our Prayer Chain Coordinator while Raewyn is away. Please phone her on (5789004), or Jan on 5783909, with any requests you have for the prayer chain.

Our Staff and Parish Leaders

Priest-in-Charge
Assistant Priests

Richard Dyer
Kaye Dyer
John Neal
Miriam Taylor
Kevin Thompson
Kathy Taylor
Rose Newton
Jody Jansen van Vuuren

Administrator
Youth Worker
Youth Intern

Parish Nurse
Receptionist
Counselling

Chaplain to the Elderly
Care Cell Coordinators
Vicar's Warden
People's Warden
Prayer Facilitator

Raewyn Parkes
Jan Burrough
Kathy Hammond
Alison Brice
Chris & Sue Donaldson
Stephen Sheat
Jennifer Bennett-Burrows
Jane Sheat

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"

Nativity Bank account:

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