



The Church of the Nativity

Sunday 13th May 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,

Welcome, and a happy Mother's Day. Whether or not you *are* a Mum, we certainly all had one!

Today is also the Sunday after Ascension, one of the most ignored yet important historic Christian festivals. Forty days after Jesus rose from the dead, he “ascended to heaven” (Read Luke 24:50-52 and Acts 1:6-11). He took on a much higher form of being, not merely rising vertically - though that seems to have happened too. He modelled the way for us, showing we too have a future, starting now, going beyond the grave, in a much greater way of being than anything we can imagine!



Both Mothers Day and the ascension of Jesus – give us great insight into who God is. Last week we considered who we are – made in the image of God, loved by him and invited into relationship with him. God made us all in his image – male and female. Though we call God Father, and use the male pronoun, God is like a Mother as well. The Bible uses some great images to show this.

In our God we find the fullness of our humanity. Mothers and Fathers both find the perfect model for their roles, not in human

parents, but in God. In God we find meaning and worth beyond ourselves.

The words of a song we learned last week remind us, “I Am Who You (God) Say I Am.” We are not defined by society or anyone else. God is the one who names us and all people as worthy of respect and honour because all are created in the image of God, and all can respond to the love of God.

As we continue into this series of teaching based on The Catechism, through sermons and in discussion in small groups, today we continue to ask that question we started last week, “What is God like?” It’s a question worth pursuing!

“For this reason we bow our knees before the Father,¹⁵ from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name.

¹⁶ We pray that, ... he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit.”

(from Ephesians 3:14-16)

Bob and Libby

Items of Interest



Anglican Care Conference, 16 -17 May at All Saints Church, Nelson. See notice board for more information.

Confirmation - Reaffirmation

We plan to have a big celebration in July. If you would like to be Confirmed, or to reaffirm your baptism and faith in Jesus, please let Bob or Jonathan know as soon as possible.

The claims of the Christian faith based on the Catechism, are the basis of this opportunity. These are being made through sermons and parish small groups. Between midday and 12.30pm each Sunday in the lounge, parish clergy and preachers will be available to discuss the sermons and topics.

The link to the Catechism in the NZPB is <http://anglicanprayerbook.nz/925.html>

Notes from sermon are on the table in the church foyer and in the hall.

Mwangaza Childrens Choir from Uganda 7pm, Tuesday 22nd May at St Andrews. Freewill offering for admission.

Bishopdale Theological College:

Sharing the Gospel presented by Monika Clark from the Church Army. All Saints Church, Nelson Friday June 8th, 7-9pm and Saturday June 9th, 9.30-4pm. Register at bishopdale.ac.nz/preaching. Lunch is provided and there is no cost.

Saturday 9 June "She Shops" at Nativity hall. More information to follow.

Prayers for the People

Please check out the prayer board in the foyer of the church.

- Safety for the workers and drivers on the roads and the rail, with the highway opened.
- 24-7 youth work at the Girls' College and for its commencement at the Boys' College.
- Work of the agencies who support the persecuted church.
- Unsettled political situations in the world.
- Our parishioners in rest homes.
- The Building Project for the church
- Family First - fight against deregistration as a charity.

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.
- Maori Mission for healing and growth
- Zane & Karen Elliott as they join CMS and head overseas to serve.

Join Jan and Raewyn in the church daily (Monday to Thursday 8.45-9AM) to pray for Nativity and our community.

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

Welcome to our services today! 13th May 2018

Theme 8am & 10am: A Catechism - God the Father

Readings 8am & 10am: Romans 8:14-17 & 1 John 3:1-3

Sentence: Blessing and honour, glory and might, to the one who is seated on the throne and to the lamb for ever and ever! *Revelation 5:13*

Collect: Eternal and gracious God, we believe your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ to have ascended with triumph into your kingdom in heaven; may we also in heart and mind ascend to where he is, and with him continually dwell; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. **Amen**



Weekly Prayer Focus:

For the next few days let us renew our minds with some wonderful promises God has given us through His Word. Let's not read them casually, but think about them slowly, deeply, prayerfully and repeatedly.

- Mon.** The Lord ... is with you, never again will you fear any harm. He is mighty to save. *Zephaniah 3:15-19*
- Tues.** My soul finds rest in God alone. My salvation comes from Him. He alone is my fortress. I will never be shaken. *Psalms 62:1-2*
- Wed.** Don't worry about anything: instead pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. *Philippians 4:6-7*
- Thurs.** Those who know your name will trust in you, for you Lord, have never forsaken those who seek you. *Psalms 9:10*
- Fri.** I will lie down and sleep in peace, for you alone, O Lord. make me dwell in safety. *Psalms 4:8*
- Sat.** Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or discouraged. The Lord our God will help us fight our battles. *2 Chronicles 32:7-8*

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

The Prayer Request box in the foyer of the church is to write any prayer requests on the paper provided and pop it into the box. We will collect them and they will be prayed through every Tuesday.

What's on this week

Mon:	5.30pm	BCMA prayer meeting in Barnies
Tues:	2pm	Afternoon Care Cell in the lounge
	7pm	Alastair's Group in the lounge
Wed:	6.30pm	Boys Group in Barnies
	7pm	Vestry Meeting in the lounge
Thurs:	10am	Eucharist in Barnies
	7pm	Choir practice in the church
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 Prayer meeting in the counselling room
	5.30pm	BCMA prayer meeting in Barnies
	5.30pm	Canvas in the hall
	7pm	Combined Churches Pentecost Service in the church



There is petition in the church foyer, calling upon the Minister of Justice to review and safeguard the religious freedoms which were developed over the last five centuries. Please take time to sign it before you leave today. For more information go to this link : [/barnabasfund.us11.list-manage.com/vcard?u=a9b3e4fe35187581ec007413e&id=eb07795fc3](https://barnabasfund.us11.list-manage.com/vcard?u=a9b3e4fe35187581ec007413e&id=eb07795fc3)

Next week Monday to Sunday there will be prayers 5.30 - 6pm in the various churches. Monday - Barnies, Tuesday - St Ninians, Thursday - Baptist, Saturday - C3, Grove Rd, Sunday - Barnies

Sunday 20th at 7pm we host the Combined Churches Pentecost Service here at Nativity. There will be a special offering for the Wairau Hospital Chaplaincy.

Jan's Joy: I will refresh the weary and satisfy the faint. Jeremiah 31:25



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	
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

Website: www.nativity.org.nz

Facebook: "Nativity Church Blenheim"

Staff Days Off/On

Rose and Jonathan: Mondays off.

Bob, Jude and Jan: Fridays off.