



The Church of the Nativity

Sunday 15th 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,

When we're with people who matter to us, there are all sorts of things we can be doing. But there's something better than always doing. That is to just BE in each other's presence. You may remember the story of Mary and Martha of Bethany, told in Luke 10:38-42 where Jesus commends Mary for being.

*"Being is more important than doing.
Becoming is more important than being."*

Last week we saw the direction of our preaching and learning for the next few months, is about becoming disciples of Jesus. We'll be using the Catechism (NZ Prayer Book p 925ff) as a base for that. It'll all culminate in the special events of 8 July when Bishop Richard will be here for Confirmation, in which anyone who is ready to make an adult profession of faith, can be commissioned as a disciple. He'll be here to bless and re-affirm those who are ready for a new start in their walk with Jesus.

It's well said that God made us as human beings not human doings. Sitting or just being in another's presence makes us more attuned to them in deeper ways than when we are running around doing stuff. It's healing for our souls. It allows us to get each other's attention.

Practicing the presence of God allows God to get our attention. There is nothing more deeply healing to our spirits than being in that presence, especially when we have offended Him.

*"And you shall eat there in the **presence of the Lord your God**, you and your households together, rejoicing in all the undertakings in which the Lord your **God has blessed you.**" (Deuteronomy 12:7)*

What a lovely promise. Seek it out this week. Relax into the presence of our God and you'll be enabled to be that disciple who loves Jesus.

We pray every blessing as you do that,

Bob and Libby



Items of Interest

Canvas is a shared meal tonight at 5.30pm. NB. no Canvas during the school holidays.

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

NZ CMS prayer meeting today at 4pm in the counselling room. All welcome

A special "Nations Bless Israel" event will be held at Harvest Life Church in Blenheim at 6:45 pm on Sunday 29 April. It will be a similar event to the gathering last April. There will be 'Live Streaming' from the Victory Christian Centre in Auckland. Please check out www.nationsblessisrael for more details

Knitters: Operation Cover-up coffee morning catch up, 10am, Friday 20th April, 10am, 9 Lybster Street.. Contacts Jean Drake 5784918, Ruth Buckley 5783550.

Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF). Gavin & Sue Schwass' latest update is on the noticeboard.

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

Bishopdale Theological College: Sharing the Gospel presented by Monika Clark from the Church Army, Learn skills around how to share the Gospel through evangelism and preaching. 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.



Jan's Joy: Do not be afraid for I am with you. Isaiah 43:5

Prayers from Prayer board to pray. *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.*

- 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 legacy in the community.
- Our parishioners in rest homes.
- The Building project for the church
- General Synod 8-11 May
- Prayer Breakfast 5th May at 8am

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

Don't forget to join Jan and Raewyn in the church daily (Monday to Thursday 8.45-9AM) to pray for Nativity and our community. Love to see you there.

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

Welcome to our services today! 15th April 2018

Theme 8am & 10am: The Lord's Presence

Readings 8am & 10am: Genesis 4:2b-16 & Hebrews 11:1-6



Sentence: In your constant love, O Lord, you have led the people whom you ransomed; you have guided them by your strength to your holy dwelling-place.
Exodus 15:13

Collect: Good Shepherd of the sheep, by whom the lost are sought and guided into the fold; feed us and we shall be satisfied, heal us and we shall be whole, and lead us that we may be with you, with the Father and the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

Weekly Prayer Focus:

This weeks prayer centres on our need to ask for God's forgiveness.

Mon. The hatred which divides nation from nation, race from race, class from class. Father forgive.

Tues. The covetous desires of men and nations to possess what is not their own. Father forgive.

Wed. The greed which exploits the labours of men and lays waste the earth. Father forgive.

Thurs. Our envy of the welfare and happiness of others. Father forgive.

Fri. Our indifference to the plight of the homeless and the refugee. Father forgive.

Sat. The lust which uses for ignoble ends the bodies of men and women. Father forgive.

Sun. The pride which leads us to trust in ourselves and not in God. Father forgive.

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.

What's on this week

Tues:	2pm	Afternoon Care Cell in the lounge
	7pm	Alastair's Group in the lounge
Wed:	7.30pm	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



Overnight billets required for Mwangaza Childrens Choir from Uganda

In May 2018, Tearfund is excited to be bringing to NZ the Mwangaza Children's choir from Uganda. They will tour the length of NZ and will be performing in Blenheim at St Andrew's Presbyterian on Tuesday 22nd May at 7pm. Blenheim Ministers Association is pleased to be supporting Tearfund in hosting this wonderful event.

The choir members will require billeting on the Monday night 21st May (after crossing Cook Strait) and Tuesday night 22nd. **COULD YOU HELP..??**
A total of 7 homes are required, (6 homes for 3 children and 1 adult/same sex with one exception, plus 1 home for the coach driver and his wife). Children range in age from 8 to 13 years. It is asked that the hosts provide a packed lunch for each guest for the next day. (Suggestions will be available). If you would like to host a choir group, please let Jude Dell the Blenheim host home co-ordinator for the choir know. Jude can be contacted on ph. 03 578 3909 or email: jude@nativity.org.nz.

Check out the link below to get a taster of what the choir is about.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-oLX7EBFLoA>

Our Staff and Parish Leaders

Vicar	Bob Barnes
Assistant Priests	Jonathan Wasley John Neal
Youth/24/7 Worker	Miriam Taylor
Vicar's P/A	Rose Newton
Parish Nurse	Jude Dell
Receptionist	Raewyn Parkes
Counselling	Jan Burrough
Care Cell Coordinators	Kathy Hammond
	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

Website: www.nativity.org.nz

Facebook: "Nativity Church Blenheim"

Staff Days Off/On

Rose and Jonathan: Mondays off.

Bob, Jude and Jan: Fridays off.