



The Church of the Nativity

Sunday 16th December 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,

Despite the pre-Christmas pressures many of us grumble about, most actually enjoy the season and activity as rhythms change and for the very reason we do all we do. It's a journey we take down roads we often don't travel the rest of the year. Let's pray for joy on this Advent journey.

Joy is of course very different to happiness. Joy has a depth that happiness doesn't.

“When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, ‘Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child’s life are dead.’ Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth...” (Matthew 2 v19-23)



The 3rd Journey Jesus took as a youngster was to return home from exile in Egypt. It may or may not have been a happy prospect for the family. We read it had its terror component. But it must have been joy-full too.

Nativity is starting on the next part of its journey, as we transition immediately after Christmas, to leadership being exercised by a Priest in Charge until a new Vicar is in place. John Neal will be the first Priest-In-Charge, from 30 December to just after Easter. Richard Dyer will then be in that role until a new Vicar starts. While people can be anxious about such changes, we pray joy for Nativity on this journey.

This Advent we bless you with joy on your journey home to Christmas and beyond.

Bob and Libby

Items of Interest

Service Feedback Sheets for 10am

service: Please take time to fill in the sheet from the back of the church and hand to sides - people as you leave the service today.

Service of Nine Lessons and Carols

on tonight, 7pm at Nativity.
All are welcome.

Services for December

Today: Family service 10am
9 Lessons and Carols 7pm
Christmas Eve Service: 10.30pm
Christmas Day: 8am, 10am.
30th December: 8am, 10am

Concert at Nativity.

Monday 17th December at 7pm.
A warm invitation to enjoy some of Marlborough's talented young people. Pupils of Eileen Guard and Linda Holdaway to entertain:
Supper to follow. Gold coin entry.
This is a Nativity Fundraiser.

Don't forget Prayer Vigil 17th & 18th:

Congratulations Nativity, you have 24 hours of prayer covered x2. Thank you for being part of this family and praying God's plans for Nativity.

Beautiful male Ragdoll cat three years old needs temporary home with considerate carer. Owners housing not suitable for cat short term.
Phone 021809500

Volunteers are needed to vacuum the hall after the 10am morning tea, on a Sunday. If you can help please contact the office. Ph. 5783909

Welcome if you are visiting today.

Please take time to fill in the Welcome to Nativity forms at the end of the pews. Give to sides - people or clergy as you leave.

E4 Summer Camp, Hanmer Spring

Thursday 17th - Sunday 20th January 2019. For more information go to Facebook: e4 Summer camp or <https://goo.gl/bAj4AK>

Convergence Family Camp

15-17 February 2019
Bethany Park, Kaiteriteri Beach
Theme: Information with Spanky Moore
Registration - Online:
www.stbarnabas.co.nz/convergence-camp
or Mail: PO Box 2514 Stoke Nelson

Christmas Gifts: At the office are copies of Rose Francis's book 'Fit for a King' and Chris Cookson's book 'Tales of the Taylor'. Both are \$25, and lovely ideas for Christmas gifts.

We also have Christmas gift tags for \$2 per packet of 10. Don't leave it too late.



CMS Prayer Meeting today in the lounge 4pm All welcome.

Jan's Joy: Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!

Psalm 32:11



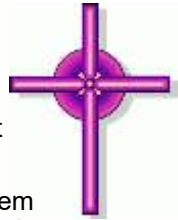
If you would like to know about the many vibrant Care-cells that make up Nativity please phone 5783909

Welcome to our services today! 16th December 2018

Theme: Joy on the Journey - Joy

Readings: Isaiah 9:6-7 & 2 Corinthians 5:1-5

Sentence: You are the Holy One enthroned on the praises of your people. Our ancestors trusted in you and you delivered them; they put their trust in you and were not disappointed. *Psalm 22:3-5*



Collect: Living God, you called your people out of Egypt and gave them the covenant; prepare our hearts to hear your call, so that we may receive with joy the gospel of your Son and be your faithful people, now and forever, Amen

Weekly Prayer Focus

1 Thessalonians 5: 21-22 "Test all things, hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil."

- Mon.** Someone wrote" Today we mourn the passing of an old friend – common sense. He devoted his service to schools, hospitals, and churches. He got things done without fanfare and foolishness.
- Tues.** For decades silly rules and frivolous lawsuits didn't affect him. He cultivates practices like sharing with others teaching kids' spiritual values and living within your means.
- Wed.** He survived the industrial revolution and the Great Depression.
- Thurs.** But he couldn't withstand the ravages of declining moral and spiritual values. He watched as leaders became corrupt and good people became apathetic.
- Fri.** He saw the 10 commandments outlawed in public buildings, prayer banned from the classroom and criminals enjoying more rights than their victims.
- Sat.** He watched in despair as teachers needed parental consent to administer an aspirin, couldn't tell a parent their child wanted an abortion,
- Sun.** Common sense was predeceased by truth, trust and responsibility. His funeral wasn't well attended, few realised he had gone.

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.

What's on this week: Third Sunday in Advent

Mon:	12noon 6pm	24 hour vigil starts Eileen's Concert in the church
Tues:	12 noon	24 hour vigil finishes
Wed:	4pm 7pm 7pm	Office closes until 14th January Vestry Meeting in the lounge Choir Practice in the church
Thurs:	10am	Eucharist in Barnies
Fri:	1pm	LINK in the lounge last for the year
Sun:	8am 10am 5.30pm	Traditional Eucharist Service Family Service No Canvas until 3rd February



Nativity Office will be closed from Wednesday 19th December 2018, 4pm until Monday 14th January 2019, 9am.

The office staff thank you for all the help and ministries you have given this last year. So many to thank, and all appreciated.

From us all, Clergy and staff a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May you know Gods peace and presence as you celebrate this festive season.

Blessings from **Jan and Jude**



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
Chaplain to the Elderly	Alison Brice
Women's Ministry	
Care Cell Coordinators	Chris & Sue Donaldson
Vicar's Warden	Stephen Sheat
People's Warden	Jennifer Bennett-Burrows

Nativity Bank account: ANZ 060705 0429077 00

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

Mondays off: Jonathan

Fridays off: Bob, Rose, Jude and Jan