



# The Church of the Nativity

Sunday 20th 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, to Shavot, better known in the Western part of the global church as Pentecost. **It's the birthday of the church, but much more than that too.**

**It's an ancient Jewish festival known to them as "Shavot". As such it's always been about life, the giver of it and how we recognise and access it. Originally a harvest thanksgiving, it became one of the major Jewish festivals. Nearly 2000 years ago it became a major Christian one, connected with Easter and Ascension. It's the day when God made his Holy Spirit, the giver of life, available to all who will accept the rule of Jesus in their lives.**

**Life doesn't become easier for those who receive the Holy Spirit. New things happen. Life gets turned upside down as we live faith at a new level. Yet there is amazing peace at the core of it!**

One of the ways we are seeing that is in the development and strengthening of our **children's and youth ministry. This year God has led us into new uncharted paths. We'd had that prophetic message for the previous 18 months. At this stage they're only small changes, yet they've been lifegiving.**

Canvas, our evening service has been a real breath of life for quite a few of our families, as old patterns gave way to new hope for them. For the rest of this school term our primary age children will be in Barnies, and our teens will be in the rooms off the hall.

So, this week we explore what the Church teaches about the Holy Spirit, how the Holy Spirit reveals truth, is active in the life of people and the Church today, and what fruit - or evidence - we should and can see of the Holy Spirit. This is exciting territory. Come on the journey!



*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was barren, with no form of life; it was under a roaring ocean covered with darkness. But the Spirit of God was moving over the water. (Genesis 1:1-2)*

**With God there is hope! Let's grasp it.**

Bob and Libby

## Items of Interest

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

### 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 925** 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](http://bishopdale.ac.nz/preaching). Lunch is provided and there is no cost.

**Volunteers needed:** Can you help by vacuuming the hall after the morning tea on Sunday mornings? We would love to hear from you. Contact Jan at the office.

**Jan's Joy: In your presence there is fullness of joy.**  
**Psalm 18:11**



### 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.
- Indonesian Christian churches that were bombed that their Government will take action.
- 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! 20th May 2018

**Theme 8am & 10am:** A Catechism - God the Spirit

**Readings 8am & 10am:** Acts 2:1-4 & 2 Corinthians 3:13-18

**Sentence:** The love of God has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

*Romans 5:5*



**Collect:** Father, you have filled your people with the Spirit who rested first on your Son and united us in your Church: open the channels for your Spirit that we may freely work together, and your kingdom and your rule increase. **Amen**

### Weekly Prayer Focus:

Francois Fenelon, a 17th Century Frenchman, gives a prayer Formula that has been used over the centuries as a guide and help for prayer.

**Mon.** Tell God all that is in your heart, as one unloads its pleasures and its pain to a close friend.

**Tues.** Tell him your troubles that he may comfort you. Tell him your longings that he may purify them.

**Wed.** Tell him your dislikes that he may help you to conquer them. Tell him your temptations that he may shield you from them.

**Thurs.** Tell him about your physical pain, and the wounds of your soul. Ask for healing. Lay before God your instability and indifference.

**Fri.** Tell him how self-love makes you critical of others. Tell him how pride and insincerity hides you from yourself and others.

**Sat.** When you pray, ask in faith, confident that you will be heard. Blessed are those who attain such familiar open communication with God.

## Welcome Holy Spirit

**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

<b>Tues:</b>	7pm	Alastair's Group in the lounge
<b>Wed:</b>	6.30pm	Boys Group in Barnies
<b>Thurs:</b>	10am	Eucharist in Barnies
	11am	Pastoral Care meeting in the seminar room
	7pm	Choir practice in the church
<b>Fri:</b>	9.30am	Tunes for Tots in the hall
	1pm	LINK in the lounge
<b>Sun:</b>	8am	Traditional Eucharist Service
	10am	All Age Worship Service
	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)

### Winter half day retreats:

9am to midday

June 16, July 7 and 21, August 4.

Set aside the time to be still and be with God.

Participate in spiritual practices that assist in this.

Run by Rev Miriam Taylor and Raewyn Parkes.

All are welcome, morning teas provided



## Our Staff and Parish Leaders

Vicar  
Assistant Priests

Bob Barnes  
Jonathan Wasley  
John Neal  
Miriam Taylor  
Rose Newton  
Jude Dell  
Raewyn Parkes  
Jan Burrough  
Kathy Hammond

Youth/24/7 Worker  
Vicar's P/A  
Parish Nurse  
Receptionist  
Counselling  
Care Cell Coordinators  
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](mailto:info@nativity.org.nz)

**Website:** [www.nativity.org.nz](http://www.nativity.org.nz)

**Facebook:** "Nativity Church Blenheim"

### Staff Days Off/On

Rose and Jonathan: Mondays off.

Bob, Jude and Jan: Fridays off.