



The Church of the Nativity

Sunday 23rd April 2017

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

Welcome to Nativity, and especially welcome to members of the NZ Armed Forces with your families and associates who will be at our 10am service. On this Sunday we are between two of the most poignant symbols for sacrifice that our nation can comprehend. Both symbols are national holidays. One of them is that symbol of sacrifice for all nations. The other we share with Australia.

The common thread between them both is probably in the words of Jesus:

"Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down their life for their friends."

(John 15:13)

Sacrifice is an ancient concept. And again, it's most profoundly described in the Bible. Sacrifice is made from a desire for hope in the future, and it usually involves blood – or at least a significant cost. The book of Revelation describes and shows the lengths to which people will go, and how prepared people are, to make substantial – even supreme – sacrifice, all for the purpose of securing hope for their families, even if they are not going to benefit.



Both of these scriptures will be read in our morning services today.

Our challenge is what are we going to – willing to – sacrifice, and for what sort of a future? One that lasts forever, or one that is here for a while? Then *"like all earth's proud empires, pass away"*.

Today your invitation is to sacrifice all that is temporary, and surrender your associated dreams, the things that make you feel powerful, your plans and hopes, to the one who *"makes all things new."* (Revelation 21:5)

This Tuesday, ANZAC Day let the love of Jesus stand as your model for life. Let Jesus be your commander, in every area of your life. Then all the values of this world will be turned upside down.

God bless

Bob and Libby Barnes

Items of Interest

Pit Stop for Men. Saturday 20th May 2017, 8.30am - 4pm. At the Elim Centre, Burleigh Road. A Men of Marlborough Men's Event in conjunction with Promise Keepers.



If you would like to go to a midweek Communion service to worship our God, don't forget the Thursday 10am service in Barnies. All welcome.

Alert! Alert! The Parish Nurse says it is time to get your flu injection. Contact your GP practice now.



Cleaning out your children's room?

Unwanted toys, books, games and sporting equipment in good condition can be donated to The Blue Door, 46 Seymour St. Telephone: 5794353.

Coming Up: 12th & 13th May, Firebird New Zeal Conference: "Healing the wounded soul." Here at Nativity. This is for men and women. Experience God's healing power in your life. Registration forms are at the back of the church.



Praying for Muslims during Ramadon- 2017 booklet @ \$6.50 a copy will be ordered shortly. If you would like one please contact Pam Neal on 5777442 or Margaret Rodley on 5788980



ANZAC Day Services in Marlborough:

6am: Picton War Memorial, London Quay,
6.30am: Seddon War Memorial.
11am: Blenheim War Memorial, Seymour St. Assemble 10.40am at Arthur St.
11am: Havelock Town Hall. Fall In at the bowling club, 9.30am.
9.30am: Spring Creek Hall, Ferry Rd.

Come Taste and See

CAIRA New Zealand is an organisation formed to provide high quality pastoral and clinical supervision for those working in ministry in New Zealand Churches and affiliated agencies and organisations. A CAIRA-trained supervisor will offer supervision that is pastoral and clinical, to supervisees exercising ministry. CAIRA supervision is koha-based. Come and find out more about how you could become a CAIRA trained supervisor **Marlborough 25 May @ 7.30pm Nativity Blenheim.** **RSVP:** Barbara Harford barbara@allsaints.co.nz. Ph.03 548 2601

Jan's Joy: Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. John 15:13



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

Welcome to our services today! 23rd April 2017

Theme 8am & 10am: Sacrifice

Readings 8am & 10am : Revelation 21:1-7 & John 15:9-17

Sentence: Let us give thanks to the Father who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. Alleluia! *Colossians 1:12*

Collects: Eternal Father, through the resurrection of your Son, help us to face the future with courage and assurance, knowing that nothing in death or life can ever part us from your love. **Amen**



WEEKLY PRAYER FOCUS:

P B P G I N F W M Y Years ago that was popular button.
Please **be** patient **God** is **not** finished **with** **me** yet.

- Mon.** Life is lived in seasons. Some seasons are for sowing, some for waiting, some for reaping. Think today about the verse “but let endurance and patience have full play and do a thorough work”. *James 1:4*
- Tues.** But what about my problems? Pray for a miracle, but don't be disappointed if your answer comes through gradual change.
- Wed.** Over time, a steady stream of water will erode the hardest rock and turn giant boulders into pebbles. Thank God for the truth of that statement.
- Thurs.** God is never in a hurry. He took 80 years to prepare Moses. When you feel discouraged, stop and look back and thank God how far he has brought you.
- Fri.** There are no easy steps to maturity. God makes a mushroom overnight, but he takes 100 years to make a giant oak tree. Pray today for patience.
- Sat.** God's plan is to minimize you and maximise “Christ in you.” and here's another acronym based on the word SELF. **S** surrender to Christ daily. **E** Empty yourself from anything that hinders you from doing his will. **L** Lift up your heart to him.. **F** Feed on his Word.

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) Sheryll Gwynne (5776507) Prayer Facilitators and they can arrange this for you.

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

Tuesday Prayer time 4.30-5.15pm
This is a time to pray for the needs of Nativity and our community.

What's on this week

Tues:	4.30pm	Prayer for the Parish at 178 High Street
Thurs:	10am	Eucharist in Barnies
Fri:	1pm	LINK
Sun:	8am	Traditional Eucharist Service
	10am	All Age Worship Service
	7pm	Nativity@7 in the hall



Jesus Gave His Life For Us!



Nativity@7

April 23: 7pm in the hall
Speaker: Graeme Howarth

April 30: 7pm in the hall
Speaker: Barry Struthers

May 7th: 7pm in the hall
Speaker: Alastair Smith

Our Staff and Parish Leaders

Vicar
Assistant Priests

Bob Barnes
Susan Howarth
Jonathan Wasley
John Neal
Miriam Taylor
Kevin Gwynne
Rose Newton
Jude Dell
Raewyn Parkes
Keith Buck
Jan Burrough
Kathy Hammond
Miriam Taylor &
Shirley Ramsay

Youth/24/7 Worker
Vicar's P/A
Parish Nurse
Parish Manager
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

Website: www.nativity.org.nz

Facebook: "Nativity Church Blenheim"

Staff Days Off/On

Susan & Jonathan: Mondays off.

Bob, Rose, Jude & Jan: Fridays off.

Keith is here Monday to Wednesday mornings only.