



The Church of the Nativity

Sunday 23rd 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,

Christmas is upon us. It's like being on a journey to the sea or the lake for a family holiday. The kids have been asking "Are we there yet?" for the last half hour. Then to the chant of "*We see the sea*", on the horizon the coastline appears.

Home is on the horizon.

Jesus was still fairly young when he and his parents returned to Nazareth after being refugees in Egypt.

"... after being warned in a dream, he (Joseph) ... made his home in a town called Nazareth...." (Matthew 2 v22-23)

Christmas somehow represents home for us. In Western countries at least, even many of those who don't recognise their faith in Jesus, do identify Christmas with a sense of home. When people see home on the horizon, it brings a sense of peace.

We do need to be careful as we approach home. Many car crashes happen in the last 5km from home, at the end of a journey. Platoons returning from patrol have been ambushed as they approach home base. We can too easily let down our guard. Don't let complacency cause you to lose your faith in Jesus as we approach home base.

"We must pay the most careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away ... how shall we escape if we ignore so great a salvation?" (Hebrews 2 v1, 3a)

Let this blessing be upon you and your homes:

"The effect of righteousness will be peace, and the result of righteousness, quietness and trust for ever. My people will abide in a peaceful habitation, in secure dwellings, and in quiet resting-places. (Isaiah 32 v17,18)

With the peace, joy, hope and love of Christ

Bob and Libby



Items of Interest

Services for December

Today: All age service

Christmas Eve Service: 10.30pm

Christmas Day: 8am, 10am.

30th December: 8am, 10am

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.

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

Phone 021809500

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 7041



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

2019

LINK starts back 11th January 1pm in the hall. All welcome

Thursday Eucharist resumes 17th January. All welcome

Canvas starts back 3rd February



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>

Thank you Nativity people for your prayers during the prayer vigil.

If you had a word or a picture during your time of prayer and want to share it please email the office

info@nativity.org.nz

Please continue to pray.

Prayer can only make us stronger.



Jan's Joy:

"For you shall go out with joy and be led out with peace; The mountains and the hills shall break forth into singing before you, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands."

Isaiah 55:12



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

Welcome to our services today! 23rd December 2018

Theme: Home is on the Horizon - Peace

Readings 8am: John 1:4-18 & Luke 1:26-38

10am: Luke 1:26-38



Sentence: You heavens above rain down righteousness; let the clouds shower it down. Let the earth open wide, let salvation spring up. *Isaiah 45:8*

Collect: God of all hope and joy, open our hearts in welcome, that your Son Jesus Christ at his coming may find in us a dwelling prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever, Amen

Weekly Prayer Focus

"Wise men...came to Jerusalem saying, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? Matthew 2:1-2"

Mon. The good news of Christmas is, you can seek God and find Him, by coming to know Jesus as your personal Saviour.

Tues. Notice the wise men didn't find Jesus **in the business world**. Every motel in Bethlehem was sold out with a "No Vacancy sign."

Wed. Nothing much has changed. 30% of all retail sales take place over Christmas. One out of every ten litres of alcohol is sold then too.

Thurs. Jesus is good for business. The trouble is we prefer the myth to the Master. We want a Santa but not a Saviour. We want the fairy tale but not the fact that Jesus came into the world to save sinners.

Fri. The birth of Jesus divides history into two parts... BC (Before Christ) AD (After Christ) History is **His story**.

Sat. Let's observe where else the wise men didn't find Jesus...**In the church**. For generations scholars had poured over parchments and taught their congregations the Messiah was coming. But they failed to recognise Him when He arrived. Pray that we will find Jesus in His church this Christmas

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: fourth Sunday in Advent

Christmas Eve: 10.30pm Service

Christmas Day: 8am Traditional Service

10am All age Service

Sun: 8am Traditional Eucharist Service

10am Family Service



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

Assistant Priests

Youth/24/7 Worker

Vicar's P/A

Parish Nurse

Receptionist

Counselling

Chaplain to the Elderly

Women's Ministry

Care Cell Coordinators

Vicar's Warden

People's Warden

Bob Barnes

Jonathan Wasley

John Neal

Miriam Taylor

Rose Newton

Jude Dell

Raewyn Parkes

Jan Burrough

Kathy Hammond

Alison Brice

Chris & Sue Donaldson

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

Mondays off: Jonathan

On leave: Bob, Rose, Jude and Jan

Nativity Bank account: ANZ 060705 0429077 00