



# The Church of the Nativity

Sunday 25th March 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 Palm Sunday, the Sunday before the celebration of the best news this planet has ever heard! It's also the introduction to that horrible week which lead to that celebration. Welcome also to Holy Week.

Each day there will be special services that help us appreciate what Jesus went through, all the time knowing the cross was ahead of him. Details are in this pewsheets and on our Parish calendar. Monday to Wednesday there will be some of the Stations of the Cross. It'll be in the Taizé style, each evening, for about 30 minutes. Thursday is called Maundy Thursday. In addition to our weekly morning Communion service, on Thursday evening is Tenebrae (the Service of Shadows), in which we walk through the events of the night before he died on the cross.

On Friday morning the Blenheim churches gather to acknowledge together the betrayal and crucifixion of Jesus. When he was crucified, Jesus hung for 3 hours from midday, before he died. Those who loved him and those who were merely curious, waited and watched. They saw some remarkable things. So, each year on Good Friday we have Three Hours at the Cross, six half hour devotions that follow that time frame. Then follows "The Great Silence" ... until Sunday morning.

A number of our Youth will be going to Easter Camp near Christchurch with Rose and Jeremy. It's another way to mark this as a very special time.

Will you walk this week with Jesus, who walked it for us?

*Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,  
who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God  
as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave,  
being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled  
himself*

*and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross.*

*(Philippians 2:5-8)*

Grace and peace

Bob and Libby



## Items of Interest

**Today: Update on Kailakouri:** New Zealander, the late Dr Edic Baker founded a sustainable health centre in Bangladesh and at 12 noon in the Nativity lounge, Peter Wilson who heads up a support Group will give encouraging news on how this is continuing. This will be a shared finger food lunch. An offering will be taken for Kailakouri.

**Because Jesus paid the price** for our existence, we exist as the church. So, thank you for a good AGM last Monday. Please pray for our new Vestry regularly. And if you haven't read the reports, please do. They set out the direction we believe God is leading us on land this journey which at times is uncomfortable, but he brings us to his new land. *Thanks. Bob Barnes*

### Senior Citizens Concert 2018

Wednesday 11th April 2-4pm at the Wesley Centre. Enjoy an afternoon of entertainment, cuppa, and biscuits with the music of 30's, 40's and 50's sung by Wayne Love.

### My House Shall Be Called A House Of Prayer! *Luke 19:46*

Raewyn and Jan invite you to join them Monday to Thursday, 8.45am – 9am in the church for prayer for Nativity and our community. All welcome.

### Coming soon.

Prayer Board in the foyer of church with prayer needs for the Parish, our community and mission partners.

Watch this space for more information.

### Prayers for you to pray.



### Deep Church Taizé style prayer service

Today 5pm –6pm in St Barnabas Chapel. All are welcome. This service of worship includes Prayer-Scripture-Song-Quiet.



**The Parish Nurse reminds you that it's that time of the year for you to get your flu jabs. Make your appointment soon.**

**Youth:** Has God put our young people on your heart? Please contact Rose to be part of the conversation! 0277275888

**Misfits:** We are looking for unneeded tools to be donated for amazing projects! Please drop them to the Nativity Church office. Thank you! Jeremy.



### Jan's Joy:

*The plans of the Lord stand firm forever, the purposes of His heart through all generations. Psalm 33:11*

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

## Welcome to our services today! 25th March 2018

**Theme 8am & 10am:** Palm Sunday Foolishness

**Readings 8am & 10am:** Philippians 2:1-11 & Luke 19:29-40

**Sentence:** Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest! *Matthew 21:9*

**Collect:** Jesus, when you rode into Jerusalem the people waved palms with shouts of acclamation. Grant that when the shouting dies we may still walk beside you even to a cross. **Amen**



### Weekly Prayer Focus:

The truth and glory of Easter is to be found only at the Cross

- Mon. Lord Jesus, we are all there, we are all part of the shame of the cross. Jesus on the Cross reveals not only God, but we see ourselves for what we really are.
- Tues. Judas... for whom money was more important than relationship.
- Wed. Pilate... on the opposite side of the debate to Caiaphas but playing the same rules....someone's head must roll, if not that of Jesus, it will be his own.
- Thurs. The cynical witnesses... who remembered only the incriminating words and forgot the message.
- Fri. Peter... with his inappropriate self-confidence. The soldiers... in their casual brutality.
- Sat. The centurion... who admired Jesus from a distance. The disciples who ran away.

Lord Jesus, help us this Easter not to run away, but to face the truth that our sin is more complicated, more insidious, more devastating than we ever dreamed and that Your grace reaches out to overcome it.



**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

<b>Mon:</b>	5.30pm	Stations of the Cross in Barnies
<b>Tues:</b>	5.30pm	Stations of the Cross in Barnies
	7pm	Alastair's Group in the lounge
<b>Wed:</b>	5.30pm	Stations of the Cross in Barnies
	7pm	Boy's Group in Barnies
<b>Thurs:</b>	10am	Eucharist in Barnies
	7.30pm	Tenebrae Service in the church
<b>Fri:</b>	10.30am	Combined Churches Service at ASB Theatre
	12 noon	Three hours at the Cross
<b>Sun:</b>	8am	Traditional Eucharist Service
	10am	All Age Worship Service
	5.30pm	No Canvas in the hall



## Services for Easter week

**Mon to Wed 5.30pm** - Stations of the Cross in Barnies

**Maundy Thursday 7.30pm** - Tenebrae Service and Strip the Church

### Good Friday

- 10.30am Combined Churches All Age Service  
 - Midday to 3pm Three Hours at the Cross.  
 (6 half hour devotions. Come for any or all. Arrive and leave during the hymn on the hour and half hour)

### Sunday: Resurrection Day

- 8am Eucharist  
 - 10am All Age Eucharist  
 - **No Canvas at 5.30pm**



## 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
Care Cell Coordinators	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](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.