



## The Church of the Nativity

Sunday 26th February 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

Dear friends

Welcome to Nativity and the season of Lent which starts this Wednesday.

No the name Lent has nothing to do with financial lending systems. It comes from the Old and Middle English language for Spring with its lengthening days and flourishing plants. As we look around us in the Southern hemisphere we see the opposite. However there's a promise here. By a disciplined lifestyle we too can have a lengthening and flourishing time. You are invited!

Psalm 23:4 speaks of the Lord God as our Shepherd walking with us

*"through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil for you are with me. Your rod and staff they comfort me."*

Even when we can't see him, God is with us. His rod and staff are tools that are available to us as we walk through life, in the fun and the scary times. We can grow larger in ourselves and flourish in ways we never thought we could.



Today we'll introduce the first of these tools – fasting! And that has nothing to do with traffic tickets or racetracks. It starts with being hungry. Hungry for God. In other words, what do you really want in and from your life?

So we invite you to join in seeking for a God filled life, officially starting on Ash Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> March. But it can start right now. Have a talk with God. Then with a Christian leader about the way forward.

How's your appetite for life? God can satisfy it. This Wednesday, 1 March (or part of it) lets pray and fast for a growing hunger for God in ourselves, our church, and Marlborough.

God bless

Bob and Libby

## Items of Interest

**First Steps helpers** please collect your rosters from the foyer of the church.  
Thank you. *Jeanette.*

**A Reminder** you can invite the Nativity Restoration Team to your care cell to talk about the future of the buildings as well. The team is Rosimeire Cookson, ph. 5781721, Keith Buck, ph. 5781823, Brian Powell, ph. 5785828, Lyall Daines, ph. 5784331, Margaret Rodley, ph. 5788980

**AAW Meeting** for Wednesday 1st March 7.30pm. Attend Ash Wednesday Service in church followed by usual meeting in lounge. General business. Sales table. Subs are now due. 5th April, Wednesday, 7.30pm. Guest will be Beverley Cross and William Bear.

**Blenheim Anglican Parish AGM 7.30pm Mon. 13th March.** Reports are due 24th February. Nominations for vestry, synod reps, and people's warden are welcome. Forms will be in the office. Vestry is our governance board.

**World Day of Prayer**, Friday, 3rd March, 10am, St Andrews Church, 5 Henry Street. The theme for this year is Philippines. Am I being unfair to you? The Blenheim Philippino Community will be officiating. Come and enjoy worshipping our God together!!

**Calling for articles** for the next Creative Nativity Magazine. Please email or give contributions to Rose Francis. [llamafarmer@xtra.co.nz](mailto:llamafarmer@xtra.co.nz)

**If you need more offertory envelopes** for the next six months please contact the office 5783909 or [jan@nativity.org.nz](mailto:jan@nativity.org.nz).

**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.

**Nativity Twilight Autumn Ramble**  
**Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2017**  
**Followed by coffee & dessert at**  
**Nativity Centre. \$15 per person**  
**(includes 3 garden's/coffee & Dessert**  
**Tickets on sale at Nativity Office**  
**Reception. We value your support.**



**This is a Nativity Fun,  
Fund Raising &  
Fellowship Team Activity.**  
**Pick up a flyer from the  
share table on your way  
out today.**

### **Healing of Memories Seminar.**

With Reverend Robin Kingston.

Friday 10th March:

Seminar - 7:30 -

9:30pm

Saturday 11th March:

Seminar - 9:30am - 4:30pm.

Sunday 12th March:

8am & 10am services

5.30pm share meal with Robin

7pm Testimonies and teaching

Seminar cost: \$10.

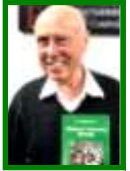
Robin's book available for \$20.

B.Y.O. Lunch. Tea and coffee provided.

Register: Jan at: [jan@nativity.org.nz](mailto:jan@nativity.org.nz) or

Ph. 578 3909.

Venue: Nativity Centre



**Nativity Foodbank.:** Once again Nativity you are awesome. Thank you for all the food coming in through the services and during the week. People are blessed. We do need jams, sauces, and spreads. Also, meats and frozen vegies. Tea, coffee and milo are always acceptable.

**Jan's Joy: Jesus answered, 'It is written: "Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God."' Matthew 4:4**



## Welcome to our services today! 26th February 2017

**Theme 8am & 10am:** Spiritual Disciplines: Fasting

**Readings 8am & 10am:** Joel 2:1-7 & Matthew 4:1-11

**Sentence:** Lord be gracious to us; we long for you. Be our strength every morning; our salvation in time of distress. *Isaiah 33:2*

**Collect:** Hear us, Jesus Christ, when we ask for help to recognise temptation, for honesty to face it, for strength to resist it and the humility to give God the glory. **Amen**



**WEEKLY PRAYER FOCUS:** Here are six more Biblical Plenty's to pray about.

**Mon. Plentiful pardon** "Return to the Lord... for he will abundantly pardon." *Isaiah 55:7*

**Tues. Plentiful peace.** "And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." *Philippians 4:7*

**Wed. Plentiful redemption.** "With the Lord, there is mercy, and with him is abundant redemption." *Psalms 130:7*

**Thurs. Plentiful grace** "And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, have an abundance for every good work" *2 Corinthians 9:8*

**Fri. Plentiful resources** "Now to him, who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us." *Ephesians 3:20*

**Sat. Plenty for the future,** "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love him." *1 Corinthians 2:9*

God is willing to lavish life's fullness on us, over us, and around us. Claim these promises today.

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

**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:** Anne Dillon (5782363), Jane Sheat (5789004) & 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

<b>Tues:</b>	4.30pm	Prayer for the Parish at 178 High Street
<b>Wed:</b>	7.30pm	Ash Wednesday service in the church
	7.30pm	Evening AAW in the lounge
<b>Thurs:</b>	10am	Eucharist in Barnies
<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
	7pm	Nativity@7 in the hall



Come & Worship

## Nativity@7

Tonight	Susan Howarth - A God Adventure
March 5	Jeremy Newton - 'spinking'
March 12	Robyn Kingston - Healing Memories
	5.30pm <b>Share meal in the Lounge</b>

## 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 &

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  
Prayer Facilitators

Shirley Ramsay  
Libby Barnes  
Alison Brice  
Stephen Sheat  
Pauline Tisch  
Jane Sheat &  
Sheryll Gwynne

## To Contact Us

**Nativity Anglican Church Office & Centre**  
**Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 9am - 4pm**  
**Friday - 9am - 12noon**

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Blenheim 7201

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**Website:** [www.nativity.org.nz](http://www.nativity.org.nz)  
**Facebook:** "Nativity Church Blenheim"

