



The Church of the Nativity

Sunday 5th March 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 our visitors and to the season of Lent.



In this season, we are on a new journey with much of the rest of the world wide church. It can be said to be a journey to the cross. A journey to an instrument of horrible death. A journey to life and living – abiding – like you’ve never known before.

The cross of Jesus is a cross-road in life’s journey. At Cross-roads it’s inevitable that we make decisions. Do I carry straight on as though nothing had happened? Do I change

my life’s direction – even to the point of turning back?

The biggest decision is around who we are going to let drive our lives from now on. What or who will we fill our lives with? Will it be the man Jesus on the cross? Or is the stuffing of things that seems to fill so much of our day to day existence?

God promises his people will abide in peace, even when everything around us is going mad, when we **abide** with him. The contentment of righteousness and fullness of God as promised in today’s readings sounds pretty darn good!

*My people will abide in a peaceful habitation,
in secure dwellings, and in quiet resting-places. (Isaiah 32:18)*

Most of you reading this know we as a church need to make decisions about things like the future of our buildings. What decisions are you making about the life you are abiding in now?

*“I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints,
what is the breadth and length and height and depth,
and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge,
so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.” (Ephesians 3:18-19)*

God bless

Bob and Libby

Items of Interest

A Reminder you can invite the Nativity Restoration Team to your care cell to talk about the future of the buildings. Contact Lyaal Daines, ph. 5784331.

Blenheim Anglican Parish AGM 7.30pm Mon. 13th March. Nominations close tomorrow 4pm. Vestry is our governance board. Please forward any apologies for attendance at AGM to Jan ph. 5783909 or jan@nativity.org.nz

If you need more offertory envelopes for the next six months please contact the office 5783909 or jan@nativity.org.nz.

Volunteers are needed to serve communion at the 10am Sunday services. If you feel God is calling you to serve this important part of our service please contact the office. Ph. 5783909. Full training will be given.

Healing of Memories Seminar. Don't forget to register for seminar with Reverend Robin Kingston.

Friday 10th March: - 7:30 - 9:30pm.
Saturday 11th March: 9:30am - 4:30pm.
B.Y.O. Lunch. Tea and coffee provided.
Robin will be preaching at all three services Sunday. 5.30pm share meal with Robin prior to the 7pm service.
7pm Testimonies and teaching
Seminar cost: \$10. Robin's book available for \$20. Register: Jan at: ph. 5783909. or jan@nativity.org.nz Venue: Nativity Centre

Prayer Vigil: Wednesday 8th March 6pm-8pm (join for all or part of this time) at St Barnabas Chapel (Barnies)
Everyone is welcome to join in prayer for our church, our leaders, and our people.



Nativity Twilight Autumn Ramble Wednesday 22nd 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. Pick up a flyer from the share table on your way out today.

Nativity Foodbank: We do need jams, sauces, and spreads. Also, meats and frozen vegies. Tea, coffee and Milo are always acceptable.

Lenten Retreat: Friday 24th March 10am - 3pm. "My Cup Overfloweth"
Wairau Hospital Chaplain: Rev. Kevin Gwynne. Registrations not necessary. Enquiries Ph. 021 2697954 Cost: \$10
BYO Lunch - or from Cafe. Please bring: Bible, pen, notebook.

On a clip board in the church foyer is a petition to the House of Representative asking: "That an expert panel be appointed to investigate the public health effects and societal harms of pornography to both children and adults, and to make policy recommendations to Parliament." If you wish to sign this petition, please do so. It must be sent away by the 20th March 2017.

Expressions of interest are invited from anyone interested in representing Nativity on the Wairau Hospital Chaplaincy Committee (officially called local support Group). Details available from the Nativity office. The main role of the LSG is to support the Chaplain and team.

Jan's Joy: And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.
Ephesians 6:18



Welcome to our services today! 5th March 2017

Theme 8am & 10am: Spiritual Disciplines: Abiding with You

Readings 8am & 10am: Isaiah 32:17-18 & Ephesians 3:16-19

Sentence: The Lord has chosen me to heal the broken-hearted, and to announce freedom to prisoners and captives. *Isaiah 61:1*

Collect: Merciful God, you long to see people healed of past hurts. Thank you that you forgive us for any sins we commit. Enable us, by your Spirit, to forgive those who have sinned against us. Wash us clean, set us free and use us for the growth of your kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



WEEKLY PRAYER FOCUS: Some excerpts from Word for Today May 2015

How can we make God's Word more meaningful in our lives?

Mon. First you must **READ it.** You don't have to understand it all – but by reading it, the Word of God speaks – it is alive and active.

Tues. **MEDITATE ON IT.** That means chew on it – be open to God's Word. It will strengthen, direct and energise you.

Wed. **BELIEVE IT.** Unbelief short-circuits God's Word. In Hebrews 4:2 we read that the message "did them no good because they only heard and did not believe."

Thurs. **RECEIVE IT.** The promises in God's Word have no power in your life until you receive them by faith

Fri. **VERBALISE IT.** When you pray speak His promises back to Him. God always responds to His Word. Meditate on 1 John 5:14 – 15

Sat. **OBEY IT.** An old hymn we used to sing was "Trust and Obey" "When we walk with the Lord in the light of His Word, what a glory He sheds on our way."

Sun. **SHARE IT.** Sharing God's Word will produce fruit in the lives of your family, friends, relatives, neighbours, working associates – and also increases your own grasp and understanding.

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

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| Tues: | 2pm | Afternoon Care Cell in the lounge |
| | 4.30pm | Prayer for the Parish at 178 High Street |
| Wed: | 6pm | Prayer Vigil in Barnies |
| Thurs: | 10am | Eucharist in Barnies |
| Fri: | 9.30am | Tunes for Tots in the hall |
| | 1pm | LINK in the lounge |
| Sat: | 7.30pm | Seminar in the lounge |
| Sun: | 8am | Traditional Eucharist Service |
| | 10am | All Age Worship Service |
| | 5.30pm | Share meal with Robin Kingston in the lounge |
| | 7pm | Nativity@7 in the hall |



Nativity@7

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| March 5 | Jeremy Newton - 'spinking' |
| March 12 | Robyn Kingston - Healing Memories |
| | 5.30pm Share meal in the Lounge |

There is a working bee proposed for Sat. 1 April around Nativity. Details later.

Street Intensive: Street clean up Sat. 8 April in Lucas St., 9am to midday. This a way we and other churches are able to bless our local community, with the District Council and Police.

Our Staff and Parish Leaders

Vicar
Assistant Priests

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

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
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

Address: 76 Alfred St,
Blenheim 7201

Phone: 5783909

Email: info@nativity.org.nz

Website: www.nativity.org.nz

Facebook: "Nativity Church Blenheim"

