



The Church of the Nativity

Sunday 8th October 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 Nativity family and friends

Life is a journey. The Christian life is a pilgrimage! We have a divinely appointed destination, and a holy purpose on the way.

Each one of us have had different starting points, but so long as we stay on the journey and true to our leader Jesus, we'll all end up at the same end point. For at least this part of the journey we are together, to help and encourage each other along the way.

As we go, there are more pilgrims to invite and equip to hike with us. New fellow travellers will need some initiating and introducing to each other and to the route we travel. Many will also need to learn about the purposes of the different groups who walk this way, and the things we do as we travel, including this Nativity group. There will be wounds to heal from the past and fresh ones we pick up as we walk together. We will need to be listening to our leader for instructions and warnings, as well as reading the map.

We'll gain new strengths, knowledge and skills as long as we travel faithfully. Many of those will be despite the decline of our physical strength during the course of our journey.

"... people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland... But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore, God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them (Hebrews 11:14-16)

Let us continue to journey well fellow pilgrims. Thank you for being on this part of the pilgrimage with us.



Bob and Libby

Items of Interest

Offertory Envelopes: Time to get those envelopes out again. If you need more for the next six months, please let Jan at the office know asap. Ph. 5783909 or email jan@nativity.org.nz



Operation Christmas box Appeal:

Boxes are available at the back of the church. There will be a list of things suitable/not suitable with the boxes. They are due back 20th October or can be delivered to St Mary's office in Maxwell Road. We did well last year Nativity, keep up the good work.

Bible Society Christmas Cards: Two packs of Christmas cards, each containing 12 cards and envelopes, with bible text, Christmas greeting and traditional theme or New Zealand designs are available at \$7.99 per pack.

As postage is \$3.50 per order I will collect orders and payment (\$8.00) per pack until Sunday 29th October then send a bulk order. I should receive cards early in November for you to collect. Place orders in an envelope with money and give to Margaret Jarman or drop into the office. Designs can be seen on the Missions Board by the hall. Money from the sale of these cards will help provide bibles for people around the world.

A Hindu World Prayer Guide is available in the back of the church or in the office. Cost is \$6.50 and it is an informative 15 day prayer guide covering the period of Diwali.

Can you help? We are out of cooked meals in our church freezer. Those who receive them are very grateful. If you can help please drop them into the office labelled and dated. Thank you.

In the next month or so Vodafone and Clear are pulling out of email. If you are changing your email address because of this please notify the office so we can update our records.

The Hughes family send their love to Nativity, and write: "This morning as we set off to class and passed the same cha wallas, security guards and labourers that we pass most mornings, I was stuck by a thought that's occurred to me hundreds of times since arriving here- "This is our new normal! Not an intrepid holiday that's about to end... We're actually doing this!" However strange it all is - and some days are pretty strange - it feels like such a privilege to be guests in this amazing country. We continue to make slow progress with our language. ... we have learnt to read and write (and) we've started to learn the rules for basic sentences. The girls are doing well. They love school which continues to be such a relief to us. (It) works on the Cambridge curriculum .Our health continues to be good ... how far we have come over these past few months! "

Important—If you have recently joined the Nativity Church family please give us your contact details to be added to our parish roll. Phone Jan at reception 5783909 or e mail jude@nativity.org.nz

Jan's Joy: He guides me in paths of righteousness for his names sake. Psalm 23:3



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

Welcome to our services today! 8th October 2017

Theme 8am & 10am: The Journey

Readings 8am & 10am: Numbers 10:33-36 & Matthew 16:21-28

Sentence: The Lord said to me, 'Get up, go on your journey at the head of the people, that they may go in and occupy the land that I swore to their ancestors to give them.' *Deuteronomy 1:11*



Collect: Loving God, yours is the vineyard and the harvest. Help us to recognise the one you send and to follow him. Make us willing workers in your vineyard, so that we may offer you an abundant harvest. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

WEEKLY PRAYER FOCUS:

Luke 15 – the story of the Prodigal Son – is a great basis for prayer this week.

- Mon.** It is likely that if the village elders had seen the son coming home they would have told the son he was no longer welcome in their village. Possible that is why the father ran to meet him with grace before village law. Thank God today for his grace and mercy.
- Tues.** The father said, "bring out the best robe and put it on him." Can you imagine what the son looked and smelt like after living in the pig sty? God also covers us with the robe of righteousness in Jesus.
- Wed.** "Put a ring on his hand." This would be the family signet ring. The son was given back full authority. Good news for us.
- Thurs.** "Put sandals on his feet." In those days hired servants didn't wear shoes – only sons did. The father gave him full rights of sonship.
- Fri.** "Bring the fattened calf and kill it." You don't fatten a calf overnight. The Father had been planning this celebration for a long time.
- Sat.** The Word for us today is – God hasn't given up on us either. Come back and let Him restore you.

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) or Sheryll Gwynne (5776507) 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.

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.
Wed:	7pm	Choir Practice in the church
Thurs:	10am	Eucharist in Barnies
Fri:	1pm	LINK in the lounge
Sat:	9.30am	Coffee Connections at Raupo
Sun:	8am	Traditional Eucharist Service
	10am	All Age Worship Service
	4pm	CMS Meeting in the lounge
	5.30pm	Taizé Service in Barnies
	7pm	Nativity@7 in the hall



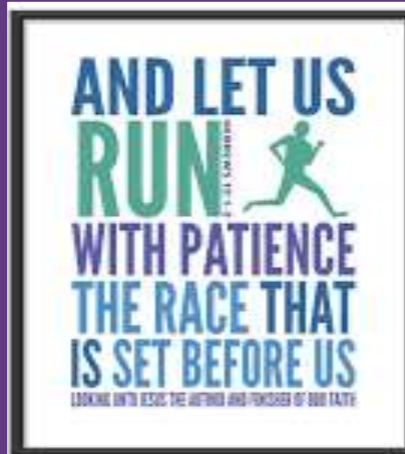
Nativity@7pm:

Tonight 7pm in the hall

Speaker: Graeme Howarth

Theme: The Beatitudes

All welcome



Our Staff and Parish Leaders

Vicar
Assistant Priests

Bob Barnes
Susan Howarth
Jonathan Wasley
John Neal
Miriam Taylor
Kevin Gwynne
Rose Newton

Youth/24/7 Worker

Vicar's P/A

Parish Nurse

Parish Manager

Receptionist

Counselling

Care Cell Coordinators

Jude Dell
Raewyn Parkes
Keith Buck
Jan Burrough
Kathy Hammond

Women's Ministry

Chaplain to the Elderly

Vicar's Warden

People's Warden

Miriam Taylor &
Shirley Ramsay
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, Rose and Jonathan:
Mondays off.

Bob, Jude and Jan: Fridays off.

Keith is here Monday to Wednesday
mornings only.