

Welcome to our services today! 8th January 2017

Theme 8am & 10am: The Epiphany of our Lord Jesus Christ

Readings 8am & 10am: Isaiah 60:1-6 & Matthew 2:1-12

Sentence: The Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight is coming, says the Lord of hosts.
Malachi 3:1b



Collect: God the source of all insight, you gave the wise men the sign of a star. Give us the focus and perseverance of those who travel far to encounter Jesus. Give us wisdom to discern and follow all that points to him. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Resumption of services:

Sunday Nativity @7pm will resume 12th February 2017.

Thursday morning service will resume January 12th 2017 at 10am.

LINK will resume Friday 13th January 2017 at 1pm.

Tunes for Tots will resume Friday 3rd February 2017 at 9.30am.

You are welcome to join us for morning tea following the 10am service

Parents are welcome to take children out during the services of the Christmas break and get toys out for them to play with in the lounge.

The Nativity Office is closed until Monday 9th January 2017. If you have an urgent need, please leave a message on the answer phone and someone will call you back. Phone 5783909.



Our Staff and Parish Leaders

Vicar	Bob Barnes
Vicar's P/A	Jude Dell
Parish Manager	Keith Buck
Receptionist	Jan Burrough
Families/Youth Pastor	Susan Howarth
Assistant Priests	Jonathan Wasley
	John Neal
	Miriam Taylor
	Kevin Gwynne

Parish Nurse	Raewyn Parkes
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	Pauline Tisch
Prayer Facilitators	Jane Sheat & Sheryll Gwynne

To Contact Us

Nativity Anglican Church Office & Centre

Office Hours:
Monday -Thursday 9am-4pm
Friday 9am - Noon

Address: 76 Alfred St,
Blenheim 7201

Phone: 5783909

Email: info@nativity.org.nz

Website: www.nativity.org.nz

Facebook: Find us on "Church of the Nativity"

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The Church of the Nativity
Sunday 8th January 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

Happy New Year, and welcome to our visitors. We hope for you a good year in 2017.

New Year is a time of mixed hope. Somehow it can represent for us a new start in many of life's endeavours. Often we'll have had a break from work and our usual routines. If we haven't partied or holidayed too hard we may well have renewed energy and a fresh attitude that lets us attack some of those things we've put off or found too hard in the past. Unfortunately, it's also a time of sceptical hope for many. Failed New Year resolutions and disappointments from previous years – or plain negative attitudes - can give us a jaundiced view on the future.

A faith in Jesus whose birth we have just celebrated gives us a basis for being ultimately optimistic in life, even when things are difficult. That in turn frees us to behave in life giving ways we could never do in our own power. That's why we are stepping out in faith this year, to invest anew into staff whose ministries will reach out to those who are on or beyond the fringes of the church, and the young. That's why we will continue to prayerfully explore the sorts of buildings we require to serve our mission here into the future.

Our January preachers are bringing to us a range of topics that relate to this hope and resulting investment into life. The first of these is mercy. We could never be merciful if all we knew was self-preservation. It's a well-known life principle that we can only love to the degree that we have been loved.

The invitation is on the table for all of us. God offers us a new season of epiphanies in Epiphany; a new voice, a new song, and ever new possibilities. Yes - we can be changed!

God bless

Bob and Libby



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