

The Very Revd
Dr Graham O'Brien
Dean of Nelson Cathedral

Kia ora Cathedral Whānau,

As we journey through Lent and approach Easter, yet another war has broken out in the Middle East, and yet again our world lives in uncertainty. The Most Rev Dr Hosam E. Naoum, the Anglican Archbishop of Jerusalem and the Middle East has called the global church join them in urgent and unceasing prayer. As he stated, every single nation now engaged in this combat, and those bearing the brunt of retaliatory strikes, resides within their ecclesiastical boundaries. He also recalled the words of Jesus, “Blessed are the peacemakers. For they will be called children of God” (Matt 5:9).

march26

CATHEDRAL NEWS



A PLACE THAT MATTERS AS THE SPIRITUAL HEART OF DIOCESE AND CITY

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“Blessed are the peacemakers.
For they will be called children
of God” (Matthew 5:9)

So may we be upholding in prayer all who are facing war and continue to pray:

- ▶ for peace
- ▶ for the protection of the innocent.
- ▶ for the church to be a beacon of reconciliation and hope, refusing to see its neighbours as enemies.

We so often refer to Jesus as the “Prince of Peace at Christmas but this is also true of Easter. Despite all that Jesus went through, the resurrection is proof of God’s saving power and love which is at work in our world here and now. We summarise that goodnews in the word HOPE and that includes the notion of peace.

Our hope is not in an idea, philosophy, or in the strength of weapons to bring about human ends, but in a person. Our hope is in what God is doing through Jesus: God is redeeming and completing creation by the transformation of this world, the gathering of his people and establishing his kingdom reign, achieved only in and through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and the empowering work of the Holy Spirit.

(cont.)

At the heart of the Easter message is God’s love, shown through the willingness of Jesus to die for us, and the power of God by raising Jesus from the dead. May we take the opportunity this Easter to look at Jesus afresh and see his power, authority and glory which is still present today for us individually, for the Church, and for the world. He is Risen, is risen indeed – that is the foundation of our HOPE.

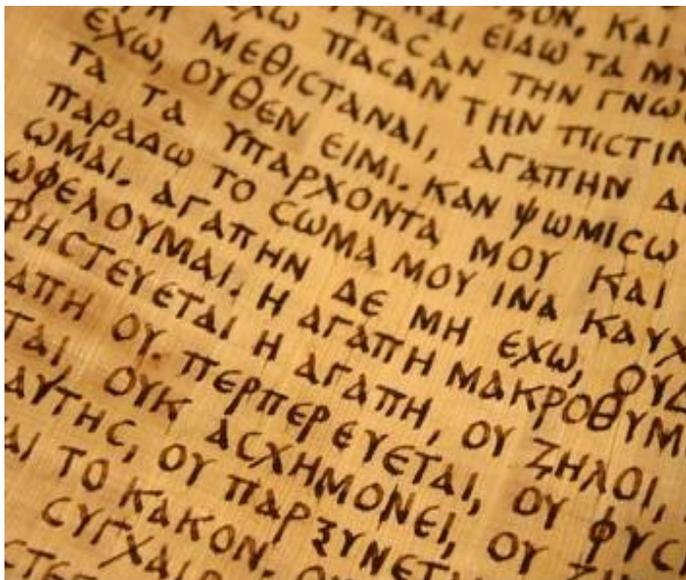
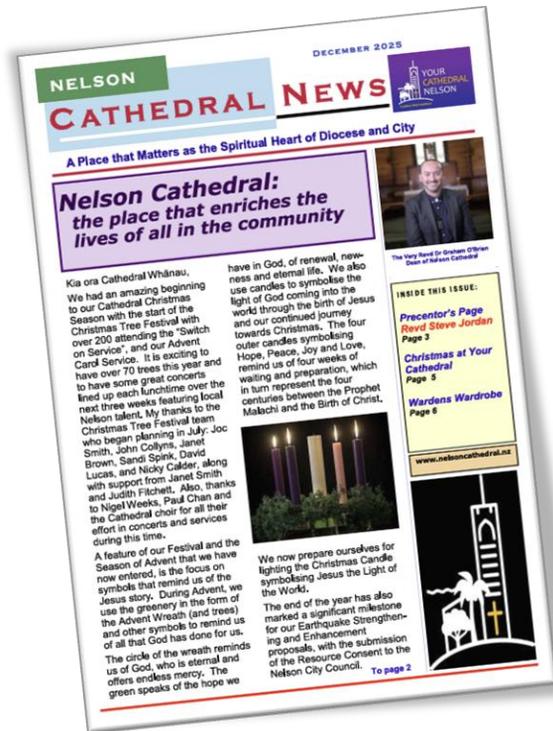
As we journey come to Holy Week we have many opportunities to enter into the Easter story as we follow through John’s Gospel. Our Maundy Thursday Communion service will include the liturgy of footwashing and on Easter Sunday we will have Bishop Steve Maina with us.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge Rev Russell Smith who has been the editor of our Cathedral News for the past 15 years. Russell was on Vestry and a Cathedral Canon for many years, and 5 years ago moved to Waverly in Taranaki with his wife Debbie, and more recently Whanganui. It has been great to have Russell continue editing our Cathedral News over these years. But as you can see, we have moved to a new format, thanks to Caroline Hoar, and will edit the Cathedral News from the Cathedral. Many thanks to Russell for all he has contributed to the life of our Cathedral.

Let me finish with the blessing from Archbishop Naoum, “May the peace of God, which passes all understanding guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus”.

God Bless

Graham



GREEK MANUSCRIPT OF 1 CORINTHIANS 13

LENTEN STUDIES

Wednesdays 7-8:30pm

Join Dean Graham on Wednesdays
25 February – 25 March (cake included)

We will look at topics such as:

- ✦ How we got the Christian Bible
- ✦ Which Bible is Best
- ✦ The Bible in Context
- ✦ Meaning and Significance
- ✦ Communicating the Bible



LENTEN REFLECTIONS

One of the most depressing clauses I hear is “I’ll never forgive....”. It usually follows some intended or unintended, actual or imagined, slight. Among secular folk, it might just be a figure of speech, but uttered in a Christian community it is profoundly concerning.

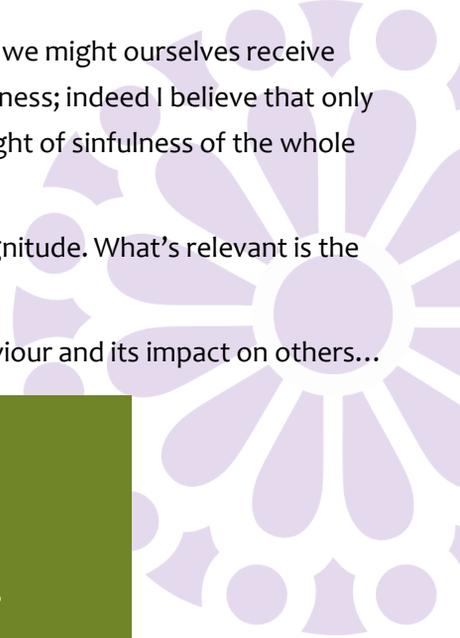
This depresses me for four reasons:

- ❁ Firstly it evinces that the speaker hasn't heard the message that forgiveness is a fundamental tenet of our faith.
- ❁ Secondly that the speaker is continuing to entertain animosity against the supposed perpetrator, whether justified or not. That corrosive animosity damages everyone it touches.
- ❁ Thirdly, in my first vocation, my calling was to deal with others' conflicts. So often, a sense of victimhood somehow justified perpetration, at every level from verbal confrontation to warfare between nations.

- ❁ Finally that as people of faith, we learn that it is only by forgiving that we might ourselves receive forgiveness. Few of us are so sinless that we have no need for forgiveness; indeed I believe that only one man in history lived entirely without sin, yet died bearing the weight of sinfulness of the whole human race.

The reality or otherwise of the ‘offence’ is actually irrelevant, as is the magnitude. What’s relevant is the mindset of the person who sadly cannot forgive.

The season of Lent affords us the opportunity to reflect on our own behaviour and its impact on others...



❁ Are we carrying hurt and anger that we need to let go, for our own sake as much as others?

❁ Are we carrying the weight of overwhelming guilt, and crave the forgiveness of God or others?

In the Lenten season, many of us may be carrying stones as a reminder of God’s presence. Others might’ve given up something: chocolate, sugar, alcoholic beverages, etc. But perhaps instead we might try and give up slight, offence and anger and practise forgiveness.

That’s hard. But hardest of all is to forgive ourselves.

Steve

Blessings





Proposed Parish Development on Nile Street

This site is presently rented as a car park.

We receive some rental income from the site and the tenant pays the rates.

However, if the tenant should stop the lease then the parish would be liable for those rates, without any income to cover this.

So, we have been looking at ways of generating more funds from the site for the Cathedral and this has led us to the most favourable outcome which is to develop the site into townhouses and sell these as freehold units. This should result in substantially more money for the Church than just selling the vacant land as is, which is valued at approx \$1.5m.

Any decision to proceed with the development requires a motion for the Parish to "approve the development, subject to approval by Standing Committee and Trust Board", so there will be robust checks and balances to ensure good decisions are made along the way.

The townhouses could generate several million dollars once they are sold. A portion of the funds could then be put into trust to produce regular income for the Parish and the balance could be utilised for ministry and/or building strengthening.

The proposed development will maximise income while reducing risk, and in property building terms this means less units to sell (5) and simple two-storey construction to keep building costs low. Most importantly, a small development means less time to complete and settle sales, so there is less risk of housing market changes during the build time.

The site also sits beside and across from, three heritage buildings and so will enhance this heritage precinct better than a high-rise building.

Inner City housing is a Government, Council and community initiative and it is a win/win for the Cathedral to be contributing much-needed city housing, with these proceeds available to maintain the Cathedral - Nelson City's most iconic building.

David

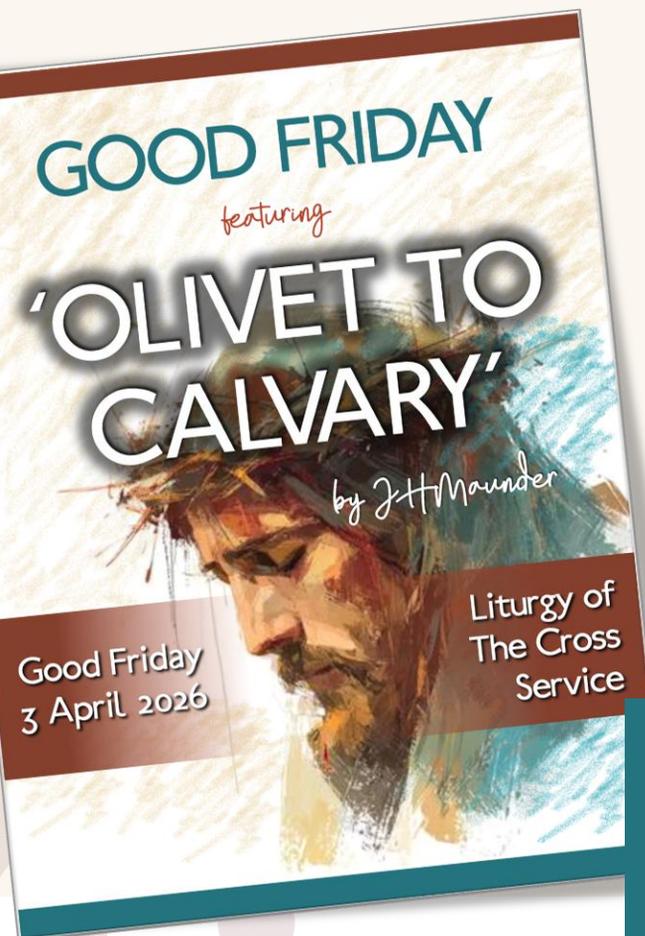
WARDENS WARDROBE

DAVID LUCAS Dean's Warden
JOCELYN SMITH People's Warden



Our Good Friday Service will be based around the choral work “Olivet to Calvary” by J.H. Maunder (1858-1920), presented by the Cathedral choir and soloists.

MUSICAL NOTES



This work follows the events in John’s Gospel from Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem to Calvary, and “recalls simply and reverently the scenes which mark the last few days of the Saviour’s life on earth. The congregation is also involved with hymns as part of the setting.

This will be a wonderful way to commemorate the most solemn of moments as we remember that Jesus died on the cross for each of us.

Can we encourage you to take this opportunity and invite a friend along – they may not feel “religious”, but I am sure they would enjoy the wonderful music and this may open the door for further spiritual conversations.

**CATHEDRAL CHOIR with
Elias Nguyen (Tenor)
Dean Graham O’Brien (Bass)
Paul Chan (Organist)
Nigel Weeks (Conductor)**

Elias Nguyen is a Vietnamese–Kiwi tenor in his third year at the New Zealand School of Music – Te Kōkī, where he studies with Jenny Wollerman and Rosel Labone. His performance experience spans both opera and musical theatre. In 2024, he sang the role of Cable in Rodgers’ South Pacific with the Hutt Valley Orchestra and portrayed Henrik in NZSM’s Opera Scenes: Part(y)ing is Such Sweet Sorrow. In 2025, he joined the chorus of Verdi’s Un Ballo in Maschera with Wellington Opera and performed multiple roles—La Thèière (The Teapot), Le Petit Vieillard (The Maths Teacher), and L’Écureuil (The Squirrel)—in Ravel’s L’Enfant et les Sortilèges for NZSM’s opera scenes. Most recently, he appeared in the chorus of Bizet’s Les pêcheurs de perles with Days Bay Opera in February 2026.

Elias was named second runner-up in the 2025 Jim Stevenson Tenor Scholarship competition and second runner-up in the 2025 Wellington Regional Vocal Competition (French class). He also received the ‘Performer’ prize in the 2025 Lilburn Composition Competition.





Cathedral AGM

Annual Meeting of
Parishioners of Christ
Church Cathedral Parish on
Sunday 22 March 2026
after the 10am Service.

The Cathedral Council comprises the Bishop and the Dean: two clerical canons and two lay canons, the two wardens and the two Synod Reps, plus five Lay Council members. It is a Council of Governance and doesn't get involved in the day-to-day management of the Cathedral, except in an oversight capacity.

At the moment the Council comprises:

Right Reverend Bishop Steve Maina;
Very Reverend Graham O'Brien (Dean);

Clerical Canons: Venerable Canon Simon Martin
and Reverend Canon Nigel Whinney;

Lay Canons: Graham Allan and Steve Perris;

Wardens: David Lucas (Dean's Warden) and
Jocelyn Smith (People's Warden);

Synod Reps: Graham Allan and Janet Smith;

Cathedral Reps: Nicky Calder, Jane Lucas, Jane Mitchell,
Dr Lance Jennings, Sean Trengrove.

At this year's AGM we are electing: **Five** Lay Council
members (one-year term) and **Two** Synod
representatives (three-year term), and **People's Warden**
(one-year term).

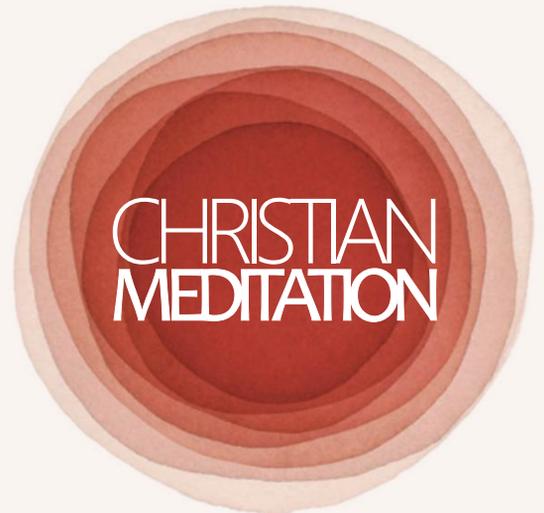
**Nomination forms are available from
the office & must be completed by
noon Friday 13 March 2026**

Any nomination needs a proposer and a seconder and the person standing for office needs to sign showing that they agree to stand. All 3 need to be on the Parish Roll. If you are not on the roll, now is the time to fill in a simple form and get added.

**Making time in our busy
lives to open our hearts to
the silent presence of God**

Silence, Stillness, Simplicity In our frantic world, is this something that you are seeking? Our small and friendly Christian Meditation group meets each week in the Chapel, to meditate together.

Come and join us and learn more about this ancient spiritual practice. 'Making time in our busy lives to open our hearts to the silent presence of God'.



**NELSON CATHEDRAL
CHRISTIAN MEDITATION GROUP
TUESDAY 5pm-6pm**

Contact

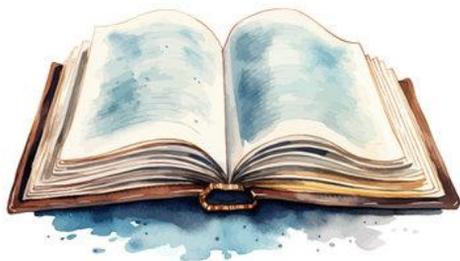
Mary Kroch 027 372 1173
or Erin Beatson 027 680 6355



EMMAUS STUDY GROUP

Wednesday 12-1:00pm

Reading of the biblical text and a short exegesis followed by discussion



THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

- 11 March 2: 1-47 Pentecost and believer's fellowship
- 18 March 3: 1-26 Healing the crippled beggar
- 25 March 4: 1-37 Before the Sanhedrin and fellowship of the believers



We are seeking a compassionate and motivated **Community Ministries Programme Leader** to help us live out our vision: To maximise opportunities for social connection, civic engagement, evangelism, care and hospitality.

This role is focused on strengthening social connection, care, hospitality, and community engagement, with a particular emphasis on supporting people aged 65 and over within the Cathedral congregation and the wider Nelson community.

The Community Ministries Programme Leader plays a key leadership role in pastoral care, hospitality, and outreach. Working closely with the Dean, parishioners, volunteers, and community agencies to nurture wellbeing, build relationships, and ensure that older members of our community feel valued, connected, and supported.

If you are passionate about pastoral care, community connection, and serving older people in a faith-based setting, we would love to hear from you.

Please **apply in writing** with a CV and a brief cover letter outlining your interest and relevant experience by **Friday 13 March 2026 to Rev Dr Graham O'Brien**.



CAMEO

FRIDAY 13 MARCH 2:00-3:30pm

An opportunity for a catch-up chat, sing-along and afternoon tea. Bring a friend.



Contact:
03 548 1008
Cathedral Office
office@nelsoncathedral.nz



During term time our 10am Sunday service offers the biblically themed

CATHEDRAL kids

Based on the Anglican Bible Reading Cycle we learn about the world around us and how God wants us to behave. Activities and discussion relate to the theme of the Sunday Service

Helpers needed during the 10am service on Sundays. Please email us if you are able to help, even once a month.
kids@nelsoncathedral.nz



THE CRAFT GROUP

Thursdays 1:30pm

We meet each Thursday for creative time together, sharing ideas, a natter and afternoon tea. All welcome

If you have some unfinished projects, bring them along. For more information contact **Judith Fitchett 027 319 8511** or just join us in the Quiet Room



CATHEDRAL WALKING GROUP

Tuesday 9am

A fun and friendly walking group for all ages.

Brave enough to walk come rain or shine? See the city from a new perspective and learn something new each walk.

Meet in the car park at the Cathedral entrance.

Followed by fellowship over yummy morning tea.

For more information contact **Judith Fitchett 027 319 8511**



What are you doing on Tuesday morning?

GOOD FRIDAY

featuring

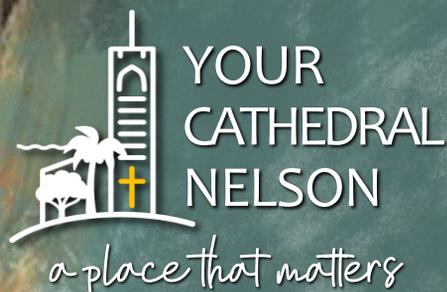
by JHM

'OLIVET TO CALVARY'

by JHM Maunder

3 April
10am

Liturgy of The
Cross Service



NELSON CATHEDRAL CHOIR with

TENOR Elias Nguyen | BASS Graham O'Brien (Dean)

ORGANIST Paul Chan | CONDUCTOR Nigel Weeks



EASTER SERVICES

PALM SUNDAY 29 March

8am Holy Communion
10am Choral Communion
5:30pm Evensong

THURSDAY 2 April

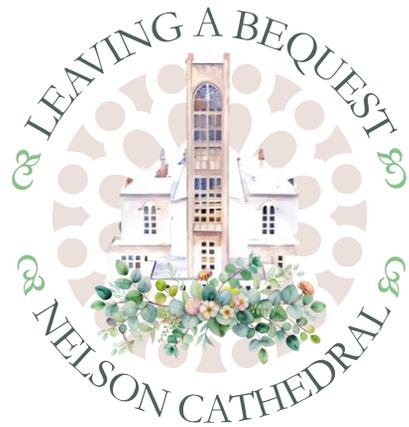
7pm Maundy Thursday
Choral Communion
(including liturgy of foot washing)

GOOD FRIDAY 3 April

10am Liturgy of the Cross Service
featuring **'Olivet to Calvary'** by JH Maunder
Tenor Elias Nguyen Bass Graham O'Brien (Dean)
(Cathedral open all day for reflection)

EASTER SUNDAY 5 April

8am Holy Communion
10am Easter Choral Communion
Bishop Steve Maina will join us for both services
(please bring a flower for the Cross)



Your Cathedral Nelson has been inspiring people from all over the world as a place of worship, music and beauty. By leaving a Bequest you will be helping to support this special place for generations to come.

Nelson Cathedral does not receive government or council support and relies on vital donations to keep operational.

If leaving a Bequest is something you would consider, please use the wording below to ensure your donation is given to the Cathedral, thank you. Remember also to obtain independent legal advice.

" ... to the Nelson Diocesan Trust Board (registered charity number CC25351) for its use of both capital and income for the benefit of the Parish of Christ Church Cathedral Nelson in such manner as the Council of the Parish determine."

When making a Will, your priority will always be to your family and loved ones, but if it is possible to leave a gift, it is an opportunity to support the cathedral and its mission. It could be a fixed sum or a percentage.

<https://www.nelsoncathedral.nz/legacy>

REMINDER



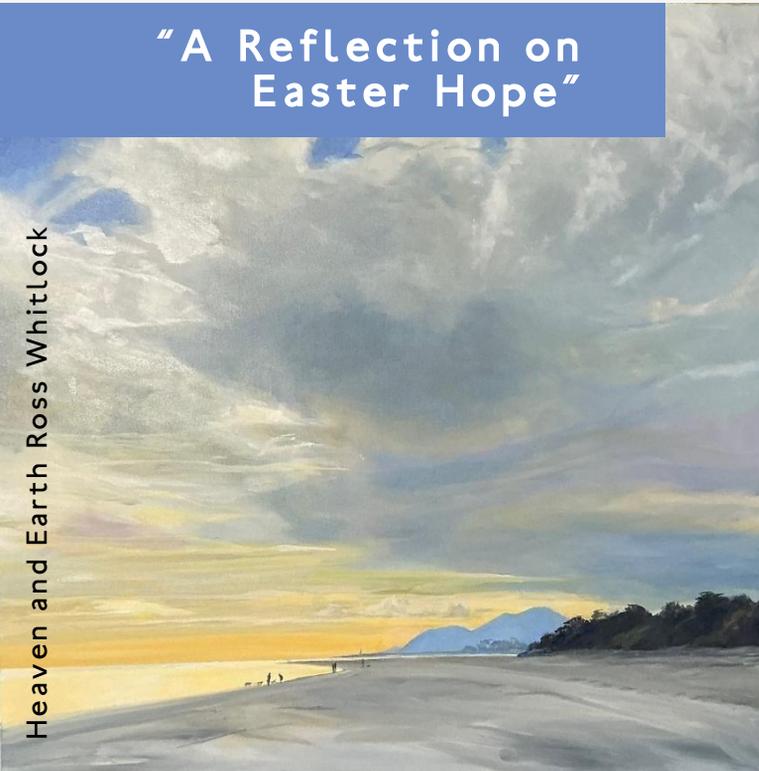
DAYLIGHT SAVING ENDS
ON EASTER SUNDAY

Tahunanui Beach morning, Easter Sunday 2025

In recent years as I have aged the pain and horror of Christ's Passion has brought increasing grief, shame and repentance. At such times I have found comfort in long walks on the beach with Indy.

"A Reflection on Easter Hope"

Heaven and Earth Ross Whitlock



This past Easter Sunday while we walked across the back beach towards the sea, I kept thinking of those lines from that great Hymn by Isaac Watts: When I survey the Wondrous Cross.

"Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all"

OK I thought. That's a given. But now what? I have to do something. What can I actually do? One silly old man? Then we turned past the huge pines onto the main beach towards the sunrise. All I could think of at that moment was **"He is Risen!"**

The cloud soaring above, the golden light of dawn behind it. That glorious light spreading over sea and land and blessing the early morning walkers and their dogs.

The immensity of heaven, the smallness of our busy human lives.

The spirit spoke and touched my heart.

I took a photo. And then I painted this.

Ross Whitlock

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CATHEDRAL SERVICES

Worship at Nelson Cathedral is varied and frequent with 4 different services on Sunday:

8am Holy Communion

10am Choral Communion | Livestreamed, Robed Choir, Cathedral KIDS

12:30pm Whakatū Māori Mission Service

5:30pm Evensong | Livestreamed, Robed Choir

Wednesdays

11am Communion Service (+morning tea) with toy area

DIRECTORY

Dean

The Very Reverend Dr.
Graham O'Brien | 021 060 1774
grahamob@nelsoncathedral.nz



People's Warden & Building Mgr

Jocelyn Smith | 027 548 7774
joc.smith@xtra.co.nz



Dean's Warden

David Lucas | 021 398 415
davidlucas88@gmail.com



Honorary Priest & Precentor

Revd Steve Jordan | 021 294 6105
stevej@nelsoncathedral.nz



Children's Programme

Gayle McVay | 03 548 1008
kids@nelsoncathedral.nz



Choral Director

Nigel Weeks | 021 797 006
nigel@nelsoncathedral.nz



Cathedral Organist

Paul Chan | 021 399 938
paul@nelsoncathedral.nz



Events

David Lucas | 021 398 415
events@nelsoncathedral.nz



Pastoral Care and Discipleship

Position available please contact
office@nelsoncathedral.nz



Cathedral Office

Rebekah Spink
Tower first floor | 548 1008
Mon-Fri 9.30am-12.30pm
P.O. Box 657, Nelson 7040
office@nelsoncathedral.nz



EASTER SERVICES AT YOUR CATHEDRAL

PALM SUNDAY 29 March

8am Holy Communion

10am Choral Communion

5:30pm Evensong

THURSDAY 2 April

7pm Maundy Thursday

Choral Communion

(including liturgy of foot washing)

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10am Liturgy of the Cross Service

featuring 'Olivet to Calvary' by JH Maunder

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(Cathedral open all day for reflection)

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Bishop Steve Maina will join us for both services

(please bring a flower for the Cross)

