



A Place that Matters as the Spiritual Heart of Diocese and City

Special Cathedral Services

Kia ora Cathedral Whānau,
As we hit September, we begin several special services that reach out into our local community. The first, was our annual “Pet Blessing Service” which was held on September. It was great to see many new faces – both two and four-legged – this year, and everyone really enjoyed the occasion. The service was marked by lots of doggy noises and the one cat who attended coped very well.



Our next community service is *Sea Sunday/Trafalgar Day* on Oct 19, where this year we focus on the role of the New Zealand Royal Navy, having focused on the merchant navy and civilian uses of the seas in past years. This is always a wonderful service as we welcome a variety of youth organisations to join us, as well as Navy representatives.

Over the past months, the Cathedral has lost some much-loved members of our congregations, with prayers at the time of death/funerals/acts of committal for Rev Denis Mellsop, Richard Harris, Hamish Campbell, Jim Mills, Ron Shaw, Maureen Wagg, Beverly Beattie, Bruce Bygate and Rev Ren Kempthorne (Wellington).

As their lives have been celebrated, it has been wonderful hearing how they have enriched the lives of others. For example, little did I know that Maureen Wagg used to work in Hong Kong as a physiotherapist and was Vice Chairperson of the organisation that led to what we now call the Para-Olympics. We continue to hold these families in our prayers at this time.

At the other end of life, we will also be celebrating baptisms (3) and weddings (4) over the next several months. It is special to see the Cathedral being used for the whole range of life's pastoral ministry.

Finally, I am happy to update you on our earthquake strengthening progress.

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

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A major focus this year has been to get all the documents ready to submit to NCC for our Resource Consent. This has involved reports from Heritage Architects, Heritage NZ, archaeological authority including Iwi consultation, and Urban Design Approval. Thankfully we have a great team of professionals who have guided this process. As a result, our documentation is all ready to be submitted after the local government elections. This is a big step forward, so that next year we can focus on the task of fundraising. In November, we will be holding a special parish meeting to update you all on where we are up to, so please watch out for the date.

God Bless

Graham

Pet Blessing Service



Celebration of the Sea Service

The close relationship between Nelson and the sea will be celebrated at Nelson Cathedral's ***Celebration of the Sea Service*** on Sunday October 19 at 10am.

Members of the sea cadets, sea scouts, Royal NZ Navy, Merchant Navy, Port Nelson and ex-Servicemen Associations will be attending their service which will also mark ***Trafalgar Day***, the anniversary of Admiral Nelson's famous naval victory at the Battle of Trafalgar which took place on 21 October 1805.

The city and many of its streets are named after Admiral Nelson and his crew or ships.

An address will be given by a retired naval commander and naval helicopter pilot regarding the city's close links with the sea through commerce and livelihoods as well as many aspects of leisure.

All are welcome to the service which is one of many annual community services held by the Cathedral.

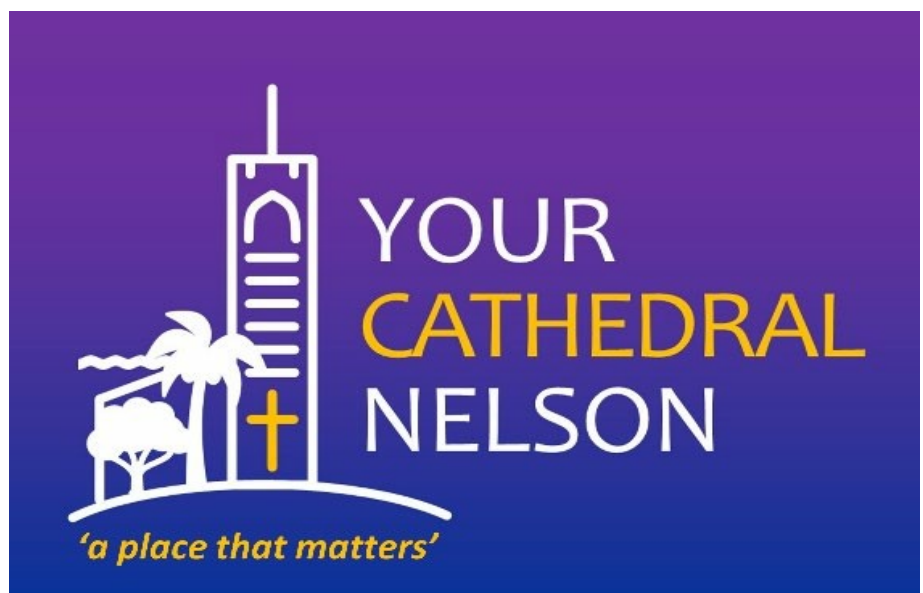
Celebration of the Sea Service

**Sunday October 19
at 10am**

NELSON CATHEDRAL



Betty Sinclair celebrates her 97th birthday.





Nelson Cathedral Christian Meditation Group

Some of you may have heard or know that Nelson Cathedral has a Christian Meditation group, but did you know that we have been meeting weekly in the Chapel on a Tuesday since 2007? Did you know that we are part of the World Community for Christian Meditation, a global spiritual community, which promotes this ancient practise around the world?

Here are a few facts about our group and the World Community:

- Our Cathedral group was founded by the Priest Assistant Allen Michel and Mary Kroch, and we are a small group of 10-12 women and men who meet weekly to meditate and learn about this contemplative form of spirituality. Some of our members come to church, some don't, and some are visitors passing through Nelson. All are welcome and we are ecumenical.
- WCCM was founded by Father John Main, OSB, a Benedictine monk in 1969, and is now led by Father Lawrence Freeman, OSB. It is based in Bonnevaux Monastery in France.
- WCCM promotes dialogue across the spectrum between institutional churches and the secular world, between religion and science and amongst contemplative communities. It also promotes interfaith dialogue.
- There are numerous groups meeting in churches, halls, homes, schools, and prisons, around NZ and the world. There are over 60 groups in New Zealand and in up to 120 countries.
- It was endorsed by Pope Francis and the Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams. Pope Leo xiv recently promoted setting aside 'moments of silence... times in which, quieting noise and distractions, to recollect ourselves before God in simplicity of heart'. (Homily, July, 2025)

So what is Christian Meditation and why do we practise it?

Meditation is an ancient form of prayer. It is found through the ages of the Christian tradition. It is a way of spiritual growth, of human development, beneficial for all. It is a prayer of silence, stillness and attention. It is often referred to as the prayer of the heart and it reconnects us with the heart and the Spirit within.

This opens us to its transforming influence in our lives.

There are many different reasons why people are drawn to meditation. Many of us are simply seeking peace and quiet in our busy lives, a different way of living from our usual rushing around from one activity to another, and learning to 'be', not 'do'. Some are seeking rest, recuperation and healing, and may have even been recommended meditation by their Doctors. This was how I came to meditation, after a difficult and tumultuous year of life changing events. Others may want to dig deeper into their faith and make space in their busy lives to explore their spirituality. What is certain is that there are many fruits of meditation, if one is able to commit and be faithful to the practise. We grow in our spiritual life, we open to our full potential and we find the "Peace which is beyond all understanding". I have found it to be truly transformational in all aspects of my life and highly recommend it to all my family and friends. It is an amazing gift from God, waiting to be received by us.

The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures, He leads me besides quiet waters, He refreshes my soul. My Cup overflows.... extracts from Ps. 23

As Father John Main said "In contemplative prayer, we seek to become the person we are called to be, not by thinking of God, but being with God. Simply to be with God is to be drawn into being the person God wants us to be".

Come and join our small and friendly group in the Chapel to find out more.

Tuesdays 5-6pm, except for school holidays.

Contact: Mary Kroch 0273721173 or Erin Beatson 027 680355

[World Community for Christin Meditation](#)

[New Zealand Community for Christian Meditation](#)

Mary Kroch

Cathedral Christmas Tree Festival
27 Nov 2025 – 18 Jan 2026

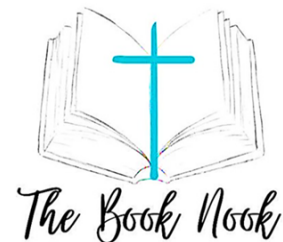
STAR OR ANGEL?

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 YOUR CATHEDRAL NELSON
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Cathedral Little Library



Please donate to our Book Nook!
Recycle your pre-loved books
to share with others.
Christian or non-Christian books
are all welcome.



Nelson Association of Anglican Women AGM and Meeting

**7.30pm,
Thursday 9th October,**
All Saints Church Foyer
Join us for our short AGM,
followed by speaker

Sharon Lukitau-Ngaamo
from Youth Nelson,
and supper.

Contacts for transport:
Noeline 0275476483,
Kathy 5488654 or 0273337633;
Judith 0273 198 511



David Lucas

Warden's Wardrobe



Jocelyn Smith

On October 11th Annie will be baptised here at the Cathedral which will be an exciting time for her parents Christy and Bijee.

This is also a major turning point for the Cathedral parish as we live under the shadow of an aging and ever diminishing congregation.

Christy and Bijee represent a new group of parishioners who are a young couple and Annie represents another generation within the love and care of the Cathedral congregation. They are joined by other young families now attending the Cathedral.

Christy and Bijee attend the 8am Communion Service on Sundays and are busily involved in our volunteer roster.

With mention of young families and children, our *Cathedral Kids* programme is growing and we cannot thank Gayle enough for her expertise and enthusiasm in teaching the children Gospel truths for the foundation of their lives.

The pew heaters have had good reviews but unfortunately the balance of heaters - we have 10 more to fit - are not due from overseas till mid October, so they will be going in now that the cold weather is getting warmer. Better late than never for next winter! With the installation, the floor has been painted as the beginning of a general tidy up of the nave and our QR self-tour stations are in place for a more in-depth visitor experience.

Reports from the UK and USA suggest that many young people in their 20s and 30s are starting to read the Bible and step into churches for the first time. This is the reaction we pray for in Nelson and is partly due to Christians speaking out more openly about their faith. Our Bishop's revitalisation programme also encourages us to speak out boldly and confidently about our Lord Jesus.



Christy, Bijee and Baby Annie

David Lucas
Dean's Warden

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CATHEDRAL WALKING GROUP

What are you doing
on Tuesday morning?

- See your city from a new angle
- Find your wellbeing and new friends
- Enjoy yummy morning tea
- Meet here in car park

9am Tuesday | Judith 027 319 8511

THE CRAFT GROUP

meets on **Thursdays** at 1.30pm
for creativity,
a natter and afternoon tea.
**All welcome to recycle Christmas
Cards
for the Memory trees or your own
project.**

Do you have some unfinished projects?
Bring them along.

For more information contact
Judith Fitchett
on 027 319 8511

Leaving a Bequest

If you are considering a Bequest to the Cathedral in your Will, the link below takes you to the wording for your gift so that your donation is correctly directed to the Cathedral.

<https://www.nelsoncathedral.nz/copy-of-volunteering>

Remember also to obtain independent legal advice.

Emmaus Study Group

Wednesdays at 12.00 until 1.00pm
In the Choir Room

The Emmaus study is now studying the Gospel of Mark
The format will be the reading of the Biblical text, a short exegesis followed by discussion.

All are welcome



Nelson Cathedral Christian Meditation Group

Silence, Stillness, Simplicity

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

Meeting Time: 5pm-6pm

Come and join us and learn more about this ancient spiritual practice.

It's easy to learn!

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

Contact **Mary Kroch 027 372 1173** or **Erin Beatson 027 680 6355**

ALL WELCOME

Come & have fun!

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

Age 5ish & up

The Flower Guild would like to invite more people to join them. You do not need to be a florist, just to like flowers. If you are interested, please contact the Cathedral Office.

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DIRECTORY

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grahamob@nelsoncathedral.nz

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joc.smith@xtra.co.nz

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David Lucas
Ph 021 398 415
davidlucas88@gmail.com

Honorary Priest: & Precentor

The Revd Steve Jordan
Ph 021 294 6105
stevej@nelsoncathedral.nz

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03 548 1008
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Choral Director:

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Pastoral Care and Discipleship:

The Revd Canon Nigel Whinney
Ph 021 118 9985
office@nelsoncathedral.nz

Cathedral Office:

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7040

Email: office@nelsoncathedral.nz

Cathedral News

welcomes contributions from parishioners and readers. If you have a contribution or perhaps an idea for an article please contact the Editor (russell77@xtra.co.nz) or the Dean (grahamob@nelsoncathedral.nz).

CATHEDRAL SERVICES

Wednesday • Holy Communion 11am

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

8.00 am	Holy Communion
10.00 am	Choral Eucharist & Children's Church (Robed Choir and Livestreamed)
12.30 pm	Whakatu Māori Mission Service
5.00 pm	Evensong (Robed Choir and Livestreamed)

Come And Meet Each Other

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

Friday 10 October
2:00 - 3:30pm



Contact:

Beryl Shatford-Banks
Outreach Co-ordinator
03 548 1008 beryl@nelsoncathedral.nz

**The Cathedral 10am service and the 5.00pm service are available
for live viewing**



The services (and some other events) are recorded so are available to be viewed at any time,
not only during the actual time when the service is in session.

<https://www.youtube.com/@NelsonCathedral/streams>