



# Parish of the Good Shepherd, Hurunui

## PARISH NEWSLETTER

Amberley | Cheviot | Hawarden | Culverden | Waiau | Hanmer Springs  
Parish Office: 138A Carters Road, Amberley | PO Box 143, Amberley 7441  
www.catholichurunui.nz

### Weekend Masses

#### Saturday Vigil

5pm Hanmer Springs  
(Every Saturday)

6:30pm Culverden  
(1st, 2nd & 3rd Saturdays)

#### Sunday Mass

9am Amberley  
(Every Sunday)

11am Cheviot  
(1st, 2nd, 3rd Sundays Only)\*

10.30am Hawarden  
(4th Sunday Only)

11.30am Waiau  
(5th Sunday Only)

12pm **The Beatitudes,**  
**Leithfield**

### Weekday Masses

Monday - Saturday  
7am Amberley

Tuesday - Saturday  
12pm **The Beatitudes,**  
**Leithfield**

### Reconciliation

By Appointment  
or before Mass  
(but not the last 5 Minutes!)

### Rosary

Wednesday  
1:30pm Amberley  
Church Hall

Ascension of the Lord Year A 21 May 2023

#### The Ascension in the words of the Catechism of the Catholic Church....

Para 659: "So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God." Christ's body was glorified at the moment of his Resurrection, as proved by the new and supernatural properties it subsequently and permanently enjoys. But during the forty days when he eats and drinks familiarly with his disciples and teaches them about the kingdom, his glory remains veiled under the appearance of ordinary humanity. Jesus' final apparition ends with the irreversible entry of his humanity into divine glory, symbolized by the cloud and by heaven, where he is seated from that time forward at God's right hand. Only in a wholly exceptional and unique way would Jesus show himself to Paul "as to one untimely born", in a last apparition that established him as an apostle.

Para 660: The veiled character of the glory of the Risen One during this time is intimated in his mysterious words to Mary Magdalene: "I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brethren and say to them, I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God." This indicates a difference in manifestation between the glory of the risen Christ and that of the Christ exalted to the Father's right hand, a transition marked by the historical and transcendent event of the Ascension.

Para 661: This final stage stays closely linked to the first, that is, to his descent from heaven in the Incarnation. Only the one who "came from the Father" can return to the Father: Christ Jesus. "No one has ascended into heaven but he who descended from heaven, the Son of man." Left to its own natural powers humanity does not have access to the "Father's house", to God's life and happiness. Only Christ can open to man such access that we, his members, might have confidence that we too shall go where he, our Head and our Source, has preceded us.

Para 662: "And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself." The lifting up of Jesus on the cross signifies and announces his lifting up by his Ascension into heaven, and indeed begins it. Jesus Christ, the one priest of the new and eternal Covenant, "entered, not into a sanctuary made by human hands. . . but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf." There Christ permanently exercises his priesthood, for he "always lives to make intercession" for "those who draw near to God through him". As "high priest of the good things to come" he is the center and the principal actor of the liturgy that honours the Father in heaven.

#### SUNDAY'S READINGS:

##### FIRST READING: Acts 1:1-11

*Jesus was lifted up while they looked on*

##### Psalm Response:

God mounts his throne to shouts of joy:  
a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

##### SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:17-23

*God made him sit at his right hand in heaven*

##### GOSPEL: Matthew 28:16-20

*Go and make disciples of all nations*

#### HYMNS for SUNDAY MASSES

*(May vary on the Day)*

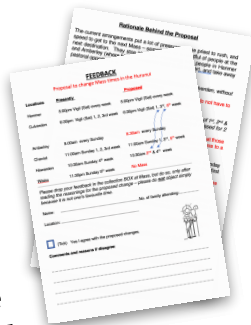
289 Praise Him as He mounts the sky  
292 New Praises Be Given (Vs, 1,2,3 & 6)  
366 Hail Queen of Heaven (2 Vs)

**MEMBERSHIP OF THE HURUNUI PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL** - When Fr Michael was appointed to the parish, he wanted members of his parish Council to be elected to serve a three year term, and after two consecutive three year terms, to have a break of one year. The idea behind it was to have a turnover of people serving, allowing fresh ideas when he consults them on pastoral matters.

Last evening at the Parish Council meeting, he bounced off those who attended, about **abandoning** this approach because he has come to realise that the pool to draw people from is small. In the last three years, he had to tap people on the shoulders because no one put up their hands. It also opens the door for those who want to continue to serve him/parish to remain, and those who are struggling to do so to choose to move on.

### PROPOSAL TO CHANGE MASS TIMES!

At this Sunday Mass, you will find a list of changes proposed to improve the situation for the Mass times, both for the priest and the people. You will also find on it, and explanation of the reasons behind the proposals and a chance to give your feedback.



### FORMED CATHOLIC RESOURCE ONLINE

If you still have not signed up this "free" (paid for by the Parish) subscription to use this incredible resource, please do so. Go to the website, click "SIGN UP", type "Hurunui" for parish and select from a list of parish, then enter email address and a create password.

Our subscription is up for renewal. Doing it privately will cost you over \$US a year.. We get a huge discount as part of a Diocesan effort (the cost is less than what I published last week)

Fr Michael's Recommendation for this week: **"Episode 5 - Ascension: at the right hand of God"**. 28 minutes. Its good to understand the Biblical expression "at the right hand of God", which is captured in the Apostles Creed.

**PLANNED GIVING RECEIPTS** are in the foyers of the Churches. Please pick up yours. If you are not on Planned Giving (either via Envelopes or Direct Debiting), please consider doing so as the receipts entitle you to claim tax rebates.

**WORKSHOPS ON SAFEGUARDING** - thank you to those who attended. The workshop will be run in the parish every so often. The idea is to develop a culture of looking at things and operating in the parish where we can say we truly are a community that takes care of each other.

**JUBILATE 2023** - The series begins!. The Cathedral and Waimakariri parishes are bringing their talented choirs and young singers together for a good sing. Come and join your voice in fervent core singing and support our featured choirs. Where? St Mary's Pro-Cathedral. When? Tuesday 15 June from 7.00pm to 8.00pm. All welcome and admission is free.



### CONFIRMATION 2023 - RETREAT

The candidates are on Retreat this Sunday 21 May at the Beatitudes in Leithfield. They will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on the eve of Pentecost Sunday, in Culverden.

Yes, the Mass for that is in **Culverden** (Vigil) even though there is normally no Vigil Mass there on the Fourth Sunday of the month.

Please continue to pray for the candidates.

**PENTECOST: ECUMENICAL SERVICE IN AMBERLEY** in our Church will be held in the afternoon of Pentecost Sunday 28th May @ 5.00pm. This is part of the initiative of the Hurunui Ministers Association. During the service, which will be held in our Amberley Church of the Holy Passion of Our Lord, each Church delegate will speak for about 5 minutes on what Pentecost means for them.

Please join in welcoming our separated brothers and sisters in Christ, and bring a plate for a shared supper in the Hall afterwards.

**PENTECOST VIGIL** with the Beatitudes Community - an evening of prayer, praise, and fellowship to pray for a new outpouring of the Holy Spirit at the conclusion of the Great Novena for Pentecost. Saturday 27th May, starting 5.30pm with the Community of the Beatitudes, 67 Leithfield Road, Leithfield. For more information, please contact Thomas at [apostolate@fourviere.nz](mailto:apostolate@fourviere.nz) or

