



# 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, 3rd & 5th Saturdays)  
*(Remember to base the Vigil  
on the Sunday of the month)*

#### Sunday Mass

8.30am Amberley  
(Every Sunday)  
11am Cheviot  
(1st, 3rd, 5th Sundays Only)

10.30am Hawarden  
(2nd & 4th 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

St Joseph Men's Group  
2nd & 4th Monday  
7pm-9pm Amberley Hall

### Holy Family Year B

31 December 2023

#### The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph...

On the Feast Day of the Holy Innocents, the Gospel reading tells us of the escape of the Holy family: they fled Bethlehem for Egypt. On that feast day, I mentioned in my homily that, for reasons I could not fathom, I never linked that event with the "Pyramids" until I visited Egypt in 2018. Although Christians are in a minority (*for life is tough for Christians in Egypt, with persecution and religious discrimination. Many have left their country*), I still came across many depictions of the scene of the Holy Family's escape to Egypt on a donkey, and in the background of the scenes; The Pyramids!



The connection between Egypt and the pyramids was so obvious but I had compartmentalised in my mind, the Egypt of today and the Egypt mentioned in the Scriptures as if there were unrelated. This type of compartmentalising can also happen when we think of the Holy Family, and then the families of today – as though they are not related. They are. The correct concept of family, be in the time of Jesus and the families of today, is the very heart of society where individual learns the meaning and practice of love both Human and Divine. The general breakdown of the family in our time, prompted the popes, especially the far-sighted Leo XIII, to promote the observance of this feast with the hope that it might instil into Christian families something of the faithful love and the devoted attachment that characterize the family of Nazareth. The primary purpose of the Church in instituting and promoting this feast is to present the Holy Family as the model and exemplar of all Christian families. Even if the reality of our own family may be far from the ideal, and even dysfunctional, we must continue to hold on to the very fundamental ideal of what it is meant to be.

May your New Year be happy and full of joy. **Fr Michael**

*P/s Join me in seeing the old year out, and the new year in: New Year's eve mass 11.00pm @Amberley (31st December), followed by gathering in the Hall to raise a glass to greet the new year..... (and No 7.00am Mass on Monday 1st January 2023 - the Vigil is THE Mass)*

#### SUNDAY'S READINGS:

**FIRST READING: Genesis 15:1-6,21:1-3**  
*Your heir shall be your own flesh and blood*

**Psalm Response:**  
The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.

**SECOND READING: Hebrews 11:8,11-12,17-19**  
*The faith of Abraham and of Sarah*

**GOSPEL: Luke 2:22-40**  
*'My eyes have seen your salvation*



#### HYMNS for SUNDAY MASSES

*(Use Booklet for Carols)*

- 6 The First Noel
- 4 O Little Town of Bethlehem
- Gentle Woman\* *(see next page)*

## FORMED CATHOLIC RESOURCE ONLINE [www.formed.org](http://www.formed.org)

Fr Michael's Recommendation for this week is: **"The Holy Family"** (Search these words). 9m58s commentary by Dr John Sehorn.

**NEW YEAR'S DAY MASS** in 'cancelled' (ie. the 7.00am Mass in Amberley on Monday) in lieu of the New Year's Vigil Mass that will be celebrated at 11.00pm on 31st December. As mentioned on the front page, there is a gathering in the Hall after Mass to welcome in the New Year, and see the old one out.

**KALAVALE**, or our parish's cup of tea and raffles, is on next Sunday, being the First Sunday of the Month. Join us after Mass in Amberley for a time to socialise and win a few prizes.

**FEEDBACK ON LOCATION OF CATHEDRAL** can be done via an online survey, and is encouraged. If you wish to submit a paper copy, please contact your Parish office. The feedback process concludes at the end of March 2024. To access the survey and information on our website, please visit: <https://cdoc.nz/cathedral>

**FR MICHAEL'S LAST SUNDAY MASS** will be on Sunday 28th January at Hawarden. Please bring a plate to share in the Hawarden Presbytery to farewell him. Fr Rex will commence as Administrator of the Hurunui Parish in February. He has his own 'farewell' function to attend in the Waimakariri parish on the same Sunday.

### HYMNS NOT IN HYMNAL

#### Hail Mary, Gentle Woman

(Starts with the words of the Hail Mary...)

Gentle woman, quiet light, morning star  
so strong and bright.

Gentle mother, peaceful dove  
teach us wisdom, teach us love.

You were chosen by the Father,  
You were chosen for the Son.  
You were chosen from all women  
and for woman, shining one....

## ANSWERS TO THE CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER

(note printed copy question 9 different to the pdf copy)

### 1. Annunciation

2. b 3. a 4. d 5. b 5(ii).b

A.D = Anno Domini = Year of the Lord. Fr Michael is on a crusade to get this right as the secular world is trying to change this to C.E., Common Era, which means nothing! Worse, many Christians for some reason now think it is "After Death"!!! (How did this ever arise?)

6. b 7. Frankincense 8. b

9. (pdf copy rather than printed copy) answer d  
(typos!, Felicem)

10. b 11. c 12. c 13. b

14. b 15. did you have a discussion?

16. St Paul 17. Christening 18. 2024

19. 4 sets. St Matthew 20. Mother of God

21. St Stephen, St John, Holy Innocents

**Additional question:** "What is the one tiny gesture the priest does during Mass that calls to mind the Incarnation of Christ? And what are the words he says quietly (*Sotto voce*)?"

Congratulations to Anita Mones-Cazon who took the trouble to send in three entries, and Bernadette Joyce who sent in the fourth one. Fr M has given them prizes.

**ST JOSEPH MEN'S GROUP** will recommence its meeting on Monday February 2024. The Group meets from 7-9pm in the Parish Hall at Amberley. All men are welcome and encouraged to become better equipped to be more like St Joseph, the protector of Jesus and Mary. Men, invite a friend to come along and enjoy the fellowship. Contact Rob 02254676341 or Mark 0277027889.

**DRIVING-LICENCE THEORY COURSE** is available for free in the Hurunui! There are two courses running. The first course starts on 29th January and the second on 24th June, both in the evening from 6.30-8.30pm. To find out more and to register, email:

[emma.feathery@hurunui.govt.nz](mailto:emma.feathery@hurunui.govt.nz).

**PRAY FOR PEACE** in the Holy Land. Caritas NZ is asking us to join together as a faith community to pray for all those affected by this conflict. More information on the prayer, the "Peace Lamp" and Caritas' work in the Holy Land can be found on <https://www.caritas.org.nz/where-we-work/holy-land>.



**Prayer for the Holy Land**  
Jesus, protect the innocent and vulnerable, comfort the suffering, and give courage and wisdom to leaders in the Holy Land. Amen.

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**Parish Treasurer:** Thomas Peacock - [catholicurunuitreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:catholicurunuitreasurer@gmail.com) - Office Hours Tuesday and Friday 8:30am - 10:30am