



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.catholic Hurunui.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
8:30am 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

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B 11 February 2024

LEPER

We have two teachers today. The first teacher is Jesus. The second teacher is the leper. What does Jesus teach us today? Very simply, it is this: Jesus says it is not enough to love from a distance. With Jesus, there is no such thing as a long-distance love relationship. He wanted to show His love for the leper and He did not say, "Leper, I love you," one kilometre away. He went close to the leper, touched the leper, and said, "Be healed." For Jesus, there is no such thing as loving from a distance. In the same way that the Lord teaches us with his actions, he also shows His love for us by coming down from heaven, taking human flesh and living in our midst. Who are the people we love? We say we love them, but are we willing to spend time with them? Are we willing to break that distance that sets us apart? Are we willing to destroy the walls that separate us from those we love? It is not enough to love from a distance. We must love at close range and show it. What does the leper teach us? The leper teaches us that it is not right to keep quiet when we are suffering. The leper was suffering and by law, he must keep quiet. He must only talk when people approach him. In order to warn people, he was supposed to shout out, "Unclean! Unclean!" so that people would not approach him. This leper was suffering not only from leprosy but even more from isolation. He was a person in need and he did not just suffer quietly, like an oyster who closes in. He shouted out and said, "Lord, heal me! I am suffering!" We all know what suffering is and we all know what secret suffering is. We all know the pain of suffering in silence, not wanting to share it with people who are ready to carry our sufferings for us and with us. Jesus teaches us today, it is not enough to love from a distance. The leper teaches us today that it is not necessary to suffer in silence.



God bless, Fr Rex

FORMED CATHOLIC RESOURCE ONLINE www.formed.org Recommendation for this week is:

"Ash Wednesday Return: Lent with Fr. John Burns Episode 3" (Search these words). 7m 28s video

Please don't waste Parish's subscription to provide this resource free for you - sign up now for free as it has been paid. Just search for the Hurunui Parish during signing up process and provide a password.

SUNDAY'S READINGS:

FIRST READING: Leviticus 13:1-2,44-46
The unclean man must live outside the camp

Psalm Response:
*I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble,
and you fill me with the joy of salvation*

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1
Take me for your model, as I take Christ

GOSPEL: Mark 1:40-45
The leprosy left the man at once, and he was cured

HYMNS for SUNDAY MASSES

(May vary on the day)

206 Forty Days and Forty Nights
198 We Rise Again from Ashes
356 Hail Queen of Heaven

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER at the Culverden church.

Thursday the 29th of February
at 7pm.

Everyone warmly welcomed

THIS SUNDAY, 11th FEB: WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE SICK. In his message for the latter day, Pope Francis says: "Illness is part of our human condition. Yet, if illness is experienced in isolation and abandonment, unaccompanied by care and compassion, it can become inhumane. On this World Day of the Sick, as the whole Church journeys along the synodal path, I invite all of us to reflect on the fact that it is especially through the experience of vulnerability and illness that we can learn to walk together according to the style of God, which is closeness, compassion, and tenderness."

ST JOSEPH MEN'S GROUP Monday 12th February
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. Contact Rob 02254676341 or Mark 0277027889.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS IN LENT - It is a good spiritual exercise to do the Stations of the Cross in Lent, and especially on Fridays. Fr Rex will lead one every Friday, and he is hoping volunteers to lead one as well in each of our other churches at what ever time suits. This way, the parish community can take some initiatives.

Friday, 16th Feb

Amberley 7.pm-Fr Rex

Hawarden ?.pm-?volunteer

Friday, 15th March

Amberley ?.pm-?volunteer

Hawarden 7.pm-Fr Rex

Friday, 1st March

Amberley ?.pm-?volunteer

Hawarden ?.pm-?volunteer

Friday, 22nd March

Amberley 7.pm-Fr Rex

Hawarden ?.pm-?volunteer

Friday, 8th March

Amberley 7.pm-Fr Rex

Hawarden ?.pm-?volunteer

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2024

This year, children in will be making their First Holy Communion on the Feast of CORPUS CHRISTI (Body and Blood of Christ) on 2nd June 2024.

Enrolment: Parents are to enrol their child using the form overleaf. The completed form, payment of \$50 (\$80 for two from the same family) and a copy of the baptismal certificate must be lodged at the parish office no later than Sunday 3rd March 2024. The minimum age to prepare for First Holy Communion is 8 years. The child will have to be baptised a Catholic and parents are members of the parish*.



ENTERING THE SEASON OF LENT - ASH WEDNESDAY 14th February 2024

+ 8.30am Mass, Amberley

+ 5.30pm Mass, Hanmer Springs

While one of the aims of the Season of Lent is the interior conversion of the heart, we nevertheless express our penitential mood through external concrete signs and gestures. In Lent there is definitely a starkness in our liturgies for Sundays and weekdays. Some of these external signs are expressed in our liturgies and through the change in appearance in our churches, including:

- † The liturgical colour of purple, the same as that for a funeral;
- † The 'Gloria' is neither said nor sung, and there is no incidental music – the only music is to support singing;
- † The disappearance of the word 'Alleluia' ;
- † There are no flower decorations in the Church;
- † People leave the church in silence, at the end of Mass, in keeping with the penitential mood, and 'Fasting'.

These external signs set the tone for our Lenten Season, paving the way towards the **Holy Week** celebrations.

Apart from the above, there are also many concrete exercises that help us to actively participate in the Lenten spirit:

- **Stations of the Cross**, particularly on Fridays. Next Friday, Fr Rex will lead it in **Amberley at 7pm**, and hope there are parishioners who can lead it in Hawarden.
- More opportunities to go to **Confession**, as we approach Holy Week.
- **Alms Giving** Envelopes are available on the pews for donations for projects (by Caritas) that promote social justice and peace.

There are of course, many other ways of seeking internal conversion of the heart, and the Church very much encourages us to