



# 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.catholicurunui.nz

### Weekend Masses



#### Saturday Vigil

5pm Hanmer Springs  
(Every Saturday)

7pm Culverden  
(Every Saturdays)

#### 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

Fifth Sunday of Lent Year B 17 March 2024

### DYING AND RISING

The story is told about a man and a donkey who walked to school together every day for eight years. One day, the man was seen walking to school alone. Why? The donkey had graduated. In today's Gospel (Jn. 12, 20-33), Jesus challenges us to graduate from loving one's life to losing one's life, from being masters to becoming servants. Sad to say, some people never graduate from their selfish and vain mindsets, and, although they are successful in the eyes of the world, they are failures in the eyes of God. "Unless a grain of wheat falls and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat, but if it dies, it produces much fruit." We all still have a lot of "dying" to do—dying to our pride, our selfishness, our ambitions, our impositions, our need to control, and our expectations. The truth of the matter is that we are still so full of ourselves that there is hardly space for God in our lives. Do you know why people never graduate to the next level? That's because they don't want to leave their comfort zone, or refuse to widen their field of vision. Jesus always challenges us to leave our familiar shores, and dares us to broaden our horizons. It is not easy to be open, to be vulnerable, to be uncomfortable, to be unsure and uncertain, but it is precisely in such moments that something qualitatively new, something truly valuable, can happen in our lives. As somebody once beautifully put it, the better never comes because we cannot let go of that which we think is good enough. ASK YOURSELF: What are those vices and weaknesses we must die to? Is it excessive drinking, the inclination to gossip, uncontrolled anger, pride, selfishness? **Lord, please help me to graduate from a selfish life to a life that is meaningful and free. Amen.**

God bless, Fr Rex

### PARISH LENTEN RECOLLECTION

Speaker: Fr. Rex R. Ramos; Venue: Amberley Church

**Tuesday 19th March, Feast of St Joseph. 6pm Mass & 7pm Talk.**

Topic: *St Joseph the dreamer - How to mend the broken dreams?*

### Bishops' Lent Appeal 2024

We warmly encourage you to support those most in need!

**"Caritas giving envelopes" will be given to you this Sunday for your donation towards the Bishops' Lent Appeal.**

### SUNDAY'S READINGS:

#### FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:31-34

I will write my Law in their hearts

#### Psalm Response:

Create a clean heart in me, O God.

#### SECOND READING: Hebrews 5:7-9

He learned to obey and  
he became the source of eternal salvation

#### GOSPEL: John 12:20-33

If a grain of wheat falls on the ground and dies,  
it yields a rich harvest

### HYMNS for SUNDAY MASSES

(May vary on the day)

**788** Praise to the holiest

**750** Glory be to Jesus

**220** Grant to us O Lord

**365** Immaculate Mary

# LIGHT OF FAITH: by Fr. Rex

## SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:

### Why do I have to confess my sins to a priest?

As the Catechism of the Catholic Church points out, our faith in the forgiveness of sins is tied to faith in the Holy Spirit and the Church: "It was when he gave the Holy Spirit to his apostles that the risen Christ conferred on them His own divine power to forgive sins: 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained'" (976; cf. John 20:22-23).

### Will the priest ever reveal what I have said in my confession?

A priest can never reveal to anyone what he is told in a confession. This obligation of absolute secrecy is most serious and is called the sacramental seal (CCC no. 1467).

### Won't the priest remember what I said? I'm embarrassed: I don't want him to think badly of me.

The priest's purpose is not to keep a check-list on people, but to be an instrument of Christ in receiving someone's sorrow, bringing forgiveness and helping people move forward. A priest hears a large number of confessions. He is not there to judge the person, but rather the nature of the sin, and to offer counsel and encouragement to overcome the sin and to grow spiritually. He too goes to confession, so he knows how it feels to confront one's own sins and ask for forgiveness.

### How often should I go to Confession?

Catholics are required to receive the Sacrament at least once per year. However, if you are aware of having committed any mortal (serious) sin, you should receive the Sacrament. That being said, all are encouraged to take advantage of the Sacrament on a regular and frequent basis. Frequent reception helps us keep aware of our spiritual progress and provides the grace to overcome our sins.

### Can I receive Communion without going to Confession?

When you receive the Eucharist you affirm that you are in a state of grace, reconciled with God and the Church. Since the Sacrament of Confession provides that reconciliation, if you are in a state of mortal sin you must abstain from receiving the Eucharist until you go to Confession. A mortal sin consists of a serious action through which a person turns away from God's law and charity, fully understands it is wrong and chooses to commit it freely.

## PARISH AND DIOCESAN NOTICES

**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. **Every Friday during Lent, there will be 7:30am Adoration & Confession followed by 8:30am Mass (Amberley)**

**Friday, 22nd March**  
Amberley at 7pm  
Culverden at 7pm

## PASCHAL TRIDUUM - EASTER PROGRAM

### Psalm Sunday - 24th March

Amberley 08:30am and Hawarden 10:30am

### Holy Thursday - 28th March

Amberley 7pm

### Good Friday - 29th March

Amberley 3pm

### Easter Sunday vigil - 30th March

Hanmer 5pm and Culverden 7pm

### Easter Sunday - 31st March

Amberley 8.30am and Cheviot 11am

### Divine Mercy - 7th April

Amberley 8.30am and Cheviot 11am

## CHRISM MASS

The Chrism Mass will be celebrated at 7.30pm on Monday 25th March at St Mary's Pro-Cathedral. All are welcome to attend.

## FINAL WEEKS - FEEDBACK ON LOCATION OF CATHEDRAL

More than 1,000 people have responded to Bishop Michael's invitation to share their thoughts on the site of the new cathedral. Responses are being received until Holy Thursday (March 28th). To access the survey and information please scan the QR code or visit: <https://cdoc.nz/cathedral>

For a paper copy, please contact your Parish office.