



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

Easter Sunday Year B 31 March 2024

EASTER! EASTER!

The story is told about two youngsters having a conversation while playing with their computer games. The first one said: "My mother will have a hysterectomy." The second one asked: "What's that?" "I don't know, but I heard my father say that once mother gets it, she will no longer be hysterical," was the other's nonchalant reply. It's Easter Sunday. In today's Gospel (Jn. 20 1-9) we hear of Mary Magdalene discovering the empty tomb. That first Easter morning was filled with "hysterical" moments. There was awe, disbelief, amazement, confusion and lots of running! Awesome, that first Easter morning! Do we still become hysterical about Easter, or do we look at it as just something historical? Does Easter still bring excitement and joy in our faces, and warmth in our hearts? It should. After all, isn't Easter the central event of our faith? Beyond the hysterical, beyond the historical, Easter must be personal. How you and I feel this Easter morning depends a lot on how we spent the Holy Week. As the saying goes, we reap what we sow. Input equals output. If we walked the way of the cross, then this Easter is glorious and refreshing. If we did no "walking" at all, then we have not moved on, and nothing qualitatively new has happened. The gift of Easter is not only the gift of salvation; it is also the gift of hope. Easter brings with it the promise of fresh start and new beginnings. What a consolation to know that life does not end in death, and that eternity awaits. All our sufferings, deprivations and persecutions lead to something beautiful and enduring. All the goodness we have done will not come to nothing. Easter also reminds us that our God is a God of surprises, a God of second chances, and a God of constant assurances. With this in mind, our earthly journey through this "valley of tears" is meaningful, and so filled with peace, confidence, and hope. On a personal note, let us move out from whatever "dead spots" we have in our lives. Maybe we no longer have hysterical Easters but let us relive that first historical Easter and turn it to a personal Easter which we hope will overflow into a national Easter, and beyond that, a global Easter. Wishful thinking? With Easter, nothing is impossible.

Lord, beyond hysterical or historical, help me to make Easter personal. Amen.

SUNDAY'S READINGS:

FIRST READING: Acts 10:34,37-43

'We have eaten and drunk with him
after his resurrection'

Psalm Response:

*This is the day the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad.*

SECOND READING: Colossians 3:1-4

Look for the things that are in heaven, where Christ is

GOSPEL: John 20:1-9

He must rise from the dead

HYMNS for SUNDAY MASSES

(May vary on the day)

267 Jesus Christ is Risen Today

761 He is Lord

286 This Joyful Eastertide

644 Alleluia Sing to Jesus

What does it mean that we must participate in the celebration of the Holy Mass actively, fully, and consciously?

We must participate in the Holy Mass actively. In the Mass, the Churchgoers are not passive watchers or spectators of a TV show or a teleserye but active participants. To actively participate in the Mass means that we must join in the singing even if we don't have good voice. Liturgical music is played, or the choir sings not to entertain the Churchgoers or to make them sleep but to help them in praying and singing praise to God. We must know the appropriate responses, the acclamations as well the time for sitting, standing, or kneeling down during the celebration of the Mass. Active participation means that we do our respective parts in the celebration of the Mass so that it will truly become a festive gathering of the whole ecclesial community. We must participate in the Holy Mass fully. The Mass is not a movie house that you can enter anytime you want or get out when you are bored by the voice or homily of priests or don't feel like finishing it due to other circumstances or unfavourable conditions inside the Church. To participate fully in the celebration of the Mass is to be on time, to be spiritually disposed and mentally present and focused on everything that is being done or said during the Mass. Full participation in the Mass includes devout reception of Holy Communion. Indeed, attendance at Mass is incomplete if we do not receive Holy Communion. We must participate consciously in the Mass. Conscious participation in the celebration in the Mass means that we do not sleep even if we are sleepy and tired. Conscious means we are aware, awake, enthusiastic and we fully understand what is going on. Conscious participation in the Mass means openness of our mind and heart to God who speaks to us through the readings. Conscious participation in the Mass demands that we listen to the readings carefully, attentively, and meditatively. Conscious participation means sensing or recognizing the presence of God amid the assembly, recognizing Jesus in the person of the celebrant, and fulfilling God's will in our daily lives after the celebration of the Mass. The Mass is a full, conscious, and active dialogue or encounter with God. This dialogue or meeting between God and us is expressed in gestures of genuflecting, standing, singing, listening, bowing, folding our hands etc. as well in words like "And with your spirit" "Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy" "Thanks be to God" "Glory to you O Lord" Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ" "Amen". Without these words and actions, we are not fully, consciously, and actively communicating or dialoguing with God.

PARISH AND DIOCESAN NOTICES

DIVINE MERCY RECOLLECTION

on Thursday 4th April, venue Amberley Church.
6pm Mass and 6.45pm talk by Pat Barrett.

INFORM OUT NOW

The latest issue of the Diocesan publication Inform is available for collection. It can also be viewed online

<https://cdoc.nz/inform>

CATHOLIC HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

Calling all Catholic Health Professionals to come and meet some of the Catholic hospital chaplains. Come have a cup of tea/coffee, a biscuit and a chinwag with the chaplains and other health professionals from around Christchurch. Bring along any questions you have for them and other health professionals that would like to meet other like minded people working in the health industry. Saturday 4th May at the Papanui Pastoral Centre, Vagues Road (Papanui Road end), 2pm - 4pm. Any questions email christchurchcma@gmail.com

HOURS OF MERCY

"Hours of Mercy" is a eucharistic adoration organised by Jesus Youth New Zealand from Easter Monday to Pentecost Day, across all 6 dioceses in New Zealand. Each diocese will be taking it up for one day of the week, every week until Pentecost.

In Christchurch, we are having it on every Thursday.

Aim: Eucharistic Adoration is a cherished practice in our Catholic Church. With Hours of Mercy, we aim to foster this practice within our community, providing a space for everyone to experience the transformative power of God's mercy. We invite all of you to join us in the presence of the Holy Eucharist.

If you are keen to cover one of the slots of Eucharistic adoration, please express your interest by simply scanning the QR code and filling up the form. Time: Every Thursday after Easter Sunday till Pentecost, 8am to 8 pm Location: Our Lady of Victories church, Sockburn.

