



## DIOCESE OF CHRISTCHURCH CATHOLIC PARISH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

AMBERLEY | CHEVIOT | HAWARDEN | CULVERDEN | HANMER SPRINGS  
Parish Office: 138A Carters Road, Amberley, PO BOX 143, Amberley 7441  
[www.catholicchuruni.nz](http://www.catholicchuruni.nz)



### PARISH NEWSLETTER

## 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

26 May 2024 - The Most Holy Trinity - Year B

### LIVING THE TRINITY

Once there were three men enjoying a hearty dinner. One was German, the other American and the third was Filipino. As they were eating, they noticed pesky flies swarming over them. When the insects became too bothersome, the German couldn't take it anymore. He unshielded his spear and with one slash, beheaded a fly and it fell on the table. The American, not to be undone, also took his spear and with one aim he struck a fly and cut it in half, right at the middle. The Filipino, too, didn't want the two to outdo him. So, he also took out his spear and hit the fly. The German and the American were not impressed. "It is still flying," they said. The Filipino retorted, beating his breast, "Yes, but I assure you that that fly won't be able to reproduce anymore."

Forgive me for being immodest or irreverent with that joke. But sometimes, I think we deal with the Holy Trinity in much the same way that we deal with flies. When we are confronted with something we cannot understand, we dismiss it. When we are confronted with something that we cannot change, something that breaks our hearts, we abandon it altogether.

The mystery of the Holy Trinity has been the object of so many masteral and doctoral dissertations, lectures by theologians, discussions among priests, and even lay people. For some, the mystery of the Holy Trinity cannot be understood, so what do they do? Like the German, who beheaded the fly, we swat it out of our life and render it useless. And because we cannot understand, we say, God is dead. He does not exist.

On the other hand, there are some among us who are very analytical; and in being analytical, we dissect the fly and see what is inside the fly. But in dissecting, in analysing, in looking at what is within, we also, in the end, kill the mystery. The mystery of the Trinity is not for analysis; it is not for beheading to render it useless. It is not for dismissing outright just because we do not understand it.

But there are also some that say, "We cannot understand it, Let it be. As we do, let the fly just fly. We don't bother with it so long as it does not reproduce anymore. Provided the Holy Trinity does not affect our lives, does not touch our pockets, let the Holy Trinity be Holy Trinity. I don't care."

But the Holy Trinity is not a mystery to be analysed. The mystery of the Holy Trinity is not simply to be studied, The Holy Trinity must be lived. When people forgive one another, when people live for one another, when people obey in freedom, when people lay down their lives for one another, even if we cannot understand the Holy Trinity in our minds, we have understood the Holy Trinity in our lives, and that is enough.

Perhaps in God's time, when we see God face to face, we will be able to understand the mystery of the Holy Trinity. But right now, while we are walking here on earth, ours is not to try to understand, ours is to try to live by the love that binds the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. As Thomas A. Kempis said, "What is the use of understanding the mystery of the Trinity, when we cannot live the love that binds the Holy Trinity."

## SUNDAY'S READINGS:

### FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 4:32-34,39-40

The Lord is God indeed: he and no other

### Psalm Response:

*Happy the people the Lord has chosen to be his own.*

### SECOND READING: Romans 8:14-17

The Spirit himself and our spirit bear united witness  
that we are children of God

### GOSPEL: Matthew 28:16-20

Go and make disciples of all nations

## HYMNS for SUNDAY MASSES

*(May vary on the day)*

**883** Christ be our light

**865** Here I am Lord

**832** One bread one body

**922** Bind us together

## LIGHT OF FAITH: by Fr. Rex

### Why do we start the Mass with the sign of the cross?

The sign of the cross means three things:

- 1) It is a sign of renewal of the baptismal covenant that we have entered into.
- 2) It is a sign of our proclamation of faith in the Trinity, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit
- 3) It is a sign of our proclamation of the redemption brought by the cross of Christ.

## PARISH AND DIOCESAN NOTICES

**IMPORTANT: The Diocese office for liturgy will lead a "Readers Workshop" on Wednesday 29th May from 7pm-8pm in Amberley Church. We highly encourage all the readers of the Parish to attend that workshop.**

**ST JOSEPH MEN'S GROUP (2nd & 4th Monday)**  
**Monday 22nd April from 7pm - 9pm at the Parish Hall, Amberley.** All men are welcome and encouraged to become better equipped to be more like St Joseph.  
Contact Rob 02254676341 or Mark 0277027889.

### PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS and PARISH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

Nominations are now open for positions on the parish council. Those interested in serving on the parish council please supply your name and a few brief few lines about yourself to Fr Rex before the 1st of June 2024, the close of nominations. Email: [hurunucatholic@gmail.com](mailto:hurunucatholic@gmail.com). Positions available are: local representatives for: Amberley, Cheviot, Culverden, Hanmer, Hawarden; Parish Council Chairman, Parish Council Secretary, Parish Finance Committee Chairman, Property and Maintenance Committee officer.

**The AGM will be held on Tuesday 11 June 7:30pm in the Amberley Church Hall**, at which there will be a statement on the accounts, on the parish by Fr Rex, and the parish Council elections.

**ALL WELCOME**

### JOHN PAUL II CENTRE FOR LIFE EVENTS

#### Annual Mass of Remembrance

The mass will be celebrated by Bishop Michael at **St Mary's Pro-Cathedral. Tuesday 11th June - 7pm.** The Mass of Remembrance is a special mass dedicated to the precious infants who have gone too soon either by abortion, miscarriage or stillbirth. All Welcome!

#### Diocesan Date Night. 22nd of June 5:30pm.

The Diocesan Date Night is a fantastic event for Catholic couples from across the Christchurch diocese. Held at the Commodore Hotel, there will be a delicious dinner, fantastic guest speakers and an optional discounted overnight stay.

This year we are privileged to have Mike and Kate Baird as our guest speakers for this event. Hear their testimony of 45 years of marriage, a story of faith and love within a Catholic marriage that shows the transformative power of God's grace. Book your tickets now and tell your friends to come along too as you don't want to miss this evening of reflection and hope.

Grab your tickets here: <https://events.humanitix.com/dio-date-night>