



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.catholicurunui.nz



PARISH NEWSLETTER

Holy 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



Adoration & Reconciliation

1st Friday of the month
from 7:30am

Confession by Appointment
or before Mass
(but not the last 5 Minutes!)



Rosary

Wednesday 1:30pm
Amberley Church Hall

Kalavale

Parish's cup of tea & raffles
1st Sunday of the Month.

St Joseph Men's Group

2nd & 4th Monday 7pm-9pm
Amberley Hall

25 August 2024 - 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year B

Jesus Hard Teaching

The Jews had been very much impressed by Jesus' words and actions. They had gone to great lengths to seek Him out wherever He went, the gospel for this 21st Sunday says.

But when He started talking about "eating His body and drinking His blood as food for eternal life," they were having second thoughts. "This is intolerable language," they grumbled. "How could anyone accept it?" A sad note follows: After this many of His disciples left Him and stopped going with Him.

Aren't we very much like the sceptical Jews to some extent at times? Not consciously perhaps, but when we hear some "hard teachings," we grumble and may even turn our back on Christ?

Once a priest was delivering a homily with much like and enthusiasm. "Thou shalt not kill!" he boomed as his right hand made a sweeping cut through the air. A fired-up mass goer in the front row exclaimed in agreement, "Amen, Father, amen." "Thou shalt not steal!" the priest fulminated. "Amen!" Again the parishioner on the front row practically shouted. With the tension rising to electric pitch, the preacher paused and declared with his full voice, "Thou shalt not commit adultery." "Now, now," said the parishioner. "You have to stopped preaching, Father. You are now meddling with my life."

It's easy enough to accept the teachings of Christ as long as they don't go against our grain or don't apply to us. But once they do we say with that parishioner, "Now, now you are meddling with our lives."

"Don't murder! Don't steal! Don't commit adultery! Don't worship false idols!" That's not so hard to take, perhaps because for most of us they don't apply. But "love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you"? That's tough to swallow! "Forgive your enemies – and, mind you, not seven times but seven times seventy!" "How can I forgive a husband who's unfaithful, a friend who's betrayed me or an officemate who keeps back-biting me?"

For a poor wife with three kids abandoned by her irresponsible, two-timing husband, for a young girl discovering an unwanted pregnancy, the teachings of the Church on divorce and abortion, can be "hard to endure."

They may be tempted to cop out or to take the more "practical" solution but a stout faith, a strong conviction should make them resist the temptation to give in. It's not only a sin but also undermines society's moral foundation.

As Simon Peter professed, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life." That's faithful commitment to the Lord.

When there are serious problems and trials we encounter and we cannot understand why a good God does not help, do our faith falter? How far are we willing to go with Him especially if His laws are hard to take?

Note: Monday 26th August: No weekday Mass in Amberley

SUNDAY'S READINGS:

FIRST READING: Joshua 24:1-2,15-18

We will serve the Lord, for he is our God

Psalm Response:

Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

SECOND READING: Ephesians 5:21-32

Christ loves the Church, because it is his body

GOSPEL: John 6:60-69

Who shall we go to? You are the Holy One of God

HYMNS for SUNDAY MASSES

(May vary on the day)

970 Be thou my vision

609 in bread we bring you

952 On eagles wings

721 How great thou art

LIGHT OF FAITH

Baltimore Catechism

Q. 136. What is the Church?

A. The Church is the congregation of all baptised persons united in the same true faith, the same sacrifice, and the same sacraments, under the authority of the Sovereign Pontiff and the bishops in communion with him.

Since Baptism, according to the ruling of Christ, is the gateway to the Church, a person becomes a member of the Church on receiving this sacrament. To remain a real member of the Church after Baptism a person must profess the one true faith and must not withdraw from the unity of the body of the Church in schism or heresy or be excommunicated by legitimate authority because of serious sins. Even schismatics, heretics, and those excommunicated are subjects of the Church and are obliged by its laws unless exempted by the Church.

Q. 137. Who founded the Church?

A. Jesus Christ founded the Church.

Christ completed the founding of His Church just before His Ascension, when He commissioned the apostles to make disciples of all nations. Earlier in His public ministry He had instituted the sacraments, chosen the twelve apostles, instructed them by word and example, and conferred on them the power of teaching, ruling, and sanctifying.

Q. 138. Why did Jesus Christ found the Church?

A. Jesus Christ founded the Church to bring all men to eternal salvation.

The Church instituted by Christ is the only way to eternal salvation. Christ gave the Church the means whereby man can be sanctified and saved.

PARISH AND DIOCESAN NOTICES

ST JOSEPH MEN'S GROUP (2nd & 4th Monday) Monday

22nd July 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 0225467631 or Mark 0277027889.

ALAVALE: Next week it is Kalevale Sunday when we invite our parishioners to participate in our raffle for our mission in Tonga for The Little Company of Mary. It is also a great opportunity for our congregation to relax, have a cup of tea and meet any visitors and catch up with the regulars.

MAORI PASTORAL CARE

You are all warmly invited to give with a generous heart for the Maori Pastoral Care this Sunday 25th August.

THE CAGLIERO PROJECT

Long Term Volunteer Opportunities in the Australia-Pacific Region - Salesians of Don Bosco
We are seeking long term (6-12 month) volunteers for departure in January 2025 to work with young people in our Salesian communities in Samoa, Cambodia, Timor Leste, Solomon Islands and Mongolia. Applications close October 31st, 2024. Send us an enquiry www.cagliero.org.au or lhichaaba@salesians.org.au



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Parish Treasurer - Secretary : Thomas Peacock - catholichurunuitreasurer@gmail.com - Office Hours Wednesday and Friday 8:00am - 10:30am