



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

29 September 2024 - 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year B

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

Sail on... Anchor!

The story is told about a priest who asked the sailor penitent when was the last time he went to confession: "Ten years ago?" The sailor answered: "Sail on, Father." "Twenty years ago?" the priest asked again. "Sail on, Father!" "Thirty years ago?" he asked the third time. The sailor said: "Anchor, Father!" After confession, the sailor asked the priest: "If I did not make this confession, would I go to heaven?" The priest said: "Sail on, son." "To purgatory, then?" "Sail on, son." Finally, he exclaimed: "To hell, Father?" "Anchor, son!"

In today's Gospel (Mk. 9, 38-43, 45, 47-48) Jesus stresses the need for radical conversion: "If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off." In other words, we must put a stop to sin (anchor!), and not just keep sailing on. All too often, we put off and postpone our conversion. Conversion is here. Conversion is now.

"Cut clean, and cut now." This is a very good advice for all of us. What are those things, people, thoughts, values and desires that imprison us? May the Lord cut us loose and set us free from sin, and make our hearts light again.

"I wish I sinned less, and loved more." I can relate with this wish. In a way I am glad that I have realised this now, and not at the very end of my life when this wish will just have been a one big heavy regret. Let this wish then be for all of us a challenge and a decision to sin less and love more, from now on.

There are two moments of conversion: Stop sinning, and, start loving. It is not enough to stop sinning. One must also start loving in reparation for one's sins, and in gratitude for God's mercy and forgiveness. It is not enough to say "I'm already clean." This must flow into the other moment that says "I'm already loving." In other words, freedom from sin should lead to freedom for loving.

If you are reading this column right now, and you honestly feel in your heart and mind that there's no way you can be freed of your sinful desires or of your sinful situation, just pause and sincerely pray right now: "Lord, I need you. Come into my life. Set me free from sin by the power of the Holy Spirit. Lord, forgive me. Lord help me. Lord, have mercy on me. Amen."

God's love is greater than all our sins. God's mercy is broader and deeper than we can imagine. Yes, we are loved by God more than we know or realise and more than we allow ourselves. And remember, it is better to be presumptuous of God's love than to doubt God's love.

Lord, help me to listen and to obey You when to anchor, and when to sail on. Amen.

SUNDAY'S READINGS:

FIRST READING: Numbers 11:25-29

If only the whole people of the Lord were prophets!

Psalm Response:

The precepts of the Lord give joy to the heart.

SECOND READING: James 5:1-6

The Lord hears the cries of those you have cheated

GOSPEL: Mark 9:38-43, 45, 47-48

Do not stop anyone from working a miracle in my name

HYMNS for SUNDAY MASSES

(May vary on the day)

695 Glory and Praise

090 Be still and know

865 Here I am Lord

360 As I kneel

Baltimore Catechism

Q. 175. What is meant in the Apostles' Creed by "the forgiveness of sins?"

A. By "the forgiveness of sins" in the Apostles' Creed is meant that God has given to the Church, through Jesus Christ, the power to forgive sins, no matter how great or how many they are, if sinners truly repent.

The Church exercises the power to forgive sin when sins committed before the reception of Baptism are forgiven by that sacrament; but especially does the Church exercise this power in the sacrament of Penance.

"He therefore said to them again, 'Peace be to you! As the Father has sent me, I also send you.' When he had said this, he breathed upon them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit; whose sins you shall forgive, they are forgiven them; and whose sins you shall retain, they are retained' " (John 20:21-23).

PARISH NOTICES

WAI AU CHURCH DECONSECRATION MASS OCTOBER 06TH : **Bring a chair!**

You are invited to a Hurunui Parish big group gathering to celebrate with Bishop Michael the deconsecration Mass of the Church of Our Lady of the Rosary: 27 Leslie Street, Waiau at 10:30am October 06th.

Please bring a plate for the shared meal after Mass. This will be, a chance to catch up with old friends and share some stories from the past- many of the former parishioners will be there for this. ALL WELCOME.

For more information, please contact Thomas at catholichurunui@gmail.com

Please note there will be one Sunday Mass that day at Waiau, and one Vigil Mass at Hanmer 5pm.

FINANCIAL SITUATION

It is expected that our income will be down \$39K. This is due to a big downturn in the farms life style block income.

Our expenses will go up \$12K. This is due to a big increase in insurance and rates.

We are fortunate to have reserves that have been earned by the farms life style block and this will be used to get us by this financial year. Let us pray that the recovery from the drought will be good. Other avenues of income are being explored. Bruce Mills, Chairman, Finance Committee ; Fr Rex R Ramos, parish administrator.

Reminder: Money given through the planned Giving envelope system or automatic bank payment can get you a Tax rebate of 33% on amount given.

Please fill out this form and drop it in the Sunday Basket or send it to catholichurunui@gmail.com

You will be added onto the Parish Roll and will receive the Parish Newsletter.

Full Names: Husband _____ Wife _____

Physical Address: _____

Postal Address: _____

Phones: _____ Emails: _____

Planned Giving to support your parish

- ☐ I would like to receive a set of envelopes to give on Sundays. *You will be attributed a two digit donor number.*
- ☐ I will give by Automatic Payments via Online Banking to Catholic Parish of the Hurunui Trust 03-1592-0522332-020. *You will be attributed a three digit donor number, please enter PG and donor number as reference.*

Parish Administrator: Fr. Rex Ramos - padrepio1428@gmail.com - 03 319 8730 Parish Email: catholichurunui@gmail.com

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