



01 December 2024 - 1st Sunday of Advent - Year C

Holy Masses

Saturday Vigil5pm Hanmer Springs
(Every Saturday)7pm Culverden
(Every Saturdays)Sunday Mass8.30am Amberley
(Every Sunday)11am Cheviot
(1st & 3rd Sundays Only)10.30am Hawarden
(2nd & 4th Sunday Only)12pm The Beatitudes,
Leithfield
(Every Sunday)Weekday MassesMonday - Friday
8.30am AmberleyTuesday - Saturday
12pm The Beatitudes,
Leithfield

Adoration & Reconciliation

1st Friday of the month
from 7:30amConfession by Appointment
or before Mass

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

BE WATCHFUL AND VIGILANT

FOOD cholesterol alert per 100 grams, according to a text message I received: cow's milk-6.5; cheese-33.8; chocolate-56; chicken-62.9; beef-64.6; pork-68.8; egg yolk-731.6. Health advisories such as the one above should cause us to be alarmed.

But today's gospel message should cause us to be more alarmed, especially because it deals not only with our physical wellbeing, but also with the salvation of our very souls. Like any advisory, we should not take lightly today's gospel message about being ready for death anytime and being watchful and alert.

Today is the beginning of Advent, that time of the Liturgical year wherein the Church reminds us to be vigilant, watchful and hopeful as we prepare for the birthday of our Lord Jesus Christ. On this first Sunday of Advent, we are warned that everything will end. This is a very timely reminder especially for those who continue to believe that they can extend, prolong or perpetuate their worldly pursuit of power, fame, riches and glory, even at the expense of other people and God Himself. The message is simple, loud and clear: You too will die!

We all will die. Period. When will we die? Your guess is as good as mine. It amazes me when I see people become so tenacious to worldly power and riches even at the expense of their principles and of their very souls. They become so engrossed in their worldly pursuits to the very end without thought of legacy to this world and of eternity on hold. Indeed, why do some people hold on to this life which they cannot prolong, and loose sight of eternity which they cannot escape from? Advent reminds us: All your efforts, all your achievements—for whom? For what?

I have no admiration, but only pity for those who "progress" in this life with their evil ways and schemes. They know what is right and wrong. They know they are lying and they will die soon. And yet they continue to make a pig out of themselves in their insatiable thirst for money, power and pleasures. Pity those who live comfortable lives at the expense of others. Pity those who enjoy the limelight but are haunted with so much darkness in their lives. Pity those who beam out smiles of confidence, but are so gripped with fears deep inside. Pity those who throw their weight around, but know that they weigh nothing in God's eyes. Pity them! Pity ourselves when we have lost sight of eternity and have made this world our home, our fortress, our sanctuary.

In everything, think of death, and you will not sin, and consequently, you will not have to live a fearful life, a guilty heart, and an anxious mind.

We light today the first candle of the Advent wreath, the candle of hope. No matter what happens, let us not give up on hope. When hope is gone, then we become hopeless, and when we become hopeless, we lose courage and reason to go on. When hope is gone, the battle is lost and done.

Lord, help us to be watchful and hopeful, through it all. Amen.

SUNDAY'S READINGS:

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 33:14-16

I will make a virtuous Branch grow for David

Psalm 24(25):4-5,8-9,10,14

To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2

May you be blameless

when our Lord Jesus Christ comes again

GOSPEL: Luke 21:25-28,34-36

That day will be sprung on you suddenly, like a trap

HYMNS for SUNDAY MASSES

(May vary on the day)

112 Come o come

768 Our God reigns

607 Let all mortal flesh

356 Hail Queen of Heaven

From the workshop - words on St Joseph

from Fr Calloway's book Page 281.

The humble carpenter is glorified in heaven to the extent to which he was hidden on earth. He to whom the Incarnate Word was subject has now an incomparable power of intercession.



LIGHT OF FAITH

What does Advent mean?

The word Advent comes from the Latin word *adventus*, meaning “coming” or “arrival.” For Christians, Advent is an important part of celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ on Christmas Day.

What is an Advent wreath?

The use of the wreath and candles during Advent are a longstanding Catholic tradition that was originally adopted by Christians in the Middle Ages as part of their spiritual preparation for Christmas.

An Advent wreath is typically made of evergreen branches and holds four candles, each representing one of the four weeks of Advent.

What does the Advent wreath symbolise?

The wreath and candles are full of symbolism tied to the Christmas season. The circle of the wreath, which has no beginning or end, symbolises the eternity of God, the immortality of the soul, and the everlasting life we find in Christ. The wreath itself, which is made of various kinds of evergreens, signifies continuous life.

What do the colours of the candles represent?

Three candles are purple, and lit on the first, second, and fourth Sundays of Advent. They represent a time of prayer, penance, sacrifice, and spiritual reflection.

The fourth candle is pink, and lit on the third Sunday of Advent. This candle represents joy, and marks a shift in the tone of Advent from penitential reflection to joyful anticipation, inviting believers to rejoice as Christmas draws nearer.

NOTICES



What is it?

Join us this Advent season for a series of transformative talks led by Fr. Rex Ramos on Living an Authentic Christian Life. Each session will explore a different aspect of deepening our faith and embodying Christ's love in our daily lives. All are welcome—come and let your faith be renewed this season.

What does it include?

- ✓ Mass at 6:30PM
- ✓ Talk from 7-8PM
- ✓ Free Admission



Tuesday, December 3 - Culverden

Topic: How to become spiritually contagious?



Wednesday, December 4 - Amberley

Topic: How to become Jesus to somebody



Thursday, December 5 - Amberley

Topic: How to be blessed by God?



Tuesday, December 10 - Culverden

Topic: How to be humble



Thursday, December 12 - Amberley

Topic: How to be kind?



Friday, December 13 - Amberley

Topic: Four Last Things: Death, Judgement, Heaven, Hell

Christmas MASS TIMES	
CHRISTMAS EVE (VIGIL MASS)	
5 PM	Hanmer Springs
7 PM	Culverden
10 PM	Amberley
CHRISTMAS DAY	
8:30 AM	Amberley
10:30 AM	Hawarden
11 AM	Cheviot
CHRISTMAS NOVENA (9 MASSES) 14TH-22ND DEC	
7 PM	Culverden

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Parish Treasurer - Secretary : Thomas Peacock - catholichurunuitreasurer@gmail.com - Office Hours Friday 8:00am - 3:00pm