



## DIOCESE OF CHRISTCHURCH CATHOLIC PARISH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

AMBERLEY | CHEVIOT | HAWARDEN | CULVERDEN | HANMER SPRINGS  
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[www.catholicurunui.nz](http://www.catholicurunui.nz)



### PARISH NEWSLETTER

03 November 2024 - 31st 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

#### Just keep on loving

In today's Gospel (Mk. 12, 28-34), Jesus fixes love as the most fundamental commandment, but He further teaches us that love can be expressed in love of God, love of neighbour, and love of oneself. Jesus teaches us that the commandment to love must start with love of God first, love of neighbour second, and love of self last. It would be good for us today to check if we are keeping these three commandments in our lives. It would be better for us today to check if we are keeping these three commandments according to Jesus' gradation. In so far as we do so, we are "not far from the Kingdom of God." In so far as we fail to do so, we are just focused on the ways of this worldly kingdom.

Remember when we were students and how we prepared for our exams, and then how we anxiously awaited news on whether we passed or failed? We must look at life in that same way. We have the privilege, however, of knowing what questions will be asked of us when we face our Creator in our "final exams." May we not receive a failing or incomplete grade when the final reckoning comes.

We talk a lot about our love of God, or more so about our love of neighbour, but the truth of the matter is that many, if not most, of us really love ourselves! Love of self, the least and the last of the commandments of Jesus, is in reality our top priority—naturally. Only by God's grace can we really and truly transcend our selfishness and pride.

Our celebration of All Saints Day reminds us that we all are called to become saints—i.e., to live according to God's will and to become obedient to God's plan. Our life must be a constant effort to go beyond our weaknesses and failures toward greater holiness and selflessness. The thing is not to give up on ourselves (God does not give up on us!) and to just keep on going and just keep on loving.

Our commemoration of All Souls Day reminds us, too, that life has an end. We will all die, sooner or later. Jesus tells us today that love, only love, can truly give us a meaningful life; not only that, love itself is our "ticket" to eternal life!

Are you just "occupying space"? Are you just getting by? Are you just enjoying? Jesus tells us all today that life is a journey, we have a mission, and we have a final destination.

"People who love each other fully and truly are the happiest people in the world. They may have little, they may have nothing, but they are happy people. Everything depends on how we love one another." (Mother Teresa)

Cramming is not advisable for final exams. Don't wait for the "last two minutes"! Payback time now: Love now!

**Lord, help me to love, and to just keep on loving. Amen.**

**Note:** From November onwards, there are two changes in the schedule of Masses.

- There won't be any Saturday 8:30am morning Mass in Amberley anymore.
- There won't be any 5th Sunday Mass in Cheviot any more: Therefore, No 5th Sunday Mass in Cheviot on the 29th December 2024.  
(There will still be masses in Cheviot on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month.)

## SUNDAY'S READINGS:

### FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 6:2-6

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart

### Psalm Response:

*I love you, Lord, my strength.*

### SECOND READING: Hebrews 7:23-28

Christ, because he remains for ever, can never lose his  
priesthood

### GOSPEL: Mark 12:28-34

'You are not far from the kingdom of God'

## HYMNS for SUNDAY MASSES

*(May vary on the day)*

## LIGHT OF FAITH

### HEAVEN IS FOR REAL. Why aspire for heaven? What does heaven offer us?

1. In heaven, we shall see God as He is in Himself. Here on earth we experience God through sacramental signs, through the Church and her ministers, through creation. In heaven, we shall see Him face to face without mediation.
2. In heaven, we will be in communion with God, with Mary, our Ina, with Saint Joseph, all the angels and saints whom we venerate here on earth.
3. In heaven, our deepest human longings shall be satisfied. Here on earth, we aspire for things that are transitory and ephemeral. In heaven, all our human longings shall cease.
4. In heaven, we shall be eternally happy. Unlike here on earth, our happiness is temporary and transitory.
5. In heaven, we shall not experience any pain, suffering or sadness.
6. In heaven, there will be a reunion of those people dear to us here on earth: the members of our family, relatives, friends if all of us get there.
7. In heaven, we shall see the answers to the natural problems that we, here on earth, desire to know.
8. In heaven, we, through God's light into our intellect, will know the mysteries that we believe in here on earth.
9. In heaven, we will know the situation of our loved ones, the affairs of our friends and relatives here on earth. We will know in heaven their prayers and sacrifices of others.
10. In heaven, sanctifying grace and other graces and the virtues of faith, hope and charity that make our soul beautiful and pleasing to the Lord here on earth shall add to our happiness.

**I pray that all of us will be there someday. Heaven is real! It is beautiful!**

## NOTICES

**MASS FOR ALL SOULS In the month of November.** A Box will be placed for you to inscribe and place the names of your dearly departed will be placed in three churches, Hanmer Springs, Culverden & Amberley. Masses will be offered for them for the happy repose of their souls. *If you want specific Mass intentions to be offered, please give it to Fr Rex directly and not placed in the box.* Please, do not encourage the celebration of Halloween amongst our youth. It may lead to warp ideas of the dead and loss of our tradition to pray for them.

**All SAINTS DAY:** The 1st Friday of the Month is All Saints Day. There will be a time of adoration and confession in Amberley from 7:30am followed by Holy Mass at 8:30am. Fr Rex will offer Mass for the repose of the souls of the departed members of the Hurunui parishioners families.

**All SOULS DAY:** There will be Holy Mass at 8:30am in Amberley and Fr Rex will offer the Mass for the repose of the souls of the departed members of the Hurunui parishioners families.

Please note that after that Saturday 2nd November onwards, there won't be any Saturday 8:30am morning Masses in Amberley anymore.

**MASS INTENTIONS:** *Offering a Mass is a beautiful way to place our intentions, and those of our loved ones before Jesus. A Mass offering can be for oneself, a love one, a sick person, or a soul in purgatory. Masses can also be offered on special occasions - birthdays, wedding or baptism anniversaries or just as a gesture of love!*

Mass Intention Envelopes are available in the church foyers. Alternatively you can use a blank envelope and write the name of the person and the intention on it. All envelopes can be placed in the collection baskets at Mass. The expected donation for a Mass offering is \$10 or \$100 for a novena of Masses.