



08 December 2024 - 2nd Sunday of Advent - Year C

### Holy Masses



#### Saturday Vigil

5pm Hanmer Springs  
(Every Saturday)

7pm Culverden  
(Every Saturdays)

#### Sunday Mass

8.30am Amberley  
(Every Sunday)

11am Cheviot  
(1st & 3rd Sundays Only)

10.30am Hawarden  
(2nd & 4th Sunday Only)

12pm The Beatitudes,  
Leithfield  
(Every Sunday)

#### Weekday Masses

Monday - Friday  
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



### 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

### The four 'rings' of Advent

In today's Gospel (Lk. 3, 1-6), we hear of John the Baptist who proclaimed a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins echoing Isaiah's message: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight His paths." As we walk on in life, are there things, persons, issues that block the road ahead of us in our journey to God's heart?

Advent is the time for cleaning up, and clearing up. It is that painful but liberating time to let go of excess baggage that we do not need for the journey. It is the time for getting rid of things, habits, mind sets, situations, and even persons that harm us, and destroy us. Let go... let God!

God's call is concrete, addressed to a specific person, living in a particular date and time, with a special mission. Thus, John the Baptist was called in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, to preach repentance in the whole region of Jordan. During our own day and time, God, too, is calling us to do our mission for Him. Let us listen and obey the call. Let us not belittle, and not forget, our mission. John's life mission and life message were clear. What is your mission? What is your message? What are you saying by your very life?

What are the four "rings" of Advent? Just as we have four candles in the Advent wreath, there are also four "rings" of Advent: Prepa-ring, clea-ring, implo-ring, and bea-ring.

Advent is the time for PREPA-RING. May our hearts, like the manger, be cleansed of whatever thorns, thumbtacks, or toxic chemicals that prevent us from welcoming the Baby Jesus. Confession is the best cleansing preparation for Christmas. In a humble and contrite heart, that is where Christmas happens.

Advent is the time for CLEA-RING. It is the time for us to reach out to each other in peace and reconciliation. In humility, let us break down the walls of hatred and indifference and be real brothers and sisters again. A lot of issues cannot be solved in arguments and discussions or in legal battles and litigations. When we allow grace to operate, that's when doors and hearts are really opened.

Advent is the time for IMPLO-RING. Prayer is the key to a meaningful Advent and Christmas season. It is in these quiet, hidden moments with the Lord in grateful prayer that we know and feel "what's it all about." Wishing you peace, serenity and prayerful moments amidst the rush and buzz of this time of the year.

Advent is the time for BEA-RING. All our personal preparing, clearing, and imploring will amount to nothing if they do not lead us to become better and more loving persons. The grace of God must bear fruit in concrete expressions of love, especially to the less fortunate among us. Christmas is not so much about being cozy and nice, or being spiritually high, as about becoming instruments of God's concrete love wherever we are.

**Lord, help me in my preparing, clearing, imploring, and bearing operations for you this Advent. Amen.**

**From the workshop - words on St Joseph ; from Fr Calloway's book Page 4&5.**

The church has promoted St Joseph more in the last 150 years than the previous 1800 years, but why now? 1. We need a spiritual father to protect marriage and family, which is now so much under attack. 2. The entire world needs to be re- evangelised. St Joseph was the first missionary. Now is the time to consecrate yourself to St Joseph is what God is telling His church. See the attached flyer for the consecration to St Joseph in the Hurunui parish.

## SUNDAY'S READINGS:

### FIRST READING: Baruch 5:1-9

God means to show your splendour to every nation

### Psalm Psalm 125(126)

*The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.*

### SECOND READING: Philippians 1:4-6,8-11

May you become pure and blameless in preparation for the day of Christ

### GOSPEL: Luke 3:1-6

The call of John the Baptist

## HYMNS for SUNDAY MASSES

*(May vary on the day)*

112 Come o come

605 Take our Bread

607 Let all mortal flesh

356 Hail Queen of Heaven

## LIGHT OF FAITH

### Advent Traditions

The four weeks of Advent are popularly considered to symbolise the four thousand years of darkness before the coming of Christ.

We set up Nativity scenes, light Advent candles, and decorate wreaths in our homes to signify Christ's presence coming in the darkness of sin and suffering.

Four candles adorn an Advent wreath, one for each week. A fifth candle is sometimes placed in the centre for the beginning of the Christmas season.

Advent colours are worn by the priests and deacons and decorate the church.

They are represented in the candles that surround the Advent wreath:

Violet: royalty, repentance, and fasting (First, Second, and Fourth Week of Advent)

Rose: abundant joy (Third Week of Advent, known as *Gaudete* Sunday, joy in Latin)

White: light and purity (Christ Candle, centre candle completes the season and begins Christmas)

## NOTICES

## ADVENT RETREAT 2024

### 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



**DIOCESE OF CHRISTCHURCH**  
**CATHOLIC PARISH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD**  
AMBERLEY | CHEVIOT | HAWARDEN | CULVERDEN | HANMER SPRINGS  
Parish Office: 158A Curran Road, Amberley, PO BOX 143, Auckland 7141  
www.catholicparishofthegoodshepherd.org



## Christmas MASS TIMES

CHRISTMAS EVE (VIGIL MASS)

5 PM	Hanmer Springs
7 PM	Culverden
6:30 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 - [catholicurunuitreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:catholicurunuitreasurer@gmail.com) - Office Hours Friday 8:00am - 3:00pm