



22 December 2024 - 4th 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

In Haste

In today's Gospel (Lk. 1, 39-45), we hear about Mary who traveled in haste to Judah to visit her cousin Elizabeth. The haste was not due to pressure or obligation. It was haste filled with awe and joy for all the marvellous things that were happening as a part of the Divine plan that was unfolding. It was holy haste, not something that left one stressed, exhausted, or angry. It was haste filled with obedience, humility, and trust in something or someone greater than themselves.

Haste does make waste. All the haste, the preparations, the obligations and deadlines associated with the Christmas season can literally drain us if we forget the reason for it all. When Christmas becomes an agenda or a function, then it is shallow and bereft of meaning and inner satisfaction. When Christmas is about a person, about relationships and missions, then it is something that gives so much joy, fulfilment, and meaning.

Why all the haste this Christmas season? Are you stressed and pressured because of your unfinished Christmas agenda? Maybe it is time to pause and really listen to the celebrant of this Birthday celebration! On the other hand, are you simply indifferent and uncaring about Christmas? You, too, need to listen and allow yourself to be told and reminded again of the greatest story ever told: "For God so loved the world, He gave His only Son..." (Jn. 3,16)

Christmas is all about life, about an infant that leaped to life in the womb of Elizabeth at Mary's greeting and visit, who in turn honoured Mary, saying: "Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb." These two women kept their babies, in spite of poverty, problems and difficulties. They had their personal human agenda and plans. I am sure they had their doubts and questions, too, but in the end, they submitted everything to the Divine plan. We, too, should make sure that we leave some space for the Divine in all our thoughts, words, actions and plans. There is a big picture, remember? We are not gods, remember?

Wishing you all a beautiful Christmas this year with your families, and wishing you and your families the grace and the opportunity to make Christmas beautiful for others as well! Think about it: There were people who were with us last Christmas, and are no longer with us this Christmas. And, there are people who are with us this Christmas who may no longer be with us next Christmas. So why don't we make this Christmas the best Christmas ever yet, to God, to our family and loved ones, to people around us, and to our very selves?

Slow me down, Lord, amidst the haste, and point to me in the silence the meaning of Christmas, the meaning of love, and what's it all about. Amen.

From the workshop - words on St Joseph- Fr Calloway's book Page 176-7.

St Joseph went in haste with Mary to Bethlehem which means "house of bread" so that the bread of eternal life might be born there. How fitting it is that the first public exposition of the Living Bread from heaven took place in Bethlehem. The first adoration chapel was visited by local shepherds, followed closely by Wise Men who came from a distant land to pay homage to the newborn God King in a feeding trough.

SUNDAY'S READINGS:

FIRST READING: Micah 5:1-4

He will stand and feed his flock with the power of the Lord

Psalm 79(80):2-3,15-16,18-19

Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

SECOND READING: Hebrews 10:5-10

God, here I am! I am coming to obey your will

GOSPEL: Luke 1:38

Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord?

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

How can you have peace in your heart?

In a few days, it will be Christmas. And what did the angel sing? Peace on earth! How can there be peace on earth? If you have peace in your heart. How can you have peace in your heart? I have only one recommendation go to church and go to confession, empty yourself of all your sins like going to the toilet and flushing down your sins empty to your heart before the priest, tell God you are very sorry and then release the words I absolve you from your sins. Then you have peace, then you have Christmas because Christ came so that there may be peace on earth. Christ came to forgive you. Please give Jesus a chance to forgive you by telling Jesus how deeply you are very sorry. He said do not be afraid to be sorry for your sins. Do not be a shame. Just trust God, tell him everything through the priest and receive absolution and you will receive the peace that you have been looking for.

NOTICES

Christmas Novena Mass 2024 CULMINATION DAY

Sunday 22 December in Culverden - Amuri Gym.

Mass at 7pm followed by festivities and potluck dinner! Please bring a plate to share.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES:

Christmas Vigil Mass

Hanmer Springs at 5pm - Fr Rex

Amberley at 6:30pm - Fr Isaie

Culverden at 7pm - Fr Rex

Christmas Day Mass

Amberley at 8:30am - Fr Rex and Fr David

Hawarden at 10:30am - Fr David

Cheviot at 11am - Fr Rex

NEW YEAR'S MASS TIMES:

New Year's Eve Vigil Mass

Hanmer Springs at 5pm - Fr Rex

Culverden at 7pm - Fr Rex

New Year's Day Mass

Amberley at 8:30am - Fr Rex

CAROLS in Amberley:

You are warmly invited to join us for Carols at 8:15am on Christmas Day followed by Mass at 8:30am.

1. Angels we have heard on high #8
2. Away in the Manger #7
3. Hark the herald angels sing #5
4. The first Noel #6

Christmas Message from the Parish Priest.

On this happy occasion of Christmas, I wish to convey to you and your loved ones my greetings of peace and blessings of joy.

Thank you for your generous support to the Parish. Your time, talent and treasure helped enliven the programs and ministries and keeping up the maintenance of our parish churches.

Your generosity also provides for many other channels of grace in the community. Continue to re-echo the "YES" of Mary by continually sharing our time, talent and treasure for the needs of The Parish of the Good Shepherd, Hurnui. Have a Merry Christmas and a grace filled New Year 2025 to all.

- Fr. Rex

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