



29 December 2024 - The Holy Family - 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

### HOLY FAMILY

Today, we celebrate the feast of the Holy Family. As we celebrate the feast of Joseph, Mary and Jesus as a family, we celebrate also the feast of Daddy, Mommy, brothers and sisters as one family. The purpose of this feast is loud and clear. This is to encourage all families to be holy.

What makes a family holy? It is the presence of God. What makes a family unholy? It is the absence of God. When God is absent, the vacuum is often filled up with materialism, greed, vices, unfaithfulness, neither of which gives true peace. Is God present in our family? Are the Gospel values a value in your family?

Second, families need to keep the presence of the Lord alive in their homes by protecting their homes from anything that would lessen his presence. There are many bad things that can flood our homes. Bad friends, bad movies, internet pornography, drugs.

But there is something more subtle than that which destroys the presence of the Lord. It is the lack of integrity that so many people manifest in their lives which itself destroys the holiness of the family. The bad examples that parents show to their children during altercation, acts of dishonesty and infidelity...

A third action a family to be set aside for the Lord is when it seeks out God's presence in others, particularly those who need special care. Jesus was always eager to help other people. At an early age, he mingled with the learned and corrected their wrong views. During his public ministry, he healed the sick, took care of the marginalised and brought consolation to those riddled with guilt.

The family that has time to reach out to others, especially to those who are suffering, bring the Lord to others. And by doing so, they too experience the presence of God more. There is a Buddhist saying that goes this way: If you light a lamp for somebody, it will also brighten your path.

Today's feast reminds us that the ultimate goal of every family is to be holy. And the key to holiness is to set aside all other concerns and give priority to the search for Jesus! If we can find time for social media we have more reason to create time to nourish our Lord in our families.

Take a look at our family today. There are three marks of a good family: close to God; close to one another; close to the people. Some families are close to God, but they are not close to one another. Some families are close to God and to one another, but they are not close to the people. And it could happen that some families are close to the people and to one another but they are not close to God. So, how's your family? Like the story of Joseph and Mary, we too must search for Jesus. A family is complete only when Jesus is at the centre of that family.

**From the workshop - words on St Joseph - Fr Calloway's book Page 41-42.**

*"Jesus and Mary not only bent their wills to Joseph's, for he was head of the Holy Family, but they lovingly surrendered their hearts to him as well. " St Peter Julian Eymard.... Families around the world will experience a revolution of holiness if husbands imitate St Joseph. St Joseph Head of the Holy Family- Pray for us.*

## SUNDAY'S READINGS:

**FIRST READING: 1 Samuel 1:20-22,24-28**

This is the child I prayed for: he is made over to the Lord.

**Psalms 83(84):2-3,5-6,9-10**

*They are happy who dwell in your house, O Lord.*

**SECOND READING: 1 John 3:1-2,21-24**

We are called God's children, and that is what we are

**GOSPEL: Luke 2:41-52**

Mary stored up all these things in her heart

## HYMNS for SUNDAY MASSES

*(May vary on the day)*

# 10 O Come all ye Faithful

# 9 Silent Night

# 17 O Holy Night

# 15 Joy to the World

## LIGHT OF FAITH

### SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:

**Why do we have confession? If God knows everything, why can't we just tell him that we're sorry when we do something wrong?**

Confession might be one of the most difficult parts of our faith for some. For others, Confession is something they deeply look forward to.

First of all, it's true that "God knows everything." We call that omniscience. So, yes, He knows everything you've done, and He knows whether you are sorry for that or not. But there is a big difference between God "knowing" what you did and His act of forgiveness.

For example, if you sinned against a friend with whom you were very close and then felt sorry for that, it's possible that your friend would realise, just by knowing you, that you were truly sorry. But that doesn't mean that you can just presume your friend's goodness and forgiveness. The best thing to do, in this situation, is to actually sit down and tell your friend you are sorry and to have your friend tell you that you are forgiven. This very human exchange brings about reconciliation.

So it is with God. God is all merciful and wants to forgive us all our sins. But for true reconciliation to take place, God wants you to actually say those words and then to hear the words, spoken by the priest, that you are forgiven. So Confession is not only about God forgiving us, it is also about reconciliation with God on a human level.

What's important to understand is that God offers us forgiveness in His way. He forgives us through a human person. Who is that human? It's the Father's Son who became one of us. Jesus is the one who offers God's forgiveness, and Jesus is both fully God and human. But how does Jesus do that now that He has ascended into Heaven? Before He ascended, He gave His divine power of forgiveness to His first priests, the apostles. They, in turn, passed that power onto others, who passed it on to others, down through the ages, all the way to our present age. Priests, despite the fact that they are imperfect themselves, have the spiritual power of Jesus to actually speak His words of forgiveness to others. Therefore, when a priest says, "I absolve you" we must hear Jesus Himself, as the human face of God, saying those same words to us.

**Why did God choose to use priests to dispense His forgiveness?**

Honestly, we really don't have a perfect answer to that question. Sure there have been wonderful writings and reflections and teachings on this subject throughout the history of the Church. But, in the end, we will only fully understand this mystery of how God gives us His forgiveness when we are in Heaven. For now, we must simply follow what Jesus taught and receive His forgiveness in the way we know He offers it.

On a psychological level, I, as a priest, have seen so many people benefit from actually hearing those words spoken from my mouth. So many times I have seen people come into the confessional scared and ashamed, and walk out freed and at peace. So it really works. Make sure you give it a try soon!

<https://mycatholic.life/catholic-question-and-answer/q-why-confession/>

**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

**Parish Administrator:** Fr. Rex Ramos - [padrepio1428@gmail.com](mailto:padrepio1428@gmail.com) - 03 319 8730 **Parish Email:** [catholicurunui@gmail.com](mailto:catholicurunui@gmail.com)

**Parish Treasurer - Secretary :** Thomas Peacock - [catholicurunuitreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:catholicurunuitreasurer@gmail.com) - Office Hours Friday 8:00am - 3:00pm