



30 MARCH 2025 - 4th SUNDAY OF LENT - LAETARE SUNDAY - 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 GENEROUS FATHER

In today's Gospel, we hear the story of a father who had two sons. The older one was a good son who stayed and served his father. The younger one was selfish; he left his father and squandered his inheritance on a life of dissipation in a distant country. Two children, from the same home, going in different directions. Such is the reality in every home. From the very same soil can grow fruits of different kinds.

The younger son was prodigal in a negative way because he wasted himself and all that he had in sinning. But if we take a closer look at the father, he, too, was prodigal, but in a positive way because he was profuse and generous in his loving and forgiveness. Like father, like son, in a different way, of a different kind.

To all parents who try so hard to raise good children, take courage in the thought that you have done and are doing your very best. To God you just leave the rest. No matter what or who the children will turn out to be, keep the mind and the spirit of the loving Father, and you will have no regrets. When it comes to loving, nobody can or should be faulted for loving much, and loving more.

The father never stopped loving his prodigal son and he never stopped hoping and believing in the latter's goodness. Parents—and educators, for that matter—should never stop believing in the child, and should never stop believing that goodness begets goodness, and that love begets love, no matter how delayed or minimal it may seem.

What is love? Well, the prodigal son teaches us what love is not. The first element of love is respect, and the prodigal son disrespected his father when he demanded his inheritance. The second element of love is trust, and the prodigal son showed his distrust for his father's goodness when, again, he made sure that he got ahead what he believed belonged to him. The third element of love is gratitude. Who can be more ungrateful than a son who gets his father's wealth, leaves his father behind, and lives a carefree life with no thought of his father's condition and well-being!

What is love? The loving father shows us in a very moving way what love is. He showed respect for his son when he welcomed him back with much love and compassion and ordered his servants to respect and serve his son who has returned. He showed trust in his long-lost son when he embraced him, with no questions asked on how his son had wasted his life. And he showed gratitude when he gave a thanksgiving feast because his son came home alive.

If you want to find out if your loving or your relationship is true, check if you have respect, trust and gratitude. Husbands and wives, parents and children, friends, whoever, when respect, trust and gratitude are lacking or gone, something really needs repairing or overhauling. Please say to each other more often, in more ways than one: "I respect you. I trust you. I am grateful to you!"

As we come closer to the Holy Week, let us continue our Lenten discipline of almsgiving, fasting, and prayers, and let us take courage that our God, our loving generous Father, is a God who sees our efforts and not our faults, who sees our goodness and not our weakness.

Lord, help me to become generous like You in my ways of loving and forgiving. Amen.

SUNDAY'S READINGS:

FIRST READING: Joshua 5:9-12

The Israelites celebrate their first Passover
in the Promised Land

Psalm 33(34):2-7

Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

God reconciled himself to us through Christ

GOSPEL: Luke 15:1-3,11-32

The prodigal son

HYMNS for SUNDAY MASSES

(May vary on the day)

842 Come back to me

607 Let all mortal Flesh

846 Amazing grace

229 All glory Lord and honour

From the workshop- words on St Joseph- Fr Calloway's book Page 28

The greatest thing a father can do for his children is help them get to heaven.

Our first father Adam ruined this possibility... St Joseph's fatherhood on the other hand, elevates us and helps us to enter heaven. St Joseph pray for us.

LIGHT of FAITH

Why it is called Laetare Sunday?

We are officially beginning the second half of Lent! Strictly speaking, the Thursday of the third week of Lent marked the halfway point of our Lenten journey. This Sunday, the Catholic Church celebrates Laetare Sunday, the 4th Sunday of Lent.

The first word in the Latin text is laetare, which means "rejoice." In the midst of our Lenten fasts and penances, the Church proclaims hope and gladness on Laetare Sunday (as it does on Gaudete Sunday, the Third Sunday of Advent). Call it pink — or, more appropriately, rose — but this shift in colour represents a glimpse of the pleasure that awaits us at Easter, right before we enter the solemn days of Passiontide.

Laetare Sunday is the Church's method of giving us a "kick in the pants" as we approach the gloom and tragedy of Good Friday and Holy Saturday. It's a chance to relish and remember what awaits us on Easter Sunday - the fact that Jesus Christ has risen from the dead and that our hearts will always be filled with pleasure!

Knowing about traditions and rituals helps us to appreciate the beauty of our faith. As you can see, even a seemingly little day like the Fourth Sunday of Lent has a lot to do with the remainder of the season, or the 50 days of Easter and beyond.

NOTICES

SAFEGUARDING WORKSHOP at the Amberley Church Hall at 5:30 Tuesday 8th April.

All volunteers in the parish are warmly invited to attend this workshop, please mark it on your calendar, and take advantage of the opportunity.

WORKING BEE at the Hawarden Church and grounds Thursday 10th April from 10am.

Calling all able bodied volunteers from Hawarden and beyond to pitch in for a clean up day. There is plenty of scraping/painting/cleaning/gardening to do. So bring a sun hat, tools, lunch and a smile to join in the day, starting at 10am.

Request from St VINCENT de PAUL

We are desperately looking for staple pantry and bathroom items to help our less fortunate families. Please remember them when you are shopping.