



27 July 2025 - 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time - 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

We have a loving Father.

The story is told about a señora who asked her maid: "Did you clean the keyboard of my computer as I told you to do?" The maid responded: "Yes, Ma'am, I did. Not only that. It was a little difficult, but I also rearranged the keys of the keyboard alphabetically!"

In today's Gospel (Lk. 11:1-13), Jesus instructed us on how to pray. The Lord's Prayer, the "Our Father," is the model of how we should pray. It is, so to say, the complete prayer. When we pray, it is good to follow His instructions as He Himself taught us to pray this prayer.

When we pray, let us be guided by the acronym ACTS which stands for Adoration, Contrition, Thanksgiving, and Supplication. The "Our Father" contains all these. Let us not omit all these elements to make our prayers complete. Take note that supplication or petition prayers are at the end. Don't we all tend to specialise in petitions whenever we pray? Let us not, so to say, rearrange the keyboard!

But it's not as if we have to follow a strict formula whenever we pray. Someone put it beautifully that it is better to pray with a heart without words than to pray with words without a heart. True prayer is from the heart, like that of a child, trustingly praying to his/her father.

I suggest that we learn to pray with HOPE, i.e. Humility, Obedience, Perseverance, and Expectation.

HUMILITY. When we pray, we come as lowly creatures to Someone greater than us, like that of a servant to a Master. A humble and contrite heart is a heart that is so pleasing to God. We also pray with gratitude, for we all have been forgiven, saved, and blessed. Instead of feeling down when we do not receive what we asked for in prayer, let us humbly thank God for the many times He gave us what we did not even deserve or ask for.

OBEDIENCE. We do not order God when we pray. We premise all our prayers as petitions with "Thy will be done, Lord." We pray, trusting in God's wisdom, mercy, and perfect timing. We surrender everything and everyone according to God's loving will and plan. "Let us take whatever God gives and give whatever He takes with a smile. That is holiness." (Mother Teresa)

PERSEVERANCE. We must pray without ceasing, and not be dismayed especially when God seems not to hear our pleadings. The Gospel talks about persistence in prayer. Just pray, and pray on. "Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer." (Romans 12,12).

EXPECTATION. We pray and believe that what we ask for will be given to us. Like a child, may we be ready for surprises and second chances from this God who loves us more than we know. Whenever we pray, let us expectantly believe that God will make a way, and that, indeed, He makes all things beautiful in His time!

Think about this: "God is my Boss, and I'm His employee. I am very thankful for my everyday salary called LIFE, with benefits called BLESSINGS, and a reward called ETERNAL LIFE." (Jaya Prakash)

For me, the most important line in The Lord's Prayer is "Our Father." When we pray, we are given the privilege to talk with a loving Father who reminds us that we are all brothers and sisters, so we should love one another. Yes, we have a Father who is bigger than our problems, bigger than our sins, and bigger than all our worldly blessings! Thank You, Father!

Lord, thank You for reminding us that we have a loving Father, and that we should love one another as sisters and brothers. Amen.

July 27th week 3: Follow up- a reminder to hand in your completed pledge pack returns.

Please bring in your pledges and return them today. (If you did not pick up your pack last week please do so today; We have blank pledge letters to complete if you have misplaced your pledge letter or did not receive one)

Bank account details: **Hurunui Catholic Parish 03-1592-0522332-020 (Westpac)**

SUNDAY'S READINGS:

FIRST READING: Genesis 18:20-32

Abraham negotiates with the Lord

SECOND READING: Colossians 2:12-14

Christ has brought you to life with him and forgiven us all our sins

GOSPEL: Luke 11:1-13

How to pray

HYMNS for SUNDAY MASSES

(May vary on the day)

695 Glory and praise

865 Here I am Lord

605 Take our bread

846 Amazing grace

ON PLANNED GIVING

12. If I am already doing automatic payments why should I do a pledge card?

This is a good question. For some people who have just started an automatic payment this year it may be too soon to adjust the amount. Even if your pledge were to remain the same after you have taken stock of your situation you are still asked to complete a pledge card.

For others it may be a long time since they have thought about adjusting the amount of their pledges; it may be 10 or 5 years old. Since everything has gone up a lot in that time it is probably due for an upgrade like everything else. The planned giving program is for everyone, and a chance to prayerfully look at their contributions to help our church.

13. When and how should I return the pledge cards?

We are now on the third Sunday of the Planned giving program. The first two Sundays involved presentations from Fr Rex, after then from members of the parish council. This third Sunday is when we collect in the pledges and people are asked to update these pledges with their bank. The pledge card is the tear off portion of the pledge letter that needs to be returned this Sunday. Either place this in the collection basket as your offering or pass it in to Fr Rex after Mass. If you forget to bring it along on Sunday, we have blank pledges that you can complete on Sunday and hand them in. Alternatively, you can scan your pledge card and email it in to the parish office. The pledge does not take the place of your usual Sunday offering. If you usually put cash in an envelope the pledge card is not a replacement for this, but a commitment to ongoing parish support.

14. Last week we heard about donating to Projects how does this work?

Similar to when some of you gave to the devastation in the Philippines last year you can always choose to make lump sum donations to specific projects outside of the regular planned giving pledge at any time. Some examples would be to help fund: catechetical resources or the support of Robert Loretz who is running them; the new rental facility at Hanmer; support the costs of the farm- you could donate an amount to buy some sheep; pay for the insurance of one of the five churches (if you want to get specific the 2025 yearly church insurance premiums are: Amberley Church \$1,638.47; Cheviot \$839.58; Culverden \$3,048.17; Hanmer Church \$839.58; Hawarden church \$839.58;), pay towards the maintenance of some of these churches e.g. supporting working bees. You can give these donations for any of these at the parish office at any time and they will be counted in your end of year tax total.

15. How many are on the planned giving at present?

Not as many as there should be. In 2024 when preparing for the AGM there were 276 people on the parish rolls, but only 26% were active on the planned giving. Many entries on the roll were at that time out of date or had incomplete records. The low proportion of active givers could be for a number of reasons: records are out of date and some of these are not really part of the parish anymore; since the time of the COVID restrictions 2020 to 2023 people were prevented from attending, and some have never returned; we have not had a planned giving campaign in the Hurunui for at least 6 years, so people have not had the chance to review their contributions, and many new members have not been part of planned giving; people have stopped attending Mass for personal reasons; there is a general decline in religious observance prevalent in Western developed countries which is a phenomenon of all NZ mainline churches. For all of the above we have decided to do our planned giving campaign in 2025. A personal letter has been sent out to everyone who completed the census or is on the roll.

Parish Priest: Fr. Rex Ramos - padrepio1428@gmail.com - 03 319 8730 **Parish Email:** catholicurunui@gmail.com

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