PARISH NEWSLETTER



DIOCESE OF CHRISTCHURCH CATHOLIC PARISH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

AMBERLEY | CHEVIOT | HAWARDEN | CULVERDEN | HANMER SPRINGS
Parish Office: 138A Carters Road, Amberley, PO BOX 143, Amberley 7441

www.catholichurunui.nz



05 October 2025 - 27th 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

Unworthy servants

In today's Gospel (Lk. 17, 5-10) Jesus does not belittle littleness. "If you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea' and it would obey you." In fact, Jesus reminds us today that our worth is not in our achievements and possessions, but in our being servants however unworthy we are. Again and again, Jesus reminds us that God has a hard time dealing with those who are big, or those who think big, or who think of themselves big.

They say that when God looks at a person, he covers one of His eyes so that He can overlook the negative in that person, and sees only the positive. Yes, God sees and accentuates the positive. In contrast, whenever we look at others, we have the tendency to see the negative. In fact, we do not cover one eye to overlook the negative, we even use magnifying glasses to see the negative in others! God appreciates every little faith and goodness in a person's heart.

Recently, I met a young man who prided himself as a "rationalist," and, being such, did not have much room for God and faith in his life. I listened to his heroic assertions, but also reminded him that youth, money and power can blind a person to the reality of our dependence on God. It's just that I have seen so many roaring lions become meek lambs when their youth, power, wealth, or health are gone. Such is the fate of those who belittle faith.

"More prayers, more faith." This is a very good advice for those who think that what they need in life is more work and more money. When will we learn that work is never done, and that money is never enough? May we not learn too late that we pursued the wrong things and stressed the wrong values in our lives. All we are saying is: "Give faith a chance."

In this world, there are servants and there are masters, but in God's eyes we are all servants. Problems arise when some people think that they are grand masters, or worse, think of themselves as gods! "Let man be man. Let God be God." We've said it before, and we'll say it again: "There is a God, and you're not Him!"

To the masters who become monsters to the "little ones" in our midst, please remember the Lord's reprimand on final judgement: "Whatever you did to the least of my brothers and sisters, you did it unto me." To them we say: "Back off from your pride, from your greed, from your lust, from your follies!"

Let us not be complacent; neither should we take pride in our achievements. In the end, we must be humble and acknowledge God as our Master, and accept that whatever goodness we have done was made possible by God's grace. We must learn to trust more in God's mercy, and less on our own efforts. We all are just unworthy servants.

Think about it: At the end of our lives, the question will not be how much we've amassed, but how much we have given; not how much we have won, but how much we have tried; not how much we have preserved, but how much we have sacrificed; not how much honours we have received, but how much service we have given.

Lord, remind me that you alone are the Master, and I am just an unworthy servant. Amen.

Fr. Rex is away for Holiday sept 29 - Oct 17

Fr Michael Mahooney SM will celebrate the Sunday Masses at the usual times on Saturday evenings and Sundays.

FIRST READING: Habakkuk 1:2-3,2:2-4

The upright man will live by his faithfulness

Psalm 94(95):1-2,6-9

If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

SECOND READING: 2 Timothy 1:6-8,13-14

Never be ashamed of witnessing to our Lord

GOSPEL: Luke Luke 17:5-10

Say, 'We are merely servants'

From the workshop- words on St Joseph- Fr Calloway's book Page 162

St Joseph had great faith in Jesus and who he was to become, but Joseph was never on this earth when Jesus started his public ministry gave his teaching, worked his miracles this was all i the future for Joseph. He was at the presentation of the temple and heard Simeon's words given to Mary about her son.

"Scripture tells us that Mary pondered these words of Simeon in her heart. St Joseph had to have pondered these words in his heart as well"

ADVANCE NOTICE

Parish Mini Retreat at Hawarden on Saturday 1st of November: All Saints day.

The day starts with Mass at 10am in Hawarden followed by talks and a shared lunch finishing by 4pm. All welcome

Hanmer Springs 1 bedroom flat: next to the church.

Available now at \$350 per week. contact Adrienne 020 40429790

World Mission Sunday & Mission Month

Pope Pius XI established World Mission Sunday in 1926 to unite the Church in prayer and financial support for mission work, a tradition that continues on the penultimate Sunday in October.

It means Mission Sunday on 19th October 2025 is the 99th World Missionary Day.



Pope Francis declared October 2019 as the Extraordinary Missionary Month. It was an intentional expansion of the mission focus beyond just a single day to the entire month of October. 2019 was 🖪 also a time to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the encyclical Maximum Illud (On the Propagation of Faith throughout the whole world) written by Pope Benedict XV.

1 MINUTE CATECHESIS - The Seventh Commandment - Part II (CCC 2401-2463)

Under the Seventh Commandment, it is a grave sin against the dignity of persons and their fundamental rights to enslave, traffic, or otherwise treat a human being as property.

Gambling is not a sin so long as it does not deprive a person of what he needs to provide for himself and his family. But gambling addictions, unfair wagers, and cheating are grave matters. We must respect the integrity of the created world and recognise that everything in it is destined for the common good of humanity, now and in the future.

Animals are God's creatures, which He entrusted to our care.

We should treat them kindly. It is wrong to make animals suffer or die needlessly. We can use animals for food, clothing, work, and as pets. We may conduct experimentation on animals if it is reasonable and contributes to human health. We should not spend excessively on animals. And we can love animals but should not treat them with the affection that only people deserve.

Founded in part on the Seventh Commandment, the Church's social doctrine makes moral judgments about economic and social matters to protect fundamental human rights and promote our salvation. It is based upon reason, Scripture, and Tradition. Through its doctrine, the Church works to inspire virtuous attitudes regarding earthly goods and economic relationships. It teaches that any system that (1) reduces social relationships to purely economic factors; (2) makes profit the exclusive norm and ultimate end of all economic activity; (3) subordinates individual rights to the collective organisation of production; or (4) reduces people to a means for making profit is immoral. The Church rejects socialism, communism, consumerism, materialism, and the excesses of capitalism that seek to place the needs of the free market over the rights and needs of people.

The Church supports reasonable economic regulation. Economic activity must be conducted morally and justly. Its true purpose is to serve humanity by providing for our individual and communal needs. It is not meant solely to increase profit, power, or the production of goods