



07 August 2025 - 23rd 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

### Light, free, all the Way

In today's gospel (Luke 14:25-33), the Lord mentions three reasons that block discipleship.

**The first block is Relationships.** "If anyone comes to me without hating his mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters even his own life cannot be my disciple."

**The second block is Lack of Perseverance.** "This one began to build but did not have the resources to finish."

**The third block is Possessions.** "Everyone of you who does not renounce his possessions cannot be my disciple." What is it that is blocking you from being the Lord's disciple? What is it that is preventing you from doing your mission for the Lord.

**Travel light.** This is the rule of thumb for anyone who seeks to follow Christ. If we are burdened and heavy, following Christ is not easy. If we are attached to worldly pressures, pleasures and measures, we cannot be His disciples. Today let us all reflect on those things that bind us and prevent us from following Christ more truly and more generously.

**Travel free.** It is not easy to follow Christ if we have many attachments. Are there people in our lives who prevent us from speaking the truth and from pursuing the Gospel values? Are there people who gag or silence us? Is our mission affected by some people's permission?

**Travel all the way.** Too bad some of us travel with Christ only on the highway and abandon Him as soon as we hit the rough roads and the by-ways. When the going gets rough, all the more should we stay by His side.

What is a Commissioner? One who is on the look out for his commission? No. A commissioner is a partner in a mission. He/she is a Co-missioner. Too bad many of us forget that life is a mission and that life is for reason. At the end of our lives, may we have no regret that we lived a life full of selfishness and greed and thus forgot to help those in need.

**As a disciple of Christ do you travel light? travel free? and travel all the way?**

### SUNDAY'S READINGS:

#### FIRST READING: Wisdom 9:13-18

Who can divine the will of God?

#### Psalm 89(90):3-6,12-14,17

*In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge.*

#### SECOND READING: Philemon 9-10,12-17

He is a slave no longer, but a dear brother in the Lord

#### GOSPEL: Luke 14:25-33

Anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple

### HYMNS for SUNDAY MASSES

*(May vary on the day)*

**83** Christ be our light  
**609** in bread we bring you  
**633** I am the Bread of life  
**360** As I kneel

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

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.

### **Planned Giving:** Slow returns

For all those you have not yet return their pledge cards, please return them as soon as possible.

Thank you very much.

### **Expressions of Interest:** Parish Farm - Hawarden

There are 14 hectares on the Hawarden village boundary, and currently running 140 lambing ewes.

We are looking for people to join the committee and show an interest/ provide support in the ongoing running of the farm. This is part of our Hurunui legacy and needs help to keep it running- please give it some thought.

Enquiries Jane 027 7138250 or Tom 027 2208120.

## **1 MINUTE CATECHESIS - The Sixth Commandment – Part VI (CCC 2331-2400)**

Homosexual acts are sinful because they are contrary to the natural law and “intrinsically disordered.” The ways such acts use human sexuality are not ordered toward the purposes ordained by God for human sexuality and the marital act. Such acts cannot possibly ever be procreative. Further, they violate the integrity of the human body and the purpose of its parts. They do not express genuine affectivity and controvert sexual complementarity. The prohibition against homosexual acts is deeply rooted in Scripture and Tradition, just like the condemnations of all the other sexual sins discussed so far.

It is critical to note that, while homosexual inclinations are disordered, merely having such inclinations is not a sin. It is homosexual acts that are sinful. The Church compassionately recognises that there are many people who have deep-seated homosexual tendencies. It further recognises that these tendencies represent an intense personal trial for most of them. While no one knows the psychological origin of such tendencies, people who have them must be accepted with respect, compassion, and sensitivity. We must not discriminate against them for having such tendencies. Catholics with homosexual tendencies are called to follow God's will and sacrificially carry this cross as they continue to participate in the life of the Church. Of course, we are all sinners who must bear our own unique crosses each day.

Contrary to what you might hear from time to time from purportedly Catholic individuals (including some priests) and social media outlets, these are the unchanging teachings of Christ and His Church regarding homosexual acts. These teachings are especially unpopular in our modern society where the very loudest and most politically and economically powerful people in society denounce them and place human desires above God's will. Nonetheless, we should be confident the truths God has given us. We should also remember that anyone – most especially someone claiming to represent the Church – who undermines these teachings or teaches others to disregard them is giving voice to heretical ideas and causing grave scandal.

*Reflect: Remember God never ceases to love us. But when we commit mortal sin, like the Prodigal Son, we can only return to the Father through a conversion of heart, true contrition, absolution, and Communion. To suggest that we have no need for conversion or contrition is to attempt to rewrite Scripture so that the loving and forgiving father joins — and thereby encourages — his prodigal son in his life of sin.*