#### 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



12 October 2025 - 28th 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

#### **GRATITUDE**

WHAT IS THE SHORTEST AND THE BEST prayer? Take a look at the crucifix, and you will see there two letters of the alphabet: The cross is a very clear letter "T," and the body of the crucified Christ forms a letter "Y." TY! For us Filipinos "TY" is the abbreviation of "Thank you," the shortest, and the best prayer.

In today's Gospel (Lk. 17, 11-19) Jesus cures 10 lepers; but only one of them, realising that he has been healed, comes back to thank Him. This leads Jesus to ask the question: "Where are the other nine?" We are reminded today that, often, in nine out of 10 instances, we forget to thank God. Yes, many times we take God's blessings for granted, and we lack gratitude in our lives. Have you thanked God this morning, just for the fact that you are still alive?

Early on in life, many of us were taught by our parents to be grateful. As children we knew how to say "thank you" because of our littleness and dependence. Now that we have become adults, we sometimes forget to be grateful because of our false sense of security and independence. May we never lose humility as we travel life's road. May we always remember that all that we are, and all that we have are God's gift to us, and all of our so-called achievements and worldly acquisitions are little compared to God's providence and love.

Yes, may our gratitude be louder, more often and more real. As long as we are grateful, as long as we do not become proud or resentful, we are on the right track. When gratitude ceases to be in our hearts, we lose sight of who we are and what we are meant for in life.

It is not enough to think of our blessings. We also must thank God for our blessings. We are told that in the old Anglo-Saxon language, to be "thinkful" meant to be "thankful." Come to think of it, if we really think about our blessings, we can't help but be grateful. For those who don't agree, maybe you should think again!

Gratitude does wonders not only to its recipient but more so to its source. Gratitude, especially if it is sincere, gives so much fulfilment and liberation to the one who gives it. As long as one is grateful, as long as one is not resentful, the heart is peaceful, joyful and hopeful.

God does not have to be grateful to us. He does not need to. After all we've done, and for all that we do for Him (or so we think), we are just His unworthy servants. However, it would be wrong to say that He does not appreciate us. What loving Father would not appreciate any token of love or endearment from His children? God is not a cold, indifferent, exacting user. He is a loving, encouraging and, yes, an appreciative, Father.

Mama taught us the value of gratitude. She taught us not to complain but instead to take everything with humility and according to God's will. Even in her old age, she continues to call people to thank them, and to write letters and cards to people to say how much she appreciates them. She never fails to point out goodness whenever she sees one.

A good question for all of us to ponder on, today, is: Will the world be grateful to me somehow after I am gone, or will the world be grateful to me because I am finally gone? Let us leave this world a better place because we have done something good and worthwhile, somehow. Let us not leave this world without paying our "rent." Payback time! Make sure you contribute to our world and to human kind, and not just be an ungrateful, selfish visitor leaving your trash behind.

Let us learn to be grateful not only individually, but also as a family and, yes, as a nation. The more grateful we are., the more hopeful and resourceful we become!

## FIRST READING: 2 Kings 5:14-17

Naaman the leper returned to Elisha and acknowledged the Lord

#### Psalm 97(98):1-4

The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power.

## **SECOND READING: 2 Timothy 2:8-13**

If we hold firm then we shall reign with Christ

#### **GOSPEL: Luke 17:11-19**

No-one has come back to praise God, only this foreigner

#### **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 III (CCC 2401-2463)

The Church's social doctrine declares that work is a sacred duty, which has redemptive power. By enduring work's hardships and uniting our efforts with Jesus, we can participate in His redemptive work. Work thus becomes a means of sanctification and brings the spirit of Christ to everyday life.

By working, we fulfil our God-given potential. Everyone should have the equal opportunity to work and make legitimate use of his or her abilities. It is immoral for employers to discriminate based upon sex, race, ethnicity, or disability. Employers should compensate employees sufficiently to allow them to support themselves and their families. While everyone who works should observe their employers' rules, there is sometimes legitimate conflict between employers and employees. We should work to reduce such conflicts through mutually respectful negotiation. When negotiation fails, strikes can be morally legitimate, at least when necessary to obtain a proportionate benefit; however, workers may never resort to violence or strike for reasons not related to working conditions.

Governments should guarantee individual freedom, private property, a stable currency, efficient public services, and physical security. But primary responsibility for economic activity belongs with private individuals and associations. Business leaders should be good fiscal and environmental stewards. While they can work to increase profits, they must also prioritise the safety and welfare of their employees and communities.

On the international level, each nation should strive to operate in solidarity with all others. More prosperous nations have a grave moral responsibility to aid the development and mitigate the suffering of poor nations and nations that have suffered natural disasters.

An increased devotion to God is necessary to the full development of a society. Lay Catholics must take the lead in the political and economic structuring of their nations in accordance with the Gospel and the teachings of the Church. Following the example of Jesus, it is the constant tradition of the Church as well as the moral duty of all Catholics to love and serve the poor and generously share our wealth with them. Excessive love of riches and selfishness are incompatible with our responsibility to love the poor. We serve the poor by practicing the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy.

Reflect: The Spiritual Works of Mercy command us to admonish the sinner, instruct the ignorant, counsel the doubtful, comfort the sorrowful, bear wrongs patiently, forgive all injuries, and pray for the living and the dead. The Corporal Works of Mercy command us to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, visit the imprisoned, shelter the homeless, visit the sick, and bury the dead. Which one can you do today