



14 September 2025 - Feast of The Exaltation of the Holy Cross - Year C

Holy Masses

Saturday Vigil5pm Hanmer Springs
(Every Saturday)7pm Culverden
(Every Saturdays)Sunday Mass8.30am Amberley
(Every Sunday)11am Cheviot
(1st & 3rd Sundays Only)10.30am Hawarden
(2nd & 4th Sunday Only)12pm The Beatitudes,
Leithfield
(Every Sunday)Weekday MassesMonday - Friday
8:30am AmberleyTuesday - Saturday
12pm The Beatitudes,
Leithfield

Adoration & Reconciliation

1st Friday of the month
from 7:30amConfession 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 Cross in our lives

The story is told about a man who promised the Lord that he would follow Him and take up His cross across the seven mountains of life. But as he journeyed and struggled on, he began to complain about the weight and size of his cross, at times even sawing off some parts of it to make his travel easier. When he reached the seventh mountain, alas! He could not cross over to the other side, because his cross was too short.

Today is the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. It is through the Lord crucified on the Holy Cross that we have been saved. It is through our crosses in life that we will merit eternal life. The world sees the cross as folly. Our faith teaches us that there is meaning and merit in our crosses, trials and sufferings.

In today's Gospel (Jn. 3, 13-17), we read the most beautiful and most important line in the Bible: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so he who believes in Him might not perish, but might have eternal life" (Jn. 3, 16). In this world where there is so much suffering, and in our own lives where we experience so many crosses and limitations, we must hold on and keep on believing that our God is a God of love, no matter what.

How often have I heard people complain to me in anger how a God of love could be present in a world so full of suffering and injustice? Even now, as you read this column, perhaps you are saying to yourself that God is not a God of love at all. From the human point of view, this is a valid question. But from the point of view of our faith, we continue to believe even when we cannot explain or understand, even when there are no answers at hand. It is in such times that we should pray all the more: Lord, increase my faith, not my wisdom, so that I can believe and understand!

"Jesus, I trust in You." This is the prayer that we must learn well and say often as we go through this valley of tears. This world will never know what we are going through. In fact, the world need not know, ever. What is important is that God knows, and we know that there is a God who loves us, and who is always with us.

This world teaches us to get going, to move on, and to move up, but our faith teaches us to take the road of humility and to journey to God's heart. All this talk of sacrifice, letting go, and letting be may be absurdity or a stumbling block to many, but we must continue to preach a Christ who was humiliated, who sacrificed, and who became obedient even unto death on a cross. We must follow our Master in the way of the cross. But that is not to say that the way is all about tears, gloom and misery. Ours is a joyful following of our Master. We are joyful witnesses of the Resurrection, not prophets of doom and gloom. To revise the prayer that we must learn well, let us pray: "Jesus, I joyfully trust in You!"

Let me end with yet another story about a man who always complained about the cross he was carrying in life. When he got to heaven, St. Peter brought him to a room full of crosses of different sizes, colours and designs and asked him: "If you were to go back to earth, which of these crosses would you like to carry?" The man looked around, taking his time, and finally pointed to St. Peter the cross of his choice. St. Peter said: "My child, that is precisely the cross that you were carrying while you were on earth, of which you kept on complaining and complaining..."

Please remember that the cross is not all about us. It can also be because of us. Let us live in such a way that we do not magnify our cross, that we do not increase its weight unnecessarily, and that we do not become a cross to other people.

Think about it: "The larger our faith, the lesser our fear; the greater our trust, the stronger our belief, the weaker our worries."

Lord, help me carry my cross daily and follow You joyfully. Amen.

SUNDAY'S READINGS:

FIRST READING: Numbers 21:4-9

If anyone was bitten by a serpent,
he looked up at the bronze serpent and lived

Psalm 77(78):1-2,34-38

Do not forget the works of the Lord!

SECOND READING: Philippians 2:6-11

Christ humbled himself but God raised him high

GOSPEL: John 3:13-17

God sent his Son so that through him the world
might be saved

HYMNS for SUNDAY MASSES

(May vary on the day)

107 The King of Glory comes the Nation Rejoices

605 Take our Bread

633 I am the Bread of life

287 Thine Be the Glory

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 VII (CCC 2331-2400)

The use of contraception, often called artificial birth control; intentional sterilisation; and efforts to achieve pregnancy outside of the marital act are sinful. Why? Recall, that the inseparable purposes of the marital act are procreative and unitive. Because artificial birth control attempts to render procreation impossible and sterilisation definitively does render it impossible, both thwart the purpose of the marital act. In using artificial birth control, spouses deliberately withhold part of themselves from each other and thereby defy God's plan that the marital act be an act of total self giving.

Attempts to achieve pregnancy through in vitro fertilisation or the use of surrogates, separate conception from the marital act itself. Therefore, both are contrary to God's will. The Church is compassionate toward couples who suffer the cross of infertility. But remember having a child is a gift from God, not an entitlement or something we are owed by God. The Church strongly supports efforts by such couples to adopt and foster children.

Large families are truly a blessing from God. That said, married couples may permissibly use natural family planning (NFP) methods, which use periodic continence (refraining from the marital act) to plan pregnancies. They may do so for serious reasons such as spacing out births to ensure proper care and support for their children. In contrast to artificial birth control, NFP does not break the inseparable bond between the procreative and unitive purposes of the marital act because each act remains open to pregnancy.

Reflect: "For many, as I have often told you and now tell you even in tears, conduct themselves as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their end is destruction. Their God is their stomach; their glory is in their "shame." Their minds are occupied with earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we also await a saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ." Phil. 3:18-20.

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