



21 September 2025 - 25th 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

### Accountability

In today's Gospel (Lk. 16, 1-13) Jesus commends the dishonest steward for being wise in the ways of the world. However, the whole story ends with Jesus saying: "You cannot serve God and mammon," underlining the fact that there are more important things than worldly wisdom, and that there are more important matters than just money matters.

Money matters in this world. Definitely! But that is not to say that our whole world should be based, ruled, quantified, encompassed and defined by what we hold in our hands. If our worth were a thing that money can buy, as the song goes, "the rich would live, and the poor would die."

Don't sell out. This is the loud and clear message of our Lord in today's Gospel. It is so easy, in fact, so convenient just to pursue our worldly desires at all costs, even sacrificing our principles and our very souls in the process; but we should remember in the end what the Lord has told us: "What does it profit a man if he gains the world and in the end loses his soul?"

Stewardship. We are all stewards. The truth is that we do not own anything. Even our life is lent to us. We are just administrators, not owners. So we don't own our positions, we don't own our wealth, we don't own the world! We are all accountable to someone greater than us. The sooner we accept this, the sooner we realise that life is not so much a matter of getting but giving, not a matter of owning, but sharing. Hello! "From dust you came to dust you will return," remember?

Lest we forget, we are stewards of all creation. We must remember that we are all just passing by. There are people coming after us! Let us not leave behind a devastated, polluted and filthy Earth.

Think about it: Money can be earned, but the loss of a loved one is permanent, and the loss of one's soul is irrevocable.

At the end of our lives, we all will give a final accounting to God. May the money we have in our own hands bring us to our salvation, not to our condemnation. Clean money shared with others will earn us our reward. Dirty money not shared will earn us our punishment.

When we come to the end of the day, when we come to the end of our lives, may we look back with a smile, and not be filled with regrets that we loved too little, too late. It's our call, our choice to live not only successful lives, but also meaningful lives. One with you, fellow stewards, in this challenge and call, as we journey on.

**Lord, remind me that I will have a final accounting with you at the end of my life.**

#### SUNDAY'S READINGS:

##### FIRST READING: Amos 8:4-7

I will never forget your deeds,  
you who trample on the needy

##### Psalm 112(113):1-2,4-8

*Praise the Lord who lifts up the poor.*

##### SECOND READING: 1 Timothy 2:1-8

Pray for everyone to God, who wants everyone to be saved

##### GOSPEL: Luke 16:1-13

You cannot be the slave of both God and money

#### HYMNS for SUNDAY MASSES

*(May vary on the day)*

**820** Seek Ye First

**785** Though the mountains may fall

**644** Alleluia Sing to Jesus

**365** Immaculate Mary

**From the workshop-** words on St Joseph- Fr Calloway's book Page 100

St Joseph our Spiritual Father. Inspired by the Gospel, the Fathers of the church from the earliest centuries stressed that just as St Joseph took loving care of Mary and gladly dedicated himself to Jesus Christ's upbringing he likewise watches over and protects Christ's Mystical Body, that is the Church.

### **ADVANCE NOTICE FOR YOUR DIARIES**

Parish Retreat at Hawarden All Saints Day 10am to 4pm

Parish mini-Pilgrimage walk: Sunday 30th November after Amberley Mass walk cross country to the Beatitudes in Leithfield- All welcome

### **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 VIII (CCC 2331-2400)**

There are numerous sinful acts that threaten the purpose and dignity of marriage. Adultery is gravely sinful because it violates the promises of faithfulness and exclusivity that are inherent in the marital bond. Adultery is also a selfish betrayal that inflicts a grave injustice on the wounded spouse and any children in the family. Adultery seriously undermines the institution of marriage and the institution of the family, which gravely destabilises the social order.

Divorce is contrary to Jesus' clear teaching that marriage is permanent and divorce is prohibited. No human authority can dissolve a proper sacramental marriage. As discussed earlier, the Church can annul an improper Catholic marriage, such as where consent was invalid. Once the Church issues a Declaration of Nullity, the marriage never occurred in the eyes of the Church.

A married couple may physically separate in certain serious cases, such as when adultery or abuse is occurring. Civil divorce is permitted in grave circumstances such as when it is the only possible way to ensure certain legal rights, the care of the children, or the protection of an inheritance. In such cases divorce is not a sin and a divorced Catholic, so long as they do not remarry, can still receive the sacraments. If they do remarry (which would have to occur outside the Church absent an annulment), they are living in a state of public adultery and cannot participate in the sacraments.

As discussed earlier, cohabitation inevitably leads to the sin of fornication and undermines marriage; hence it is sinful. Polygamy is sinful because it violates the equal dignity of spouses and the exclusivity of the marital bond. Finally, same sex unions clearly violate God's law that marriage is between a man and a woman and directed toward procreation; they also involve sinful homosexual acts. Consequently, Catholics may not endorse or participate in such unions.

Reflect:

*Before rejecting the Church's teachings, let's look at the fruits of the sexual permissiveness prevalent in the world. There have been over 63 million abortions in the U.S. since 1973; one in five Americans is currently living with an STD; around 41% of marriages end in divorce each and more than 40% of children are born out of wedlock, leaving tens of millions of children living without one of their parents (usually the father), which leads to personal and societal suffering, including increased poverty, higher crime rates, higher school dropout rates, higher incidence of drug use, increased risk of teen pregnancy, and a variety of mental illnesses. People are more miserable than ever. How do we know? In 2021 (the most recent year with data available), nearly 180,000 Americans lost their lives due to murder, suicide, or fatal drug overdoses. That is more than three times the number of Americans who died in the Vietnam War.*

***The Church's teachings may be hard but can anything else produce true freedom and happiness?***