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



02 November 2025 - All Souls Sunday - 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

Be a SAINT

November 1 is All Saints' Day. What is a saint? A saint is one who declares by his words and by his very life: "God is bigger than me." Saints are those who make a choice that their lives are all about God, not about themselves. Are we anywhere near them? We are sinners, yes, but let's keep on trying to live for something or someone greater than ourselves. We are all a work in progress.

November 2 is the Feast of All Souls, reminds us that no matter how hard we try, we cannot prolong our earthly life, nor can we prevent eternity to come upon us. Are we preparing for eternity? You have all sorts of plans—life insurance plan, retirement plan, memorial plan. What about your eternal life plan?

"Do not let your hearts be troubled." Death is one of the most painful, if not the most painful and troubling moments of our lives. The pain of losing a loved one is never really gone. We just learn to cope and accept in time. What makes our painful goodbye bearable and meaningful is our faith in the resurrection and the promise of eternal life. In death, we don't say goodbye, but "until we meet again, in the resurrection!"

The last line of our Creed says: "I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen." We profess that in faith. But do we live in such a way that we will get there? Jesus tells us today to follow Him so that we will make it there.

"I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life." We who are in this "valley of tears" must not get discouraged with our trials and sufferings. Neither should we be too comfortable lest we forget that there is heaven that awaits us.

On a personal note, I look forward to eternity and to be reunited with my loved ones again. What a reunion that would be! In that kingdom where there are no more tears, no more pain, no more problems, and no more goodbyes, I look forward to singing our praises unto God, together with those who have gone ahead of us. Too much heaven in our minds? Precisely, the thought of heaven should make us strong in our resolve to live meaningful lives on earth. Eternal life should motivate us to live beautiful, earthly lives.

Someone once said in jest that there is no signal for cell phones in the cemetery. Why? Because there are many "dead spots" there! Today, let us ask the Lord to help us see and revive whatever "dead spots" we have in our lives, in our character, in our relationships. Today we pray that the Lord will heal and cleanse us of whatever or whoever prevents us from truly following Him.

Life is short, and death is certain. Someone once asked why we frantically hold on to our earthly life which we cannot prolong, and forget eternity which we cannot avoid and which surely awaits all of us.

For those who are so engrossed in worldly treasures and agenda, remember, we carry nothing with us when we leave this world. And for those who are so worried about death and dying, remember no one among us will leave this world alive. Think about this: "Only in God are we truly safe and secure; anything else is false security; whether you are surrounded by mighty walls of stone, a comfortable home, or a secure job, no one can predict what tomorrow may bring; our relationship with God is the only security that cannot be taken away."

"Eternal rest grant unto them O, Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen." To this prayer we add: "And may we, the living, live in peace!" Let us not waste our limited time in this world carrying hatred, conflicts and unforgiveness in our hearts. Time spent on negative thoughts, feelings and deeds is wasted time.

Lord, help me to follow You now, and to eternity. Amen.

From the workshop- words on St Joseph- Fr Calloway's book Page 207
It may be piously believed that at the moment of St Joseph's death, Jesus and his spouse the Blessed Virgin Mary were present....the whole room was brilliant with light and filled with angels...

St Joseph patron of a Happy Death pray for us.

FIRST READING: Wisdom 3:1-9

The souls of the virtuous are in the hands of God

Psalm 22(23)

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

SECOND READING: Romans 5:5-11

Now we have been reconciled by the death of his Son, surely we may count on being saved by the life of his Son

GOSPEL: Luke 7:11-17

The only son of his mother, and she a widow

HYMNS for SUNDAY MASSES

(May vary on the day)

883 Christ be our light

761 He is Lord

965 As the deer pant

965 How great thou art

ONE MINUTE CATECHESIS

All Saints' and All Souls' Days are special times for us to think about our loved ones who are no longer with us and the saints whose examples guide our faith. These days also encourage us to appreciate and express our love for those who are still in our lives. By remembering those we've lost, we're inspired to cherish every moment with our family and friends, creating meaningful memories while we can.

Let us guide our children to dress as saints, not as demons. As angels not as monsters. Let their joy reflect the beauty of holiness, not the ugliness of sin.

Notices

All SOULS DAY: Sunday 2nd Nov.

Fr Rex will offer the Mass for the repose of the souls of the departed members of the Hurunui parishioners families.

MASS INTENTIONS: Offering a Mass is a beautiful way to place our intentions, and those of our loved ones before Jesus. A Mass offering can be for oneself, a love one, a sick person, or a soul in purgatory. Masses can also be offered on special occasions - birthdays, wedding or baptism anniversaries or just as a gesture of love!

Mass Intention Envelopes are available in the church foyers. Alternatively you can use a blank envelope and write the name of the person and the intention on it. All envelopes can be placed in the collection baskets at Mass. The expected donation for a Mass offering is \$10 or \$100 for a novena of Masses.

Cathedral Fundraising session with Tony Brazier and Damien Powick from the Diocese. How much? Hurunui is tasked to find its share of \$14M which on a planned giving basis amounts to 1.74% of Diocese planned giving which is \$245k. Structure: Parishes are asked to set up: Parish priest, Diocesan Fund raising rep, Parish campaign director, Parish leadership team, and parish volunteers. Parish readiness: Steps to get ready-database, financials (costed project goals), select team, feasibility studies, donor strategy, case for support (storey), volunteers. Design details available next year. The architects Warren and Mahoney are working in conjunction with their overseas collaborators Frank and Lohsen. Q and A followed.

Fr Rex:

- There is a Diocesan priest's retreat at the Uni Halls of Residence from Nov 17 to 21.
- The 2025 Advent Novena will be from 14 to 22 December.
- On the Feast of the Good Shepherd 2026 confirmations with the bishop presiding on April 26th.

Parish Retreat: on November 01st at Hawarden 10am to 4pm, speaker Robert Loretz.

Pilgrimage walk: Sunday November 30th, Amberley (after 8:30 Mass) to Leithfield.

Hanmer Development update: Cosy Homes are on track for delivery on the week of December. St Roch's Hideaway rules for staying: suggested to make it a smaller parish to parish booking system came from the locals-to avoid the cosy home being trashed. Tariffs-\$100 off peak and \$150 peak priests \$50/night as an "introductory offer" and keep it low at first so it gets well known. Fr Rex could advertise it among all the priests. It could be a Cathedral fundraiser

Input from local churches/groups: Hawarden- fence damaged in the storm.

Financial matters: Eft Pos for the parishes still coming