



04 January 2026 - The Epiphany of the Lord - 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

### FEAST OF EPIPHANY

Today is the Feast of the Epiphany, i.e. the Revelation of God's glory in the person of Jesus of Nazareth. In today's Gospel (Mt. 21, 1-12) the Magi from the East found the house where Jesus was born because they were guided by the star, and also because they made the difficult trip. In other words, in our journey to God, our engines must be working and we too must be praying.

The Magi, when they found Jesus, did Him homage and offered Him their gifts. Some of us know God, but leave it at that, and never go on to adoring Him and serving Him. It is as if His presence in our lives never made a difference at all! If you really believe in God, then live it, and show it.

Note that the Magi departed to their country by another way. They did not return to their old way. Their encounter with God made them changed persons. How many of us, with all of our religious experiences and spiritual blessings, still continue to live in the darkness rather than in the light? We who are recipients of revelation must in turn become agents of revelation.

Let us do homage to God not only on Christmas Day or on New Year's Day, or on Good Friday, but on every single day of the year. May the spirit of Christmas – that of sharing, living, generosity, peace, joy and hope – continue to abide with us and among us all throughout the new year. Yes, let us live and love, one day at a time.

There are a lot of things beyond our knowledge and control. Let us not become like Herod who resorted to deceit and manipulation. People who do so never find God because of their pride. And remember, people who continue to lie, cheat, manipulate, kill, and steal will also suffer the same fate as Herod's. Warning: Stop playing God, and stop hurting people!

Don't forget too that the first day of the year is dedicated to Mary, Mother of God. Mary, our Mother, will be with us every single day of the year. Let us entrust unto her Motherly care all our hopes and fears, works and prayers, confident that we have a Mother who is always near, and so we need not fear.

Happy New Year! Fresh start. New beginnings! Remember, as someone said, what the new year brings us will depend a great deal on what we bring to the new year.

Praying that 2025 will be a better year for all of us, in all aspects, in Jesus' name. Amen!

**Lord, thank you for 2024. May every day this new year find us working and praying, loving and hoping. Amen.**

**FIRST READING: Isaiah 60:1-6**  
Above you the glory of the Lord appears

**Psalms 71(72):1-2,7-8,10-13**  
*Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.*

**SECOND READING: Ephesians 3:2-3,5-6**  
It has now been revealed  
that pagans share the same inheritance

**GOSPEL: Matthew 2:1-12**  
The visit of the Magi

## HYMNS for SUNDAY MASSES

*(May vary on the day)*

**695** Oh Come, Oh Come Emmanuel

**605** Take our bread

**633** I am the Bread of Life

**644** Alleluia Sing to Jesus

## ONE MINUTE CATECHESIS

### SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:

**Why do we have confession? If God knows everything, why can't we just tell him that we're sorry when we do something wrong?**

Confession might be one of the most difficult parts of our faith for some. For others, Confession is something they deeply look forward to.

First of all, it's true that "God knows everything." We call that omniscience. So, yes, He knows everything you've done, and He knows whether you are sorry for that or not. But there is a big difference between God "knowing" what you did and His act of forgiveness.

For example, if you sinned against a friend with whom you were very close and then felt sorry for that, it's possible that your friend would realise, just by knowing you, that you were truly sorry. But that doesn't mean that you can just presume your friend's goodness and forgiveness. The best thing to do, in this situation, is to actually sit down and tell your friend you are sorry and to have your friend tell you that you are forgiven. This very human exchange brings about reconciliation.

So it is with God. God is all merciful and wants to forgive us all our sins. But for true reconciliation to take place, God wants you to actually say those words and then to hear the words, spoken by the priest, that you are forgiven. So Confession is not only about God forgiving us, it is also about reconciliation with God on a human level.

What's important to understand is that God offers us forgiveness in His way. He forgives us through a human person. Who is that human? It's the Father's Son who became one of us. Jesus is the one who offers God's forgiveness, and Jesus is both fully God and human. But how does Jesus do that now that He has ascended into Heaven? Before He ascended, He gave His divine power of forgiveness to His first priests, the apostles. They, in turn, passed that power onto others, who passed it on to others, down through the ages, all the way to our present age. Priests, despite the fact that they are imperfect themselves, have the spiritual power of Jesus to actually speak His words of forgiveness to others. Therefore, when a priest says, "I absolve you" we must hear Jesus Himself, as the human face of God, saying those same words to us.

**Why did God choose to use priests to dispense His forgiveness?**

Honestly, we really don't have a perfect answer to that question. Sure there have been wonderful writings and reflections and teachings on this subject throughout the history of the Church. But, in the end, we will only fully understand this mystery of how God gives us His forgiveness when we are in Heaven. For now, we must simply follow what Jesus taught and receive His forgiveness in the way we know He offers it.

On a psychological level, I, as a priest, have seen so many people benefit from actually hearing those words spoken from my mouth. So many times I have seen people come into the confessional scared and ashamed, and walk out freed and at peace. So it really works. Make sure you give it a try soon!

## Notices

### COLUMBAN CALENDARS

The 2026 Columban Calendars are for sale at \$12. Please see Mary Bimler after the 8:30am Mass in Amberley.