



14 December 2025 - 3rd Sunday of Advent - Gaudete 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

Are you a joyful person?

Rejoice in the Lord Always! Today is the 3rd Sunday of Advent, traditionally known as Gaudete Sunday, Gaudete is Latin for Rejoice. That's why the liturgical colour is pink.

St. John the Baptist points us to the real source of joy. Make straight your paths for the Lord. So let's try this during the preparation for Christmas. Simplify your preparations so that we can focus on the real joy of the world.

More than any other month of the Year. December is the best time to reflect on joy. What is Joy? Some of us look for joy by partying. Some of us think that Christmas cannot be celebrated without parties. Christmas cannot be celebrated without exchange gifts. Christmas cannot be celebrated without family reunions, but have you noticed it? That after the party, after the family reunion, after the singing, we just end up tired. And then we just look forward to the next party and to the next party until the party becomes almost addictive, because the partying has not given us real joy.

So what is Joy? First and foremost. You cannot find joy. Joy has to find you. Joy has to find you. You cannot pursue joy. You cannot run after joy, because if you run after joy, joy will run faster than you and you will not be able to reach joy. Forgive. Make peace. Reconcile. Be humble. Just do it and believe me. Joy will find you. Don't forgive in order to get joy. Don't reach out in order to get joy. Don't give gifts in order to get joy.

Forgive, make peace. Reconcile for the sake of making peace, for the sake of reconciliation. And then, joy, you will find you. I say it again. Don't look for joy. Let joy find you.

How can Joy find us? Joy cannot find us in extravagance. Joy cannot find us in materialism. Joy cannot find us in greed, in Gluttony. How can Joy find us? In nothingness. In the nothingness of the tomb we saw the joy of Easter. In the Nothingness of the Womb of the Virgin Mary, you saw the joy of Christmas in the nothingness of the womb of Elizabeth. We saw the joy of God intervening in history.

The problem, my dear brothers and sisters, is we think we can find joy by having more. We think we can find joy may receiving more. We think we can find joy by more applause, by more appreciation. Ohh. If you discover the beauty, the power of nothingness, of being nothing, then joy will find you. Because joy will find a beautiful place in your life.

May we discover the power, the value of being nothing. Because in that nothingness, the joy of Christmas will visit you. And you will be surprised.

BE JOYFUL! BE HOPEFUL! Rejoice! Because we know Christ and He is truly near!

FIRST READING: Isaiah 35:1-6,10

God himself is coming to save you

Psalm 145(146):6-10

Lord, come and save us.

SECOND READING: James 5:7-10

Do not lose heart; the Lord's coming will be soon

GOSPEL: Matthew 11:2-11

A greater than John the Baptist has never been seen

HYMNS for SUNDAY MASSES

(May vary on the day)

112 Oh Come, Oh Come Emmanuel

317 Trinity song

832 one bread One Body

118 Gaudete

From the workshop- words on St Joseph- Fr Calloway's book Page 20

Just as St John the Baptist's mission was to prepare the way for Jesus, St Joseph as Jesus' earthly foster father prepared Jesus by his example; " Jesus himself learned courage from the example of St Joseph. Jesus witnessed his father's courage in Egypt, Nazareth, Jerusalem, and the many other places they travelled together. St Joseph gave his Son an example of manly love, courage strength and fortitude".

ONE MINUTE CATECHESIS

Why is the third Sunday of Advent known as Gaudete Sunday?

Its name is taken from the entrance antiphon of the Mass, which is:

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

This is a quotation from Philippians 4:4-5, and in Latin, the first word of the antiphon is gaudete (Latin, "rejoice"; it's also pronounced with three syllables: gau-de-te)

2) What significance does this have?

Advent is the season of preparing for the arrival of the Lord Jesus (both his first coming and his second coming), and by the third Sunday of Advent, we are most of the way through the season.

Thus it is appropriate to rejoice as we see the goal of the season approaching: "The Lord is near."

3) What is the appropriate liturgical color for this day?

The Catholic Church uses the color rose to indicate a joyful feast day or holiday. Gaudete Sunday's counterpart in Lent is Laetare Sunday, another break in penance to rejoice in hope as we approach Easter. During both days, a priest will usually wear rose vestments.

Notices

FLOWERS NEEDED FOR CHRISTMAS MASSES

Please could you contribute suitable flowers (eg white and yellow lillies/ gypsophila/ greenery) for our Church to glorify God. Leave in the bucket provided in Church foyer by 10.00am on 24th December.

Queries to Maria Schmetzer 0272167000. Thank you.

Mini Minutes from the PC meeting December 09 2025

1. St Roch Retreat update: Feedback from PC; draft management report was adopted, booking form adopted, prices adopted- (parish to be advised of this soon); project costs are within budget; parish are given the chance to sponsor items needed for refurbishing the SRRetreat.
2. Pastoral Calendar for 2026 approved: Confirmation program starts March 22 until confirmations with then Bishop on Good Shepherd Sunday April 26; Procession Amberley to Beatitudes on Nov 29th.

From the 14th to the 22nd December: Christmas Novena Mass (Simbang Gabi)

It will be in Culverden at 7pm.

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE 2025

Wednesday 24th December: Christmas Vigil:

5pm – Hanmer Spring
7pm - Culverden
9pm – Amberley

Wednesday 31st December: New Years Eve

5pm - Hanmer Spring
7pm - Culverden

Thursday 25th December: Christmas Day.

8:30am – Amberley
11:00am – Cheviot
No Mass in Hawarden.
Please attend in one of those churches

Thursday 01st January: New Year's Day.

8:30am – Amberley
Solemnity Motherhood of Mary