



30 November 2025 - 1st Sunday of Advent - 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

BE WATCHFUL AND VIGILANT

Today is the beginning of Advent, that time of the Liturgical year wherein the Church reminds us to be vigilant, watchful and hopeful as we prepare for the birthday of our Lord Jesus Christ. On this first Sunday of Advent, we are warned that everything will end. This is a very timely reminder especially for those who continue to believe that they can extend, prolong or perpetuate their worldly pursuit of power, fame, riches and glory, even at the expense of other people and God Himself. The message is simple, loud and clear: You too will die!

We all will die. Period. When will we die? Your guess is as good as mine. It amazes me when I see people become so tenacious to worldly power and riches even at the expense of their principles and of their very souls. They become so engrossed in their worldly pursuits to the very end without thought of legacy to this world and of eternity on hold. Indeed, why do some people hold on to this life which they cannot prolong, and loose sight of eternity which they cannot escape from? Advent reminds us: All your efforts, all your achievements—for whom? For what?

I have no admiration, but only pity for those who “progress” in this life with their evil ways and schemes. They know what is right and wrong. They know they are lying and they will die soon. And yet they continue to make a pig out of themselves in their insatiable thirst for money, power and pleasures. Pity those who live comfortable lives at the expense of others. Pity those who enjoy the limelight but are haunted with so much darkness in their lives. Pity those who beam out smiles of confidence, but are so gripped with fears deep inside. Pity those who throw their weight around, but know that they weigh nothing in God's eyes. Pity them! Pity ourselves when we have lost sight of eternity and have made this world our home, our fortress, our sanctuary.

In everything, think of death, and you will not sin, and consequently, you will not have to live a fearful life, a guilty heart, and an anxious mind.

We light today the first candle of the Advent wreath, the candle of hope. No matter what happens, let us not give up on hope. When hope is gone, then we become hopeless, and when we become hopeless, we lose courage and reason to go on. When hope is gone, the battle is lost and done.

Lord, help us to be watchful and hopeful, through it all. Amen.

From the workshop- words on St Joseph- Fr Calloway's book Page 115

When the child Jesus was under threat from Herod, the Holy Family took flight to Egypt - a long pilgrimage walk. St Joseph could not have been an old man when he espoused Mary. Old men don't walk to Egypt. They don't walk three times a year from Nazareth to Jerusalem either.'

FIRST READING: Isaiah 2:1-5

The Lord gathers all nations together
into the eternal peace of God's kingdom

Psalms 121(122):1-2,4-5,6-9

Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

SECOND READING: Romans 13:11-14

Our salvation is near

GOSPEL: Matthew 24:37-44

The Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect

HYMNS for SUNDAY MASSES

(May vary on the day)

112 Oh Come, Oh Come Emmanuel
768 Our God Reigns
607 Let all mortal flesh
356 Hail Queen of Heaven

What does Advent mean?

The word Advent comes from the Latin word *adventus*, meaning “coming” or “arrival.” For Christians, Advent is an important part of celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ on Christmas Day.

What is an Advent wreath?

The use of the wreath and candles during Advent are a longstanding Catholic tradition that was originally adopted by Christians in the Middle Ages as part of their spiritual preparation for Christmas.

An Advent wreath is typically made of evergreen branches and holds four candles, each representing one of the four weeks of Advent.

What does the Advent wreath symbolise?

The wreath and candles are full of symbolism tied to the Christmas season. The circle of the wreath, which has no beginning or end, symbolises the eternity of God, the immortality of the soul, and the everlasting life we find in Christ. The wreath itself, which is made of various kinds of evergreens, signifies continuous life.

What do the colours of the candles represent?

Three candles are purple, and lit on the first, second, and fourth Sundays of Advent. They represent a time of prayer, penance, sacrifice, and spiritual reflection.

The fourth candle is pink, and lit on the third Sunday of Advent. This candle represents joy, and marks a shift in the tone of Advent from penitential reflection to joyful anticipation, inviting believers to rejoice as Christmas draws nearer.

Notices

Sunday 30th November - Jubilee Pilgrimage walk:

After the 08:30 Mass. Please wear good strong walking shoes and sunhat, carry drinking water and rosary beads.

Drivers meet outside church at 8am to drop cars at Leithfield and return in time for Mass.

Mass will be offered for Father Rex,s father and also for Lynsday Davidson who died 2 weeks ago.

Saturday 6th December - Hanmer Working Bee:

starting 10:30 at the new unit

Saturday 6th December: The Vigil Mass in Culverden will be at 4pm.

(Group wedding) Four couples will receive the Sacrament of matrimony.

Saturday 6th December - FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

Join Bishop Michael Gielen and the Community of the Beatitudes to celebrate the Feast of the Immaculate Conception at the Sanctuary of Fourviere: 67 Leithfield Road, Leithfield, North Canterbury.

The evening starts with the outdoor Mass under a Marquee at 6.00pm.

Followed by a picnic dinner and sausage sizzle, and a procession at dusk, with adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament throughout the night. For more info, contact Sr Giovanna-Maria 022 103 6994

From the 14th to the 22nd December:

The 2025 Christmas Novena Mass (Simbang Gabi) will be in Culverden at 7pm.

Wednesday 24th December: Christmas Vigil:

5pm – Hanmer Spring

7pm - Culverden

9pm – Amberley

Thursday 25th December: Christmas Day.

8:30am – Amberley

11:00am – Cheviot

No Mass in Hawarden. Please attend in one of those churches