



01 February 2026 - 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A

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 AmberleyTuesday - 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-ATTITUDES**

In today's Gospel (Mt.5:1-12), the Lord teaches us the Beatitudes, the "be-attitudes" that will guide us in our journey on earth and help us navigate our way through this valley of tears and fears, and give us hope and courage to find our way back home to God's heart. The way of the Beatitudes is our way from selfishness to generosity.

The Beatitudes remind us that there is dignity, there is merit and there is hope for those who suffer now. Sufferings, persecution, and deprivations are temporary. Heaven awaits those who follow the Lord on the way of the cross. Eternal suffering awaits those who lived selfish, proud, and uncaring lives on this earth.

Believe, Trust, Surrender. BTS! As we journey on through valleys and hills, with our tears and fears, may we continue to focus on the Lord, not on the load. May we continue to believe God loves us; trust that He will help us; and surrender to His loving will and plans for us.

I have counselled many tired, broken, lonely, and battered people. In the end, the bottom-line picture that helps them to see the light and get the strength to go on are the "Beatitudes." It makes them accept that they are still blessed in spite of their miserable and seemingly impossible situation. What a mighty loving God we have, who has given us so much hope, meaning, and salvation through the crosses that we carry as we journey on.

While the Beatitudes, the "Sermon on the Mount" give us hope and consolation, they should also empower us to go down from the mountain and face our reality bravely. Filled with hope and consolation. We must go and spread this message of hope to others, too. In other words, the Beatitudes should lead us not only to accept but also to improve our situation. The Beatitudes gives us "new eyes" to help us see more clearly, and to love more deeply.

The opposite of "be-attitudes" is the "me-attitudes." Let us ask the Holy Spirit to cleanse us of our selfishness and pride. Come Holy Spirit, we need You! Help us to live a life that is not so focused on "I-me-myself." Remind us that there is You, and that there are others, too. Amen.

Our life will end. That's for sure, sooner or later. May we not be filled with regrets in the end that we loved God and others too little, too late, all because we loved ourselves too much.

Let me end with the last line from the song "Vincent" by Don McLean: "But I could have told you Vincent, this world was never meant for one as beautiful as you." Whatever trials, failures, challenges, and problems we go through, let us continue to stay good and beautiful. Hold on to the Beatitudes, and you'll not end up as a person with an attitude.

Lord, help me to live a life that is filled with Your blessings, and a life that is generous to others with Your blessings. Amen

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION for 2026**Enrolment closing Sunday 1st March 2026**

The Hurunui Parish of the Good Shepherd will be offering to prepare candidates to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Bishop Michael Gielen will be administering the Sacrament at the 10:30am Mass in Hawarden on Sunday 26th April 2026.

(Good Shepherd Sunday, Hurunui patronal feast day)

FIRST READING: Zephaniah 2:3,3:12-13
In your midst I will leave a humble and lowly people

Psalm 145(146):6-10(Lord6)
Happy the poor in spirit; the kingdom of heaven is theirs!

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:26-31
God chose what is foolish by human reckoning, to shame the wise

GOSPEL: Matthew 5:1-12a
How happy are the poor in spirit

HYMNS for SUNDAY MASSES
(*May vary on the day*)

695 Glory and Praise
603 Blessed are you Lord
832 One bread one body
360 As I kneel

Jubilee of St. Francis with Plenary Indulgence: A Time of Grace, Peace, and Renewal

The Jubilee of St. Francis, declared by Pope Leo XIV, is a special Year of St. Francis commemorating the 800th anniversary of the death of Saint Francis of Assisi — one of Christianity's most beloved saints. This Jubilee extends from January 10, 2026, to January 10, 2027. It offers the faithful a profound opportunity for spiritual renewal and grace through a plenary indulgence granted under the traditional conditions of the Church.

What Is This Jubilee and Why Does It Matter

A Jubilee in the Catholic tradition is a special year set aside for spiritual renewal, conversion, reconciliation, and the deepening of one's relationship with God and neighbour. While the universal Jubilee Year regularly celebrated by the Catholic Church is a broader occasion for the entire Church, this Franciscan Jubilee is specifically centred on the life, witness, and legacy of St. Francis.

Pope Leo XIV proclaimed this jubilee as a "special Year of St. Francis" to honour the saint's abiding influence as a model of holiness and peace. The decree emphasises that every Christian is called to live in the spirit of St. Francis — humility, simplicity, fraternity, and harmony with all creation.

This Jubilee is described as a gift to the entire Church and a call to authentic spiritual renewal in a world increasingly marked by division and conflict.

What a Plenary Indulgence Means

A plenary indulgence is a gift of grace the Church offers, which, under the usual conditions, remits all temporal punishment for sins already forgiven. In plain terms, it is a spiritual benefit tied to repentance, reconciliation with God, and specific acts of devotion or pilgrimage during jubilee times.

To obtain this indulgence during the Year of St. Francis, the faithful are called to:

- Be free from all attachment to sin.
- Make a pilgrimage to a Franciscan Church (St. James the Greater is a Franciscan-administered Church) or to any place of worship dedicated to St. Francis anywhere in the world.
- Fulfil the usual conditions: sacramental confession, reception of the Eucharist, and prayer for the intentions of the Holy Father.

The indulgence may also be applied to the deceased (suffrage) — a tradition that highlights the Church's teaching on the communion of saints and care for souls in purgatory.

NOTICES

Amberley St Joseph Men's Group first meeting for 2026:

The men's group will have their first meeting for 2026 next Monday 27th January 7pm to 9pm at the Amberley Catholic church hall.

All Catholic men returning from last year or new members are most welcome.

For more information contact Rob 022 546 7631; or Mark on msmilnes@hotmail.com