



25 January 2026 - 3rd 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

Walk on

In today's Gospel (Mt. 4, 12-23), Jesus called His first disciples as He was walking by the Sea of Galilee. It was a walk that changed the lives of simple fishermen who, from then on, were to become fishers of men. It was a walk that made them encounter Jesus, and made them walk after Him. Are you still walking your own walk? Is there someone or something greater than yourself that you walk after or walk with? If it's all about you, then your walk through life is non-directional, vain and empty.

"You'll never walk alone," so the song says. True. Our journey through life is actually not about going far and fast. It is a journey that has a starting point and a final destination, but more than going to places or phases, it is a journey to the heart—to one's heart, to other people's hearts, and to God's very heart. Unless and until we make that journey, all our walking and talking will be aimless and useless.

"Walk with faith in your heart and you'll never walk alone," so goes another song. Again, true. With faith, we can see more than what meets the eye. With faith, we can see meaning and purpose. When the first disciples followed Jesus in faith, they found their true worth, and their lives became truly significant. More than these, they found a companion and a Master, and for all of us, our earthly journey will come to an end someday. That's for sure. How, when, where? No one is sure. At the doorsteps of death and eternity, everything will catch up with us, and everything will fall into place. At that point in time, our earthly deeds will be weighed. Divine justice will be the rule of the day. But divine mercy will also save the day.

Today is National Bible Sunday. May the Word of God be our guide and compass as we walk on. Without the Word of God to show us the way, the journey can be tedious and confusing. Or, we may even lose our way. Let us love the Word of God. Let us live the Word of God.

Whatever road we take, or wherever the Lord will take us, let us just walk on. We may stop, pause, slow down or speed up, but we must walk on. Let us be constantly reminded that we walk not alone, we walk not on our own, we walk not without a vision, we walk not without a mission, and we walk not without a final destination. Yes. We just walk on!

"Perhaps all of life is no more than a long preparation for the leaving of it" (J. Banville). Let us all live in such a way that when our last moments come, we will have little or no regrets that we loved too little, too late. Life is short. Death is certain. Let us not postpone our conversion to God, and let us not postpone our loving.

"I just want to say to you, whatever you're going through, whatever is ahead of you, I'm always one with you. It is so consoling to know that we can always be one with the Lord and with one another as we walk on.

Lord, help me no matter what, to just walk on. 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: Isaiah 8:23-9:3

In Galilee of the nations the people has seen a great light

Psalm 26(27):1,4,13-14

The Lord is my light and my salvation.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:10-13,17

Make up the differences between you instead of disagreeing among yourselves

GOSPEL: Matthew 4:12-23

He went and settled in Capernaum: in this way the prophecy of Isaiah was fulfilled

HYMNS for SUNDAY MASSES

(May vary on the day)

282 Sing to the mountain

605 Take our bread

629 I am the bread of life

644 Alleluia Sing to Jesus

From the workshop- words on St Joseph- Fr Calloway's book Page 109"

The story in the Old Testament (St Joseph sold as a slave into Egypt) is true and is a prefigurement of a much greater Joseph who would bring his son the Bread from Heaven, to safety in Egypt. St Joseph safeguarded a food capable of saving the entire world!" St Joseph was called by God to protect God's only Divine Son and Mary his Holy mother.

A Jubilee of Grace: The Year of Saint Francis of Assisi (2026–2027)

By decree of the Apostolic Penitentiary issued on January 10, 2026, at the request of Pope Leo XIV, the Church has solemnly proclaimed a special Year of Saint Francis of Assisi, running from January 10, 2026, to January 10, 2027.

This Jubilee Year commemorates the 800th anniversary of the passage into Heaven of Saint Francis of Assisi (†1226), the Seraphic Patriarch and one of the most beloved saints in Christian history.

More than a remembrance of the past, this jubilee is offered as a gift of grace for the entire Church—not only for the Franciscan Family, but for all the faithful—so that this anniversary may become a moment of authentic spiritual renewal in our own time.

🔥 A Saint for Our Times

The decree emphasises the enduring relevance of Saint Francis in today's world. His radical Gospel life—marked by poverty, humility, peace, and love for creation—continues to speak powerfully to a humanity wounded by division, violence, and indifference. The Holy Father invites all Christians to "become saints in the contemporary world, following the example of the Seraphic Patriarch," transforming hope into concrete charity and a sincere commitment to peace.

In this jubilee, the Church calls the faithful to rediscover Francis not merely as a gentle lover of nature, but as a man conformed to Christ Crucified, whose life was a living proclamation of the Gospel.

🔥 A Time of Favour for the Whole Church

The Year of Saint Francis presents itself as a time of favour and grace, offered freely to all. As the Holy Father expresses his hope, may this jubilee awaken anew in hearts "feelings of Christian charity toward one's neighbour and an authentic desire for harmony and peace among peoples."

Eight centuries after his death, Saint Francis still calls the Church—and the world—to conversion. This Jubilee Year invites us not only to honour him, but to walk in his footsteps, rebuilding the Church through lives transformed by the Gospel.

NOTICES

We are pleased to announce that Rosemary Banks from our Amberley sub-parish has accepted the position of Campaign Director to help The Hurunui Parish raise funds for the new Blessed Sacrament Cathedral. Alongside this funding drive, there will be an initiative of outreach to the Hurunui Parish for community building. Rosemary has served as the NZ ambassador to the United States in Washington twice between 2018 to 2025, and has just retired from an extensive career with NZ foreign affairs with postings all over the world. We are fortunate Rosemary has accepted this position to give of her time and talents to help our parish. We are seeking people from each sub-parish to support Rosemary in her role. Contact: Rosemary rosemarybanks64@gmail.com. Or see Fr Rex to learn how you can be involved. Cathedral donations are tax deductible and you are encouraged to make these through the parish office to be counted in the Parish fundraising quota.