



15 February 2026 - 6th 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)

The Beatitudes, Leithfield  
**11am - Every Sunday**

**Weekday Masses**

Amberley  
Mon - Fri: 8:30am

The Beatitudes, Leithfield  
**Mon & Thurs: 6pm**  
Other week-days: 12pm



**Adoration & Reconciliation**

Amberley

1st Friday of the month  
from 7:30am

Confession by Appointment  
or before Mass



Amberley Church Hall

**Rosary**

Wednesday 1:30pm

**Kalavale**

Parish's cup of tea & raffles  
1st Sunday of the Month.

**St Joseph Men's Group**

2nd & 4th Monday 7pm-9pm

**HEARTPRINTS**

In today's Gospel (Mt. 5, 17-37), Jesus reminds us that we cannot use adherence to the law as an escape from true righteousness. In other words, we must go beyond the letter of the law to the spirit of the law. When we become too legalistic, we may end up calculating, controlling, judgmental and impersonal. May we not live according to the letter of the law but according to the spirit of the law. God's love is far broader, far deeper, far wider, so let us not limit God's love according to our laws and traditions.

Behind and beyond our religiosity should be a spirituality that is based on love. In other words, without the heart, we could end up self-righteous, vain, and proud. Yes, we who claim to be religious must be religious, with a heart. Antoine de Saint-Exupéry's story of The Little Prince captured this so well: "It is only with the heart that one can see rightly. What is essential is invisible to the eye."

"I tell you, unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven." The kingdoms of this world operate, live, and thrive on manmade laws. The kingdom of God also operates, lives, and thrives on manmade laws, but go beyond them. The letter of the law is exact, definite, and strict. The spirit of the law is open, grace-filled, and goes beyond any measure.

We celebrate Valentine's Day. It is called Heart Day, to remind us that we have a heart, and that matters of the heart do matter. Do we have a Head Day celebration? I guess not. Why is this so? Maybe it is because every day is "head day" for many—and we need to be reminded, at least once a year, that people with a heart often see more clearly, more deeply.

The journey from the head to the heart happens when we focus less on the works and "achievements" of our hands and focus more on the love in our hearts, and when we realise that what is important is not so much that we are "loaded" but that we are "Lorded." There is someone greater than you and I. More than a successful life, may we live a meaningful life with a heart filled with God, sharing, and service to our brothers and sisters.

"Have I told you lately that I love you?" May we have little or no regrets in the end that we loved God and others too little, too late because we were so in love with ourselves.

**Lord, give us the courage to make our journey from our head to our heart. 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)

The preparatory sessions will take place at the Beatitudes Community in Leithfield.



**18th February: ASH WEDNESDAY**

7:30am Mass - Amberley

7:00pm Mass - Culverden

**FIRST READING: Ecclesiasticus 15:16-21**

Then will your light shine like the dawn

**Psalm 118(119):1-2,4-5,17-18,33-34**

*Happy are they who follow the law of the Lord!*

**SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 2:6-10**

God predestined wisdom to be for our glory before the ages began

**GOSPEL: Matthew 5:17-37**

You have learnt how it was said to our ancestors; but I say this to you

**HYMNS for SUNDAY MASSES**

*(May vary on the day)*

770 Shine Jesus Shine

924 Brother Sister let me serve you

865 Here I am Lord

347 O purest of Creatures

**From the workshop-** words on St Joseph- Fr Calloway's book Page 25

Jesus is not offended when people entrust themselves to Mary and Joseph. How could he be? He is the first one to have entrusted himself to them! He, more than anyone else, wants you to love Mary and Joseph. He wants you to love them and resemble them.

One Minute Catechesis - What is Lent?

**What are your priorities in life right now?**

Lent is an invitation to rearrange your priorities - to focus on what matters most and leave behind what matters least.

Lent is the season where the Church prepares for Easter. Starting with Ash Wednesday, Lent spans 40+ days until Holy Thursday.

In the fourth chapter of Matthew, Jesus spends 40 days in the desert, fasting, praying, and preparing for his mission. Lent is your opportunity for that same focus. Lent is your invitation to take your spiritual life seriously.

Lent is the perfect time to form life-giving habits and abandon self-destructive habits.

Lent is your chance to discover the abundant life Jesus invites us to at Easter.

Take these 40 days to explore God's dream for your life and it will change everything. Are you ready?

**The Significance of Lenten Colours**

There is incredible genius and beauty in Catholicism, even in the smallest of details. One of those small details is the significance of colours throughout Lent.

When you visit a Catholic church, attend Mass, or pray the Stations of the Cross, you'll notice certain colours repeated in the decorations and the priest's vestments. Each one of these colours holds great meaning.

**Purple:** Purple is the primary colour of Lent. The colour purple symbolises our need for repentance. It also represents the purple robe that Pontius Pilate placed on Jesus before he was crucified and reminds us of the royalty of Jesus as King. Late in the Lenten season, your parish might cover every statue or painting with a deep purple cloth.

**Red:** On Palm Sunday, the priest wears bright red vestments during Mass. This foreshadows Jesus' death on the Cross.

**White:** On Easter, priests wear white vestments and many parishes will fill the entire altar with white lilies. White represents the joy of Jesus' resurrection.

The colours used during Lent enhance the spiritual experience, evoking emotions and providing visual reminders of the central themes of Jesus' suffering, sacrifice, and ultimate triumph over death - especially during Holy Week.

NOTICES

**St Joseph commemoration day** Saturday March 14<sup>th</sup> keep this free in your diaries.

**St Joseph Helping Hand group** available to provide help for small tasks around the house or property that we can assist with, especially suitable for the sick and elderly in Amberley. For more information contact Steve Joyce- [steveandbern@outlook.com](mailto:steveandbern@outlook.com) or Fr Rex for details.

**St Roch Retreat SRR Hanmer-** now open for bookings- see the parish office

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**Parish Treasurer - Secretary :** Thomas Peacock - [catholicurunuitreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:catholicurunuitreasurer@gmail.com) - Office Hours Friday 8:00am - 3:00pm