



08 March 2026 - 3rd Sunday of Lent - 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

Samaritan Woman

In today's Gospel (Jn. 4, 5-42), Jesus encountered the Samaritan woman at the well. Their conversation started with thirst for natural water, and ended with the Samaritan woman asking from Jesus the water He will give so that she will not be thirsty again. We often think that worldly pleasures and achievements are all that we need in this life to be satisfied and happy. Not so, the Lord reminds us today.

Money can buy happiness, but not true happiness. There are many things money can buy, but there are many other things it cannot buy or satisfy. In this season of Lent, we are asked to curb our desire for earthly pleasures so that we can focus more on the spiritual, which, in the end, can truly make us happy and satisfied.

Somebody once said that money is like sea water. The more you drink of it, the more you become thirsty. Sea water cannot quench our thirst. Somewhere down the road, we must make a decision on whether we will make money our god that we will worship and pursue for the rest of our lives. What can make us realise that? Like the Samaritan woman, an encounter with the Lord can make us change the course of our lives. Let us pray, and be open to God's grace, and when we encounter the Lord, may we not turn our back on Him who is calling us toward a more peaceful life. May God give us the peace which the world cannot give or take away.

The Lord calls us today also to true worship, a "worship in spirit and truth." Beyond religion, beyond traditions, beyond rituals and places of worship, our worship must be from the heart. Let God be God, let man be man. We cannot, and should not, confine or control God! Beyond the Church is the kingdom of God which is open for all. True worship is inclusive, not exclusive. Worship in spirit is worship not just with words but with heart.

What is worship "in truth"? Again, our Lord tells us to go beyond lip service to life service. Worship "in truth" is worshipping and honouring God not just with prayers and words but with the very life we live.

After the Samaritan woman encountered Jesus, she was never the same again. We pray that we, too, will get to encounter Jesus in a deeper way, and that this encounter will lead to a life spent in quality time and payback time. Please remember that the journey to God's heart is the most important journey we have to make in our life, more than a career journey, etc.

Lord, indeed, restless are our hearts until they rest in Thee. No amount of worldly success or pleasure can fill the void in our hearts that can only be filled by Thee. Amen.

From the workshop- words on St Joseph- Fr Calloway's book Page 170

"With St Joseph, the christian learns what it means to belong to God and fully assume one's place among men, sanctifying the world." St Joseph Glory of domestic life- pray for us.

FIRST READING: Exodus 17:3-7

Strike the rock, and water will flow from it

Psalm 94(95):1-2,6-9

If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

SECOND READING: Romans 5:1-2,5-8

The love of God has been poured into our hearts

GOSPEL: John 4:5-42

A spring of water welling up to eternal life

HYMNS for SUNDAY MASSES

(May vary on the day)

- 842 Come back to me
- 220 Grant to us, O Lord
- 607 Let all mortal Flesh
- 229 All Glory Laud and honour

Lent is a sacred season of repentance, interior renewal, and preparation for the Paschal Mystery. For this reason, the Church sets aside the joyful acclamation "Alleluia"—a Hebrew word meaning "Praise the Lord"—from Ash Wednesday until the Easter Vigil.

This silence extends to both the Gospel Acclamation at Mass and the Liturgy of the Hours. In place of the Alleluia, the Church uses solemn alternatives from the Lectionary, preserving reverence while reflecting the penitential character of the season.

Just as the Gloria is omitted during Lent (except on solemnities), the Alleluia is withheld to deepen spiritual longing. The Church practices a kind of liturgical fasting so that when the Alleluia is sung again at the Easter Vigil, it resounds with greater joy and clarity.

In earlier centuries, in which some still observe now, "bury" the Alleluia before Lent. Its return at Easter proclaims the Resurrection—Christ's victory over sin and death.

The absence of the Alleluia is therefore not a loss, but a lesson: authentic Christian joy is paschal. It is born through repentance, purified by the Cross, and fulfilled in the glory of the Resurrection.

NOTICES

St Vincent de Paul Basket. Please do not forget to give donations to our Basket for St Vincent de Paul. Non perishable items such as food and toiletries are most acceptable. Thank you for your generosity. K.Walker.

St Joseph men's group will meet this Monday 9th March in the Amberley Church Hall from 7pm.

Stations of the Cross on Fridays.

Culverden: 5:30pm

Amberley: 7:00pm

NEXT SATURDAY! St Joseph commemoration day, March 14th.

please bring your own sausages / meat and buns for the BBQ and water for the walk.

09:00 Gather at The Beatitudes in Leithfield at the Shrine of Our Lady of Fourviere.

09:00 to 10:30 Process to Amberley church using the overland heartland walkway- the same route that we processed on November 30th but in reverse.

10:30 to 11:00 Gather in the Amberley Church and pray in silence before Mass- this allows time for late comers to arrive or people just attending Mass only.

11:00 to 12:00 Mass with consecration to St Joseph led by the men's group leaders. Mass and a blessing said by Fr Rex Ramos- Hurunui Parish Priest.

12:00 to 1:00 Lunch will be a BBQ outside the Amberley Church Hall

1:00 to 2:00 Talk by Fr Rex 45mins with 15mins Q&A.

2:00 People are free to depart or stay to chat over a cuppa social time.



The New St Roch's Retreat Unit in Hanmer:

The new Hurunui parish facility at Hanmer is now available for parishioners from the Hurunui to come and stay!

Scan the QR code to access the booking form!

- 1) Fill in the [St Roch's Retreat: Booking Form](#). Once received, Thomas will check the availability of your dates.
- 2) You will receive a 1st email - **# 1: your dates are available!** and a request for payment to confirm the booking.
- 3) You will receive a 2nd email: St Roch's Retreat - **# 2: Thank you for your payment! & useful details.**
- 4) 2-3 days before your stay you will receive a 3rd email: St Roch's Retreat - **# 3: Key-Drop Box code & tips.**

What to bring?

You will need to bring all your own linen: sheets for each bed (Top & Bottom), pillowcases, tea towels, bathmat, flannels, towels, toiletries, Baby cot (if needed).

The Cathedral fundraising parish effort:

During the booking/ payment process, you will be given the opportunity to top up your accommodation payment with a Cathedral rebuilding donation. (optional).