



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

INSIGHT

In today's Gospel (Jn. 9, 1-41), Jesus reminds us in the story of the healing of the blind man that true sight is not so much about seeing what is outside us as seeing what is inside us. The blind man received not only sight but faith as well because of his encounter with Jesus. Let us ask the Lord to give us not only sight but also insight, not only knowledge but also faith that will really help us see.

It is amazing how much there is for our eyes to see in this world today. It is a visual world, especially with our access to gadgets and the media. But visuals can end up to be mere visuals that entertain our eyes but neither enrich our lives nor touch our hearts. Beyond visuals that give us data and information, let us not forget the inward look that helps us become better persons.

Today, the beginning of the fourth week of Lent, is also called the "Laetare" Sunday to remind us to be joyful in our observance of the season. May we not lose sight of hope and joy in whatever we are going through in life. Humour helps us "see" the light, and will itself help see us through life. Joy is a choice, an "inside job," so to speak, because true joy does not depend on people or circumstances outside us.

In this season of Lent, let us open our eyes and be sensitive to the needs of our brothers and sisters who need our love. Remember, the biggest stumbling block to true loving is the I-Me-and-Myself. May the Lord help us to see beyond ourselves and to really reach out.

**In what ways might I be like the people in the Gospel who saw the blind man every day but failed to truly notice his suffering?**

Who around me—family members, parishioners, neighbours, or the poor—might I be overlooking because I have become accustomed to their presence?

**What kinds of spiritual blindness prevent me from responding to the needs of others?**

Is it busyness, indifference, fear of involvement, comfort in my routine, or the distractions of a secular culture?

**After encountering Christ, the blind man began to see clearly.**

How is Jesus inviting me today to open my eyes and actively respond to the struggles of those who feel unseen, forgotten, or distant from the Church?

**Lord, remind me that what really matters most is not what is outside us but what is inside us. Amen.**

**From the workshop- words on St Joseph- Fr Calloway's book Page 20**

To all who participated in the commemoration day for St Joseph well done and thank you; "Consecration to St Joseph will increase your love for Jesus: The entire life and mission of St Joseph points to Jesus".

**FIRST READING: 1 Samuel 16:1,6-7,10-13**

David is anointed by Samuel

**Psalm 22(23)**

*The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.*

**SECOND READING: Ephesians 5:8-14**

Anything exposed by the light will turn into light

**GOSPEL: John 9:1-41**

The blind man went off and washed himself,  
and came away with his sight restored

**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

**Laetare Sunday** is celebrated on the **Fourth Sunday of Lent** in the Catholic Church. The name *Laetare* comes from the first word of the Latin entrance antiphon of the Mass: "*Laetare, Jerusalem*" which means "**Rejoice, O Jerusalem.**" The text is taken from the Book of the Prophet Book of Isaiah (Isaiah 66:10). This Sunday marks a moment of **joy and encouragement in the middle of the penitential season of Lent.**

Historically, Laetare Sunday dates back to the early centuries of the Church. During Lent, Christians practiced strict fasting, prayer, and penance as preparation for the celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus at Easter. Because Lent can be spiritually demanding, the Church introduced this Sunday as a brief pause to remind the faithful that the goal of the Lenten journey is **the joy of Christ's victory over sin and death.**

The liturgy on Laetare Sunday reflects this spirit of hope. The priest may wear **rose-colored vestments** instead of the usual violet, symbolising a lightening of the penitential tone. Flowers may also appear on the altar, and the music can be more joyful.

The purpose of Laetare Sunday is to **encourage the faithful not to lose heart during Lent**, but to continue their journey of repentance with renewed hope, remembering that the suffering of the cross leads to the joy of the Resurrection. It reminds Christians that **penance ultimately leads to redemption and rejoicing in Christ.**

## 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.

**Next Saturday (tomorrow) March 14th is the commemoration event for St Joseph, DETAILS:**

- **All Welcome;** please bring your own sausages and buns for the lunch and water for the walk
- **Car pooling:** If cars arrive in front of the Amberley Church before 08:40, we can organise car pool vehicles to drop walkers at Leithfield and vehicles back at the Amberley church before the 9am start of the procession from Leithfield.
- **Program:** walk 09:00 -10:30; Mass 11:00; Lunch 12:00; Talk 1:00pm; you are free to come to any or all of the activities
- Please **pray** for: good weather, good attendance and blessings to those walking with St Joseph and for the whole parish.

**Stations of the Cross on Fridays.**

**Culverden:** 5:30pm

**Amberley:** 7:00pm



**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).