



22 March 2026 - 5th 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: 8:30amThe Beatitudes, Leithfield  
**Mon & Thurs: 6pm**  
Other week-days: 12pm**Adoration & Reconciliation****Amberley**1st Friday of the month  
from 7:30amConfession 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 &amp; 4th Monday 7pm-9pm

**From Darkness to Life**

In today's Gospel, we hear about Lazarus, a friend of Jesus who died. His sisters, Martha and Mary, were very sad. They believed that if Jesus had come earlier, their brother would not have died. When Jesus arrived, He saw their tears. The Gospel tells us, "Jesus wept." This shows how much He loved them.

Then Jesus went to the tomb. He asked the people to remove the stone. He prayed and called out, "Lazarus, come out!" And Lazarus came back to life.

This is a powerful miracle. But this story is not only about Lazarus. It is also about us. Sometimes we feel like we are in darkness—when we are far from God, when we lose hope, or when life becomes heavy. In a secular world, many people forget God and live without faith.

Today, let us reflect on three simple words: Listen, Lean, and Lead.

**1. Listen**

Jesus listened to the pain of Martha and Mary. He listened to their hearts. He did not ignore them. In our daily life, we are often busy. We hear many noises—phones, work, people—but we do not really listen. We need to learn to listen again. Listen to God in prayer. Listen to His Word in the Gospel. Listen to people around us. Sometimes a person just needs someone to listen. A friend, a family member, or even someone in our parish may be carrying a heavy burden. When we listen with love, we become instruments of God's presence.

**2. Lean**

To lean means to depend our trust. Martha showed this when she said, "Lord, I believe." Even in her sadness, she leaned on Jesus. In our life, we must also lean on Jesus. Life is not easy. There are problems, worries, and struggles. In a secular society, many people lean only on themselves, on money, or on success. But these things cannot support us fully. Only Jesus is strong enough to carry our burdens. When life is hard, do we lean on Jesus? Do we pray? Do we go to Mass? Leaning on Jesus gives us strength, peace, and hope.

**3. Lead**

After Lazarus came back to life, many people believed in Jesus. His miracle led others to faith. We are also called to lead others to Jesus—not by force, but by example. Our life can lead others. When we forgive, we lead. When we are kind, we lead. When we stay faithful to prayer and Mass, we lead. Today many people have slowly moved away from God. But they can come back if they see someone living a real and joyful faith. You can be that person. You can lead someone back to Jesus.

**Conclusion**

The Gospel today reminds us that Jesus brings life even in the darkest moments. Let us listen to God and to others with love. Let us lean on Jesus in every situation. Let us lead others by our good example. Keep your faith simple. Pray every day. Go to Mass. Be kind. Trust Jesus. And remember, Jesus is still calling us today: "Come out." Come out from fear. Come out from doubt. Come back to life.

**Reflection Challenge Question:**

This week, will I choose one moment each day to listen to God, lean on Him in prayer, and lead someone closer to Him by my actions?

**FIRST READING: Ezekiel 37:12-14**

I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live

**Psalm 129(130)**

With the Lord there is mercy, and fullness of redemption.

**SECOND READING: Romans 8:8-11**

The Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you

**GOSPEL: John 11:1-45**

I am the resurrection and the life

**HYMNS for SUNDAY MASSES**

*(May vary on the day)*

**842** Come back to me

**220** Grant to us, O Lord

**629** I am the Resurrection

**360** Ave Maria

**From the workshop-** *words on St Joseph- Fr Calloway's book Page 157*

Thank you to Fr Rex and all who participated in the commemoration day for St Joseph. As we approach Passion week in few short days let us recall that in spite of St Joseph being spared the horror's of witnessing Jesus' death, he suffered much in his care for Jesus and Mary. See P157- 7 sorrow and 7 joys:" St Joseph was such a great lover of God but was afflicted by much suffering which he endured with a wonderful fortitude".

**One Minute Catechesis - On the Stations of the Cross**

The **Stations of the Cross** is a powerful devotion that helps us walk with Jesus in His suffering and love. It reminds us that our faith is not only about joy, but also about sacrifice. In this prayer, we follow Jesus from His condemnation to His burial. Each station shows us how much He loves us.

The meaning of the Stations is simple: Jesus suffered for us, and He invites us to follow Him. Life is not always easy. We face stress, failure, rejection, and pain. In a secular society where faith is often ignored, it can be hard to stay strong. The Stations teach us that suffering is not useless. When united with Jesus, our suffering has meaning.

Each station gives a lesson. When Jesus falls, we learn that it is okay to fall, but we must rise again. When He meets His mother, we learn the value of love and support. When Simon helps carry the cross, we are reminded to help others in their struggles. When Veronica wipes the face of Jesus, we see the importance of small acts of kindness.

For a baptised Catholic, the Stations of the Cross is not just a ritual. It is a guide for daily living. In school, at work, or at home, we carry our own crosses. These may be problems, temptations, or responsibilities. Instead of complaining, we can offer them to God. We can choose patience instead of anger, forgiveness instead of revenge, and love instead of indifference.

In a world that focuses on comfort and success, the cross may seem foolish. But the cross is the way to true life. Jesus shows us that real strength is found in sacrifice and love. When we pray the Stations, we learn to trust God even in difficult times.

In simple words, the Stations of the Cross teach us this: do not run away from your cross. Carry it with Jesus. He is always with you, and He will never leave you.

**Practical Challenge Question:**

*Which "cross" in my life can I carry with patience and offer to Jesus this week?*

**Stations of the Cross on Fridays: Culverden: 5:30pm & Amberley: 7:00pm**

**NOTICES**

**Please pray:** for Judith and Peter McLaughlan who purchased the Waiiau church from the parish last year. Judith's cancer has reappeared and she has been admitted for emergency chemo treatment last week.

**BISHOPS' LENTEN APPEAL:** The New Zealand Bishops are encouraging the Catholic community to prayerfully consider how they can contribute to the annual Lenten Appeal. The appeal supports the work of Caritas NZ, which through its global network serves some of our world's most vulnerable and needy communities.

The Bishops explain that acts of Christian charity can change the lives of those who benefit from that charity, but also can transform those who give with generosity - according to their own circumstances.

Find out more at [www.caritas.org.nz/lent](http://www.caritas.org.nz/lent)

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