



29 March 2026 - Palm Sunday - 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

"P-A-L-M"

SOMEBODY ONCE said that life is like a Yo-Yo in God's hands: Whether we go up or go down, we always end up in the palm of His hand.

Today is Palm Sunday, the beginning of the Holy Week, in which we commemorate the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Hailed during Palm Sunday, derided during Good Friday, and exalted on Easter Sunday, Jesus through it all remained in the palm of God's hand.

To remain in the palm of God's hand especially this Holy Week, let us do "P-A-L-M," i.e., Prayers, Almsgiving, Love, and Mortification.

PRAYERS: This week, let us spend time to be with our Lord to reflect and to pray. Let us take time off from our work and worldly concerns, and really talk and listen to our Lord. Let's take time to join a retreat or a recollection, do the Stations of the Cross, or spend moments of adoration. Let us do them all not out of obligation, or because of tradition, but with heartfelt and personal devotion.

ALMSGIVING: Please find time this week to reach out and share to the last, the lost and the least among us. It's payback time, especially for those of you who have been so blessed by God. Share your time, talent and treasure.

LOVE: Please do whatever practices or devotions you do this week as an expression of love and gratitude to our loving God. During these days too, let us go out of our way, and go the "extra mile" to show our love and appreciation of the people around us. It is also the time to forgive and ask for forgiveness. It is the time to show that we love and we care.

MORTIFICATION: Let us make some sacrifice and go beyond our comfort zones. Fasting and abstinence not just from food but from those that we really like should lead us to deeper reflection and deeper relationship with God, who in turn will lead us to deeper conversion.

To our acronym P-A-L-M, we add "S" i.e., Prayers, Almsgiving, Love and Mortification, with a **Smile!**

Whatever we do this Holy Week, let us do it all with joy and with gratitude. God loves a cheerful giver! Let us thank God for giving us the chance and the opportunity to somehow respond to His love.

Perhaps we can add another "S"—i.e., we do Prayers, Almsgiving, Love, Mortification with a "Smile," and **"in Secret."**

Yes, the Holy Week is a time more for personal than for public devotion. Our Heavenly Father always sees the heart, and so let us also do everything with sincerity and with the heart.

Please don't forget that the passion and death of Christ ends in the Resurrection. In other words, Christ is alive and He will meet us again soon in His Kingdom. But even now, let us all become "agents of the Resurrection," giving life, giving love and giving hope wherever we go, whatever we do.

Wishing you all a blessed, meaningful Holy Week.

Lord, whatever I go through, I will be all right, as long as I am in the palm of your hand. Amen

FIRST READING: Isaiah 50:4-7

I did not cover my face against insult:
I know I shall not be shamed

Psalm 21(22):8-9,17-20,23-24

My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

SECOND READING: Philippians 2:6-11

Christ humbled himself but God raised him high

Matthew 26:14-27:66

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

HYMNS for SUNDAY MASSES

(May vary on the day)

Processional: The King of Glory comes the nation Rejoices

Offertory: 237 O sacred head

Communion: 225 Our God Reigns

Recessional: 229 All Glory Laud and honour

From the workshop- *words on St Joseph- Fr Calloway's book Page 164-5*

The sword that was going to pierce Mary's heart on Calvary needed to pierce the heart of St Joseph as well, but in a different way... The memory of St Joseph's own strength in suffering would have increased Mary's determination to witness and suffer with her crucified Son. St Joseph Saviour of The Saviour pray for us.

One Minute Catechesis

Palm Sunday and Holy Week stand at the heart of the Church's liturgical life, revealing the central mystery of salvation: the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Palm Sunday commemorates Christ's triumphant entry into Jerusalem, yet it already points to His suffering. This unity of glory and the Cross is essential. As taught in the Catechism of the Catholic Church, Jesus fulfills His mission as the humble Messiah who conquers not by force but by love and obedience (cf. CCC 559–560).

Holy Week deepens this mystery. From the Last Supper to the Cross and the empty tomb, the Church celebrates what the Catechism calls the "Paschal Mystery" (cf. CCC 571–573). Christ's sacrifice is not just a past event but is made present in the liturgy, especially in the Eucharist. Through His Passion, Jesus redeems humanity from sin, showing that suffering, when united with Him, becomes a path to life and salvation.

The Catechism also reminds us that all sinners share responsibility for Christ's suffering (cf. CCC 598). This calls each believer to repentance, conversion, and a deeper commitment to follow Christ.

In daily life, especially in a secular society, Palm Sunday and Holy Week challenge us to live authentically. We are called not to be like the crowd that praises Jesus one moment and rejects Him the next. Instead, we must choose fidelity—through prayer, participation in the Mass, acts of charity, and willingness to sacrifice. Practically, this means embracing humility, forgiving others, and remaining faithful even in trials. Holy Week teaches that true Christian life is a journey through the Cross toward the hope and joy of the Resurrection.

NOTICES

Fr Rex's talk: 31st March - Amberley Mass at 7pm. (Holy Tuesday) - Homily: Holy Week explained.

You are warmly invited to come to Mass. In his homily, Fr Rex will give a reflection on the significance of Holy Week and its practical application in our daily life as Christians.

Planned Giving Receipts:

The end of financial year receipts will be available shortly.

Reminder to those using envelopes : Now is a good time to switch to on-line payments.

It is quicker, more secure, and more economical to process. Thomas at the office can help you with this.

C D O C The Catholic Parish of Hurunui 03-1592-0522332-20

Particular: your name; Code: PG; Reference: your donor number

If not then printed envelopes for those who have requested them are now available in the church.

Please pray: for Judith and Peter McLaughlan who purchased the Waiau church from the parish last year.

Judith's cancer has reappeared and she has been admitted for emergency chemo treatment.

Parish Priest: Fr. Rex Ramos - padrepio1428@gmail.com - 03 319 8730 **Parish Email:** catholichurunui@gmail.com

Parish Treasurer - Secretary : Thomas Peacock - catholichurunuitreasurer@gmail.com - Office Hours Friday 8:00am - 3:00pm