



17 May 2026 - The Ascension of the Lord - 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

Every Thursday 7pm

1st Friday / month 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

"Go, Therefore: Christ Ascended, Yet Still With Us"

This Sunday we celebrate the great Feast of the Ascension of Jesus. In the Gospel of Matthew, the disciples go up the mountain in Galilee. There they see the risen Jesus one last time before He ascends to the Father. Some worship Him immediately, yet the Gospel honestly tells us that "some doubted." That small detail gives hope to us. Even faithful believers can struggle, question, and feel weak at times. Yet Jesus still entrusts His mission to them.

Before ascending, Jesus gives three powerful gifts.

First, He gives His authority: *"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me."*

The world today often feels uncertain. We see wars, family struggles, loneliness, and anxiety about the future. But the Ascension reminds us that Jesus is Lord above every problem. He is not absent. He reigns in glory. The One who walked the dusty roads of Galilee now rules heaven and earth with love and mercy.

Second, Jesus gives a mission: *"Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations."*

Faith is not meant to stay inside the church walls. In everyday New Zealand life, at home, at work, on the farm, in school, or in the community we are called to witness to Christ by our kindness, honesty, forgiveness, and compassion. Sometimes evangelisation is not preaching with many words. Sometimes it is listening patiently, helping a neighbour, praying with our children, or standing for truth with courage.

Third, Jesus gives a promise: *"I am with you always, until the end of the age."*

This is the heart of the Ascension. Jesus ascends physically into heaven, but He remains spiritually with us. He is with us in the Eucharist, in the Scriptures, in prayer, and in the poor and suffering. We are never abandoned.

Saint Augustine once said: *"Though He ascended from us into heaven, He has not departed from us."*

Christ is still guiding His Church, still walking with His people, still strengthening tired hearts.

Today, let us lift our eyes to heaven, but also open our hearts to mission. The Ascension is not the end of Jesus' work. It is now our turn to continue it.

Reflection question:

How can I become a living witness of Christ's presence this week in my family, workplace, or community?

FIRST READING: Acts 1:1-11

Jesus was lifted up while they looked on

Psalm 46(47):2-3,6-9

God mounts his throne to shouts of joy:
a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:17-23

God made him sit at his right hand in heaven

Matthew 28:16-20

Go and make disciples of all nations

**HYMNS for SUNDAY
MASSES**

(May vary on the day)

768: Our God Reigns

761: He is Lord

964 Be Not Afraid

365 Immaculate Mary

The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches that the Spiritual Works of Mercy are charitable actions by which we help our neighbour in their spiritual and emotional needs (CCC 2447).

These works continue the mission of Jesus Christ, who healed, taught, forgave, and comforted people.

The first Spiritual Work of Mercy is to instruct the ignorant.

The Church teaches that believers must share the truth of the Gospel with others. Teaching the faith, guiding children, and helping people know God are ways of living this mercy. In daily life, parents teaching children to pray or parishioners joining catechism ministry are examples.

The second is to counsel the doubtful.

Many people struggle with fear, confusion, and uncertainty. Christians are called to guide others with wisdom, patience, and faith. Listening to someone's struggles and encouraging them to trust in God is a practical application.

The third is to admonish sinners.

According to the Church, fraternal correction should be done with love and humility, not with anger or pride (CCC 1829). Correcting someone gently when they are choosing harmful actions is an act of charity because it helps lead them back to God.

The fourth is to comfort the sorrowful.

Jesus showed compassion to those who suffered, and Christians must do the same. Visiting the sick, comforting grieving families, or supporting someone going through depression or loneliness are practical examples.

The fifth is to forgive offences willingly.

The Catechism teaches that forgiveness is essential in Christian life because God forgives us first (CCC 2840-2845). Christians are called to let go of revenge and bitterness and seek reconciliation and peace.

The sixth is to bear wrongs patiently.

Patience reflects the mercy of Christ. Instead of responding with anger, Christians endure difficulties and insults with love, understanding, and self-control.

The seventh is to pray for the living and the dead.

The Church teaches the importance of intercessory prayer and praying for souls, especially the faithful departed (CCC 2634-2636). Offering Mass intentions, praying the Rosary, and remembering the dead are practical ways to live this mercy.

The Spiritual Works of Mercy remind Catholics that faith must be lived through love, compassion, forgiveness, and concern for the spiritual well-being of others.

Notices

Amberley - Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: every Thursday evening between 7 to 8pm.

(Starting this week) Please take this as a personal invitation to spend some time with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. As he said "He will be with us always even to the end of time"

The Hurunui Outreach:

We had a meeting this Thursday with Matt O'Connell after Mass and discussed the Hurunui Outreach.

How we begin with prayer, conversion and a call to personal holiness.

Matt shared his experiences with parish renewal and his booklet for Parish renewal, copies available at the office.

Hurunui Ministers Association: Combined Pentecost Service:

'They were all with one accord in one place.' (Acts 2:1)

Sunday 24th May 2026 5-6pm followed by a cup of tea (please bring a plate)

Chapel of the Beatitudes Community 67 Leithfield Road, Leithfield

Fr Rex will be away from 19th to 26th May 2026.

Fr Alister will celebrate all Vigil & Sunday Masses. Please pray for Fr Rex's mission in the Chatham Islands.

From the workshop- words on St Joseph- Fr Calloway's book Page 74

If you or someone you know is under attack, go to St Joseph- the terror of demons. To defeat the devil, you need Jesus, Mary and St Joseph and the teachings and sacraments of the Catholic Church."