



PARISH NEWSLETTER

DIOCESE OF CHRISTCHURCH CATHOLIC PARISH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

AMBERLEY | CHEVIOT | HAWARDEN | CULVERDEN | HANMER SPRINGS
Parish Office: 138A Carters Road, Amberley, PO BOX 143, Amberley 7441
www.catholic Hurunui.nz



12 July 2026 - 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time - 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

CDOC - Catholic Parish of Hurunui Trust

03-1592-0522332-20
(Westpac)

"Open Your Heart: Let God's Word Bear Fruit"

Today's three readings have one clear message: God's Word has the power to change our lives, but only if we welcome it into our hearts.

In the first reading from Isaiah, God tells us that His Word is like rain falling on the earth. Rain makes plants grow and produce fruit. In the same way, God's Word never fails. It always has a purpose. If we listen and obey, it will bring blessings into our lives.

In the second reading, St. Paul reminds us that life is not always easy. We all experience pain, sickness, loneliness, worries, and disappointments. But Paul gives us hope. He says that today's sufferings are small compared with the great joy that God is preparing for His faithful children. So, do not lose hope. Keep trusting the Lord.

Then, in today's Gospel, Jesus tells the Parable of the Sower. The seed is the Word of God. The different kinds of soil represent different kinds of hearts.

Some hearts are hard like the path. God's Word cannot enter. Some hearts are shallow like rocky ground. They receive God's Word with joy but give up when problems come. Some hearts are full of worries, money, and worldly desires. These choke God's Word. But the good soil represents people who listen, believe, and live God's Word every day. Their lives produce good fruit.

The question for us is simple: What kind of soil is my heart?

As members of the Good Shepherd Parish, God invites us to become good soil. We become good soil when we pray daily, read the Bible, attend Mass faithfully, forgive others, help those in need, and keep trusting God even during difficult times.

A farmer does not blame the seed if nothing grows. He prepares the soil first. In the same way, God continues to sow His Word into our hearts. Our task is to remove the stones of pride, the weeds of worry, and the hardness caused by sin.

This week, let us spend a few minutes each day reading the Gospel. Ask yourself, "Lord, what are You saying to me today?" Then put that message into action.

If Jesus looked at the soil of my heart today, would He find a heart that truly listens to His Word and bears fruit, or a heart that is too busy, too worried, or too closed to let His Word change my life?

FIRST READING: Isaiah 55:10-11

The word that goes out from my mouth
does not return to me empty

Psalm

The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.

SECOND READING: Romans 8:18-23

The whole creation is eagerly waiting for God to reveal his
sons

Matthew 13:1-23

A sower went out to sow

HYMNS for SUNDAY MASSES

(May vary on the day)

824: Awake from you slumber

609: in bread we bring you

720: Be still for the presence of
the Lord

922: Bind us together

Q: What does the Catholic Church teach about the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist?

A: The Catholic Church teaches that Jesus Christ is truly, really, and substantially present in the Eucharist. At every Mass, when the priest speaks the words of Jesus at the Last Supper, the bread and wine become the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Christ. Although the appearance of bread and wine remains, their substance is completely changed into Christ Himself. This change is called **transubstantiation** (CCC 1376). The Eucharist is not just a symbol or reminder of Jesus. It is Jesus Himself, who comes to feed us with His life and remain with us (CCC 1373-1374).

Q: Why is the Eucharist so important?

A: The Eucharist is "the source and summit of the Christian life" (CCC 1324). Through Holy Communion, we are united more closely with Christ, our sins are strengthened against future temptation, and our love for God and neighbour grows (CCC 1391-1395). Jesus fulfils His promise: "Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him" (John 6:56).

Q: How should this teaching affect our daily lives?

A: Believing that Jesus is truly present in the Eucharist should change the way we live. We should attend Sunday Mass faithfully, prepare well through prayer and the Sacrament of Reconciliation when needed, and receive Holy Communion with reverence and faith. We should also spend time in Eucharistic Adoration, thanking Jesus for staying with us. After receiving Christ, we are called to become His presence in the world by showing kindness, forgiveness, honesty, and love in our families, workplaces, schools, and communities. As **St. Teresa of Calcutta** said, "The fruit of the Eucharist is love." When we receive Jesus with faith, we are strengthened to love others as He loves us.

Notices

Outreach: Adoration is now happening every Thursday between 7&8pm Amberley ALL WELCOME

Cathedral Fundraising: this is now underway; expect to receive a letter on this shortly.

Homeschoolers Mass with Bishop Michael Gielen.

Join Bishop Michael for a special Homeschoolers Mass on Wednesday, July 22nd at 9:30 am at St Patrick's Kaiapoi. All are welcome, including families, grandparents, and friends. Afterward, bring a plate to share and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee together!

Young Men's Youth Group - St Michaels Troops August 8th

Do you long for authentic brotherhood and a space to grow deeper in faith alongside other men? St Michael's Troops is an event for men aged 16-35 seeking strength, discipline, and purpose rooted in Christ. This morning event in Riccarton includes Mass and formation, physical activity, and shared BBQ. Join us, and bring a mate. Register now at fitforthekingdom.com.au

Online publication: Catholic beliefs and practices.

Pat McCarthy, former editor of *NZ Catholic* newspaper, has just launched an online publication looking at Catholic beliefs and practices. Ever wondered how the Last Supper evolved into today's Mass? Or the purpose of church music? Is there an algorithm for a successful marriage? Does spirituality without religion make sense? Should we take the Bible literally? Go to <https://fathomingthefaith.substack.com> (it's FREE).