



26 July 2026 - 17th 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)

Choose What Is Truly Worth Everything

Today's three readings give us one beautiful message: The greatest treasure in life is not money, success, or possessions—it is God and His Kingdom.

In the first reading (1 Kings 3:5, 7-12), God asked Solomon, "What do you want me to give you?" Solomon did not ask for riches or a long life. Instead, he asked for wisdom to lead God's people well. Because Solomon chose what was most important, God blessed him even more.

In the second reading (Romans 8:28-30), St. Paul reminds us that God works for the good of those who love Him. Even our struggles, failures, and disappointments can become blessings when we trust God. God's plan is always bigger than our plans.

In today's Gospel (Matthew 13:44-52), Jesus tells us about a treasure hidden in a field and a pearl of great value. In both stories, people gladly gave up everything to gain something much greater. Jesus is teaching us that the Kingdom of God is worth more than anything else in this world. When we find Jesus, we discover the greatest treasure we can ever have.

Many people spend their whole lives chasing money, comfort, or popularity. These things are not bad, but they do not last. Only God can give lasting joy and peace.

St. Augustine once said, "Our hearts are restless until they rest in You, O Lord." No amount of money or success can fill the empty space that only God can fill.

As Catholics living in today's busy world, we are invited to ask ourselves: What is my greatest treasure? Is it my career, my bank account, my phone, or my relationship with God? We show what we value most by how we spend our time, our energy, and our love.

Every day we have a choice. We can choose the passing treasures of the world, or we can choose the eternal treasure of God's Kingdom.

This week, spend at least 15 minutes each day with Jesus in prayer or by reading the Gospel. Let Him become the greatest treasure of your heart.

If someone looked at how I spend my time, money, and energy, would they say that Jesus is the greatest treasure of my life?

From the workshop- words on St Joseph- Fr Calloway's book Page 77

"Our spiritual father St Joseph is lord chief, and guardian of the treasures of heaven... devotion to St Joseph is one of the choicest graces that God can give to a soul, for it is tantamount to revealing the entire treasury of heaven."

FIRST READING: 1 Kings 3:5,7-12

Solomon chooses the gift of wisdom

Psalm

Lord, I love your commands.

SECOND READING: Romans 8:28-30

Those he called, he justified

Matthew 13:44-52

He sells everything he owns and buys the field

**HYMNS for SUNDAY
MASSES**

(May vary on the day)

671: Morning has Broken

970: Be thou my vision

938: Soul of my saviour

770: Shine Jesus Shine

Q: What does the Catholic Church teach about the Blessed Virgin Mary?

A: The Catholic Church teaches that Mary is the **Mother of God: Mater Dei (Latin); Theotokos (Greek)** because she gave birth to Jesus Christ, who is true God and true man. She was chosen by God to cooperate freely in the work of salvation through her faithful "Yes" at the Annunciation (Luke 1:38). The Church also teaches that Mary was conceived without original sin (Immaculate Conception), remained ever-virgin, and was assumed body and soul into heaven. She is the perfect disciple of Christ and the model of faith, hope, and charity. (CCC 487–507, 963–975)

Q: Who are the Saints?

A: The Saints are men and women who faithfully followed Christ and now share eternal life with God in heaven. They are members of the **Communion of Saints**, united with us in the Church. They are not worshipped; rather, they are honoured because God's grace worked powerfully in their lives. They inspire us by their holy example and pray for us before God. (CCC 946–962, 2683)

Q: Why do Catholics ask Mary and the Saints to pray for them?

A: Catholics believe that death does not break the bond of love within the Body of Christ. Just as we ask friends on earth to pray for us, we also ask Mary and the Saints in heaven to intercede for us. Their prayers help lead us closer to Jesus, the one and only Mediator between God and humanity. (CCC 956, 2673–2679)

Q: What is the practical implication in daily life?

A: Mary teaches us to trust God completely and to say "yes" to His will even when life is difficult. The Saints remind us that holiness is possible for everyone—not only priests and religious, but also parents, workers, students, and young people. We should imitate their virtues, ask for their prayers, and strive to become saints ourselves through prayer, the sacraments, love of neighbour, and faithful obedience to Christ. As St. Paul says, "Imitate me, as I imitate Christ" (1 Corinthians 11:1). Every baptised Catholic is called to become a saint by living a life of holiness and love.

Notices

Adoration: Amberley: every Thursday 7&8pm - other churches: lease see Fr Rex if you are interested.

Culverden survey: Culverden survey last day this Sunday

Curious about Catholicism? Look out for the booklets, pamphlets, and prayer cards from the *Catholic Enquiry Centre*, now available at your church.

THE ART OF CELEBRATING MASS WORKSHOP – ARS CELEBRANDI

Sat, 8 Aug, 9.30am to 12.30pm at St Joseph's Pastoral Centre, 133 Main North Road.

Parish liturgy teams, school staff, parish leadership teams, and all involved in the preparation of the sacred liturgy are invited to a special workshop with international liturgist Fr Paul Turner. Fr Paul is an experienced parish priest and respected liturgist and will deepen our understanding and love of the Eucharist in the Liturgy. No cost to attend but registration is required by going to our website cdoc.nz/news-events/ars-celebrandi-workshop. For more information contact Mike Stopforth, mstopforth@cdoc.nz or phone 027 5398 542.

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 fitforthe kingdom.com.au

St John Paul II Centre Race Night 2026 - Friday 28 August at Addington Raceway.

We'd love your parish to join us for Race Night, a lively evening of harness racing, a 2-course dinner, and plenty of friendly competition (our Priest Punter of the Year trophy is always keenly contested!). Join 200+ people from across the Diocese for a great night out, all while supporting the Centre's work of upholding the dignity of every human life and helping marriages and families flourish across the Christchurch Diocese. Tables of 10 are available to book — whether that's one table or three, we'd love to have you along. Book at jp2.org.nz/racenight, or let us know if you'd like a hand organising a group. Can't make it on the night and still want to support? Keep an eye out for our Annual Appeal later in the year. We'd love to see you there. Thank you. - Lara Paterson