



23 August 2026 - 21st 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)

"WHO DO YOU SAY THAT I AM?"

In today's Gospel, Jesus asks His disciples a very simple but very important question: "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" They give different answers: John the Baptist, Elijah, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets.

Then Jesus makes the question personal: "But who do you say that I am?"

This is the most important question Jesus can ask each one of us. It is not enough to know what other people say about Jesus. We must know who Jesus is for us personally. Peter answers, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Peter recognises that Jesus is not simply a good man or a great teacher. He is the Messiah, the Son of God, our Lord and Saviour.

But notice something beautiful: Peter does not understand everything about Jesus yet. His faith is still growing. Peter will make mistakes. He will even deny Jesus later. Yet Jesus still chooses him and says, "You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church." This gives us hope.

Sometimes we think, "I am not good enough for God. I have made too many mistakes. My faith is weak." But Jesus does not look only at our weaknesses. Jesus sees what we can become through His grace.

Peter was not perfect, but he was willing to follow Jesus. The same is true for us. We do not need to be perfect before coming to Jesus. We simply need to open our hearts and say, "Lord, I believe in You. Help me to follow You."

Jesus also gives Peter the keys of the Kingdom. This reminds us that the Church belongs to Christ. We are not simply members of a social organisation. We are members of Christ's family, called to live and share His love.

Brothers and sisters, many people today know *about* Jesus, but the real question is: Do we truly know Jesus? Do we trust Him? Do we follow Him when life becomes difficult? Let us bring Jesus into our family, our work, our decisions, our problems, and our daily life.

Jesus is not only someone we talk about on Sunday. He is the Lord whom we must follow every day.

Reflection Question:

If Jesus looked into my heart today and asked, "Who am I to you?"—what would my life answer?

FIRST READING: Isaiah 22:19-23

I place the key of the House of David
on my servant's shoulder

Psalm

*Lord, your love is eternal;
do not forsake the work of your hands.*

SECOND READING: Romans 11:33-36

All that exists comes from him;
all is by him and from him.

Matthew 16:13-20

You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church
and saves her daughter

**HYMNS for SUNDAY
MASSES**

(May vary on the day)

883: Christ be our light

605: Take our Bread

865: I the Lord of sea and sky

721: How great thou art

"St Joseph is the Patron of the Universal Church. St Joseph was head of the divine household on earth, with as it were, fatherly authority; he has the Church dedicated to his loyalty and protection. Such a person possesses so surpassing a dignity that no honour exists which should not be paid to him. Pope Leo XIII."

ONE MINUTE CATECHESIS - The Sacrament of Reconciliation: God Really Forgives Our Sins

Q: What is sin according to the Catholic Church?

A: Sin is an offence against God. It is a failure to love God and our neighbour and wounds our relationship with God and others. The Catechism teaches that sin is an act, word, desire, or omission contrary to God's law (CCC 1849–1850).

Q: What is mortal sin?

A: Mortal sin is a serious sin that destroys charity, or God's life of grace, in the heart. For a sin to be mortal, **three conditions must be present together: grave matter, full knowledge, and deliberate consent** (CCC 1855–1857). Grave matter includes serious violations of God's commandments, such as murder, adultery, or serious injustice.

Q: What is venial sin?

A: Venial sin is a less serious offence against God. It wounds our relationship with Him but does not destroy charity or friendship with God. A sin can also be venial when the matter is grave but there is not full knowledge or complete consent (CCC 1862–1863). However, we should never deliberately treat venial sins as unimportant because repeated sin can lead us toward more serious sin.

Q: Can mortal and venial sins really be forgiven?

A: Yes. God can forgive every sin when we sincerely repent and receive His mercy. Jesus gave His Church the ministry of reconciliation. Through the Sacrament of Reconciliation, the priest forgives sins in the name of Christ (CCC 1441–1442, 1461).

Q: What should I do after committing serious sin?

A: Make a sincere examination of conscience, feel genuine sorrow, confess all remembered mortal sins to a priest, receive absolution, and make a sincere effort to change. The Church strongly recommends confessing venial sins regularly because confession helps us grow in holiness (CCC 1456–1458).

Practical implication: Do not allow shame or fear to keep you away from confession. When you fall, **come back to God**. Go to confession regularly, forgive others, repair the harm you have caused, and avoid situations that lead you into sin. Remember: **God does not want to condemn the repentant sinner; He wants to heal, forgive, and bring us back to His friendship.**

Notices

CATHOLIC BUSINESS NETWORK EVENT - 'From Amberley to America' with Rosemary Banks.

Date: Thurs, 24 Sep; Time: 5:30pm – 7:30pm; Venue: Terrace & Fairway Room, Russley Golf Club.

Join us for a thought provoking evening meeting with Rosemary Banks. After more than four decades as a New Zealand diplomat Rosemary will reflect on New Zealand's place in a rapidly changing world and the way other countries see us. Having twice served as ambassador to the United States to both Republican and Democrat administrations she will discuss the way America's view of its global role is changing and what this means for New Zealand. To register and for more information visit cbn.nz

CATHOLIC INTERNATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS

In 2028 Sydney will host the 54th International Eucharistic Congress (IEC). These conferences are held every 4 years and the purpose is "to make ever better known, loved and served, Our Lord Jesus Christ in his Eucharistic Mystery, center of the life of the Church and of its mission for the salvation of the world". This is a great opportunity for renewal in this part of the world. The event consists of a week of activities, talks, events, processions culminating in a final Mass attended by hundreds of thousands of people, hopefully celebrated by Pope Leo IV. There will be an information night on Wed, 9 Sep to learn more about this event. Sr Anastasia Reeves OP from the Sydney Diocesan Parish Renewal Office will speak about the IEC and how individuals and parishes can get involved. The info night will be held at Nazareth House beginning at 7.00pm with adoration in the chapel followed by the presentation in the Hall. For more information and to RSVP please contact Matt O'Connell on moconnell@cdoc.nz or 0275369407