



30 August 2026 - 22nd 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)

Following Jesus When the Road Is Difficult

The readings for this 22nd Sunday give us one strong message: Following God is not always easy, but it is always worth it.

In the first reading, Jeremiah says, "You have seduced me, Lord, and I have let myself be seduced." Jeremiah wanted to serve God, but his mission became difficult. He experienced rejection, pain, and discouragement. He even wanted to stop. But he could not. He says that God's word was like a fire burning in his heart. He could not keep it inside.

In the Gospel, Jesus tells His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, suffer, die, and rise again. Peter does not like this. He says, "This must not happen to you!" But Jesus corrects Peter and says, "Get behind me, Satan." Then Jesus gives us the heart of Christian life: "If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me."

What does this mean for us?

Sometimes we think that if we follow Jesus, our problems will disappear. But Jesus never promised a life without problems. He promised that He would be with us in our problems.

Saint Paul, in the second reading, tells us to offer our whole lives to God and not simply follow the ways of the world. We live in a world that says, "Think only of yourself. Choose what makes you comfortable. Avoid sacrifice." But Jesus says, "Follow me."

Following Jesus may mean forgiving someone who hurt us. It may mean staying faithful to our marriage when things are difficult. It may mean coming to Mass even when we are tired. It may mean helping someone who cannot repay us. It may mean continuing to pray even when we feel that God is silent.

The cross is not the end of the story. After the cross comes resurrection.

So, when life becomes difficult, do not run away from Jesus. Hold on to Him. Your suffering, your sacrifice, your faithfulness, and your love are never wasted when offered to God.

Reflection question:

What cross in my life is Jesus asking me to carry with Him instead of running away from it?

From the workshop- words on St Joseph- Fr Calloway's book Page 91

St Joseph Most Faithful. 'Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen'- Heb 11:1... Joseph was deeply pious; he prayed much for the coming of the Messiah. A Christian is called to have faith in Jesus and Trust in him.XIII."

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 20:7-9

The word of the Lord has meant insult for me

Psalm

My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

SECOND READING: Romans 12:1-2

Offer your bodies as a living sacrifice

Matthew 16:21-27

'Get behind me, Satan!'

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 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

Amberley church painting: volunteers needed - between Monday 23 September and Friday 03 October.

We have been given a council grant to hire a platform and paint the church spire. While we do that we will paint the walls as well. If you would like to help contact Steve 027 211 5958.

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

Advance Notice of activities we did last year and happening again in 2026:

Parish day of reflection at Hawarden Saturday 07 November- All Welcome.

Parish procession Amberley to Beatitudes Sunday 29th November- All Welcome.

WORLD YOUTH DAY APPLICATIONS HAVE OPENED!

Young Adults, now is the time to move for the opportunity of a lifetime - joining with Catholics from all over the Diocese, and the world for an incredible experience. All the information is at www.cyt.org.nz/worldyouthday with applications closing at the end of September.