



## 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.catholichurunui.nz](http://www.catholichurunui.nz)



13 September 2026 - 24th 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)

### "FORGIVE, BECAUSE YOU ARE FORGIVEN"

Today's readings give us one very simple but very difficult message: Forgive others because God has forgiven you.

In the first reading, Sirach tells us: *"Forgive your neighbour's injustice; then when you pray, your own sins will be forgiven."*

Why is forgiveness so important? Because holding anger is like drinking poison and expecting the other person to die. When we refuse to forgive, we hurt ourselves. We carry the anger in our heart. We lose our peace. We become prisoners of yesterday.

Then Jesus gives us a powerful story in the Gospel.

A servant owed his master a huge amount of money. He could never pay it. The master felt sorry for him and forgave the whole debt. But that same servant went out and refused to forgive another person who owed him a much smaller amount.

Jesus is asking us: "How can you receive God's mercy and refuse to give mercy to others?"

Sometimes we are like that servant. We say, *"Lord, forgive my sins."*  
But when somebody hurts us, we say, *"I will never forgive that person!"*

We want God's forgiveness for ourselves, but sometimes we want justice without mercy for others.

St. John Paul II reminded us that forgiveness is not weakness. Forgiveness is strength. It does not mean that what happened was right. It does not mean we allow people to hurt us again. It means we choose not to let hatred control our hearts.

The second reading gives us another important reminder: "Whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's." Our life belongs to Christ. Therefore, we should not waste our short life carrying hatred.

My brothers and sisters, maybe there is someone you still cannot forgive. Maybe it is a family member, a friend, a co-worker, or someone from the past.

Today, Jesus says: "Let it go. Forgive."

Not because they deserve it—but because you have received forgiveness from God. Let us remember: Forgiven people should become forgiving people.

#### Reflection Question:

Who is the person I need to forgive today, and can I ask Jesus to help me take the first step?

#### FIRST READING: Ecclesiasticus 27:33-28:9

Forgive your neighbour the hurt he does you;  
and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven

#### Psalm

*The Lord is kind and merciful:  
slow to anger, and rich in compassion.*

#### SECOND READING: Romans 14:7-9

Alive or dead, we belong to the Lord

#### Matthew 18:21-35

To be forgiven, you must forgive

#### 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

### 1. What is Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament?

Adoration is the prayerful worship of Jesus Christ truly present in the Holy Eucharist. After the consecration at Mass, Jesus is present **“truly, really, and substantially”**—Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity—under the appearances of bread and wine (CCC 1374, 1413).

### 2. Why do Catholics adore the Blessed Sacrament?

We adore the Eucharist because **Jesus is truly present**. The Catechism teaches that the worship given to the Eucharist is *latria*, meaning the worship reserved for God alone (CCC 1378, 1418). Therefore, when we kneel or spend time quietly before the Blessed Sacrament, we are not worshipping bread; **we are worshipping Jesus who is present under the appearance of bread**.

### 3. Does Jesus remain present after Mass?

Yes. The Eucharistic presence of Christ continues as long as the consecrated species remain (CCC 1377). This is why the Church carefully keeps the Blessed Sacrament in the tabernacle and encourages the faithful to visit and adore Jesus frequently (CCC 1379, 1418).

### 4. What should we do during Adoration?

We do not need complicated words. We can simply sit quietly, look at Jesus, thank Him, tell Him our worries, ask forgiveness, pray for others, or simply remain in silence. Adoration is an encounter of love between God and us. The Catechism calls adoration an attitude of recognising God as our Creator and ourselves as His creatures (CCC 2628).

### 5. What is the practical implication in daily life?

Adoration should change the way we live. After spending time with Jesus, we should become **more patient, forgiving, humble, loving, and willing to serve**. Pope Francis reminds us that Eucharistic worship helps us remain in Christ, and the fruits of the Eucharist should grow in our everyday actions.

#### Practical Challenge:

Spend **10–15 minutes each week** before the Blessed Sacrament. Put away your phone, become silent, and simply say: **“Jesus, I believe You are here. I love You. Help me to become more like You.”**

#### Reflection Question:

*If Jesus is truly present in the Blessed Sacrament, how much time am I willing to give Him?*

## Notices

### Hurunui Parish Council Meeting- Minutes summary Sept 08 2026

- **Fr Rex:** Confession and monthly adoration will start in Culverden every First Friday starting in October 02; 6pm, followed by a Mass;
- **Cathedral fundraising campaign update:** Rosemary Banks has led 4 meetings in last 2 months; visits have raised pledges so far = \$110k out of the \$245k five year target.
- **Culverden proposed meeting room/ toilets** - accepted; now prepare report for the Diocese.
- **Hurunui Outreach - Amberley Adoration** - every Thursday @7pm is going very well.
- **Pastoral Opportunities** Catechesis program for 3-6 year olds in Amberley will start in 2027; the parish website will be updated; Nov 07 reflection day- posters are out.
- **Local churches:** Amberley church painting September 21 to October 03.
- **Financial** Eft Pos @ Hanmer - continue for one full year; finances in good shape, Planned Giving Sunday will be on 27th September at all Masses.

Next Parish Council meeting is planned for- Tuesday 27th October at Hawarden