



20 September 2026 - 25th 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



Amberley

Adoration & Reconciliation
Every Thursday 7pm

Culverden

Adoration, Reconciliation & Mass

Every 1st Friday/month 6pm

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**
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God's Grace Is Not a Competition

Today's readings give us one simple and powerful message: God's grace is a gift, not a competition.

In the first reading, Isaiah tells us: "Seek the Lord while he may be found." Then God reminds us, "My thoughts are not your thoughts, and my ways are not your ways." Sometimes we think we know what God should do.

We say, "Lord, I worked hard. I deserve more."

Or, "Lord, I have been faithful for many years. Why does that person receive the same blessing?"

But God says: My ways are not your ways.

In today's Gospel, Jesus tells us the story of the workers in the vineyard. Some worked the whole day. Others worked only a few hours. Yet the master gave them the same daily wage.

Naturally, the workers who worked all day complained. And perhaps we understand them. "Father, that's not fair!"

But Jesus is not teaching us about salary or employment rules. He is teaching us about God's generosity. The first workers were thinking about comparison. The master was thinking about generosity.

Sometimes we also compare ourselves.

"Why is his family happier?"

"Why does she have more?"

"Why did God bless him and not me?"

Comparison can steal our joy.

St Paul, in the second reading, gives us another attitude. He says that whether he lives or dies, Christ is the centre of his life. His goal is not to compete with others. His goal is to live for Christ.

Brothers and sisters, God does not love us because we are better than someone else. God loves us because we are His children.

Maybe you have been serving God for 50 years. Thank God!

Maybe someone has only recently returned to Church. Thank God!

Maybe someone has made many mistakes but is now coming back to God. Thank God!

There is room for everyone in God's vineyard.

So today, let us stop counting what others receive and start thanking God for what we have received. Do not compare your blessing. Celebrate God's generosity.

Reflection Question

Am I truly grateful for God's blessings in my life, or am I losing my joy because I keep comparing myself with others?

FIRST READING: Isaiah 55:6-9

My thoughts are not your thoughts

Psalm

The Lord is near to all who call him.

SECOND READING: Philippians 1:20-24,27

Life to me is Christ; but death would bring me more

Matthew 20:1-16

Why be envious because I am generous?

HYMNS for SUNDAY MASSES

(May vary on the day)

964: Be Not Afraid

898: Make me a channel

780: Be Still my Soul

770: Shine Jesus Shine

From the workshop- words on St Joseph- Fr Calloway's book Page 59

Jesus spent many hours in St Joseph's workshop diligently working. It was preparation for his re-entering man's original workshop- a garden; the Garden of Gethsemane, specifically- and accomplishing the work of our redemption. St Joseph Model of workmen, pray for us.

ONE MINUTE CATECHESIS - Catholic Teaching on Parish Planned Giving.

Q: What is parish planned giving?

A: Parish planned giving is a regular and intentional way of supporting the mission of the Church. Instead of giving only when we remember or when there is a special appeal, we prayerfully decide what we can give regularly—weekly, fortnightly, or monthly. It is not simply about paying parish bills. It is about participating in the mission of Christ.

Q: Why does the Catholic Church encourage generosity?

A: Because everything we have ultimately comes from God. Our time, talents, work, money, and possessions are gifts from Him. Jesus teaches us not to live only for ourselves but to become generous people. In the Gospel of Matthew 20:1–16, the landowner generously gives to his workers. The Gospel reminds us that **God is generous**, and as His disciples, we are called to grow in generosity.

Q: Does planned giving mean that I have to give a large amount?

A: No. Catholic giving is not about competing with others. God looks at the **heart** behind the gift. One person may be able to give more; another may only be able to give a little. What matters is giving freely, responsibly, and with love.

Q: What does the Church teach about our possessions?

A: The Catechism teaches that material goods are meant not only for our personal use but also for the good of others. Christians are called to share what they have with those in need and to support the Church's mission (CCC 2401–2406).

Q: How can planned giving change my spiritual life?

A: It can teach us **trust, gratitude, and generosity**. When we deliberately set aside something for God, we remind ourselves: *"Lord, You are the giver. I am only a steward."*

Q: What is one practical thing I can do?

A: Pray about your income and decide on a realistic amount you can give regularly. Put it aside first rather than waiting to see what is left. Give without comparing yourself with others.

Q: What is the challenge for us?

A: Let us move from **"What can I keep?"** to **"What can I share?"** A generous parish becomes a living witness to the generous heart of Christ.

Reflection Question:

"Am I giving God only what is left over, or am I intentionally making generosity part of my Christian life?"

Notices

Adoration of The Most Blessed Sacrament - Amberley; Every Thursday 7pm & ½ hr before the weekday Masses.

Amberley church painting: volunteers needed - Starts Next Monday 21st September.

Volunteers needed! If you would like to help contact Steve 027 211 5958.

Sunday 27th September is Planned Giving Sunday: A time for new people to sign on.

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

Ecumenical service in Hawarden (Masons Flat) 11 October, to acknowledge the return of spring.

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

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

Parish Priest: Fr. Rex Ramos - padrepio1428@gmail.com - 03 319 8730 **Parish Email:** catholicurunui@gmail.com

Parish Treasurer - Secretary : Thomas Peacock - catholicurunuitreasurer@gmail.com - Office Hours Friday 8:00am - 3:00pm