



18 October 2026 - 29th 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

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

GIVE TO GOD WHAT BELONGS TO GOD!

Let me begin with a simple question: Who owns your life?

Some people might say, "My life belongs to me!" Others might say, "My life belongs to my wife or husband!"

But today's readings remind us of one beautiful truth: Everything we have comes from God, and our lives belong to Him.

In the first reading, God speaks through the prophet Isaiah. He chooses Cyrus, a powerful king, to carry out His plan, even though Cyrus does not know Him. God declares, "I am the Lord, and there is no other."

This reminds us that God is the Lord of everything. He is the source of our life, our blessings, and our future.

In the Gospel, the Pharisees try to trap Jesus with a question: "Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar?" Jesus asks them to show Him a coin. Then He asks, "Whose image is this?" They answer, "Caesar's." Jesus replies, "Give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar, and to God what belongs to God."

What a powerful answer! The coin carries the image of Caesar, so it belongs to Caesar. But we carry the image of God, because we are created in His image. Therefore, our lives belong to God!

My dear friends, we give money to the government through taxes. We give our time to work. We give our energy to our families. But what do we give to God?

Sometimes we give God only what is left over. We are busy with work, shopping, television, and our phones. Then, when it comes to prayer, we say, "Lord, I have no time!" God does not ask us to give Him everything we earn. He asks us to give Him our hearts. We do this by praying, attending Sunday Mass, forgiving others, helping those in need, and living honestly.

Remember, God does not simply want something from us. He wants a relationship with us. This week, let us give God more than our spare time. Let us give Him our love, our trust, and our daily lives. Because the greatest gift we can give to God is a heart that belongs to Him.

Reflection Question

If my life belongs to God, am I giving Him the best of my life, or only what is left over?

From the workshop- words on St Joseph- Fr Calloway's book Page 206

Joseph was chosen by the eternal Father as the trustworthy guardian and protector of his greatest treasure, namely, his divine son and Mary, Joseph's wife. After Mary we undoubtedly owe special gratitude to St Joseph.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 45:1,4-6

I have taken Cyrus by his right hand to subdue nations before him

Psalm

Give the Lord glory and honour.

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5

We constantly remember your faith,
your love and your hope

Matthew 22:15-21

Give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar

HYMNS

(May vary on the day)

601: Praise to the Lord

820: Seek ye First

786: Turn to me

360: As I kneel

Catholic Faith Formation – Part 2 - Understanding Catholic Teaching through the Catechism of the Catholic Church

Q1: Who is the Blessed Virgin Mary?

A: Mary is the Mother of Jesus Christ, who is truly God and truly man. Therefore, the Church honours her as the Mother of God. She was chosen by God to bring Jesus into the world. The Catechism teaches that Mary is truly the Mother of God (CCC 495).

Q2: Why is Mary important in our Catholic faith?

A: Mary is our model of faith, humility, and obedience. When the angel Gabriel announced God's plan, Mary answered, "Let it be to me according to your word" (Luke 1:38). She trusted God even without knowing what would happen. The Catechism presents Mary as the perfect example of obedience in faith (CCC 148–149).

Q3: Do Catholics worship Mary?

A: No. Catholics worship God alone. We honour and love Mary because she is the Mother of Jesus. The Catechism clearly teaches that devotion to Mary is different from the adoration given only to God (CCC 971). Mary never takes the place of Jesus. Instead, she leads us closer to Him.

Q4: Is Mary also our spiritual Mother?

A: Yes. At the Cross, Jesus said to His beloved disciple, "Behold, your mother" (John 19:27). The Church understands Mary's motherhood as extending to all Christ's disciples. She continues to pray for us and care for us spiritually (CCC 968–969).

Q5: How can we imitate Mary in our daily lives?

A: We can follow Mary's example through three simple actions:

LISTEN – Make time to hear God's Word.

TRUST – Believe in God even during difficulties.

SERVE – Help others with humility and love.

Practical Challenge

This October, the Month of the Holy Rosary, pray at least one decade daily. Like Mary, bring Jesus into your home through kindness, forgiveness, and prayer.

Remember: The closer we come to Mary, the more she leads us to Jesus.

Reflection Question: Am I following Mary's example by saying YES to God every day?

Notices

Open to View- Amberley Catholic Church:

On Tuesday the 27th of October 2:30 there will be an Open day in the Amberley church. Members of the public are invited along with the Hurunui councillors to look through the newly painted church. There is a cup of tea and light refreshments in the hall at 3pm, and a brief talk on the history of the church. All are welcome to come, and bring along friends and neighbours who might not normally enter our church for a look around.

Sunday, 18 October 2026 - World Mission Sunday.

The Pope's video message for World Mission Sunday has now been released:

[Fr Michael Pui, NZ National Director and Pope Leo XIV on 100th World Mission Sunday 2026](#)

Please donate via the special envelope. Thank you very much for your generosity.



Parish Day of reflection November 7th Hawarden:

Please join us for a day of reflection, Mass, talks, benediction, and shared lunch at Hawarden. Fr Rizzo will lead us in prayer and for talks on the Holy Eucharist. Mass starts at 10am. All welcome.

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

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