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

25 October 2026 - 30th 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

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Christchurch - The Catholic Parish of Hurunui Trust
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LOVE GOD BY LOVING OTHERS

Today's readings give us one powerful message: The best way to show our love for God is to love and care for others, especially those who are suffering.

In the first reading, God speaks to His people through Moses. He tells them not to mistreat foreigners, widows, or orphans. He reminds them to be kind to the poor and to help those who are struggling.

Why? Because God hears the cries of those who suffer.
God is not only concerned about our prayers and worship. He is also concerned about how we treat one another.

In the Gospel, a Pharisee asks Jesus, "Which is the greatest commandment?"
Jesus answers: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind." Then He adds: "You shall love your neighbour as yourself."

Jesus teaches us that these two commandments belong together. We cannot truly love God while refusing to love our neighbour. My dear friends, sometimes loving God seems easy. We come to Mass, say our prayers, light candles, and sing beautiful hymns. But loving others can be difficult! It is easy to love someone who is kind to us.

But what about someone who annoys us, disagrees with us, or has hurt us?
Jesus reminds us that love is not just a beautiful word. Love must become action.
When we forgive someone, we show God's love. When we visit the sick or lonely, we show God's love. When we welcome a stranger, we show God's love.
When we help someone who is struggling, we show God's love. Remember, we do not need to do extraordinary things to show God's love. Small acts of kindness, done with great love, can change someone's life. This week, let us make our faith visible through our actions. Be kinder at home. Be more patient at work. Help someone without expecting anything in return.

Because in the end, God will not only ask how much we prayed, but also how much we loved. Love God with all your heart, and show that love by caring for others. Amen.

Reflection Question
Who is the one person in my life who needs more of my love, patience, or forgiveness today?

From the workshop- *words on St Joseph- Fr Calloway's book Page 51*
Joseph If you want to know St Joseph's obedience, look at how he rose at night at the angel's voice and, giving no care to hunger, hardships, or cold, went to Egypt where he led a hard life until the next command of God.

FIRST READING: Exodus 22:20-26
If you are harsh with the widow and orphan,
my anger will flare against you

Psalm
I love you, Lord, my strength.

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 1:5-10
You broke with idolatry and became servants of God;
you are now waiting for his Son

Matthew 22:34-40
The commandments of love

HYMNS

(May vary on the day)

695: Glory and Praise
603: Blest are you Lord
832: One bread one Body
360: As I kneel

Understanding Mary's Love and Motherly Care through the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

Q1: Why is the Blessed Virgin Mary so special to Catholics?
A: Because Mary is not only the Mother of Jesus; she is also our spiritual Mother. At the Cross, Jesus said, "Behold, your mother" (John 19:27). Through these words, we are reminded that we have a loving Mother who cares for us and prays for us. The Catechism teaches that Mary's motherhood continues in the Church (CCC 968–969).

Q2: Does Mary understand our pain and struggles?
A: Yes. Mary experienced suffering, fear, and sorrow. Imagine her standing beneath the Cross, watching her beloved Son suffer and die. Yet she remained faithful. Mary understands the tears of parents, the loneliness of those far from home, and the struggles of families. She teaches us that faith does not remove suffering, but helps us remain close to God.

Q3: Why do we ask Mary to pray for us?
A: Just as we ask our own mothers to pray for us, we ask Mary to intercede for us before Jesus. The Catechism teaches that Mary continues to pray for the Church (CCC 969). She never replaces Jesus. Rather, she brings us closer to Him.

Q4: What can Mary teach us about daily life?
A: Mary teaches us three simple lessons: TRUST – Believe that God is with you, even during difficult times. TURN – Turn to Jesus through prayer, especially when life becomes heavy. TENDERNESS – Show love, patience, and kindness to others.

Q5: How can we honour Mary every day?
A: Pray the Rosary, attend Mass, forgive others, and care for those who are lonely or suffering.
The best way to honour Mary is to follow her example and obey Jesus. Practical Challenge This October, pray one decade of the Rosary daily, especially for families experiencing difficulties.

Remember: When life becomes difficult, do not lose hope. Mary is a loving Mother who always points us to Jesus.
Reflection Question: Am I allowing Mary's example to bring me closer to Jesus and make me more loving toward others?

Notices

Open to View- Amberley Catholic Church is next Tuesday:
All are welcome to come, and bring along friends and neighbours who might not normally enter our church for a look around on Tuesday the 27th of October 2:30 starting at the front of the church. We are asking parishioners who are available to come along to be ambassadors for the parish, welcome people along, talk to some new faces.There is a cup of tea and light refreshments in the hall at 3pm, and a brief talk on the history of the church.

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.

All SOULS DAY: Monday 2nd Nov: Fr Rex will offer the Mass for the repose of the souls of the departed members of the Hurunui parishioners families.

MASS FOR ALL SOULS In the month of November. A Box will be placed for you to inscribe and place the names of your dearly departed will be placed in three churches, Hanmer Springs, Culverden & Amberley. Masses will be offered for them for the happy repose of their souls. *If you want specific Mass intentions to be offered, please give it to Fr Rex directly.* Please, do not encourage the celebration of Halloween amongst our youth. It may lead to warp ideas of the dead and loss of our tradition to pray for them.

MASS INTENTIONS: *Offering a Mass is a beautiful way to place our intentions, and those of our loved ones before Jesus. A Mass offering can be for oneself, a love one, a sick person, or a soul in purgatory. Masses can also be offered on special occasions - birthdays, wedding or baptism anniversaries or just as a gesture of love!*

Mass Intention Envelopes are available in the church foyers. Alternatively you can use a blank envelope and write the name of the person and the intention on it. All envelopes can be placed in the collection baskets at Mass. The expected donation for a Mass offering is $10 or $100 for a novena of Masses.