

Parish of the Good Shepherd, Hurunui

PARISH NEWSLETTER

Amberley | Cheviot | Hawarden | Culverden | Waiau | Hanmer Springs
Parish Office: 138a Carters Road, Amberley | PO Box 143, Amberley 7441
www.facebook.com/catholichurunui | www.catholichurunui.nz

4th Sunday of Lent

Year C

31 March 2019

A new vision

While the given gospel this weekend is the parable of the Prodigal Son, parishes in which catechumens are preparing for the Sacraments of Initiation at Easter will use the account of Jesus giving sight to the man born blind. In both gospel accounts Jesus is giving new vision. This is clearly evident when a man who is blind receives physical sight, but the greater miracle is when a lost son realises that he is lost and chooses to return home to his loving father.

Both sons lacked maturity and were bound by their fears and compulsions. The prodigal saw his home life and his father as obstacles to his freedom. He runs from this soon falling victim to every superficial attraction waking up to realise that such an existence is not freedom but imprisonment. The home-bound son might initially appear to be virtuous, but on the return of his wayward brother his repressed anger and childish fragility erupts and he is unable to delight in the return of his brother. Both sons are immature, one a fearful child, the other a reactionary teenager. Both are sinners, but we see only the prodigal reaching the great turning point of faith and accepting the loving embrace of the father. Such a life-giving conversion comes to us only when we are brought to our knees as the prodigal son was when he realised that life in the pig-pen was no life at all.

An Invitation: This Lent our nation has suffered a great tragedy which can be for us a turning point if we realise that an us-and-them mentality can only lead us to division, hate and violence. Let us pray for new vision, inviting Jesus to give us new sight continuing to work in us to transform our hatred into love, our doubt into faith, our despair into hope our sadness into joy, and our darkness into light.

Fr. John O'Connor www.foodforfaith.org.nz



Weekend Masses

Saturday Vigil

5pm Hanmer Springs
(Every Saturday)

6:30pm Culverden
(1st, 2nd, 3rd Saturdays Only)

Sunday Mass

9am Amberley
(Every Sunday)

11am Cheviot
(1st, 2nd, 3rd Sundays Only)

10.30am Hawarden
(4th Sunday Only)

11.30am Waiau
(5th Sunday Only)

Weekday Masses

Tuesday
12pm Beatitudes

Wednesday - Friday
9am Amberley

Adoration

Thursday
9.30am - 10.00am

Reconciliation

Thursday
9.30am - 10.00am

Anytime
by appointment

Rosary

Wednesday
1:30pm Amberley

TODAY'S READINGS:

FIRST READING: Joshua 5:9-12

The people of God went to the promised land and there kept the passover.

SECOND READING: Corinthians 5:17-21

God reconciled himself to us through Christ.

GOSPEL: Luke 15:1-3 11-32

Your brother here was dead and has come to life.

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS | 5th Sunday of Lent Year C

Isaiah 43:16-21 + Psalm 125 + Philipians 3:8-14 + John 8:1-11

Of your charity pray for

*the happy repose of the souls
of those who have died in our
families and parish community*

May they rest in peace

PARISH PRIEST: Fr Mathew Valloppallil MCBS
022 301 7976 | sijivm17@gmail.com

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

03 319 8730
Friday 10am - 2pm Secretary
Tues & Thurs 8am - 9.30pm Treasurer

PARISH SECRETARY: Sarah Blair
catholichurunui@gmail.com

PARISH TREASURER: Elaine Ramsay
catholichurunuitreasurer@gmail.com 021 136 7753

WAIAMAU MASS THIS SUNDAY at 11.30am, Our Lady of the Rosary.

SEASONS FOR GROWTH Lauren Butler will be speaking on Seasons for Growth this Sunday at the end of Mass in Amberley.

PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES are now available at each church.

THIS IS THE SEASON OF LENT a season to be closer to God and seek forgiveness from God. During this time of 40 days, if you know anyone in your area who would like to have a visit from a priest, please let Fr Mathew know and he can visit them. Reassuring them of healing, hope and strengthening of faith.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS AMBERLEY we will be having Stations of the Cross every Friday during Lent after the 9am Mass.

LENTEN REFLECTION every Wednesday during Lent with Fr Mathew in the Amberley church hall after morning mass.

NEXT SUNDAY! Join us for the Kalavale raffle and a cup of tea in the Amberley church hall. All parishioners are welcome after 9am Mass on the first Sunday of the Month. The raffle supports the Tongan Mission run by the Sisters of the Little Company of Mary. It is a great social occasion for parishioners while raising funds for those in need.

FINANCE AND PARISH COUNCIL MEETING Thursday 9th May at the presbytery. 5pm Finance, 6pm Dinner, 7pm Parish Council.

BOOK LAUNCH A book has been written about John Joesph O'Carroll by Gerald Sandrey, the author of The Legend of Mt White. John's family would like to invite you all to attend the launch. The life of John Joesph O'Carroll, **Saturday 6th April 10am at the Hawarden Hall.** All welcome!

Parish of the Good Shepherd Reconciliation

Thursday 11 April

6-7pm Reconciliation (Rite II) Amberley

Friday 12 April

6-7pm Reconciliation (Rite II) Hawarden

Saturday 13 April

4-5pm Reconciliation (Rite II) Hanmer Springs
7.15-7.45pm Reconciliation (Rite II) Culverden

Sunday 14 April

11.45-12.30pm Reconciliation (Rite II) Cheviot

The full Holy Week and Easter timetable is available in the church foyer and online at www.catholicurunui.nz

HUMANITY OF THE UNBORN CHILD Upcoming legislation intends to allow ABORTION UP TO BIRTH. If you're willing to come against this please email Name and postal area to: tonybrebner@hotmail.com

MUSLIM & CHRISTIAN RELATIONSHIPS The Christchurch terrorist attacks have challenged us to overcome our ignorance of different faith perspectives in the hope of creating a local community of harmony in our city and our land. Brother Peter Bray FSC is a New Zealander who is Vice-Chancellor of Bethlehem University where 25% of students are Christian and 25% Muslim. The University is a place of peaceful co-existence and dialogue, a beacon of hope behind the wall of separation. Br Peter will speak in Christchurch on Thursday evening 4 April at 7.00pm. Villa Maria College, Peer Street. For more information contact Fr. John O'Connor john@fff.org.nz www.foodforfaith.org.nz

ST. MARY'S PRO-CATHEDRAL Stations Of The Cross each Wednesday at 5.30pm. **Time Of Stillness And Silence** before the Blessed Sacrament, every Tuesday of Lent, 5.30 - 6.30 at Come for a few minutes or the full hour.

REPLENISH RESPITE CENTRE is looking for a top loading washing machine, a dryer and a large bookshelf. If anyone can donate any of these items please call/text Diana on 027 300 9887 or email replenishnz@gmail.com

WILDER 5 April @ 7:30pm, Te Manawa Atawhai Centre (by Villa Maria College) Adoration and Praise & Worship as well as the Sacrament of Reconciliation and Prayer Teams available. A time where we combine worshipping God together with a chance to connect deeper with Him individually. If you have any questions, please contact Sam @ CYT ssivertsen@chch.catholic.org.nz

FIRST FRIDAY MASS You are warmly invited to the First Friday Mass on **5th April** at Christ the King: 90, Greers Road, Burnside, commencing 7-30pm. There will be praise & worship, prayer ministry and supper after Mass. For further information please contact Maureen on 0275688338 or www.ccrnz.org

PARISH MUSIC MINISTRY CONFERENCE Sunday 5th May 3pm-7pm – all those involved and interested in Parish music ministry are invited to this conference, led by Ken Joblin and Br. John Van. Talks, workshops, afternoon tea provided and finishing with 7pm Holy Mass at St. Teresa's Parish. \$10 per person. For more info and to register please email pastoral@stteresas.org.nz

THINKING DIOCESAN PRIESTHOOD? Speak to any priest or contact Vocations Director Fr. John O'Connor vocations.chch@gmail.com

CATHOLIC SHOP Lent & Easter resources and gifts now available, including reflections, books and candles. Visit us at 373 Manchester Street, Christchurch, next to St Mary's Pro-Cathedral. Mon-Fri 9.30am-4.30pm, Sat 10am-1pm.

MASS IN THE SPANISH LANGUAGE This year there will be a Mass in Spanish every second Saturday of the month at 5 pm at St Teresa's in Riccarton.