

Catholic Parish of the Good Shepherd

Hurunui District, Catholic Diocese of Christchurch



Sixth Sunday of Easter 1 May 2016

with an eye for beauty

A significant number of parishioners took the opportunity last weekend to look through the new presbytery / offices / carpark for our parish of the Good Shepherd. Many have commented to me that they were impressed at how well every detail of the build and landscaping is being completed.

There is a reason for this attention to detail and perfection in our parish buildings. Traditionally Christians have sought to complete every task motivated by a conviction that their work of building a church or a private dwelling, or labouring at a simple secular task or a complex project, is an opportunity to participate in the creative work of God the creator. In this light the factory labourer and farm worker appreciate their often mundane tasks as part of something greater. In this way their work becomes a mission of love. In every labour a Christian seeks after and plans for perfection.

This is why we admire the work of a family member or friend who purchases a derelict home and transforms it into a dwelling of beauty. Think of the kauri floor that was covered for convenience and comfort by carpet in the '50's, now revealed and restored by the young couple with an appetite for beauty and a willingness to endure hours of sanding and preparation settling for nothing less than perfection. This couple may have no active knowledge of God, but by their passion and attention to detail they are playing a part in the creative work of God.

In fact such labour is actively repairing the world damaged by the fall of Adam and Eve: this is why we spend longer gazing in wonder and awe at the beauty of an artist's carving than at the raw beauty of the tree. More people visit Michelangelo's pieta in St. Peter's, than visit the Carrara marble quarry that provided the block of marble Michelangelo began with.

Last Saturday I heard a Radio New Zealand interview with the young English classical pianist James Rhodes. Something about the interview and my follow-up with a couple of Youtube clips and some of his reflections and performances inspired me very deeply. Here was a man who knew the dark side of life from years of abuse and turmoil, and an experience of the beauty of music transformed his life. There is not only satisfaction in striving for perfection, but earthly experiences of what is good and beautiful serve to raise our minds and hearts to God. James Rhodes is now a successful concert pianist who clearly (without expressed religious belief) is raising minds and hearts to what is divine.

It is a mistake to equate beauty with expense. Too often people reject beauty as being out of financial reach. In a church building, beauty is often found in harmonious proportions and suitability for purpose. Our Hurunui churches may not have been the most expensive small churches built at their time, but they were built to be beautiful signs that pointed beyond our mundane earthly existence. Attention was paid to every detail of construction.

Where stained glass was too expensive, simple detailed lead-light and tinted windows were installed. Pews and flooring were of the best hardwood and the materials of the altar were crafted from the finest linens with gold and silver for chalices. These churches and all they contained were then meticulously maintained, not as a burdensome task but as a labour of love by those who delighted at the opportunity to give to God what belongs to God, that is, the best of their human labour.

In recent years I have seen beautiful examples of the labour of parishioners and friends of the parish. I think of the new holy water stoops, Stations of the Cross and monstrance case at Amberley, the hymn board and attention to window repair at Hawarden, as well as the care given to the maintenance of church grounds at every one of our five churches.

Thank you to those who ensure that the sacred vessels (chalices, ciboria and patens) in each of our churches are cared for. These are precious objects and need to be cleaned by a specialist (jeweller) to ensure they are not damaged.

Significant anniversaries of the opening of our churches provide an opportunity to ensure that high standards are maintained. This week marked 60 years since the consecration of the Culverden church, and later in the year we will celebrate 150 years since the opening of the Amberley church. As the landscaping around the presbytery is progressing, the opportunity is being taken to ensure that the area around the church (paving and planting) provides a dignified and inspiring environment for this beautiful church. Take note of the invitation at the bottom of this page to join the working bee.

J.O'C

Pope Francis on the education of children

"Obsession, however, is not education. We cannot control every situation that a child may experience. Here it remains true that "time is greater than space". In other words, it is more important to start processes than to dominate spaces. If parents are obsessed with always knowing where their children are and controlling all their movements, they will seek only to dominate space. But this is no way to educate, strengthen and prepare their children to face challenges. What is most important is the ability lovingly to help them grow in freedom, maturity, overall discipline and real autonomy. Only in this way will children come to possess the wherewithal needed to fend for themselves and to act intelligently and prudently whenever they meet with difficulties. The real question, then, is not where our children are physically, or whom they are with at any given time, but rather where they are existentially, where they stand in terms of their convictions, goals, desires and dreams. The questions I would put to parents are these: "Do we seek to understand 'where' our children really are in their journey? Where is their soul, do we really know? And above all, do we want to know?".

Pope Francis The Joy of Love, paragraph 261

Sunday Mass Time Changes

This new timetable ensures that every parishioner has access to a Sunday Mass every Sunday at or within half an hour of their nearest church.

Amberley every Sunday 8.00am
Cheviot, every Sunday 10.00am
Culverden 1st Sunday 6.00pm, 3rd Sun 10.00am, 4th Sunday 6.00pm, 5th Sunday, (Saturday Vigil) 6.30pm,
Hanmer Springs every Saturday 5.00pm
Hawarden 2nd & 4th Sunday 10.00am
Waiau 2nd Sunday 12 noon

First Sunday

Hanmer Springs Vigil (Sat) 5.00pm
Amberley 8.00am
Cheviot 10.00am
Culverden 6.00pm

Second Sunday

Hanmer Springs Vigil (Sat) 5.00pm
Amberley 8.00am
Hawarden 10.00am
Cheviot 10.00am
Waiau 12noon

Third Sunday

Hanmer Springs Vigil (Sat) 5.00pm
Amberley 8.00am
Cheviot 10.00am
Culverden 10.00am

Fourth Sunday

Hanmer Springs Vigil (Sat) 5.00pm
Amberley 8.00am
Cheviot 10.00am
Hawarden 10.00am
Culverden 6.00pm

Fifth Sunday

Hanmer Springs Vigil (Sat) 5.00pm
Culverden Vigil (Sat) 6.30pm
Amberley 8.00am
Cheviot 10.00am

NEW PRESBYTERY WORKING BEE

On Saturday morning 7th May 8.30am we are looking for volunteers to assist with some landscaping and planting work at the Amberley Church and New Presbytery. We have a donation of plants ready for planting. If someone has a small digger that would be great, if not one will be hired so the hard work will be done the easy way. If you can provide a digger please call Geoff. Anyone with a shovel, a rake and a wheel barrow and 4 hours of their time from 8.30am would be appreciated. Someone with a trailer would be great, we will get a couple of loads of compost from Amberley Hire to give the gardens a good start. If you have any other equipment you think would be useful let me know. We are also looking for 12 fragrant Roses for the two gardens at the front of the church, if someone would like to contribute these that would be wonderful. Please contact Geoff on 0277057434 if you can help.

Carmelite Sisters on TV The SUNDAY current affairs programme will be soon screening a story profiling the Christchurch Carmelite Monastery. The Sisters agreed to allow the producer to profile their contemplative life inside the walls of the monastery. The programme is scheduled for Sunday May 1st on TVONE at 7pm. Please pray for vocations.

Maryfest Procession The Catholic Diocese of Christchurch invites all the people of our city to join in the 2016 Year of Mercy, Maryfest Procession, with the Consecration of the City and Diocese held annually in honour of Our Lady of Christchurch. This Diocesan Event will take place at Our Lady of Victories Church, 106 Main South Road, Sockburn, 2.00pm on Sunday, 8 May, 2016 [facebook.com/OurLadyofChristchurch](https://www.facebook.com/OurLadyofChristchurch) Email: fr.anthony@the-sons.org Download posters at: preview.tinyurl.com/maryfest2016

Interested in returning home to the Catholic Church?

Catholics Returning Home, a four-week programme for non-practising Catholics interested in renewing their life in the Church starts soon. It will run from early May until early June at 7.00pm at the following locations: Sundays at Waimakariri Parish, Mondays at Timaru Parish, Wednesdays at Papanui Parish. You are most welcome to join us. For more details phone 0508 HOME NOW [0508 466 366] or visit www.catholicshomenow.co.nz

Find us on Facebook Keep up to date with what is happening in the Diocese. Search 'Catholic Diocese of Christchurch'

Thinking Diocesan Priesthood? Speak to any priest or contact Vocations Director Fr. John O'Connor vocations.chch@gmail.com

Book Launch An Inner Music-Living a Life in God, is a remarkable achievement, the culmination of Marist Craig Larkin's lifelong interest in prayer and his deep knowledge of the mystics and spiritual masters. The launches are in Wellington on May 9th at 6pm at Connolly Hall, Thorndon and in Auckland on May 13th at 6pm at the Columba Centre, Ponsonby. If you would like further information or to order a book, please contact secretary@smnz.org.nz or phone 04 499 3060.

Rangiora Town Hall for one night only, **"Francisco 'The Man behind the Pope'"** 4pm Sunday, June 5th. Support this World Youth Day fundraiser and purchase a ticket for \$20. Tickets available from Waimakariri parish. 03 313 6285 www.waimakariricatholic.org.nz. Google "Papa Francesco Trailer" to get a taste of the movie.

Of your charity pray for the happy repose of the souls of:

Monsignor Gerry O'Connor (rec)
Paddy Bamford (1st Ann)

May they rest in peace.

WYD in Christchurch. On July 29th to August 2nd Catholic Cathedral and Marian Colleges are hosting a Companion event to the World Youth Day in Krakow for the Secondary School Colleges in the South Island. We are anticipating 240 students of Catholic Colleges will attend this event that includes Pilgrimage, Service, Catechesis and Worship. This is a unique opportunity for the Youth (16-18years) of our Catholic communities to come together and share their faith experiences.

Greece and Turkey in St Paul's footsteps Places still available on a 19-day pilgrimage to Greece and Turkey in the Footsteps of St Paul, leaving September 24, 2016 led by Pat McCarthy, former editor *NZ Catholic*, with Msgr Bernard Kiely of Auckland as chaplain. Highlights will include ancient Athens, Corinth, Philippi, Thessaloniki, Patmos, Ephesus, Izmir, Pergamum, Troas, Troy, Gallipoli (with Mass at Anzac Cove) and Istanbul. A 4-day Rome extension will include a general audience with Pope Francis. For brochure, Pat on patsuzie@slingshot.co.nz or (09) 480-4463.

Introduction to the Old Testament An 18 hour 6 session course Tuesdays 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 May and 7 June from 6pm-9pm at The Catholic Education Office, Barbadoes Street, CHCH. Contact Wendy at WClark@chch.catholic.org.nz or 03 353 0757 or www.chch.catholic.org.nz/tci

A Day with Mary will be held at St Patrick's Church, 61 Fuller St, Kaiapoi on Saturday 7th May 2016 9am - 2.45pm. Ring Janet 960 5294 for transport and further details.

Novena in May You are invited to join us in offering a Novena to Our Blessed Mother. Venue, Holy Trinity Church (Chapel) Bryndwr. Time 7 00pm. Wednesdays 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th May.

Seminar for Health Professionals - Support Ethical Healthcare Around Care of the Dying in NZ The New Zealand Health Professionals Alliance supports Freedom of Conscience in Healthcare. NZHPA warmly invites to a meeting, all Doctors, Nurses, Pharmacists and other Health Professionals ethically challenged by the current public debate on issues around the Care of the Dying in New Zealand – especially in light of moves to legalise euthanasia and medically assisted suicide in this country. We strongly oppose such moves. Key note speakers Dr Amanda Landers Palliative Care Physician, Christchurch Celine Collins Venue Date Palliative Care Nurse Specialist, Queenstown Commodore Cophorne Hotel, The Ward Room, 449 Memorial Avenue, Chch Sat 7 May 2016 3.005.30pm Refreshments 3.003.30pm. Admission free. Please RSVP for catering and seating purposes Dr Paula Cummings 0211634728 paulamareecummings@gmail.com

Dove Catholic Fellowship for women Please join us to hear Fr Jack O'Connor speaking on "Jesus the Good Shepherd" John 10:7-13, 27-30 All Women Welcome Saturday 14th May 1 pm – 3.30pm Christ the King Parish Centre 90 Greers Rd, Christchurch Info phone: Diane Findlay 03 312 8672 www.dove.org.nz

PRESBYTERY COMPLETION. In the next couple of weeks the new Good Shepherd Parish presbytery / offices / carpark will be completed at Amberley. Thank you to all who showed their interest and support by visiting last week for the open-days. There is an overwhelming sense of accomplishment among us that we have turned this need for a clear and accessible base for Good Shepherd parish, into a reality. Our gratitude is especially to the many parishioners who by their prayer, positive interest and financial assistance have brought us to this point. The formal opening and blessing of the presbytery will be held in November at the same time as the Amberley church 150 years celebration.



Krakow WYD 2016

THIRTY EIGHT young people (aged 18-35) from our diocese of Christchurch will travel on pilgrimage to Europe visiting Rome, Assisi, Lourdes & Paris before joining an estimated two million young people from around the world for the World Youth Days in Krakow Poland with Pope Francis. The pilgrimage is from July 11 until August 4. I am delighted to share with you that two of the pilgrimage group are parishioners of our own Good Shepherd Parish. World Youth Day began 30 years ago and is held every three years, the last being in Rio in 2013. The pilgrimage is an intense experience of the beauty and depth of Catholic faith. Please pray for all young people around the diocese, and the world as they prepare for the event. Regular updates will be posted here and on the parish Facebook page.

HAWARDEN FARM AGM - 22 May at 7pm at Hawarden - note earlier this year as 31/3/16 balance date as required now. M.Bamford 03-314-4262.

Caritas thanks the many parishes and people around the country who have supported the Bishops' Lent Appeal this year. Your ongoing support enables us to continue helping communities to flourish by working to reduce poverty, striving for environmental justice, supporting indigenous peoples and responding to crises around the world. To find out more about the difference your support makes to the lives of the most vulnerable, go online and read our Annual Report 2015 - www.caritas.org.nz. If you would like a hard copy of the report, please contact us during office hours on 0800 22 10 22 or email to caritas@caritas.org.nz



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