

# Catholic Parish of the Good Shepherd

Hurunui District, Catholic Diocese of Christchurch



## The Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity 22 May 2016

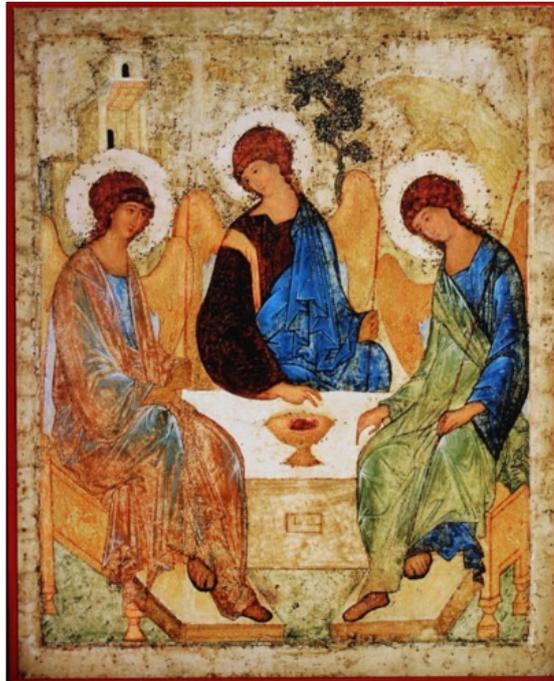
### maturity of faith

In recent weeks I have led a couple of two day retreats for Catholics who are seeking to grow to full maturity of Christian faith. Many of us were formed in faith as children, but a significant number of adult Catholics comment that the simple faith practices and knowledge of their childhood years is not up to the task of sustaining them through the complexities and challenges of life as an adult in the twenty-first century. The retreats I lead are requested by people who seek to embrace a more robust, real and adult faith. A recent study day in the parish attracted a significant number of parishioners who were also seeking to grow in knowledge of their faith by reflecting on Pope Francis' recent document *The Joy of Love* following the synod on marriage and family life.

Last weekend I was in General Santos, a city in the south of the Philippines with a group of people gathered at a Trappistine Monastery. As I write this week I am about to begin a retreat for a similar group in Sydney. In these groups from different cultures and in different parts of the world, the issues are the same. Healthy people are united by the fact that they realise that no earthly project, pleasure or achievement is enough to provide justification and satisfaction for a human life.

Several times in recent weeks I have had some great chats with people about the meaning of life. In different ways these people were expressing dissatisfaction with a common experience of parish life, where the maintenance of systems and structures becomes the priority instead of clear focus on Jesus Christ. The common concern is that while most people in society have at least a degree of attraction to Jesus, the priorities of parish life are too often about the maintenance of structures rather than the growth in faith of parishioners. It is so easy for a parish to slip into God-less fear, holding on to systems, structures and possessions with little consideration of the most important question of Christian faith: how am I experiencing the love and mercy of Jesus today? While structures and buildings are important and even essential (a family needs a house to live in), in a parish these must always be at the service of the real mission of the church which remains helping people to know the love and mercy of Jesus Christ.

I remember a school principal joking (in frustration) a few years ago that it was impossible to get parents to a meeting to discuss aspects of the education process and school curriculum, but the possibility of changing school uniforms always attracts 100% attendance to a meeting!



Perhaps today's feast of the Holy Trinity helps us to focus on the heart of the matter by focussing on the mystery which (as Pope Francis reminds us) "embraces our entire life and our entire Christian being. We remember it, for example, each time we make the Sign of the Cross: in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen."

J.O'C

### New Weekday Mass Timetable

This month's shift of the priests of the parish to Amberley enables a regular programme of week-day Mass. It is hoped that given that many parishioners pass through Amberley regularly that a stop-off for a Mass might also be possible for some parishioners. As in most parishes there may be times where a Service of the Word with communion may need to replace a scheduled Mass, but most often Mass will be celebrated. (An email & the Parish Facebook page will give these updates).

Mass at Amberley Church

**Tuesday & Thursday at 9.00am**

Community of the Beatitudes

**Monday & Friday at 12noon**

**Confessions**

Tuesday 8.40am at Amberley

Friday after Mass at Beatitudes

Saturday 10.00am - 10.30 at Amberley

& anytime by arrangement with a priest.

Mass times and other parish information

is available on the parish website at

[www.catholicurunui.nz](http://www.catholicurunui.nz)

### Pope Francis, on the Holy Trinity, 2015

Today we are celebrating the feast of the Most Holy Trinity, which reminds us of the mystery of one God in three Persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. The Trinity is the communion of Divine Persons who are one with the others, one for the others, one in the others: this communion is the life of God, the mystery of the love of the Living God. Jesus revealed this mystery to us. He spoke to us of God as the Father; He spoke to us of the Spirit; and He spoke to us of Himself as the Son of God. Thus He revealed this mystery to us. After He rose, He sent the disciples to evangelize to the peoples, He told them to baptize them "in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" (Mt 28:19). This command is entrusted by Christ in all ages to the Church, which has inherited the missionary mandate from the Apostles. He also directs it to each one of us who, through the power of Baptism, are part of his Community.

Therefore, today's liturgical solemnity, while making us contemplate the amazing mystery from which we come and toward which we are going, renews for us the mission of living in communion with God and living in communion among ourselves on the model of the divine communion. We are called to live not as one without the others, above or against the others, but one *with* the others, *for* the others, and *in* the others. This means to accept and witness in harmony the beauty of the Gospel; experiencing love for one another and for all, sharing joy and suffering, learning to ask and grant forgiveness, appreciating various charisms under the guidance of Pastors. In a word, we have been entrusted with the task of edifying *ecclesial communities which increasingly become families*, capable of reflecting the splendour of the Trinity and evangelizing not only with the words but with the power of the love of God that lives within us.

The Trinity, as I said, is also *the ultimate goal toward which our earthly pilgrimage is directed*. The journey of Christian life is indeed essentially a "Trinitarian" journey: the Holy Spirit guides us to full knowledge of Christ's teachings, and also reminds us what Jesus taught us. Jesus, in turn, came into the world to make the Father known to us, to guide us to Him, to reconcile us with Him. Everything in Christian life revolves around the Mystery of the Trinity and is fulfilled according to this infinite mystery. Therefore, we seek to always hold high the "tone" of our life, remembering *what goal, what glory* we exist for, work for, struggle for, suffer for; and what immense reward we are called to. This mystery embraces our entire life and our entire Christian being. We remember it, for example, each time we make the sign of the Cross: in the name of the Father, of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. And now I invite you, all together, and out loud, to make this sign of the Cross: "In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit!"

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

**Study Catholic Theology** – Applications are invited to study for an 8 paper GradDip in Theology at Good Shepherd College, Auckland, by distance or on-campus. Papers include NZ Church History. Applications close 27 May. Second semester begins 11 July. Email admin@gsc.ac.nz or ph 09 3611053

**Rangiora Town Hall** for one night only, "Francisco 'The Man behind the Pope'" 4pm Sunday, June 5<sup>th</sup>. 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.

**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.

**The Catholic Shop** is now in its new location 373 Manchester Street (next to St Mary's). Parking available. Phone 366 2853, email catholicshop@chch.catholic.org.nz Open 9am – 5pm Monday to Friday. Gift cards, candles, rosaries, First Communion and Baptism gifts.

#### a prayer intention

I am always happy to receive the prayer requests and Mass intentions of parishioners. Every morning and evening, and at Mass and as I am driving, I pray for all parishioners, especially those for whom I have received requests. In recent weeks I have prayed for the healing of Kate Davis (daughter of Pat Crean) who is struggling with cancer, and I now invite all parishioners to join me in this prayer.

I spoke with the Carmelite Sisters during the week and they have assured us that they are now also praying for the healing of Kate. They have suggested this prayer and I ask all parishioners to join me in praying this prayer specifically at least once every day, and any other prayers for Kate and her family, perhaps especially a decade of the Rosary each day.

## eating & drinking

One of the healthy marks of people of faith is that they enjoy eating and drinking together. This week the Parish Council, Finance Committee and Building Committee meet for dinner at the presbytery. Such social gatherings (between full-agenda meetings) is a celebration of the friendship that we develop when we work together in service of God.

Occasionally our parish gathers for food and drink, the annual parish picnic and seminarian cyclists dinner at Cheviot are a couple of recent examples.

I often recall that this was especially important for Jesus, who always seemed to be eating and drinking. The provision of food and good wine was among the most memorable of his miracles.

In November of this year the parish will gather for Mass and dinner to celebrate 150 years since the opening of the Amberley church.

A highlight of each year on the Catholic Calendar for the diocese John Paul II Centre for Life Race Night

#### Friday 9 September 2016 @ Addington

This has become a significant night of celebration for a growing number of parishioners of our diocese. This year we are planning on booking a table or three for Good Shepherd Hurunui parishioners and their friends.

More information will follow, but for the moment put the date in your diary. Tickets will be \$50.00 per person and will include dinner.



Find us on  
**facebook**  
Catholic Hurunui

#### May the Spirit of God

be close to Kate  
to renew and uplift her  
and to pour gifts of healing upon her,  
strengthen her and comfort her,  
enfolding Kate in love to protect her.  
Lighten Kate's burden of illness  
and bestow peace in mind and body,

Bless Kate's loving husband Jim, her children, and all her family, friends and members of the parish with much strength and peace.

We thank you Lord for hearing this prayer we make for Kate's healing through the intercession of Our Lady and all the Saints.  
Through Christ Our Lord,  
Amen.

**LADIES LUNCH** All Catholic ladies, their non Catholic lady family members, including their preschool children are warmly invited to the home of Anne Murphy on Thursday, 26th May at 12 noon. Address is 11 Leslie St, Culverden township. Please bring a small plate of food. At our last lunch it was decided to have a sales table this time. Anything saleable, e.g. home produce, baking, good used magazines, handcrafts etc (be grateful for). All proceeds will go to Sister Aroha, Missionaries Of Charity. Any queries Anne 3158489



#### WORLD YOUTH DAY 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.

**PRESBYTERY COMPLETION.** The formal opening and blessing of the presbytery will be held in November to coincide with the Amberley church 150 years celebration.

*Of your charity pray for  
the happy repose of the soul of:*

Shona Hoban, Nola Sheard, Mark Fitzsimmons, Anne Morris, Gloria Hassan

*May they rest in peace.*

#### Let us continue to pray

*for the happy repose of the soul of  
Bishop Barry Jones.  
Pray too that all those involved in the process of  
appointing his successor will be open to the  
guidance of the Holy Spirit.*



www.foodforfaith.org.nz

read, watch & listen  
with Fr. John O'Connor

& on Facebook & Twitter