

Catholic Parish of the Good Shepherd

Hurunui District, Catholic Diocese of Christchurch



Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

26 June 2016

in thanksgiving

Earlier this month a team of parishioners met to prepare for next month's Good Shepherd Parish Thanksgiving programme which will be led by parishioners and co-ordinated by the diocesan Thanksgiving Programme Advisor Phil Gourdie.

Older parishioners tell of the straightforward process of parish fund-raising before the days of the weekly planned giving programmes. One parishioner told me of the priest contacting her grandfather asking him to make a donation to the parish for a particular appeal. He agreed to give a pig. The priest then went to the second home telling the farmer that his neighbour has given a pig, what are you able to give. Not to be beaten in generosity by the first parishioner, the second offered a cow. The priest continued around the parish receiving all these pledges and raising the necessary amount of money. Then came the time for the pledges to be honoured and the priest returned to the first house to collect the pig. You said you would give a pig said the priest. But I haven't got a pig said the parishioner. The priest was confused until the parishioner said, I knew you came to me first and I wanted to get the programme off to a good start. I knew that all the neighbours would make sure they were more generous than me, and they have been. So me saying I would give a pig served its purpose! A true story, and it happened in this parish!

Other stories are not so humorous, and are usually told with embarrassment and even anger. Many such stories tell of the parish priest reading names of parishioners announcing how much (or how little) each had given as a way of shaming large donations from people.

Thankfully these days are passed.

The matter of money...

... is an important matter in the life of any family or group. Without sufficient finances, a family struggles to survive and at times becomes self absorbed and fearful about the future. The same is true of a parish. Fifty years ago the country parish working bees were guaranteed way to receive contributions of time talent and treasure from parishioners. Those who oversee our two parish farms speak of the time when all parish farm labour was carried out by parishioner volunteers meaning that every cent of profit could benefit the parish. Now, while the administration of the farms is overseen by parishioner volunteers almost every other farm labour requires the hire

of contractors resulting in smaller returns for the parish.

However there is a fairness in this shift. In the past the volunteers were the ones who gave days of labour and hours of income. Now, through the weekly parish giving programme, every parishioner shares in the cost of shearing the sheep, maintaining the church buildings, and providing resources for parish ministry including the cost of car running for the priest (which for many years has taken most of the parish income).

As you will have seen in the parish financial report distributed last week, we find ourselves in a very good situation financially. I am grateful to members of the parish Finance Committee led by Jim Martin (Chair) who have guided us through the twelve months of fund-raising for the new Good Shepherd Parish presbytery.

a new era of missionary life

We now move into a new era of parish life. It is not enough for us to simply maintain buildings. The restructuring within the parish in the last four years since the formation of the one united Good Shepherd Hurunui parish has been a major occupation for us. But now that the transition is complete and many matters of maintenance have been provided for, we are ready to build for the future. This is the real building project of every parish, to reach out to every baptised Catholic in the parish, to help them to know the presence of God with them and the love of God for them.

The Churches of our parish...

...are beautiful because their architecture reveals and communicates what they are. It is clear that they are not domestic dwellings, cafe's or community halls. Their design and interior arrangement communicates the fact that during the Mass a central event happens at the altar: God comes to us, and for this reason priest and people gather in this sacred place to worship God.

As we parishioners approach the church for Mass, we are preparing - and have been even before leaving home. The hour's fast before communion helps us to anticipate, and to recall the significance of what we are doing. The church doors are a significant point of transition where we step into a liminal space between heaven and earth. When we are in a church we behave differently. Immediately we cross the threshold we use holy water to bless ourselves, reminding us of our baptism. We genuflect before the Blessed Sacrament. We allow the sacred silence to embrace us, and prepare for the ultimate encounter with God in the Eucharist.

First Communion

In recent decades many parishes have noticed that while dozens of children may receive communion for the first time in any one year, is rare for the vast majority of these children to receive communion again apart from at a school Mass. A number of people asking to be married in the church have not received communion, or the sacrament of Reconciliation (confession) apart from when they were 7 at the time of their first communion. In the absence of school support, this pattern is even more noticeable in the Hurunui.

In recent years in the Hurunui children preparing for First Communion have not been required to be at Sunday Mass during the months of their preparation for the sacraments. Those preparing the children were trying to do everything possible to make it easy for the children and for their families, but with very few exceptions, we do not see these children at Mass, even at Easter or Christmas. It is evident that our desire to reach out to the children and their families has not helped the children to understand and to live the centrality of Sunday Mass.

This year's Hurunui First Communion programme will work with any parents and children who seek to deepen their relationship with God in the church through these Sacraments, and participation in Sunday Mass will be the heart of the children's preparation.

Architecture is the built form of ideas; church architecture is the build form of theology.

*Denis McNamara
Catholic Church Architecture and the Spirit of the Liturgy*

The external appearance of a church is important. As we approach we are attracted, enticed even, and helped to understand that we are nearing a holy place. Traditionally spires pointed to the heavens.

The care we take with the gardens and lawns around the church also helps to prepare us. Larger churches have a narthex to serve as a further transition and gathering space. Smaller churches often achieve the same space in cloisters and courtyards at the entrance, often surrounded with garden and fences.

Some churches highlight this sacred space of transition with a roofed gate called a "Lychgate." The Lychgate is the point where welcomes take place, where the priest welcomes the bride and groom, or meets a coffin and family before a funeral. These beautiful entrances are even more significant when designed and built by parishioners.

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.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION Special event for Families & Children Times of silent adoration, music and readings from the words of Jesus with Father ANTOINE THOMAS, CSJ. Sunday June 26th Time: 3:30 pm St Teresa's Church Riccarton Followed by a potluck dinner in the parish hall. Please bring a plate to share. "Jesus wants you to do more than to go to Mass on Sunday. Our communal worship at Mass must go together with our personal worship of Jesus in Eucharistic adoration in order that our love may be complete." (Saint John Paul II) More Info: <http://childrenofhope.nz/>

HOSPITAL CHAPLAINS. Most hospitals no longer provide names of Catholic patients to our chaplains. If someone from your family going to hospital please advise the chaplain: Burwood: Kirsten Challies 027 437 6737 Christchurch Hospital: Angela McCormick 364 0640 (x89554) Hillmorton: Gloria Magee 027 212 7377 Princess Margaret: Gloria Magee 027 212 7377 St George's: Fr Chris Orr 351 9502

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION RETREAT – "I will be with you always" The Perpetual Adoration Chapel has now been operating for three years in the Diocese. There is an opportunity to learn more about Perpetual Adoration, and to visit the chapel, during a one-day retreat being held on Saturday July 2nd entitled "I will be with you always". There will be talks, Mass, adoration and quiet time. The retreat is open to all and will be held at St Gregory's Parish Centre. For more information or to register please contact Matt on 366-9869 or email moconnell@chch.catholic.org.nz or go to <http://www.chch.catholic.org.nz/dox/Flyer.pdf>. There is no charge but donations toward the upkeep of the Adoration chapel are appreciated.

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.

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

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.

CHRISTIAN LIFE PROGRAM BEGINS SOON Couples for Christ (CFC) Christchurch invites you to a Christian Life Program starting on July 3rd. CFC, an International Association of the Catholic Faithful that has been granted official recognition by the Holy See, is a movement intended for the renewal and strengthening of Christian family life. The program starts at 1:30 pm and is being held at St. Peter's Parish Hall, 9 Fisher Avenue, Beckenham, Christchurch. Kids care will be provided. Please contact Pepe/Melanie 0223233055 or Arneil/Lisa 0220798550 for more information.

Weekday Mass Timetable

Amberley Church

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday at 9.00am

Community of the Beatitudes

Wednesday at 12noon

Confessions

Tuesday 8.40am at Amberley

Wednesday 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

THE SACRAMENTS OF RECONCILIATION & FIRST HOLY COMMUNION.



Preparation classes will start on the 10th July after the 10am Mass at Hawarden. All children 8 years and over are welcome to attend with their parents. All enquiries please contact Sarah at the parish office catholicurunui@gmail.com or 03 319 8730

LADIES LUNCH Parishoners and friends are very welcome to a shared lunch on Wednesday, 20th July, 12 noon at Anne Murphy's home, 11 Leslie St, Culverden township 03 3158489. Guest speaker is Fr Anton Mclean. Will run a raffle for a charity to be decided. Please bring a small plate of finger food. After the last lunch we sent \$ 210.00 to Sister Aroha for the work of the Missionaries of Charity in Sri Lanka.

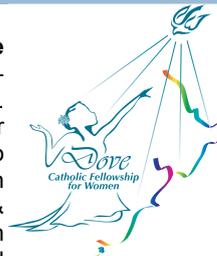
WITH THE MOVE of the presbytery to Amberley the postal address and phone number for the presbytery and office remain the same. You will always be able to contact a priest on the 03 319 8730 number. If the phone is not answered leave a message and you will have a response within the hour. The catholicurunui@gmail.com email is received simultaneously by Fr. John and Sarah, and will also deliver a very quick response.

Fr. Jack O'Connor can be contacted on the presbytery phone number 03 319 8730. or via the parish office at catholicurunui@gmail.com.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS. A summary financial report for the year ended 31 March 2016 is available on the parish website together with the full financial statements.

COME AWAY to be refreshed and renewed -

Dove Retreat 29 - 31 July. Dove Catholic Fellowship for Women invites all women to a retreat weekend with guest speakers Phil & Jennie Ryall from Australia. Jennie a trained counsellor and spiritual companion for many women carries a strong heart for people to find breakthrough into the freedom of God's goodness. Phil and Jennie lead Disciples of Jesus Community in Australia. Theme: "Never Thirst Again" Venue: Willow Park Christian Camp, Auckland. For information visit www.dove.org.nz or Shona Williams 07 543 0101 shonawilliams58@gmail.com. Residential or day registrations is available.



This week especially, let us pray for:

- + those who are suffering from ill health, especially Kate Davis & Robert Owen, That they, and all who long for full health may receive anew the healing Spirit of God.
- + the many benefactors of our parish of the Good Shepherd; those who have given generously over the 150 years that Mass has been celebrated in the Hurunui,
- + Those who give their positive conversation, time, talent, presence and prayer for our parish
- + That the parish Thanksgiving Programme may bear fruit enabling our parishioners together to be the more visible presence of Christ in the Hurunui.
- + Those who contribute financially to our parish today.

"The great artist is the one who goes a step beyond the demand and, by supplying works of a higher beauty and a higher interest than have yet been perceived, succeeds after a brief struggle, in adding this extension of sense to the heritage of the race."

George Bernard Shaw

*you are my inheritance
O Lord*

Psalm 16



Find us on
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Catholic Hurunui



www.foodforfaith.org.nz
read, watch & listen
with Fr. John O'Connor
& on Facebook & Twitter

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

Robert Cotcher (Julia Sinclair's father)

May he rest in peace.

Masses are celebrated for those who have died (or for special intentions) as requested by parishioners. Please either email your request catholicurunui@gmail.com or post to the parish office.

