

Catholic Parish of the Good Shepherd

Hurunui District, Catholic Diocese of Christchurch



Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord 8 May 2016

Ascension Sunday

I often re-read the books that I consider to be spiritual classics. Some of these were written decades or centuries ago. Others, including Pope Benedict's second "Jesus of Nazareth" book are more recent. In the first volume, published in 2007, the emeritus pope reflects on Jesus' ministry from his baptism in the Jordan up to the Transfiguration. In volume two he begins with Jesus Palm Sunday entry into Jerusalem concluding with the Ascension of Jesus into heaven.

This week in preparation for this Sunday's feast of the Ascension of the Lord, (still celebrated today in many parts of the world as Ascension Thursday) I have re-read the last chapter of "Jesus of Nazareth Part Two". This epilogue is a powerful and refreshing insight into the depth, beauty and significance of the Ascension event.

Most people think of the Ascension of Jesus as being a 'departure' moment. Jesus was here and now he is gone. It is essential that we understand what does happen and what does not happen in the Ascension event. It would be easy to wrongly think that in his ministry he showed us how to build the city of God on earth, and now he has gone and the mission is left to us.

This is the error in (so-named) "Liberation Theology". In this well-intentioned and zealous endeavour we might sing that "we are building the city of God." In fact Jesus has not left this mission to us alone. Our mission is always Jesus' mission. HE is the missionary. We are the loved servants. We are the tenderly embraced instruments. The hymn we now sing is of Jesus' building. We sing of God's reign.

True liberation is instigated and gifted by God. When humans respond and co-operate with this divine initiative, real freedom becomes an earthly reality. It is only when we relax into God's love for us, and the enduring and intimate presence of Jesus with us in every situation and every moment, that we become effective disciples of the Master Missionary.

We are never alone. Jesus is with us.

Because of the event of the Ascension, Jesus is with us even more intimately and, when we live in intimate relationship with him, our efforts bear fruit. I have never seen this more clearly presented than in Pope Benedict's book. In preparation for this Sunday's Feast of the Ascension of the Lord I invite you to set aside some time to savour these excerpts from his reflections:

Pope Benedict

Jesus of Nazareth - Volume Two

"Let us turn, then, to the end of Luke's Gospel. Here it is recounted that Jesus appears to the Apostles gathered in Jerusalem, who have just been joined by the two disciples from Emmaus. He eats with them and issues instructions. The closing lines of the gospel are as follows:

"then he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. While he blessed them, he parted from them, and was carried up into heaven. And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually in the temple blessing God" (Luke 24:50=53)

"The conclusion surprises us. Luke says that the disciples were full of joy at the Lord's definitive departure. We would have expected the opposite. We would have expected them to be left perplexed and sad. The world was unchanged, and Jesus had gone definitively. They had received a commission that seemed impossible to carry out and lay well beyond their powers. How were they to present themselves to the people in Jerusalem, in Israel, in the whole world, saying: "This Jesus, who seemed to have failed, is actually the redeemer of us all"? Every parting causes sadness. Even if it was as one now living that Jesus had left them, how could his definitive separation from them not make them sad? And yet it is written that they returned to Jerusalem with great joy, blessing God. How are we to understand this?

"In any case, it follows that the disciples do not feel abandoned. They do not consider Jesus to have disappeared far away into an inaccessible heaven. They are obviously convinced of a new presence of Jesus. They are certain (as the risen Lord said in Saint Matthew's account) that he is now present to them in a new and powerful way. They know that "the right hand of God" to which he "has been exalted" includes a new manner of his presence; they know that he is now permanently among them, in the way that only God can be close to us.

"The joy of the disciples after the "Ascension" corrects our image of this event. "Ascension" does not mean departure into a remote region of the cosmos but, rather, the continuing closeness that the disciples experience so strongly that it becomes a source of lasting joy.

with gratitude

This week we are completing one of the most significant projects in the 150 years of the Catholic community of the Hurunui.

In the last week we have received further contributions, with a number of parishioners asking if there is anything they can do to help or contribute, and a generous gift of beautiful furniture for the new presbytery.

A few months ago Pope Francis said of the church that we are no longer living in an era of change. Instead, we are in a change of era. This is true of our parish, and the new presbytery is a significant symbol of our new Good Shepherd parish and the positive energy of parishioners' commitment to being the people of God in the Catholic church in the Hurunui into the future.

Please keep in your prayer those many parishioners who have supported the project by your positive hopes and conversation, your prayers, and your generous financial contributions.

Sunday Mass Time Changes

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



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Catholic Hurunui



www.foodforfaith.org.nz

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

Ordination to the Diaconate I am delighted to confirm that Alister Castillo, Graeme Blackburn and Huynh Tran have been accepted for Ordination to the Diaconate. This will be on Friday 23rd September at 2pm at Sacred Heart church in Ponsonby. Keep them in your prayers. Fr Rick Loughnan.

Men's Gathering 11 MAY 2016 hosted by Joshua Fellowship 7.15 pm Wednesday, 11th May 2016, St Gregory's Parish Centre, Cotswold Road, Bishopdale. Come and join like-minded Catholic men to grow your faith and be encouraged in your walk with the Lord. Faith sharing, praise and worship, prayer and fellowship over a cuppa. This month we have Fr Paul Williamson speaking on "The importance of Mary in the Year of Mercy". More information? Phone Chris on 027-646-4138.

ACTIV8 Pro-Life Internship Monday 4 - Friday 8 July Ferndale Lodge, Carey Park Christian Camp Auckland Full details and online registration can be found here: <http://goo.gl/15nQUP>

West Papua Action Canterbury invite you to meet Rev Socratez Yoman, a courageous worker for human rights and self determination in West Papua. In Christchurch: Sat 14 May 10am-3pm, Forum on West Papua at Knox Church Centre, cnr Bealey Ave & Victoria St.

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

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

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. For further info 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.

Reflection and Prayer Day: Mercy God's Loving-Kindness. Tuesday 10 May, 10-30am – 2.30pm at Mary Potter Community Centre, 442 Durham Street North. Facilitator: Sr Mary Catherwood for Rosary House Centre Programmes. (Bring lunch. Cuppa provided)

Next week 8th May to 15th May is the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. It may be an opportunity for you to join with fellow Christians to pray for Christian unity. The theme for this week of prayer is "Called to proclaim the Mighty Acts of the Lord" (cf. 1 Peter 2:9). You are welcome to join other Christians in an ecumenical service of prayer on Wednesday 11th May 7.00pm at St Mary's Pro-Cathedral.

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.

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

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

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.*

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

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.

THIRTY EIGHT young people (aged 18-35) from our diocese of Christchurch will travel on pilgrimage to Europe  visit 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.

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

Pope Francis on educating 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?" *Amoris Laetitia par. 261*