



# 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.catholicurunui.nz

### Weekend Masses

#### Saturday Vigil

5pm Hanmer Springs  
(Every Saturday)

6:30pm Culverden  
(1st Sunday 2nd & 3rd  
Saturdays)

#### 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)

12pm Fourvière House of  
Prayer and Retreat

### Weekday Masses

Monday - Saturday  
7am Amberley\*

Tuesday - Saturday  
12pm Fourvière House of  
Prayer and Retreat

### Reconciliation

By Appointment  
or before Mass  
(but not the last 5 Minutes!)

### Rosary

Wednesday  
1:30pm Amberley  
Church Hall

\*May be cancelled when  
Parish Priest is away

2nd Sunday In Lent

Year A

8 March 2020

#### This is my Son the Beloved...

The first reading (Genesis 12:1-4) for this Sunday's Mass tells us that for nearly two thousand years before the coming of Christ, God's saving plan was already well in motion. A man named Abram (later to be renamed Abraham) would father the people into which Christ would be born. His descendants would be a selected group - a 'Chosen people', the 'People of God'. They would be guided by God's prophets, and blessed with favours and gradually prepared to receive Christ into their midst. What makes Abraham such a memorable and inspirational figure in the record of sacred history is that he believed and trusted God with all his heart. Without wavering, without even a glance behind him, Abraham took God at His word and set out for the Land of Promise. Essentially it was embarking on a journey with an unknown destination, trusting God to guide him. With the coming of Christ, we know that the Promised Land is not just a worldly real estate, but the Kingdom of God as in attaining full union with Him.

Perhaps Our Lenten preparation should include embracing the faith and trust Abraham displayed. It is not easy though, living in a time when the cultural norm is to seek 'instant gratification', and 'instant result' in many of our endeavours. This is where the Gospel offers us hope: The Gospel (Matt 17:1-9 on the Transfiguration) gives us a glimpse of the life of the world to come. The episode must have strengthened Peter, James and John when the darkness of the cross eventually arrived, for if they had remembered the Transfiguration, they would know that beyond the darkness there would be light and glory.

Lent is a good time to cultivate a trusting faith in God as we journey along and to let His Light guide us. When things get tough, we must look to the glory of the life to come to strengthen us in our resolve.

God bless, Fr Michael

#### The journey of Lent...

*"We adore you most Holy Lord Jesus Christ, here and in all your Churches throughout the world, and we bless you because by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world".*

St Francis of Assisi

The above remark may look familiar to some because a part of it (*bold*) has been adapted for use in the responses said during the *Stations of the Cross*. Interestingly, St Francis' words also make allusions to Christ's Eucharistic Presence in the Mass, and His Real Presence in the tabernacle in all the [Catholic] Churches throughout the world. We can adore Our Redeemer, because He is present in a most excellent way in the Eucharistic species, and we can worship him, give Him thanks and praise Him in a special way because He is among us in the Sacred Mystery of the Eucharistic celebration, which makes present again, His one and the same sacrifice on Calvary. If you have not been to our Diocese's "Perpetual Adoration" of the Blessed Sacrament at St Gregory's perhaps do so as part of your Lenten exercise.

Lent is the time to be reconciled. Through the sacrament of Penance, we not only pre-dispose ourselves to receive Our Lord in the Eucharist with a contrite heart; we also profess the oneness in faith with the Apostles and the whole Church in the **forgiveness of sins** (*Article 10 of the Apostles Creed*). Most importantly, in doing so, we put Francis's remarks into action. Watch this space for more opportunities for Lenten Reconciliation.

#### TODAY'S READINGS:

##### FIRST READING: Genesis 12:1-4

*The call of Abraham, the father of God's people.*

##### SECOND READING: Timothy 1:8-10

*God has saved us and called us to be holy.*

##### GOSPEL: Matthew 17:1-9

*His face shone like the sun.*

#### NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS:

##### 3rd Sunday In Lent

Exodus 17:3-7 + Romans 5:1-2 5-8 + John 4:5-42

#### TODAYS HYMNS:

205 Lord Jesus think on me  
196 Hear us almighty God  
356 Hail Queen of Heaven vs1

#### DATES FOR THE DIARY:

##### March

13 Anniversary of Election of Pope Francis  
25 Day of Prayer for Family Life

## HURUNUI PARISH LENTEN PROGRAMME: FAITH SEEKING UNDERSTANDING

If you have not followed the week one video link, it is not too late to do so. For **Week Two**, the video link that will be sent to those who have registered their email with the parish is one that takes them to the discussion on the 'Problem of Evil'. Fr Michael suggests that parishioners watch as groups/family/friends etc. It's one initiative to make connections with others, and to explore new ways of reviving the faith in the Parish. It's also an appetizer for possible future programmes for a parish in which many are separated by distance.

The point Fr Michael made at the end of Mass that "*not doing anything is not an option because the parish will eventually become 'non-viable'*" has been wrongly/negatively interpreted by some that he is here to 'close the parish'! The point he was making was that as a parish, everyone should be doing their part in wanting to revive the parish. Doing nothing may seem comfortable, but it is a slow death. And NO, he is not sent here to close the parish! Stand up and be counted, and get excited' or better still, participate in his initiatives and get involved in finding (new) ways to breathe new life into the parish!

**Hurray for Culverden!** For Week One, 8 people came together and had a good discussion around the video. If you would like to join the Culverden group, they meet at 7.30pm every Wednesday in the hall at the back of St Andrews Anglican Church, 44 Mountainview Road, Culverden.

### PARISH NOTICES

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION** Fr Michael is hoping to explore an internet based programme (like Waimakariri parish) We envisage the lessons will be done online however there will be perhaps three group meetings with both parents and children and the location will depend on who signs up. If you know of any children interested who are aged 8+ please contact the parish office.

**LADIES LUNCH GATHERING** Tuesday 10th March at Anne Murphy's, 11 Leslie St, Culverden. 11:30am onwards, eat at 12 noon. Please bring a small plate of food. All welcome. Any enquiries please call 03 3158489.

**LENTEN PROGRAMME** we hope you are enjoying our parish Lenten Programme that was emailed out during the week. You are invited to email any feedback to the parish office. Stay tuned for the next one which will be sent out middle of the week.

**LENTEN STATIONS OF THE CROSS** Fridays throughout the year are still days of Penance, but most Catholics have forgotten it! A good spiritual exercise for Lent is to do the Stations on Fridays. There will be Stations at Amberley every Friday in Lent at 5.00pm as well as the following:

13 <sup>th</sup> March	7pm Hawarden
20 <sup>th</sup> March	5pm Hanmer Springs and 6.30pm Culverden (Confession afterwards)



**THE LORD'S DAY AT FOURVIÈRE** You, (and your family/friends/community) are warmly invited to join us for the Lord's Day at Fourvière - a wonderful shared experience of prayer, Mass, BYO picnic and special catechesis/guest speakers. Choose a Sunday, pack your picnic and head up to the beautiful shrine of our Lady, Mother of the Light - 'Mater Lucis'! 11am: Adoration; 12pm: Holy Mass; 1pm: BYO lunch; 2.30pm: Catechesis and 3pm: Rosary for Life. Confessions are available and the shop will be open for Catholic gifts, literature and souvenirs. So plan ahead, pack your picnic and head up the highway for a great day out! 67 Leithfield Rd.

### DIOCESAN NOTICES

**PRAYER FOR PEACE** Next Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March is the anniversary of the Mosque shootings in Christchurch. On that day St Mary's Pro-Cathedral will be offering a holy hour 4-5pm to pray for peace in our city and in the world. Evening Prayer of the Church at 4.30pm, concluding with Benediction. You are welcome to join us.

**WELL?** World Climate Change event 9-11 March 2020-5-7pm at Ti Kouka Room- UCSA building- University of Canterbury, 90 Ilam Rd. Come along and listen to inspirational and heart rendering stories on the Crisis in the Congo. Listen to Fr Arsene Kapaya and Lema Shamamba community leader from the book Women Kind - NZ Woman Making A Difference. Screen use and addiction. Are you concerned? Also national and international speakers and presenters. Dancing with the Stars. Former All Black. Be part of the global conversation for the UN 75th anniversary. Nelson Mandela Public lecture. The inextricable link between our gadget culture. Nobel peace prize speech. Free entry and light refreshments provided. Reply to Julie Meates jag39@uclive.ac.nz for details and numbers for food

**CORONAVIRUS** A few enquiries have been received regarding receiving of the chalice and exchanging the sign of peace at Mass. The Bishops' Conference has a plan for guidelines to be put in place should this be needed. The situation is being continually monitored.

**FILL A BAG @ THE PREGNANCY CENTRE** The Pregnancy Centre is holding a Fill A Bag of Baby Clothes event on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March 11am-1pm. Bags are provided and are a gold coin donation. There will be a FREE sausage sizzle, face painting for kids and the first 20 mums who arrive will receive a free gift. 88 Idris Road.

**MARCH FOR LIFE CHRISTCHURCH** 28 March 2020 Facebook.com/MarchforLifeChristchurch

**WOVEN Diocesan Worship / Prayer Event** Friday 8 May 12noon to 12 midnight at St Mary's Pro-Cathedral www.chchcatholic.nz/woven or on Facebook.

**Parish Priest:** Fr. Michael Pui - nzmichaelpui@gmail.com - 03 319 8730

**Parish Secretary:** Sarah Blair - catholicurunui@gmail.com Office Hours Friday 9.30am - 12.30pm

**Parish Treasurer:** Elaine Ramsay - catholicurunitreasurer@gmail.com Office Hours Tues & Thurs 8am - 9.30am