



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 Sanctuary of
Fourvière, Leithfield

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

3rd Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday)

Year B

13th December 2020

I am not fit to undo His sandal straps...

Last Sunday, as part of our Advent message, we were presented with the figure of John the Baptist crying out for us to 'prepare a way for the Lord'. The Baptist appears again in this Sunday, this time in the Gospel passage from St John (John 1:6-8, 19-28)!!. This Sunday, John the Baptist is portrayed as a witness to Christ, the Light of the world. In the passage, the Pharisees sent an official deputation to investigate John's ministry. John disclaims any of the traditional Messianic roles; he is neither the Christ, nor Elijah. He claims for himself only the humble role of a herald of someone greater who is to come after him – and he is not fit to undo the sandals of the One who is coming.

The season of Advent is a time for thinking about fundamental things. One of these is humility. The humility of John the Baptist is the quality that shines out most clearly in his character. We can learn from John what humility is: it is simply understanding our true position before God. His humility merited from Christ the commendation that 'of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen.' (Mt. 11:11).

Humbly, let us adore Him to come to us, who is with us, and who is to come.

Maranatha

Fr Michael

P/s Have a look at the 'new' crib in Amberley.... and follow the star!



TODAY'S READINGS:

FIRST READING: Isaiah 61:1-2 10-11
He has sent me to bring Good News.

Psalm Response: My soul rejoices in my God.
SECOND READING: Thessalonians 5:16-24
May you all be kept safe for the coming of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

GOSPEL: John 1:6-8 19-28
There stands among you the one coming after me

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS:
4th Sunday of Advent
2 Sam 7:1-5,8-12,14,16 + Romans 16:25-27 + Luke 1:26-38

HYMNS for SUNDAY MASSES

111 O Come O Come (Vs 1, 5-7)
No Gloria
64 Advent Litany of the Word
334 Ave Maria

DATES FOR THE DIARY:

December
8 The Immaculate Conception
19 Simbang Gabi (explanation PTO)
25 Christmas Day, Holy Day of Obligation

SIMBANG GABI is a Filipino Christmas celebration, a tradition introduced by the Spanish Friars in 1668. It consists of nine days of dawn masses as early as 4.00am and also in the evening of 15 December. The spirit of the Mass is to prepare the faithful, with Mary the expectant Mother, to enter into the mystery of the Birth of Jesus. This privilege was granted by the Vatican for Catechism, advancement, and preservation of Catholic Faith especially among the Filipino natives and farmers. For many Filipinos, Simbang Gabi sparks a heightened sense of anticipation for Christmas. Since the Diocese of Christchurch has a growing number of Filipino who are Catholics, the Philippine Chaplaincy will be celebrating it in parishes where lots of Filipino lives, including in Culverden. You are all welcome to join and be blessed on **Saturday 19 December at 6:30pm. at Our Lady Help of Christians, Culverden.** Other Simbang Gabi celebration outside our parish are as listed below on the right:

BAPTISMS OF CHILDREN Please if you are a parishioner, and you want your child baptised, make contact with Fr Michael first before booking venues or inviting guests. Start with a brief meeting with him, and at that meeting, both diaries can be charged! If you are not a parishioner, then start with contacting your local priest, informing him of your wish (including to be baptised in our parish).

ALTAR SERVING Fr Michael invites those who have made their First Holy Communion to consider Altar Serving. It starts with being more regular at Mass and indicating the wish to be altar servers. We can look at training at some stage, please email Fr Michael with your child's interest.

INVITE OTHERS TO BECOME A CATHOLIC? We Catholics are sometimes very slow in inviting others to consider exploring the Catholic faith. Ask a friend. Currently there are people in the parish 'nibbling', wanting to find out more. If you know of anyone who might want to 'nibble' also, ask them to make contact with Fr Michael for a private talk (without any commitment or pressure!).

COMMUNITY CAROLS 7pm Sunday 20th December at the Highfield woolshed (on Northcotes farm) 130 Inland Road, Waiiau. All are welcome! If anyone would like to lead an item (prayer skit or song) please contact Dawn on 0273567471 or dawnedaunauda@gmail.com

Please keep in your prayers at this time the work of the Royal Commission of Inquiry into Abuse in Care in various institutions, Catholics or otherwise. We pray for survivors for ongoing courage as they share their experience with the Commission.

CHRIST-MASS MASS TIMES

- Christmas Vigil (Thursday) 6.00pm Amberley
- Christmas Vigil (Thursday) 9.00pm Hanmer Springs
- Christmas Day (Friday) 8.30am Culverden
- Christmas Day (Friday) 10.30am Cheviot

The times were arrived at through discussion between Fr Michael and members of the Parish Pastoral Council.

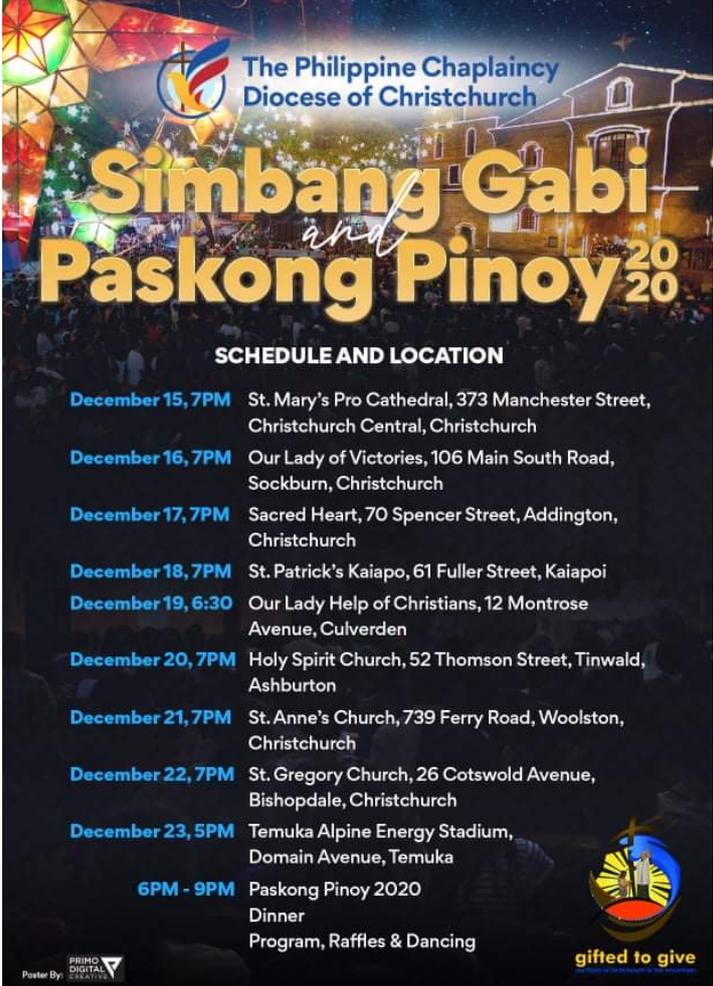
ADVENT RECONCILIATION

- 12th December Saturday 3.30-4.30pm Hanmer
- 18th December Friday 6.30-7.30pm Cheviot
- 19th December Saturday 10-11.30am Amberley

Fr Michael will be in the confessional in Amberley, in the front flat in Hanmer Springs, and in the sanctuary in Cheviot.

DIOCESAN NOTICES

SUBS REQUIRED OVER CHRISTMAS / NEW YEAR FOR THE ADORATION CHAPEL Over the past 7 years the Diocesan Perpetual Adoration Chapel has remained open throughout the Christmas period. We have a large number of people going away and require extra people to help out. If you are going to be at home this Christmas and would be happy to cover an hour or two please contact Matt on 366-9869 or chhadoration@gmail.com



The Philippine Chaplaincy
Diocese of Christchurch

**Simbang Gabi
and
Paskong Pinoy 2020**

SCHEDULE AND LOCATION

December 15, 7PM	St. Mary's Pro Cathedral, 373 Manchester Street, Christchurch Central, Christchurch
December 16, 7PM	Our Lady of Victories, 106 Main South Road, Sockburn, Christchurch
December 17, 7PM	Sacred Heart, 70 Spencer Street, Addington, Christchurch
December 18, 7PM	St. Patrick's Kaiapo, 61 Fuller Street, Kaiapo
December 19, 6:30	Our Lady Help of Christians, 12 Montrose Avenue, Culverden
December 20, 7PM	Holy Spirit Church, 52 Thomson Street, Tinwald, Ashburton
December 21, 7PM	St. Anne's Church, 739 Ferry Road, Woolston, Christchurch
December 22, 7PM	St. Gregory Church, 26 Cotswold Avenue, Bishopdale, Christchurch
December 23, 5PM	Temuka Alpine Energy Stadium, Domain Avenue, Temuka
6PM - 9PM	Paskong Pinoy 2020 Dinner Program, Raffles & Dancing

BRINDO DIGITAL REALITY

gifted to give

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 - catholicurunuitreasurer@gmail.com Office Hours Tues & Thurs 8am - 9.30am