



# 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

2nd Sunday of Advent

Year B

6th December 2020

#### Prepare a way for the Lord...

'Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight' – these words of John the Baptist, first prophesied by prophet Isaiah centuries before him, ring out to us as we start the Second week of Advent (Mark 1:1-8).

John comes to prepare people for Our Lord's coming, appearing in the wilderness, and proclaiming a baptism for the repentance of sins.

On my Sabbatical Leave in 2018, I was privileged to visit Our Lord's actual baptismal site (in Jordan) where the Baptist ministered and lived. I also managed to sneak into the demilitarised zone where both John the Baptist, and Elijah before him, were active. Until then it never dawned on me that they were the same locality. It was a light bulb moment, as scripturally, the Baptist was the 'new Elijah'. It's no wonder even John's clothing is reminiscent of the prophet Elijah (2 Kings 1:8); he wore a garment of camel skin. And so was his message – it was a call for people to repent of their unfaithfulness, like the prophets of old. Among the People of God, who had grown unconcerned with the things of God, it was John's task to awaken their interest, to unsettle them from the complacency, and to arouse in them enough goodwill to receive Christ when He comes. His message still rings true for us, perhaps even more urgent in our country that has gone secular. John's task is also our task: we too are called to give testimony to the light and truth of Christ, pointing others to Christ in the way we live, work, and speak.

Advent is the time to be like John the Baptist, calling others to heed again the message of the God coming among us. It starts with our own personal repentance and the extending invitation to others to do the same.

Make His path straight when He comes...

God bless, Fr Michael

*Did you know that St John the Baptist is the patron saint of the Diocese of Christchurch?*



#### TODAY'S READINGS:

**FIRST READING: Isaiah 40:1-5 9-11**  
*Make straight in the desert the way of the Lord.*

**Psalm Response:** Lord, let us see your kindness and grant us your salvation.

**SECOND READING: 2 Peter 3:8-14**  
*We wait for the new heavens and a new earth.*

**GOSPEL: Mark 1:1-8**  
*Prepare a way for the Lord!*

#### NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS:

**3rd Sunday of Advent**  
Isaiah 61:1-2 10-11 + Thessalonians 5:16-24 + John 1:6-8 19-28

#### HYMNS for SUNDAY MASSES

117 O Come Divine Messiah  
**No Gloria**  
94 On Jordan's Bank  
334 Ave Maria

#### DATES FOR THE DIARY:

**December**  
8 The Immaculate Conception  
25 Christmas Day, Holy Day of Obligation

**THIS SATURDAY 5 DECEMBER** the 6.30pm Culverden Mass will be part of the Couples for Christ (CFC) anniversary Mass, celebrated by the Filipino Chaplain. After the Mass there will be a big celebration in the Amuri school hall, all parishioners are invited to attend.

**SIMBANG GABI CULTURAL CELEBRATION** held by the Filipino Chaplaincy Diocese of Christchurch, will be included in the Culverden 6.30pm Mass on Saturday the 19th December. More info to come.

**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 invite 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).

**AMBERLEY FOOD BASKET** Thank you so much for your support, please remember non perishable goods only please.

**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.

**WANT 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!). When they are ready, he will put a programme together.

**DURING THE 24HR ADORATION** there were 56 prayer cards/reflections. Anyone who would like a copy, please email the parish office with which one you would like.

**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 which continues to look into what happened to children, young people and vulnerable adults in care. 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**

- 11th December Friday 6-7pm Amberley
- 12th December Saturday 3.30-4.30pm Hanmer
- 18th December Friday 6.30-7.30pm Cheviot
- 19th December Saturday 10-11.30am Amberley

Amberley is in the confessional, Hanmer Springs is in the front flat and Cheviot in the sanctuary.

**DIOCESAN NOTICES**

**JOSHUA MEN'S FELLOWSHIP** 6.15 pm Wednesday, 9th December, 57 Sapphire Street, Casebrook. End of year BBQ celebration and fellowship. More information? Phone Chris on 027-646-4138.

**DOVE CATHOLIC FELLOWSHIP FOR WOMEN** Our December meeting and breakup will be at Christ The King parish centre from 1.00-3.00pm on Saturday 12th December with Mass and afternoon tea. We invite you to come and have time to reflect with us on the true meaning of Christmas. All ladies warmly welcomed. Contact Ann 021 111 3963.

**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 chchadoration@gmail.com

**ST JOHN THE BAPTIST SCHOLARSHIP** The Diocese invites applications from interested individuals who would like to undertake theological studies through the Catholic Theological College [Auckland] For more information and an application please contact Mike Stopforth email mstopforth@cdoc.nz or phone 03-366 9869



**NOTICE OF CHRISTMAS CLOSURE**

*Our offices and CDF Online will close during the festive period.*

**CLOSE 12 Noon Wednesday 23 December**  
**RE-OPEN Tuesday 5 January 2021**

*May we take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support of the Fund and wish you and your family a very happy Christmas and New Year.*

[www.cdf.org.nz](http://www.cdf.org.nz)