



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

(Please Check with the community in
the Month of January)

Weekday Masses

Monday - Saturday

7am Amberley

(see next page also)

Tuesday - Saturday

12pm Fourvière House of
Prayer and Retreat

(Please Check with the community in
the Month of January)

Reconciliation

By Appointment

or before Mass

(but not the last 5 Minutes!)

Rosary

Wednesday

1:30pm Amberley
Church Hall

BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Year B

10th January 2021

Baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.



This Sunday the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Baptism of Jesus. The Gospel (Mark 1:7-11) reading tells us that immediately after being baptised, the skies open and the Spirit of God came down in the form of a dove and hovered over Jesus. And the voice of God the Father was heard to say: "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased." This event signified the consecration of Jesus for His mission as the Messiah, and as priest, prophet and King.

When a Christian is baptised he or she also takes on the mission of Our Lord. Part of the ritual of baptism reminds us of this. After the anointing with Chrism immediately after baptism, the priest (or deacon) says to the newly baptised: "As Christ was anointed Priest, prophet, and King, so may you live always as members of his body, sharing everlasting life". We share in His mission as part of being the Body of Christ, and our task is the help save souls. In short, we are called to evangelise, to go forth and preach everywhere the Good News of the justice, love and forgiveness that Our Lord came to bring us, and to point others of the world to come.

The Catholic Church believes that when Jesus was baptised the Sacrament of Baptism was instituted. Saint Matthew tells us at the end of his Gospel that Christ placed the obligation of universal baptism on the Church on the day He ascended into heaven when he said: "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."

How many disciples have we made? How many have we lead to the waters of baptism? Perhaps in this Solemnity of the Baptism of the Lord, we could reflect on these questions.

Blessings

Fr Michael

TODAY'S READINGS:

FIRST READING: Isaiah 55:111

Come to me and your soul will live

SECOND READING: 1 John 5:1-9, 5-6

Jesus Christ came by water and blood

GOSPEL: Mark 1: 7-11

You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS:

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

1 Samuel 3;3-10,19 + 1 Corinthians 6:13-15,17-20 + John 1:35-42

HYMNS for SUNDAY MASSES

171 When Jesus Comes to be Baptised

407 Baptised in Water

341 Sing of Mary (vs 1 & 5)

DATES FOR THE DIARY:

January

24 Word of God Sunday

29 Parish Movie Nite

March

19 Start of Year of Amoris Laetitia

WEEKDAY MASSES IN AMBERLEY The weekday Mass times is 7.00am by default, but will vary in summer. Please pay close attention to the newsletter and the Notice Board.

- Mon-Wed, 4-5 Jan - 7.00am as per normal
- Thu - Sat, 6-9 Jan - **9.00am Mass**
- Mon-Sat, 11-16 Jan - 7.00am as per normal
- Mon-Wed, 18-20 Jan - 7.00am as per normal
- Thu - Sat, 21-23 Jan - **9.00am Mass**

FAITH SEEKING UNDERSTANDING - In the last 12 months, our parish has had two occasions whereby we used the resources on the internet, both paid and complimentary (but available to parishioners for free) for some faith formation. There was some uptake but sometimes things that are free are not fully appreciated. Fr Michael would like to encourage parishioners to consider signing up for a programme called FORMED - the Catholic Faith On Demand. Instead of doing it through a parish bulk subscription, parishioners can sign up directly. Go and investigate on: <https://formed.org>

It costs a few \$ a month, giving you access to movies, programme, audio and books instantly.

PARISH MOVIE NITE - The last was a success. DVD for the last parish movie night is still available if groups want to get together to watch ("Letters to Fr Jacob"). The next movie night is 7pm Friday 29th January in the Amberley Hall. Free Pope-Corn. Please register your interest.



Please;

- Scan QR codes with the NZ COVID Tracer app keeps us one step ahead of the virus
- Turn on Bluetooth tracing on the NZ COVID Tracer app allows you to be notified if you've been near another app user who has tested positive for COVID-19
- Stay home if you're sick and do not travel or take part in activities
- Wash your hands often and regularly is one of the easiest ways to keep yourself safe.

ADVICE FROM POPE FRANCIS. Pope Francis offered some common sense but profound advice for families during his Angelus Address on December 27, 2020, the Feast of the Holy Family.

In light of the pandemic restrictions, the Holy Father spoke from the Library of the Apostolic Palace, focusing on families both before and after praying the noonday Angelus with the faithful connect via social media around the world.

"In imitation of the Holy Family, we are called to rediscover the educational value of the family unit: it must be founded on the love that always regenerates relationships, opening up horizons of hope," the Pope said. "Within the family, one can experience sincere communion when it is a house of prayer, when the affections are serious, profound, pure, when forgiveness prevails over discord, when the daily harshness of life is softened by mutual tenderness and serene adherence to God's will. In this way, the family opens itself to the joy that God gives to all those who know how to give joyfully."

The Holy Father suggested three short phrases to help avoid "cold war" in the family:

- Please
- Thank You
- I am Sorry

"If in a family, in the family environment there are these three words, the family is fine," Francis said. After the Angelus, he offered particular thoughts about families, noting the challenges faced during the pandemic and a difficult year.

"My thoughts turn in particular to the families who, during these months, have lost a loved one or have been affected by the consequences of the pandemic," Pope Francis continued. "I think also of the doctors, nurses, and all healthcare professionals whose great example on the front line in fighting the spread of the virus has had significant repercussions on family life.

"And today I entrust all families to the Lord, especially those most tried by life's difficulties and by the scourges of misunderstanding and division. May the Lord, born in Bethlehem, grant them all the serenity and strength to walk together in the way of goodness."

For Full Text: got to **Zenit.org**