



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

5th Sunday of Easter

Year B

2nd May 2021

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
(see next page also)

Tuesday - Saturday
12pm Sanctuary of
Fourvière, Leithfield

Reconciliation

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

Rosary

Wednesday
1:30pm Amberley
Church Hall

I am the True Vine...

When King Henry VIII rebelled against the Church for not being able to annul his marriage to Catherine of Aragon, he left his subjects a very clear choice: either they were with him, or they were against him – and those who were against him were soon deprived of many things, including their very lives. In the wake of that, many great stories of faith emerged including that of St Thomas More who tried to remain loyal to the King but not compromise his faith. Eventually, he too had his head chopped off, but not before making his famous statement: *“I die the king’s loyal subject, but God’s first”*. Others, including priests and bishops, sold their souls and took the King’s side, not just for fear of their lives, but also for the opportunity to gain wealth and honour. In our times, and in our daily lives, the choices we have to make in life may not appear as drastic like those faced by the subjects of King Henry VIII. Perhaps that is why today, many people live an apathetic life, indifferent to many real important things in life. It brings to mind the famous saying: *“make a stand for something, or fall for everything”*.



Our Lord also famously said; *“anyone who is not with me is against me... (Luke 11:23 and Matt 11:23)*. Even more with Our Lord, one cannot really take the middle ground – a dollar each way so to speak. Either He was the Son of God, or He was a mad man or worse... BUT, if He is the Son of God – then it means God came to us with something important – and the Truth makes a demand. Faith makes a demand.

In this Sunday’s Gospel, Our Lord tells the people that He is the true vine. He invites us to graft and root ourselves as branches into the true vine. The Jews whom Jesus was addressing knew very well the vine on which they were supposed to be grafted and rooted, for in the Old Testament, the People of God, was referred to as the vine (Psalm 80:8; Isaiah 5:7; Hosea 10:1) which the hand of God had planted (Psalm 80:15; Jer 2:21). The Gospel of St John emphasises how essential it is for each one to be united with Jesus, the source of life. Only when a branch is joined to the vine can it bear fruit: only when we are part of that mystical body of Christ we will start to be what we are called to be: another Christ to the world. Either we are part of the vine and draw life from it, or we are already dead. Let us not fool ourselves: there is no middle ground. Unlike King Henry VIII’s subjects, there is always time to make that choice while we are still alive, and it is embracing the choice now that we discover the great adventure and fulfilment to which God is calling us.

Easter Blessings, Fr Michael

TODAY’S READINGS:

FIRST READING: Acts 9:26-31

He explained how the Lord appeared to Saul and spoke to him on his journey.

Psalm Response: I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people.

SECOND READING: John 3:18-24

His commandments are these: that we believe and that we love one another.

GOSPEL: John 15: 1-8

He who lives in me, and I in him, bears much fruit.

HYMNS for SUNDAY MASSES

475 Gather us In
877 Will you Come and Follow Me
368 Regina Caeli

DATES FOR THE DIARY:

May
4 1st HC Meeting
16-23 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

PARISH AGM will be held on Sunday 18th July at 2pm in the Amberley church hall. Everyone is welcome!

SIGN FOR FREEDOM CAMPAIGN About 40 million (1 in every 200) people are enslaved worldwide and an estimated 3000 in Aotearoa New Zealand. Pope Francis describes modern-day slavery as “a scourge that wounds the dignity of our weakest brothers and sisters” and encourages everyone in their “commitment to the total eradication of this scourge.” We can respond by supporting the Sign for Freedom Campaign which aims for a 500,000 signature petition to present to our Government requesting comprehensive legislation to address modern slavery, forced labour, human trafficking and worker exploitation in our country. We can promote this, and sign online www.signforfreedom.nz or on the form in our church porch. Closes 17 May.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE CHILDREN from our parish who are preparing to make their First Holy Communion on the Feast of Corpus Christi. If you haven't got one already, we have made little prayer cards for parishioners to pick (randomly!) so as to remember to pray for them.

REGINA CAELI is the Marian Antiphon we have been singing at the end of Mass in this Easter season. It is an ancient hymn that is traditionally used from Easter Sunday until Pentecost. The translation is:

*Regina caeli, laetare, alleluia;
Quia quem meruisti portare, alleluia,
Resurrexit, sicut dixit, alleluia;
Ora pro nobis Deum, alleluia.*

Queen of heaven, rejoice, alleluia.
The Son you merited to bear, alleluia,
Has risen as he said, alleluia.
Pray to God for us, alleluia

AN UPDATE ON THE NEW CATHEDRAL FROM ARCHBISHOP PAUL

Dear sisters and brothers,

You will be aware that the land in central Christchurch has been purchased for the building of the new Cathedral. This is to be located across from Victoria Square bounded by Columbo, Armagh and Manchester Streets.

Progress has been made this week with the appointment of architects Franck & Lohsen Architects from America who will work with the Christchurch firm Warren and Mahoney Architects.

Franck & Lohsen have worked on numerous churches around the world, including Australia. These include new churches as well as additions and renovations to existing churches. Their specialist knowledge of the Catholic faith, and the traditional and timeless style of architecture for which they are renowned, were key factors in their appointment.

Initial design work has already commenced but the new cathedral is not expected to be completed for five years and is anticipated to seat 1000. The cathedral site will also include an open courtyard, chancery offices and parking as well as an adjacent garden. More information will be on the diocesan website on Monday morning.

Please keep this significant project in your prayers.

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 Tuesday 8am - 9.30am

FIRST FRIDAY MASS 'Current of Grace' Christ the King Church, Greens Road, Burnside at 7.30pm on 7th May. Everybody is welcome to join us for our regular monthly Charismatic Mass with Praise & Worship, prayer ministry and fellowship. Please bring a plate for shared supper after Mass. Any enquiries please contact Maureen mobile: 027 568 8338.

REFLECTION DAY Finding grace in each season of life. Tuesday 18 May, 10.30am – 2.30pm. Facilitator Sr Mary Catherwood at Te Manawa Atawhai Catherine McAuley Centre at Villa Maria College. Bring own lunch, tea and coffee provided. Koha/donation. Scripture, music and images will support times of personal silent prayer.

ST JOSEPH THE WORKER CHURCH, LYTTELTON - CLOSING MASS St Joseph the Worker Church, Lyttelton, the first Catholic Church for Christchurch was consecrated on the 29th of June 1865 and destroyed in the 2010/2011 earthquakes. The Church Community has continued and will be closing on Pentecost Sunday with a special Mass which will be celebrated on the site of the Church. All former parishioners are warmly welcomed to attend. As seating is limited, registration is necessary and can be made via: gerrydoherty@xtra.co.nz

DOVE The next Dove meeting will be held on Monday 10th May, 7-9pm, at St Patrick's Church, 61 Fuller St, Kaiapoi. Jeanette Dobbs will be speaking on 'Holistic ways to deal with Fear and Anxiety'. All women welcome. For more information contact Ann Martin 021 111 3963.

JP2 CENTRE FOR LIFE Looking for a special way to honour your Mum for Mothers' Day? Donate to the JP2 Centre and choose a specially designed card for your Mum (6 designs, 2 sizes). You will receive a bonus pack of teatowels. We can personalise your card. Further info: www.facebook.com/jp2centre