



# Parish of the Good Shepherd, Huruwai



## PARISH NEWSLETTER

Amberley | Cheviot | Hawarden | Culverden | Waiau | Hanmer Springs  
Parish Office: 138a Carters Road, Amberley | PO Box 143, Amberley 7441  
www.catholicurunui.nz

The Feast of the Holy Family

Year C

26th December 2021

### Weekend Masses

#### Saturday Vigil

5pm Hanmer Springs  
(Every Saturday)

6:30pm Culverden  
(1st, 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 Sanctuary of  
Fourvière, Leithfield

### Reconciliation

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

### Rosary

Wednesday  
1:30pm Amberley  
Church Hall



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On this first Sunday after Christmas, the Church's liturgy invites us to celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family of Nazareth. After all, God chose to be born into a human family. God wanted to have a mother and father like us.

The Gospel passage gives us the scene of the Fifth Joyful mystery of the Rosary: the finding of child Jesus in the Temple. "The *finding of Jesus in the temple* is the only event that breaks the silence of the Gospels about the hidden years of Jesus. Here Jesus lets us catch a glimpse of the mystery of his total consecration to a mission that flows from his divine sonship: 'Did you not know that I must be about my Father's work?' (Lk 2:49)" (CCC, 534).

The passage reveals Our Lord's Divine side, and His human side: He is God and man. It shows also that as a family, they experienced the normal things of a typical family; anxiety, fear, danger, suffering..... but what's more important is that we can also see the simplicity of life of the Holy Family. Perhaps it is that simplicity that has to be recovered in our modern families. More and more, our modern families need to return to the basic beauty of the love of a husband and wife, and through that faithful love, the blessing of a child or children. Of course, not everyone is privileged to be born into that ideal situation, but even so, we should all strive to uphold the beauty of what is meant to me, rather than normalise what had failed to happen.

May God bless all families on this feast.

Fr Michael

#### TODAY'S READINGS:

**FIRST READING: 1 Samuel 1:20-22,24-28**  
*Rejoice, for the Lord is consoling his people.*

**Psalm Response:** They are happy who dwell  
in your house, O Lord

**SECOND READING: 1 John 3:1-2,21-24**  
*We are called God's children, and that is what we are*

**GOSPEL: Luke 2:41-52**  
*Mary stored up all these things in her heart*

#### HYMNS for SUNDAY MASSES:

*Word are in the Christmas Booklet*

#### DATES FOR THE DIARY:

##### December

31 New Year's Eve Mass - 11.30pm

##### January

1 World Day of Peace  
23 Word of God Sunday

**THANK YOU** a wee note of thanks to our amazing parish volunteers who help keep our parish running. Your efforts do not go unnoticed!

If you are reading this and feel you can spare some time through next year to help the parish in a practical way, by either reading, cleaning, music ministry... please make yourself known. Many hands make light work!



**THE TRAFFIC LIGHT** is Orange. Please be reminded that the parish of the Good Shepherd caters for both the Vaccinated and those who are not, i.e. we have Masses that are "Open to All", and Masses for all those who are Vaccinated only so that those who feel vulnerable can attend. Please cooperate, and help our parish cope with adjusting to the law.

**Amberley and Hanmer Springs: Vaccinated Only**

**Culverden, Hawarden, Cheviot & Waiau: Open to All**  
(limited to 50 and distancing requirement)

**POST CHRISTMAS & BEFORE NEW YEAR** will be a quiet time this year as Fr Michael hopes to take a few days off after a frantic time rushing around. After Christmas, the first weekday Mass will be the **New Year's Day Vigil at 11.30pm at Amberley**. You can join him afterwards to herald in the new year with a toast.

**SYNOD feedback!** Hi, the Pope wants input from parishioners. Fr Michael and the Parish Council have decided that they will approach individuals, who in turn are encouraged to call friends together to do a group input, or do it as individuals. We hope to collate our parish input by the end of February. The Pope posed two questions (which can be broken down into 10 if you want to get to more details - a handout will be given to you). Please volunteer if you can, or Fr Michael will approach some of you personally - the information sheets have already been given out to some.

*"Celebrating a Synod means walking on the same road, walking together. Let us look at Jesus. First, he encounters the rich man on the road; he then listens to his questions, and finally he helps him discern what he must do to inherit eternal life. Encounter, listen and discern."*

**OFFICE HOURS** The parish office will be closed over the holiday period and will be opening again on 21st January.

**INFORM** the latest edition of the diocesan Inform magazine is now available. Don't forget to pick up your latest copy!

**VALENTINES DAY MASS** A date for your diaries. Valentine's Day Mass, Monday 14<sup>th</sup> February, 6.30pm @ St Mary's, celebrated by Archbishop Paul.

**A Christmas celebration - another version**



In the west, the Christmas Feast has more or less been hijacked and celebrated largely as a Commercial Event rather than a religious celebration. Have you noticed how there is no mention of Christ in the mainstream media, and the wish is always "Merry Christmas" and the reference is always Santa Claus!. For years, I have been wishing; "A blessed Christmas" just to make a point.

Sometimes, we live in our own cocoon and do not realise that for many, Christmas is celebrated differently, and very religiously. Take our Eastern Coptic Christian brothers and sisters for an example. The Egyptian Christians are often called Coptic Christians (they are either Coptic Catholic or Orthodox Copts or Armenian Copts). 90% of Egyptian Christians are Orthodox Copts, and so they follow Orthodox Liturgical Coptic calendar. Therefore most of them celebrate the birth of Christ on January 7<sup>th</sup>, starting 25<sup>th</sup> November (*not a typing error!*) and ending on 6<sup>th</sup> January!! And they start with a special fast called '**The Holy Nativity Fast**', following a strict vegan diet, in which meat and animal products are cut out. Then after this marathon effort, they gather at churches on the Coptic Christmas Eve on January 6<sup>th</sup> that normally starts around 10.00pm and goes on till shortly after midnight; sometimes lasting till dawn in some chapels!. Once the Christmas Masses end, people go home to break their fast with glorious feasts of meat, poultry, and eggs. On the morning of 7<sup>th</sup> January, they visit friends and family members to celebrate Christmas together. They put us Catholic Christians in the west to shame!

**Fr Michael**



THE  
**BISHOP'S**  
CARE APPEAL 2021

**Thank You!**



This year, BCA funds were donated to support individuals in need. This included through a major eye surgery, hearing aids, school camp attendance, and to those who simply couldn't afford to pay their bills.

*"The generous will themselves be blessed, for they share their food with the poor." - Proverbs 22:9*

Consider Donating Online:  
[www.chchcatholic.nz](http://www.chchcatholic.nz)



**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