



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

Feast of the Epiphany

Year C

2nd January 2022

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
(excluding the month of
January)

Weekday Masses

Monday - Saturday
7am Amberley

Tuesday - Saturday
12pm Sanctuary of
Fourvière, Leithfield
(excluding the month of
January)

Reconciliation

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

Rosary

Wednesday
1:30pm Amberley
Church Hall



Where is the Infant King of the Jews?

.....That's the question the three wise men, or the Magi, asked.

What fuelled their quest to search for Him? Knowledge, truth, wisdom....? I would say all of the above, and more!. They were not Israelites, but they would have read or heard of the Messianic prophecies of the People of God – and the hope that was contained in the prophecies excited their quest. In their thirst for the knowledge, truth and the wisdom of God, they willingly left everything, their home and country, in pursuit of that quest. And in their diligent search they were led to the true source of all they were seeking -- to Jesus Christ, the Light and Wisdom of God. As, the story goes, when they found the new-born King they humbly worshiped him and gave Him gifts fitting for a king.

(continued on back page.....)

SUNDAY'S READINGS:

FIRST READING: Isaiah 60:1-6

Above you the glory of the Lord appears

Psalm Response: Lord, every nation on earth
will adore you

SECOND READING: Ephesians 3:2-3,5-6

*It has now been revealed that
pagans share the same inheritance*

GOSPEL: Matthew 2:1-12

The visit of the Magi



HYMNS for SUNDAY MASSES:

Words are in the Christmas Booklet

(continued from front page....)

Everyone craves and longs for what God is offering but we live in a world that is full of distractions, and worse still, in our time, 'mis-information' and fake news!! Just pay attention to the mainstream media leading up to Christmas. There is hardly mention of 'Christ' in Christmas, and if there is, there is usually mockery and derision. An article in the Christchurch Press on Christmas Eve, which was crass and full of shallowness, even confused Mary's Immaculate Conception with Christ's Incarnation. And to top it all, the author referred to Christmas as "Racist Christians.....skip(ping) over the nativity essentially being about young, Middle Eastern refugees trying to escape a military dictatorship". Then on the TV, Channel Two, we have misleading propaganda disguised as documentaries to suggest that the Catholic Church is nothing more than those who read the Bible wrongly..... And instead of us Christianizing pagan practices, we were accused of practising pagan rituals instead of believing the Word of God! And Christmas was one of them! And if there is any truth in that, it is precisely how the world hijacked Christmas and made it a commercial event!. Against this kind of backdrop, how can anyone truly sieve through the voice of God crying out for what He offers?

In the encounter of the Magi with Jesus we see the plan of God to give His only begotten Son, Saviour and Guiding Light, not just for the Jewish people but for all the nations as well. This is the point highlighted by St Paul in the Second Reading. Our Lord Jesus came that both Jew and Gentile might find the Way, the Truth and the Life. Let us pray today that Jew and Gentile alike will find the Lord and Saviour on their journey of life. Let's pray that, for a start, all journalism should be in the pursuit of the truth, rather than the airing of stupid and crass opinions.

May the Light of Christ be everyone's Guiding Light – always.

Blessings for the New Year

Fr Michael

PARISH & DIOCESAN NOTICES

THE TRAFFIC LIGHT is Orange. 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 & Waiiau: Open to All (limited to 50 and distancing requirement)

OUTDOOR MASS in Amberley? Originally, under the new Traffic Light system, Fr Michael planned to celebrate the Mass on the 1st Sunday in Amberley as an outdoor (BYO Chair), event and to make it an "open to all" (i.e. no Vaccine Pass required) Mass. However, the feedback given to him was that this was not practical for the older parishioners. Unless he hears of any objection to the contrary, no such Outdoor Mass will be held, and Amberley continues to be for the Vaccinated only.

SYNOD feedback! Some of you have been given the material to discuss - which is essentially two questions, the answers to which Pope Francis wants 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."

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