



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.catholichurunui.nz

Fourth Sunday of Lent (Laetare Sunday)

Year C

27th March

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

He was lost and is found...

The first reading for this Sunday describes the end of the quest of People of God in the Old Testament to be delivered from slavery and their entry into the Promised Land. They celebrated the Passover to recall and re-live, to make 'present', the moment of their liberation from slavery by the Egyptians, and experienced the abundance of their new home. There was a cost however; the manna from heaven stopped, and they had to work to enjoy their harvests. The Second Reading speaks of a new creation, and that is cause for celebration. It also comes with a cost: this new creation requires us to be reconciled to God. And it calls us to invite others to reconciliation.

And in the Gospel reading, we have once more the story of the Prodigal Son (perhaps it should be known as the 'Merciful Father'). In the figure of the Father, we heard of God rejoicing at the conversion of heart of a lost son. When a sinner repents, it is really an occasion for heaven to rejoice. In the parable, the father celebrates in a big way, the return of the lost son, for according to the father, the son "was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found". This is how God rejoices at every repentant heart, at the return of every sinner - reconciled.

All the Old Testament events lead up to the Sacrifice of the Son of God to reconcile us to the Father.

Blessings Fr Michael

P/s: Come to be reconciled there are several opportunities to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation in Lent, as advertised.



THE TRAFFIC LIGHT is still RED, but the rules are relaxing from 11.59pm 4 April

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. Please cooperate, and help our parish adhere to the law & request from the bishops.

- Amberley and Hanmer Springs: (Vaccinated Only, seating limited because of 1m distancing)
- Culverden/Hawarden/Cheviot/Waiau: (Open to All, limited to 25 {until 4 April} and 1m distancing)

Please book within 24 hours of attending as space is rather limited. Text 021-1737992 or email: nzmichaelpui@gmail.com. Please use scan the QR code, of record your details on the sheet *(Please read Health and Safety Update overleaf).*

SUNDAY'S READINGS:

FIRST READING: Joshua 5:9-12

The Israelites celebrate their first Passover in the Promised Land

Psalm Response: Taste & see the goodness of the Lord

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

God reconciled himself to us through Christ

GOSPEL: Luke 15:1-3,11-32

The prodigal son returns

HYMNS for SUNDAY MASSES

(Singing may be omitted on the day)

- 841 – Diverse in Culture
- 842 – Come Back to Me

(In Lent let us leave quietly at the end of Mass as part of our parish's Lenten exercise - i.e. no singing...)

Please stay home if you are sick to protect those who are vulnerable

While we look forward for the easing of restrictions from midnight 4 April, we must still try to protect those who may not have mild symptoms should they get infected. Mass attendees are encouraged to take **more** precaution against the spread of Covid, to protect those who may be more vulnerable (e.g those who are immune compromised, or have comorbidities that are not good for Covid infection). There are numerous safety measures that we all can take to reduce the likelihood of Covid-19 transmission, and mask wearing is highly encouraged. Remember, in Hanmer and Amberley, the pews are marked to help you to distance, and even though you may be in the same 'bubble' and want to sit together, doing so in some instances may make it harder for others to follow the markings for distancing.

Fr Michael may be able to spare some RAT kits if you are sick at home and want to be sure.

Unless symptomatic or vulnerable, we would love to see you at Mass, and we look forward to weekend 9/10th April where we do not have to deal with Vaccine Passes. However, depending on the numbers turning up, bookings may be re-introduces for Mass attendance at Amberley and Hanmer because 1m distancing means limited seating.

PARISH/DIOCESAN NOTICES

STATIONS OF THE CROSS IN LENT

- + Amberley: 5.30pm every Friday
- + Culverden: 7.00pm Friday 18th March & 1st April
- + Other Mass centres: Volunteers to lead?

SACRAMENT of RECONCILIATION IN LENT

Below are some schedules opportunities you may wish to explore:

- **Amberley** 6.00pm, Wednesday 6th April for *1st Holy communion children and guardians*
- **Amberley, 6.30pm- 7.30pm,** Thursday 7th April
- **Cheviot, 11.00am - noon,** Friday 8th April
- **Hanmer Springs, 3.00pm-4.00pm** Saturday 9th April (Front Flat)
- **Culverden, 6.00pm to 7.00pm** Wednesday 13th April



WAR IN UKRAINE - Last Friday, on the feast of the Annunciation, Pope Francis consecrated Ukraine and Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The words of the consecration can be found on the Vatican website: www.vatican.va There are many other interesting news and documents to be found there, including the Catechism.

PARISH MAINTENANCE - The roof of St Anthony's, Cheviot, has just been painted by a professional as part of our Maintenance Programme. If you can spare a hand occasional to do things with Fr Michael (e.g paint a window sill, spray weeds in the cemetery etc), please let him know. It will not be too onerous, and when the time comes, if you are not available, it does not matter, so do not be afraid to put up your hands.

HOLY WEEK TIME TABLE - The Holy Week timetable will be out next week. To give you a heads up, Easter Vigil will be at Culverden again, while Hanmer will have an Easter Sunday Mass rather than a Vigil Mass. Please put in your diary, CHRISM Mass will be at the Pro-Cathedral on 11th April @7.30pm. At the Chrism Mass, the holy Chrism, Oil for Anointing the Sick and the Oil for Catechumens are blessed. The priests also renew their commitment to their priestly service, and the bishop invites the people to pray for them, and for himself. The faithful are encouraged to attend to show their oneness with, and their support for, their bishop and priests.

CONSULTATION - "Pope Francis wants to hear from you!" While several individuals and groups in our parish have sent Fr Michael their input (and Fr M has forwarded them to the Diocese), there is still time for anyone who wants to do so to do it. Invite friends, Catholic or not, or even disenfranchised Catholics (!) to take part in a survey for the ongoing international synod on the future direction of the Church. The survey is being advertised on Stuff and in social media such as Facebook, so you might see it pop up. Please share it with friends who may not be reached by your parish/diocesan Synod consultation. Link to the survey: <https://www.catholic.org.nz/news/media-releases/synod-feedback/>

SVDP, St Vincent de Paul Society is in desperate need for sheets and blankets to provide warmth and comfort to those in need in our community this coming winter. There is a great need for Household furniture particularly Whiteware and Dining Tables. Bedding can be placed in the Parish Clothing bins or email Penny on penny@svdpchch.co.nz to arrange bedding/furniture pickup.

Parish Priest: Fr. Michael Pui - nzmichaelpui@gmail.com - 03 319 8730

Parish Email: catholicurunui@gmail.com

Parish Treasurer: Elaine Ramsay - catholicurunuitreasurer@gmail.com Office Hours Tuesday 8am - 9.30am