



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

Second Sunday of EASTER (Divine Mercy)

Year C

24th April 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

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



My Lord and My God....

This Sunday's Gospel has St Thomas initially doubting His fellow brother apostles that they had seen the Risen Christ. This led to the use of the term "Doubting Thomas" on anyone who is a skeptic or who refuses to believe without direct personal experience.

In our time, many express the idea that unless they 'experience' (e.g. see) things for themselves, they would not believe - as if anything to do with "faith" is always "blind". Yet, in their daily lives, they take many things by faith without even blinking twice. For example, if I hand someone a \$20 note, mostly it would be taken, by faith, that it is a genuine money. The person would not question that it is legal tender, nor does he asks the bank to verify it every time he makes a transaction with it, nor asks to see the printing press, nor checks the validity of the government to issue the notes..... And the list of expression of faith goes on in the simple transaction. The thing is, anyone who receives the \$20 note could make all those investigation, but mostly they accept it on "faith". And it is the same with the Resurrection Christ. One could investigate whether it is reason-able to believe in the Resurrection, not just through Biblical testimonies, but also the testimonies of all the people whose life was changed by it because of the encounter with the Risen Christ.

Even the methods used in natural science use a faith based system; we have to take it by faith that the Laws of the physical world (e.g. the *Laws of Motion, Quantum Mechanics, and Thermodynamics...*), will always be true – otherwise, science cannot exist. The difference is, for those who believed in God, we believe that there is a mind so incredible that it thought everything into being – that even Creation follows His mind: the created world follows "Laws" which we can study, and we call it Science. We can set up experiments to verify the Laws of Nature, but we cannot explain where why Creation works according to "Laws". It is a bigger leap of faith to suggest that everything 'just happened to be there', and happen to function in a way we can study them. Science without the Creator as the source of all creation, requires a bigger leap of faith - and one that is really 'blind'!

The episode of 'doubting Thomas' is very important because John the Evangelist is trying to tell us that believing is seeing, and not seeing is believing. When St Thomas eventually met the Risen Christ, his words were: "My Lord and My God". The Risen Christ replied: "You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe". Remember, Faith and reason go together. Mostly, faith is also a choice – it is choosing to believe, not because faith is blind, nor that we have seen, but because it is reason-able, and it makes sense. **Alleluia He is Risen Fr M**

EASTER SUNDAY'S READINGS:

FIRST READING: Acts 5:12-16

The numbers of men and women who came to believe in the Lord increased steadily

Psalm Response: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love is everlasting (or, Alleluia).

SECOND READING: Apocalypse 1:9-13,17-19

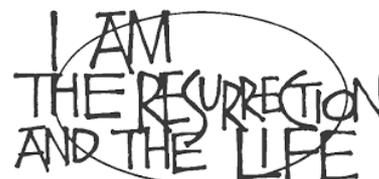
I was dead, and now I am to live for ever and ever

GOSPEL: John 20:19-31

Eight days later, Jesus came again and stood among them

HYMNS for SUNDAY MASSES

- 277 Easter Glory Fills the Sky
(Vs 1,2,3 & 8)
- 284 We Walk By Faith
- 368 Regina Caeli



PARISH AND DIOCESAN NOTICES

THE TRAFFIC LIGHT IS ORANGE! Please continue to protect each other from Covid or Influenza by staying at home if you are sick.

The wearing of mask in indoor setting is still highly recommended at the moment. Please do not put Fr Michael under pressure to have 'exceptions' to bypass safety measures imposed on him, including;

- No Holy Communion from the chalice (*for now*),
- No Shaking of hands (*outside one's bubble during the Sign of the Peace*),
- No Communion on the tongue &
- No Holy water available in stoops.

ANZAC DAY - We shall remember them...

Honour the dead, our country's fighting brave,
honour our children, left in foreign grave,
where poppies blow and sorrow seeds her flowers,
honour the crosses marked forever ours.

(1st Verse of Hymn for ANZAC day, Shirley Murray)

A COUPLE DAYS OF R & R was considered by Fr Michael last week after the pressures of Holy Week. However, he could not take it because of a bereavement. And so this coming week, he will have a couple of days break on Tuesday and Wednesday (26-27th April). There will be no 7.00am daily Mass in Amberley as a result.

FLIES-BY? If you see flies strewn all around the floors and pews in the Churches in our parish, and in particular in Amberley, Cheviot and Culverden, please do not assume that the Churches have not been swept or cleaned for ages!. We have a bad invasion of Cluster Flies this year; spraying and 'bombing' with insecticides have proved futile. The situation will improve only after winter has peaked.

MERCY SUNDAY April 24 is also an annual event at St Mary's Pro-Cathedral whereby there are Confessions 1.45 - 3pm, Divine Mercy Chaplet sung and prayer 2.30pm. Mass 2.45pm.

Please register via the Diocesan online registration link via Facebook or the diocesan website. All welcome. Contact Pat 03 359 2087

VOLUNTEER required for the Catholic Shop to cover Thursday afternoons and casual cover for others on sick leave. Computer and customer skills beneficial and full training will be given. For more information pop into the shop or call 027 4222 515.

A DAY WITH MARY – You are invited to spend a day with Mary on Saturday **7 May** at St Anne's Church in Ferry Road. Starting at 9.30am and concluding with Benediction at 3pm. For more information contact Marie 027 551 8070.

CELEBRATING ST PETER CHANEL, Saturday 30th April: 10:30am-2pm at the Sanctuary of Fourvière. You are invited to a morning with St Peter Chanel followed by Mass and a shared feast with a spit roasted pig at the Sanctuary of Fourvière (67 Leithfield Rd) 10:30am gathering for coffee followed by a talk on the letters of Peter Chanel by Fr Ben D'Souza SM, the blessing of the foundation of a Polynesian Fale in Mary's garden and Mass with a shared launch afterwards – Bring a plate to share. More info: Thomas 022 506 2538.

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

When St. Pope John Paul canonized Sr. Faustina (a nun from his Polish homeland who had been promoting God's message of Divine Mercy), he also, on the same day, surprised the entire world by establishing Divine Mercy Sunday as a feast day for the entire Church. The feast day falls on the Second Sunday of the Easter whereby the Gospel reading also focuses on God's Mercy in the mandating of the Apostles to act as His instruments of reconciliation.



Repeatedly Pope St John Paul II has written and spoken about the need for us to turn to the mercy of God as the answer to the specific problems of our times. He has placed a strong and significant focus on the Divine Mercy message and devotion throughout his pontificate..

Providence of Coincidence? Judge for yourself: Pope St John Paul II died in April 2005 on the vigil of **Divine Mercy Sunday**. He was himself **beatified on Divine Mercy Sunday**, May 1, 2011, by his successor, Pope Benedict XVI, and was **canonized** together with Pope John XXIII on **Divine Mercy Sunday**, April 27, 2014, by Pope Francis. (*See above Notice for the Diocesan celebration of Divine Mercy*)

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