



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



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

First Sunday of Lent Year A 26 February 2023

Our Lord went into the desert and fasted for forty days....

The liturgical season of Lent begins. It started with Ash Wednesday, a day of fasting and Abstinence from meat. The Gospel reading for Ash Wednesday always point us to the 3 things associated with Lent, namely, prayer, fasting and almsgiving (or charity, helping the poor). The 40 days of Lent mirrors that of the time Our Lord entered the desert where for 40 days He faced temptations and trials – against not fulfilling His Mission (to suffer and die for us, - to save us). But He did not give in. In Lent we enter into our own desert, so to speak, to focus on the things that tempt us from the straight and narrow, and to strengthen ourselves spiritually that we may live good and holy lives.

Lent is a time to hear the again the voice of God through encountering Him in prayer, and we hear His voice better, in the quiet of the desert. If we have lost our way in prayer life, perhaps we can use Lent as a time to re-discover it, finding a routine spot/time, even we only start with only one minute a day!. Call it “God Time”, and switch off from all the worldly distractions. Collectively, there are Stations of the Cross on Friday evenings that we may not only pray together, but meditate on the Passion of Our Lord.

Fasting is not just about giving up, or just having less, food and drink. As I mentioned in my Ash Wednesday homily, there are many other things one can fast from (e.g smoking, drinking alcohol and Social Media!!). Sacred Scriptures tell us that fasting (from food) in itself is not what is important, but the spirit and intention behind it that really matters. Scriptures also mentioned that fasting from food must go together with fasting from violence and oppressing people. In other words, when we fast as a religious exercise, it is useless unless we also observe a loving and forgiving attitude towards others, and promote justice and peace!.

When it comes to almsgiving, there are so many ways we can do it collective, in light of so many recent Appeals to go towards helping victims of disasters (Turkey/Syrian Earthquakes, Auckland Flood, Cyclone Gabrielle.....see back page). Of course, we can do our own charitable work or contribute to what ever charity, but sometimes it is helpful to have a communitarian approach – such as the yearly Caritas Lenten appeal as a means of collectively being involved in a tangible and organised projects to help the poor.

The hope of the extra exercise and observance in Lent is that we may be strengthen to fight against the temptation to sin, grow closer to God, have a better prayer life, have our sights more clearly set on eternal life, and maybe even better prepared to celebrate Holy Week and Easter.

Blessings, Fr Michael

SUNDAY’S READINGS:

FIRST READING: Genesis 2:7-9,3:1-7

The Creation, and the sin of our first parents

Psalm Response:

Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned

SECOND READING: Romans 5:12-19

However great the number of sins committed, grace was even greater

GOSPEL: Matthew 4:1-11

The Temptations of Christ

HYMNS for SUNDAY MASSES

(Use Hymnal)

180 Led By The Spirit

205 Lord Who Throughout these 40 days

Let us depart Mass in **silence** in Lent as part our “fasting” or self-denial.

Perhaps use the silence also as a means to recover the sense of sacredness of the space, and allowing those who want to hear God’s voice better, an opportunity to do so.

FORMED CATHOLIC RESOURCE ONLINE

Fr Michael's Recommendation for this week: *"Into the Desert"*. This is a Lenten Study on Prayer, and there are several episodes. (Search for it on www.formed.org). **Make sure you know the difference between "Desert" and "Dessert"!**

For parishioners who have not made use of the parish Subscription, sign up instructions will be sent out again with the Parish e-mail-out.

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION 2023

Please remember the candidates in your prayers. The first Preparatory Session will be on Saturday 4th March in Culverden.

**CARITAS LENTEN REFLECTION**

Caritas Lenten Reflection and prayer for Lent has the theme **"I am the Light of the World"**.

Parishioners residing in Culverden will meet with the Anglicans over the Lenten Programme. Commencing 1 March @6pm and every Wednesday of Lent. 1 Stock Rd. Culverden. Queries to: 0277138250

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER will be held on Friday 3rd March at;

+ 7.00pm, Our Lady Help of Christians, **Culverden**,
+ 7.00pm, St James Presbyterian Church, **Hawarden**
+ 11.00am, Holy Innocents, Anglican Church, **Amberley**.

All welcome.

FINAL PROFESSION - SR Monica Tauiliili CB of the Community of the Beatitudes has the joy of announcing that she is making her Final Profession of the Evangelical Counsels of Chastity, Poverty and Obedience. You are warmly invited to the Profession Mass on Saturday 25th March 2023, at 11am, Solemnity of the Annunciation of Our Lord, at St Mary's Pro-Cathedral, Christchurch, New Zealand.

For more information, please contact Thomas, lay member of the Beatitudes Community at apostolate@fourviere.nz

The Community of the Beatitudes is an Ecclesial Family of Consecrated Life with three branches: The sisters, the brothers and priests, and the Lay members. To discover more about the Beatitudes Community : Website <https://www.beatitudes.nz/the-beatitudes-community>

ENTERING THE SEASON OF LENT - OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALMSGIVING!**+ CARITAS AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND, LENTEN APPEAL**

This is a yearly appeal, and envelopes are in the Church foyer. Money raised through the Bishops' Lenten Appeal helps us to fund both development and emergency relief work around the world. Each year, Caritas develops resources for parishes and communities to guide reflection and prayer throughout the six weeks of Lent.

+ CYCLONE GABRIELLE RELIEF APPEAL - Since Bishop Michael reached out to ask for your most generous support of the Auckland Flood Appeal, the North Island has been ravaged again – this time by Cyclone Gabrielle. Once more, we ask you to answer the call to assist those most unfortunate in the same way those in the North Island reached out to help us in the aftermath of the earthquakes which hit our Diocese in 2010, 2011 and 2016. Bishop Michael has launched the Cyclone Gabrielle Relief Appeal, which will support the disaster relief efforts, remediation and recovery work, and the physical, mental and financial support services of the Dioceses of Auckland, Hamilton and Palmerston North.

Please donate online at www.cdcc.nz. You can also donate by scanning the QR Code with your phone (on poster, emailed).

TURKEY/SYRIA EARTHQUAKES

Caritas Aotearoa NZ is accepting donations to help the people of south-eastern Turkey and northern Syria, affected by the earthquake and aftershocks of Monday 6 February. You can donate online through the Caritas Emergency Donation tab at this link: www.caritas.org.nz/donate-online (Please specify that your donation is for Turkey Earthquake), or donate via the Caritas bank account: 03-0518-0211216-00 (please include your first & last name and put Turkey as the code.)

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

Parish Email: catholichurunui@gmail.com

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