



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.catholic Hurunui.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

Second Sunday of Lent Year A 5 March 2023

This is my Son the Beloved...

The first reading (Genesis 12:1-4) for this Sunday's Mass tells us that for nearly two thousand years before the coming of Christ, God's saving plan was already well in motion. A man named Abram (later to be renamed Abraham) would father the people into which Christ would be born. His descendants would be a selected group - a 'Chosen people', the 'People of God'. They would be guided by God's prophets, and blessed with favours and gradually prepared to receive Christ into their midst.



What makes Abraham such a memorable and inspirational figure in the record of sacred history is that he believed and trusted God with all his heart. Without wavering, without even a glance behind him, Abraham took God at His word and set out for the Land of Promise. Essentially it was embarking on a journey with an unknown destination, trusting God to guide him. With the coming of Christ, we know that the Promised Land is not just a worldly real estate, but the Kingdom of God as in attaining full union with Him.

Perhaps Our Lenten preparation should include embracing the faith and trust Abraham displayed. It is not easy though, living in a time when the cultural norm is to seek 'instant gratification', and 'instant result' in many of our endeavours. This is where the Gospel (Matt 17:1-9) offers us hope - it is the scene of the Transfiguration. It is a glimpse of the life of the world to come. This glimpse must have strengthened Peter, James and John when the darkness of the cross eventually arrived. Lent is a good time to cultivate a trusting faith in God as we journey along and to let His Light guide us. When things get tough, we must look to the glory of the life to come to strengthen us in our resolve. **Blessings, Fr Michael**

SUNDAY'S READINGS:

FIRST READING: Genesis 12:1-4
All the tribes of the earth shall bless themselves by you

Psalm Response:
Lord, let your mercy be on us,
as we place our trust in you

SECOND READING: 2 Timothy 1:8-10
God calls and enlightens us

GOSPEL: Matthew 17:1-9
His face shone like the sun

HYMNS for SUNDAY MASSES

(Use Hymnal)

697 Sing a New Song Unto the Lord
215 Transfigure Us O Lord

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.

KALAVALE is on again this Sunday @ Amberley since it is the First Sunday of the month. It will be good to catch up for a cuppa with others in the parish and win a raffle or two while supporting the mission at Kalavale.

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION 2023

Please remember the candidates in your prayers. The first Preparatory Session will be on Saturday 4th March in Culverden at the St John's Hall.



CARITAS LENTEN REFLECTION

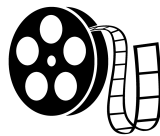
Caritas Lenten Reflection and prayer for Lent has the theme **"I am the Light of the World"**.

Parishioners residing in Culverden will meet with the Anglicans over the Lenten Programme. Every Wednesday of Lent, 6.00pm. 1 Stock Rd. Culverden. Queries to: 0277138250

STATIONS OF THE CROSS, FRIDAYS OF LENT

Join parishioners in a communitarian approach at **Amberley @5.30pm** and **Culverden @5.00pm**. Each Friday, a different set of reflection and prayers will be used. You can also volunteer to lead.

PARISH MOVIE NIGHT - actually, its more of a Spiritual documentary this time - a 60 minute Documentary: **"Road of Hope - the Spiritual journey of Cardinal Nguyen Van Thuan"**.



The late Cardinal was jailed for 13 years when the communist regime took over Vietnam. Pope Benedict XVI said of him: "During 13 years in jail, in a situation of seemingly utter hopelessness, the fact that he could listen and speak to God became for him an increasing power of hope, which enabled him, after his release, to become for people all over the world a witness to hope—to that great hope which does not wane even in the nights of solitude". There is a move to get him Canonized

Amberley Hall: 7.00pm. Thursday 9 March

PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES - New sets for the next financial year have arrived. Just a heads up to remind those who support the parish using the envelopes to pick them up when they appear in the Church foyer. Those who support using Direct Debit will still get a set of "Special Envelopes" for occasions that do not occur on Sunday.

FORMED CATHOLIC RESOURCE ONLINE

Fr Michael's Recommendation for this week: *"The Transfiguration"* - (this Sunday's Gospel). There are many items on FORMED on the Transfiguration, but look for a 3m video explaining the famous painting of Raphael's depiction of the transfiguration. (Search "transfiguration" on "www.formed.org).

For parishioners who have not made used of the parish Subscription, sign up instructions was meant to be sent out again with the Parish e-mail-out but Fr M forgot. Here's how:

1. Go to www.formed.org - click "sign up as parishioner"
2. Type "Hurunui", and select our parish when it appears.
3. Register with your name and email address
4. Check that email account for a link to begin using FORMED

ENTERING THE SPIRIT 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 - This supports 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.

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. 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.)

