



# PARISH OF ST MARY, STAR OF THE SEA, GISBORNE

Catholic Diocese of Hamilton

## FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

9 February 2025

I share with you part of the letter I wrote this week to a Member of Parliament, expressing my disappointment to him about a call he had recently made in the House to “send the Mexicans home!”.

*“I am the parish priest of the Catholic community in Gisborne, and a significant proportion of the congregation are new migrants who have come from Europe and the UK, Asia, Africa, the Pacific Islands, North and South America – from some 20-plus nations. These are the people who are helping to staff our hospitals, pick our crops, teach in our schools, care for our elderly in rest homes, maintain our infrastructure, and contribute to the life and vitality of our community. They know the struggle of moving, of learning a new way of life and sometimes new languages, and of making a new life for their families. They are the ones who have come, when so many others are leaving. I am sure that remarks like yours do not help them to feel that they belong and are appreciated here – but they are valued members of our community, and we will continue to assure them of that, and support them.”*

May we always remember that we are sisters and brothers in the Lord, through the baptism we have received – and let us always respect one another as we, like the disciples in the Gospel today, “leave all to follow Him”. May God bless you all.

*Father Mark*

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## CHILDREN’S LITURGY COMMENCES THIS SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9

Children of the Parish will be excited for the return of Children’s Liturgy today (SunFebruary 9). This is held in the Parish Centre during 9am Mass.



## SINULOG

Blessings on Father Richard and the Filipino community today as they celebrate Sinulog, in honour of the Santo Niño (Child Jesus). The festival includes a dance ritual, which tells the story of the Filipino people’s acceptance of Christianity – something for us to look forward to at the end of Mass this Sunday!

## MAY HE REST IN PEACE

Monsignor David Bennett died on Tuesday after a long illness. He was, for many years, the Vicar General of our diocese and Parish Priest of Cambridge (and also of the Cathedral, Morrinsville, and St Mary’s Rotorua). Monsignor David has given great service to our diocese – may he now rest in peace. E Pā, e te Rangatira o te Hāhi, e moe.

## JUBILEE YEAR

The Parish Council members met last Wednesday, and, among other things, considered ways that we might celebrate the Jubilee Year in our parish. The next issue of the STAR magazine (March) will give more detail. We also reviewed the Christmas liturgies, and expressed gratitude to those who did so much to help us celebrate the festivities.

## COMMISSIONING MASS

The Commissioning Mass for the staff and Boards of our schools will be celebrated this Thursday at 3.15pm. All parishioners are welcome to attend. (There will still be Mass at 9am.)

## GORGE CLOSURES

Be aware, the road through the Waioeka Gorge will be closed during the day this coming week, 10am – 6pm, Tuesday to Friday.

## DONATIONS NEEDED FOR ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

St Vincent de Paul is grateful for donations received this week. They still need saucepans, frying pans and casserole dishes for people moving out of motel emergency accommodation into Kainga Ora units. Egg cartons are also needed. Assisting St Vincent de Paul is a great way to make a difference in our community. Thanks.



## COAST MASSES

Mass this Sunday in Tolaga Bay (11am) and next Sunday (February 16) in Tokomaru Bay at 11.30am

## OPEN MEETING TO DISCUSS INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL EVENT

To showcase the community's multi-cultural diversity, the Catholic Women's League is organising an international cultural evening at St Mary's School Hall on February 28. A meeting will be held next Monday, February 10, at the Parish Centre for community representatives, to talk about how to best showcase our many and varied cultures within the Parish . . . dancing, music, art . . . whatever you like.

## HUGE SUPPORT FOR TEENS' INTERNATIONAL GOALS

Sunday's basketball tournament raised a whopping \$1400 for Aileen Arnaldo, Rafaele Rivera and Santino Camero to further their interests at international level tournaments. Organiser Rose Brown said six teams took part and the use of the Campion College gym was appreciated. Delicious Filipino cuisine was available and there was a great atmosphere at the tournament. St Vincent de Paul's foodbank was boosted by generous donations.

## DIARY DATES TO REMEMBER

**February 13:** Schools Commissioning Mass, 3.15pm

**February 19:** Finance Committee, 12 noon

**February 28:** "International Event" (CWL organising)

**March 5:** Ash Wednesday

## EDUCATION:

**Stella Maris Early Childhood Centre** Bridget Armstrong (Centre Leader) (06) 863 0428  
**St Mary's School** Helen McGuigan (Principal) (06) 868 8332  
**Campion College** Paul McGuinness (Principal) (06) 867 9309

### This Sunday's Readings:

*Isaiah 6:1-8*

*Corinthians 15:1-11*

*Luke 5:1-11*

### Next Sunday's Readings:

*Jeremiah 17:5-8*

*Corinthians 15:12.16-20*

*Luke 6:17.20-26*

### **MASS OFFERING**

Mass can be offered for Holy Souls, Thanksgiving, Special Intentions, needs or difficulties. Contact Elaine in the Parish Office to arrange to have a Mass offered for your intentions.

## PRAYER CHAIN

If you need prayer, or want to be a Prayer Chain member (committing to pray for others), contact **Sister Cynthia** (06 868 6378) or **Shirley** (027 633 2320). The purpose of a prayer chain is to support one another, lift up our needs and hopes to God, and gain God's assistance through prayer.



## THE HOLY ROSARY

The Rosary is prayed in the side chapel at 8.30am every morning, except on Fridays when it is prayed at 11.25am .

Date	Mass Times	Intentions	Feast / Saint
<b>Sunday 9 February</b>	6pm Vigil (Saturday) 9am (Sunday)	Gillies Family	<b>5th Sunday of Ordinary Time</b>
<b>Monday 10 February</b>			St Scholastica
<b>Tuesday 11 February</b>	9am		World Day of Prayer for the Sick
<b>Wednesday 12 February</b>	9am	Susan Caldwell (RIP)	
<b>Thursday 13 February</b>	9am		
<b>Friday 14 February</b>	11am Holy Hour 12.10 pm		Sts Cyril, monk & Methodius, Bishop
<b>Saturday 15 February</b>	9am 6pm Vigil (Saturday)	Purificacion Enrile (RIP) Vigil Augusto Cesar Enrile (RIP) Vigil	
<b>Sunday 16 February</b>	9am (Sunday)	Parishioners' Intentions	<b>6th Sunday of Ordinary Time</b>

### SUNDAY MASS AT OTHER CHURCHES —

**Second Sunday:** Sacred Heart, Tolaga Bay (11am)

**Third Sunday:** St James, Tokomaru Bay (11.30am)

**Fourth Sunday:** St Bede's, Matawai (11am)

### CONFESSIONS —

Friday 11.25am

Saturday 9.30am

*Or by appointment with one of the priests*