



PARISH OF ST MARY, STAR OF THE SEA, GISBORNE

Catholic Diocese of Hamilton

EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

2 March, 2025

Today is the Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time, the last Sunday before Lent begins. As we reflect on the words of Jesus today, we realize that recognizing the faults of others is not prohibited. Jesus, in another gospel text, even encourages fraternal correction. What is being emphasized is that we should not pass judgment in the spirit of arrogance, forgetful of our own faults, shortcomings, inadequacies. Recognizing them and in spite of them, we are called not to be indifferent but to love others.

This Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent.

Ash Wednesday opens the season of Lent, which in turn prepares us for the celebration of the Paschal Mystery—the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus. The beginning of Lent is marked by the imposition of ashes on the faithful to signify our mourning or contrition for our sins. This sign of penance, however, should be accompanied by inner conversion, by metanoia or change of heart. We rend our hearts, not our garments and return to the Lord. Thus, our Lenten practices—prayer, fasting, almsgiving—are rightly done before God’s eyes. Let the Lord heal the wounds of sin and fulfil the prophecy made to our fathers: “A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will take out of your flesh the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.” (Ez 36:26).

Father Richard

Please bring back last year’s palms for this year’s ashes.

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ASH WEDNESDAY

This Wednesday is Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent. Mass is at 9am and 5.30pm. The schools will have their own liturgies outside those times.

BISHOPS’ LENT APPEAL / CARITAS

The Bishops’ Lent Appeal envelopes were distributed last Sunday. A Freepost single giving envelope replaces the previous “giving pack” of six weekly envelopes. Please donate online if possible, either through our website or via direct deposit, as it helps to keep administrative costs down. Thank you in anticipation for your support of Caritas.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

These will take place each Friday of Lent at 5.15pm, in the Church. The Stations are a great way to journey with Jesus in his suffering and death, with the hope of also sharing in his Resurrection. (The slightly later time is to enable those who finish work at 5pm to pray the Stations.)

RITE OF ELECTION

Next Sunday at the 9am Mass we will have the Rite of Election, when those preparing to become Catholic will sign the “Book of the Elect”. Please continue to keep our catechumens and candidates in your prayers.

JUBILEE YEAR

One of the suggestions endorsed by Parish Council at their recent meeting was that we pray just the **first paragraph of the Prayer for the Jubilee Year** at the end of the Prayers of the Faithful, at each Sunday Mass.

**Father in heaven, may the faith you have given us
in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,
and the flame of charity enkindled
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,
reawaken in us the blessed hope
for the coming of your Kingdom.**

SLIGHT IMPROVEMENT IN POPE'S CONDITION

Pope Francis' condition has showed "a further, slight improvement", the Vatican says, maintaining the prognosis for the 88-year-old fighting pneumonia in both lungs is "reserved". Doctors have warned the path to recovery could be long, with the Pontiff likely staying in hospital beyond this week. The Pope was admitted to Rome's Gemelli hospital on February 14.

ST PATRICK'S PARISH IN PUTARURU TO CELEBRATE CENTENARY

A search for photos and stories about St Patrick's Church in Putaruru is underway as the parish prepares to celebrate its centenary on November 30, 2025. Please forward to: stpatricksputaruru@gmail.com

JOIN IN A GREAT PRAYER FOR LIFE THIS LENT

Ash Wednesday to Palm Sunday - pray for an end to abortion. Sign up and receive educational resources and daily prayer intentions. FLI.org.nz/prayerforlife

DAY OF PRAYER & PENANCE FOR VICTIMS OF ABUSE & VIOLENCE

Each year, on the Friday after Ash Wednesday, the New Zealand Catholic Bishops' Conference calls us to commemorate a Day of Prayer & Penance for the Victims of Abuse & Violence. For Christians, prayer, conversion and justice are central to the healing process. As a faith community, we come together before God, seeking forgiveness for the harm that has been done. On Friday, March 7 2025, our bishops invite us to acknowledge the harm inflicted on all those who suffered abuse within Catholic settings. In this Year of Jubilee, Pope Francis invites the Church to be Beacons of Hope and Channels of Forgiveness, Peace & Reconciliation. <https://tinyurl.com/a3x43euk>

BANK ACCOUNT DETAILS

St Mary's Parish bank account number is BNZ 02-0342-0050016-004 and the bank account name is: **R.C.Bishop of Hamilton — Gisborne Parish.** Please make sure there is no space between R.C. & Bishop. Thanks

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:

Ecclesiasticus 27:4-7
1Corinthians 15:54-58
Luke 6:39-45

Next Sunday's Readings:

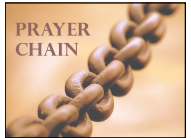
Deuteronomy 26:4-10
Romans 10:8-13
Luke 4:1-13

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
Sunday March 2	6pm Vigil (Saturday)	Special Intention	Eighth Week of Ordinary Time
	9am (Sunday)	Parishioners' Intentions	
Monday March 3			
Tuesday March 4	9am		St Casimir
Wednesday March 5	9am 5.30pm	Margaret Allen (Anniversary)	ASH WEDNESDAY Day of fast & abstinence
Thursday March 6	9am	Chaffey/Rau Family	St Gregory of Narek
Friday March 7	11am Holy Hour 12.10 pm		Sts Perpetua & Felicity
Saturday March 8	9am		St John of God
	6pm Vigil (Saturday)		
Sunday March 9	9am (Sunday)	Parishioners' Intentions	First Week of Lent

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