



PARISH OF ST MARY, STAR OF THE SEA, GISBORNE

Catholic Diocese of Hamilton

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

9 March 2025

With Ash Wednesday last week, we began the season of **Lent** – it was good to see so many beginning this season in the midst of the worshipping community. Lent is a time set aside to examine our ways, repent our failings and imitate God’s love and mercy. The practices of prayer, fasting and almsgiving, as well as the corporal and spiritual acts of mercy, are encouraged. The season culminates in the Easter liturgies, the Triduum, as the Church recalls the paschal mystery. With hope and grace, we welcome this season of repentance and renewal.

With Jesus in the Gospel today, we also confront the temptations in our lives, and ask the Lord’s strength and grace.

I would like to thank the 200 parishioners, young and old, who came to the **International Dinner** – what a wonderful evening together. A special word of thanks to Sue Baker and the Catholic Women’s League for their imitative and hard work.

The Catechumens and Candidates are formally “enrolled” through the Rite of Election at the 9am Mass today, and will sign the Book of the Elect. Please keep James, Ana, Isabella, Ruth, Kristine, Jorje, Corin, Monica and Aaron in your prayers.

Father Richard will say Mass at Sacred Heart Church in **Tolaga Bay** today – we pray for the small community there.

Let’s pray for one another as we begin our Lenten journey.

Every blessing to you all

Father Mark

Father Mark Field

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BISHOPS’ LENT APPEAL / CARITAS

As part of our almsgiving during Lent, if you are able to make a donation to the Bishops’ Lent Appeal through Caritas, it would be greatly appreciated (and be good for your soul!).

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

These will take place each Friday of Lent at 5.15pm, in the Church, and are a great way to journey with Jesus in his suffering and death, with the hope of also sharing in his Resurrection. If you are unable to come on Fridays, you can pray the Stations on your own, at a time that is convenient to you. A selection of booklets to guide you through the Stations will be available in the foyer.

RITE OF ELECTION

This takes place today. Please continue to keep our catechumens and candidates in your prayers – they are a blessing to us.

COLLEGE RETREATS

Best wishes to the senior students of Campion College who have their retreats this week – we hope that it is a transformative experience for them. Because of the retreats, the Parish Centre will not be available during the school day this week.

RECONCILIATIONS

Confession is available during Lent at the usual times. There will be communal celebrations of Reconciliation on Wednesday April 9, at both 11am and 5.30pm. Hopefully there will be three priests available.

VOLUNTEER CHAPLAINCY ASSISTANTS

Gisborne Hospital Chaplaincy is seeking Volunteer Chaplaincy Assistants, if anyone feels they have a calling and a heart for being a Volunteer Chaplaincy Assistant (VCA) in Gisborne Hospital, please contact Gisborne Hospital Chaplaincy 06 869 0500 extn 8021 for further information. Training will be provided.

BINGO EVENT ON TARGET

A whopping \$3208 was raised at the bingo fundraiser for Aileen Arnaldo, Rafael Rivera and Santino Camero. Rafael and Santino even gave a taekwondo demonstration. Organiser Rose Brown said the teenagers and their families thanked everyone for their continued support.

POPE FRANCIS MARKS LENT WHILE BATTLING HEALTH ISSUES

Pope Francis continued his physical and respiratory therapy as his condition remained stable on Ash Wednesday. Despite his hospitalization for double pneumonia, he received ashes and Holy Communion and made a solidarity call to a priest in Gaza. The Vatican launched Lent without the Pope's presence, as a cardinal led Ash Wednesday services in his place. Global prayers continue for the 88-year-old pontiff's recovery.

FASTING DURING LENT

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fast and abstinence. The law of fasting binds those who have completed their eighteenth year, until the beginning of their sixtieth year. The law of abstinence (not eating meat) binds those who have completed their fourteenth year. The practice of penance can be fulfilled by performing any one of the following:

- Abstaining from meat or some food;
- Abstaining from alcoholic drink, smoking, etc;
- Giving what we save as a result of our fasting and abstinence to the needy;
- Going out of our way to help somebody who is poor, sick, old or lonely;
- Making an extra effort in terms of family prayer, participation in the Mass, visiting the Blessed Sacrament, or praying the Stations of the Cross.

INTERNATIONAL NIGHT A HUGE SUCCESS

Laughter and joy were infectious at the Catholic Women's League cultural evening, which was a huge success last Friday night. Children were the stars of the night, bringing to life the many ethnicities within our parish community with song and dance. The response from the congregation to this free parish-mixer was amazing and the international cuisine was delicious. CWL president Sue Baker said this was an opportunity to celebrate the diversity within the parish. "We are hoping to have a parish social annually on the last Friday before Lent," she said.

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:

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

Next Sunday's Readings:

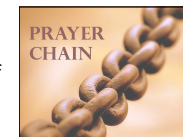
Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18
Philippians 3:17-4:1
Luke 9:28-36

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 9	6pm Vigil (Saturday)	Parishioners' Intentions	First Sunday of Lent
	9am (Sunday)		
Monday March 10	No Mass		
Tuesday March 11	9am		
Wednesday March 12	9am		
Thursday March 13	9am		
Friday March 14	11am Holy Hour 12.10 pm	Susan Caldwell (RIP) Syro Malabar Malayalam Mass (Father Thomas)	
	6pm		
Saturday March 15	9am		
	6pm Vigil (Saturday)		
Sunday March 16	9am (Sunday)	Bernie Thompson (RIP)	Second Sunday 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