



PARISH OF ST MARY, STAR OF THE SEA, GISBORNE

Catholic Diocese of Hamilton

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

16 March 2025

Our readings today remind us to keep our eyes fixed on heaven. God asks Abram to look up at the sky and count the stars. Philippians reminds us our citizenship is in heaven. Peter, James and John's eyes are fixed heavenward as they climb the mountain and witness Jesus' Transfiguration. Where are our eyes fixed? On our cell phone? On what others have? Today, let us ask for the grace to fix our eyes and hearts heavenward.



I will celebrate Mass at **St James' Church in Tokomaru Bay** today – we pray for the small community there.

Tomorrow is **St Patrick's Day** – a happy feast day to all of Irish descent. The Irish have been an important part of the faith life of our Church in Aotearoa New Zealand, and we give thanks for all who have gone before us.

Father Richard and I will be at a meeting with the Bishop and priests of the Diocese, and so there will be no morning Mass on Wednesday and Thursday. Please contact me if there is an emergency. As well, there will not be a liturgy at Ryman this month. 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. You can pray the Stations on your own, at a time that is convenient to you, if you wish.

COLLEGE RETREATS

Best wishes to the senior students of Campion College whose retreats continue this week, on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. The Parish Centre will not be available on those days.

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.

BANK ACCOUNT DETAILS

The bank has updated St Mary's account name to **R.C. Bishop of Hamilton — Gisborne Parish**. There is now a space between R.C. and Bishop. The number remains the same BNZ 02-0342-0050016. Thank you for your patience.

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.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE

Due to the CWL Diocesan Conference being held on March 20 in Mt Maunganui, the date for the local meeting has been shifted to Thursday March 27 at 1.30pm at the Parish Centre.

FOOD FOR FAITH FOR LENT

Fr. John O'Connor offers brief daily encouragements for those seeking greater maturity in relationship with Jesus Christ. Sign up to receive daily emails at www.foodforfaith.org.nz

LEGION OF MARY—INVITATION

The Acies is the most important Legion of Mary function of the year, when members renew or make their consecration to Mary Our Heavenly Mother. Rosary and Benediction, prayers and hymns are offered to Our Lady. We hope you can participate in this beautiful ceremony and celebration. Parishioners are welcome to attend on Sunday March 30 at 2pm.

TUI MOTU INTERISLANDS

JUST BE NICE

Lenten Journey in Church and Society
Challenges for Catholicism
Practising Synodality
On sale this weekend

LENTEN PROGRAMME 2025 - FAMILY HARM

During the Season of Lent the Holy Trinity EJP Group will be presenting a series of events exploring the issue of family harm. This will comprise three public meetings and two prayer vigils.

All sessions will be held in the Parish Hall from 7.30pm

- Wed 19 March: Family Harm - Police Overview - Patience Stirling
- Wed 26 March: Family Harm - Women's Perspective - Leslynne Jackson
- Wed 2 April: Family Harm – Working with Perpetrators - Tim Marshall
- Wed 9 April: Prayer Vigil

LENTEN RETREAT

Tyburn Monastery, Ngakuru: 9th - 13th April. Go to cdh.org.nz/retreats



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:

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

Next Sunday's Readings:

Exodus 3:1-8 13-15
1Corinthians 10:1-6 10-12
John 13:1-9

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 16	6pm Vigil (Saturday) 9am (Sunday)		Second Sunday of Lent
Monday March 17	No Mass		St Patrick
Tuesday March 18	9am		St Cyril of Jerusalem
Wednesday March 19	No Mass		St Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Thursday March 20	No Mass		
Friday March 21	11am Holy Hour 12.10 pm 6pm		
Saturday March 22	9am 6pm Vigil (Saturday)	Jenny Russell (9am) (RIP) Anniversary	
Sunday March 23	9am (Sunday)	Wolter Family Special Intention	Third 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