



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

Catholic Diocese of Hamilton

## THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

23 March 2025

The Third Sunday of Lent in Year C invites reflection on God's mercy and the importance of conversion, emphasizing that our lives are a gift and that we should always seek to live in a way that pleases God, especially during this season of Lent. Some themes that can help us reflect on today's readings:

**God's Patience and Mercy:** The readings highlight God's continued patience and mercy, even when we stray from his path.

**Bearing Fruit:** The parable of the fig tree in Luke 13: 1-9 highlights the importance of producing good works and actively living out our faith.

**God's Patience:** The vinedresser's plea to give the tree another chance underscores God's mercy and willingness to offer opportunities for conversion.

**Urgency of Conversion:** While God is patient, the parable emphasizes that the possibility for conversion is not unlimited, urging us to respond immediately to God's grace.

**Looking to Jesus:** In Luke 13:1-9 Jesus asks people to look to him and be changed by his ministry. The kingdom of heaven is at hand and calls for repentance. {Mt 4:17}

**Looking to God:** The readings encourage us to look and search and find God.

**Self- Reflection:** Consider what steps we can take to grow closer to God .

**Responding to God's Mercy:** Make a commitment to responding to God's grace with sincerity and resolve, rather than waiting for a future opportunity.

**Give Others a Second Chance:** As God is always patient and forgives, we are called to show the same mercy and kindness in our interactions with others. Of course, how we put these suggestions into action will be unique to each of us as sisters and brothers of Jesus. Blessings

*Deacon Mike*

### Father Mark Field

Parish Priest

021 844 231

ppgisborne@gmail.com

### Father Richard Cortes MSP

Assistant Priest

027 236 6621

frrichardmsp@gmail.com

### Rev. Mike Rolfe

Deacon

027 344 5511

**Parish Office Administrator:** Elaine Clark *Office hours: Monday to Friday, 8.30am—12.30pm*

**Parish Church and Office:** 51 Campion Rd, Te Hapara, GISBORNE 4010

**Postal:** PO Box 844, GISBORNE 4040

**Phone:** (06) 8677 224

**Website:** www.stmarysgisborne.co.nz

**Email:** stellamaris003@gmail.com

**Facebook:** Tairawhiti Catholic

## 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

Pray the Stations of the Cross each Friday of Lent at 5.15pm, in the Church – or on your own, at a time that is convenient to you. It's great that so many have been coming each Friday to pray the Stations of the Cross.

## SCRUTINIES

The First Scrutiny takes place at the 9am Mass this Sunday. These are special moments of prayer for our catechumens and candidates.

## 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.

## LAETARE SUNDAY

Next Sunday, the 4th Sunday of Lent, is Laetare Sunday, and a day of celebration amid the austerity of Lent. As a symbol of this, rose coloured vestments are worn. Why not wear something rose or pink to Mass next Sunday?

## 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](http://www.foodforfaith.org.nz)

## LEGION OF MARY—INVITATION

The Acies (Latin for a standing army) 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 to pray the Rosary for World Peace (Our Lady of Fatima 1917). Parishioners are welcome to attend on Sunday March 30 at 2pm. There will be a cuppa afterwards.

## 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 26 March: Family Harm - Women's Perspective - Leslyne 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](http://cdh.org.nz/retreats)

## PRAYER FOR LIFE THIS LENT

Remember to pray for an end to abortion this Lent. Family Life International NZ put out a special call to increase prayer during Lent. Sign up today at [fli.org.nz/prayerforlife](http://fli.org.nz/prayerforlife). Prayer changes hearts and saves lives.





## PLEDGE ENVELOPES READY

Collect your pledge envelopes from the foyer, thank you.

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

<b>This Sunday's Readings:</b> <i>Exodus 3:1-8 13-15</i> <i>1Corinthians 10:1-6 10-12</i> <i>John 13:1-9</i>	<b>Next Sunday's Readings:</b> <i>Joshua 5: 9-13</i> <i>Corinthians 5:17-21</i> <i>Luke 15:1-3 11-32</i>	<b>MASS OFFERING</b> 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.
---	---	---

<b>PRAYER CHAIN</b> If you need prayer, or want to be a Prayer Chain member (committing to pray for others), contact <b>Sister Cynthia</b> (06 868 6378) or <b>Shirley</b> (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.	
--	---

 <b>THE HOLY ROSARY</b> 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 March 23</b>	6pm Vigil (Saturday)		<b>Third Sunday of Lent</b>
	9am (Sunday)		
<b>Monday March 24</b>	No Mass		
<b>Tuesday March 25</b>	9am		The Annunciation of the Lord
<b>Wednesday March 26</b>	9am		
<b>Thursday March 27</b>	9am		
<b>Friday March 28</b>	11am Holy Hour 12.10 pm		
<b>Saturday March 29</b>	9am		
	6pm Vigil (Saturday)		
<b>Sunday March 30</b>	9am (Sunday)	Hubert Wolter (RIP)	<b>Fourth Sunday of Lent</b>

<b>SUNDAY MASS AT OTHER CHURCHES —</b> <b>Second Sunday:</b> Sacred Heart, Tolaga Bay (11am) <b>Third Sunday:</b> St James, Tokomaru Bay (11.30am) <b>Fourth Sunday:</b> St Bede's, Matawai (11am)	<b>CONFESSIONS —</b> Friday 11.25am Saturday 9.30am <i>Or by appointment with one of the priests</i>
---	---