



PARISH OF ST MARY, STAR OF THE SEA, GISBORNE

Catholic Diocese of Hamilton

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

30 March 2025



Today is **Laetare Sunday**, the fourth Sunday of Lent. Traditionally, this Sunday has been a day of celebration, within the austere Season of Lent. This Sunday gets its name from the first few words (incipit) of the traditional Latin entrance (Introit) for the Mass of the day: “Laetare Jerusalem” (“Rejoice, O Jerusalem”) from Isaiah 66:10. So take a break from your fasting and penance this day – relax . . . and be sure to share the joy with others! At our Mass this Sunday we hear one of the great stories from Jesus – some would say the greatest story ever told – the parable of the Prodigal Son, or Loving Father. It is a story which continues to challenge us, and to console us also. May we come to the Lord in our sinfulness and seek forgiveness; may we welcome the other without judgement; and may we be the presence of the loving and forgiving Father in our world. At the morning Masses this Sunday, we have the **Second Scrutiny** – let us continue to pray for our catechumens and candidates and support them with our encouragement and welcome.

Daylight Saving finishes next Sunday morning (April 6) – enjoy the extra hour of sleep! Set your clocks back an hour, or be very early for the morning Mass! The times for the Easter Liturgies are inside this newsletter, and are also available on the parish website.

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

Father Mark

Father Mark Field <i>Parish Priest</i> 021 844 231 ppgisborne@gmail.com	Father Richard Cortes MSP <i>Assistant Priest</i> 027 236 6621 frrichardmsp@gmail.com	Rev. Mike Rolfe <i>Deacon</i> 027 344 5511
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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

Email: stellamaris003@gmail.com

Website: www.stmarysgisborne.co.nz

Facebook: Tairawhiti Catholic

OUR CHURCH GARDENS

A meeting will be held after the 9am Mass next Sunday (6 April) to discuss ways to improve and maintain the gardens around the church and parish centre. If you have an interest in gardening or would like to contribute in some way, we would love to see you there!

EASTER LITURGY TIMES

- **Holy Thursday** – Mass of the Lord’s Supper, 7pm
- **Good Friday** – Commemoration of the Lord’s Passion, 3pm
- **Easter Vigil** (Saturday) – 6pm (this will be a much longer Mass than usual)
- **Easter Sunday** – Mass of the Lord’s Resurrection, 9am
- Also **Tokomaru Bay** at 11.30am on Easter Sunday

OUR SYMPATHY

To the families of **Michael Liddell** and **Vassili Ajello** we offer our prayerful sympathy. Michael died suddenly, though he had been unwell for some time. Vassili (Vas) died after a long illness. May they both be at rest in the arms of our loving and merciful Father. Their funerals take place later this week.

MISSIONARY OF MERCY

Father Richard Shortall SJ will be visiting our parish from April 8-10 as a Papal Missionary of Mercy, and will be available during those days to meet with parishioners – for guidance, to share a struggle or burden, or for Reconciliation. His time with you will be completely confidential. There will be a whiteboard in the foyer where you can indicate the time you would like with a tick – no name required (but please remember the time you chose). Father Shortall will be sitting in the “crying room” at the back of the church. The church is not available for any other activity during those times (except Mass, of course).

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.

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!).

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. There will not be a liturgy beforehand – just come, confess, do penance and go home, forgiven!

BANK ACCOUNT DETAILS

The new financial year is a good time to start setting up an automatic payment for pledges. See Elaine in the office if you need a reference number as donations are tax deductible. Bank details: **R.C. Bishop of Hamilton — Gisborne Parish, BNZ 02-0342-0050016.**

LEGION OF MARY—INVITATION

Everyone is invited to The Acies (Latin for a standing army), 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. Come pray the Rosary for World Peace (Our Lady of Fatima 1917) **today at 2pm**. There will be a cuppa afterwards.

LENTEN PROGRAMME 2025 - FAMILY HARM

Holy Trinity EJP Group is exploring the issue of family harm. Sessions will be held in the Parish Hall from 7.30pm.

- Wed 2 April: Family Harm – Working with Perpetrators - Tim Marshall
- Wed 9 April: Prayer Vigil

PLEDGE ENVELOPES READY

Collect your pledge envelopes from the foyer, 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:

Joshua 5: 9-13
Corinthians 5:17-21
Luke 15:1-3 11-32

Next Sunday's Readings:

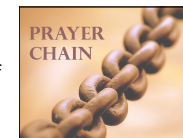
Isaiah 43:16-21
Philippians 3:8-14
John 8:1-11

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 30	6pm Vigil (Saturday) 9am (Sunday)	6pm Vigil—Hubert Wolter (RIP) 9am Sunday—Benjamin Tejada (RIP)	Fourth Sunday of Lent LAETARE Sunday
Monday March 31	No Mass		
Tuesday April 1	9am		
Wednesday April 2	9am		St Francis of Paola
Thursday April 3	9am		
Friday April 4	11am Holy Hour 12.10 pm		St Isidore
Saturday April 5	9am 6pm Vigil (Saturday)	Dylan Gillies (RIP) 6pm	St Vincent Ferrer
Sunday April 6	9am (Sunday)		Fifth 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