



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

Catholic Diocese of Hamilton

## FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

APRIL 6 2025

When Jesus was presented with the woman caught in adultery, the crowd asked him whether he was willing to let the woman be stoned to death. Jesus bent down and wrote something on the ground.

Jesus in the gospel spoke only some few words, "Let anyone without sin cast the first stone". And when nobody threw the first stone He said to the woman, "Neither do I condemn you. Go and sin no more."

The lesson is very simple. Unwillingness to forgive is heavy. Revenge is hard.

Condemnation is difficult. We will need some muscle energy to engrave on that rock.

Why do we have to do that if we have better things to do?

In the case of the Lord, He only had dust, so small, so tiny that with a gust of wind, the hand will be free from the dust. Such is the mercy of God.

When somebody has done us wrong, we must write it on dust and carry it in our hands. We must not carry rocks to condemn. Instead carry dust which we will allow the wind of God's mercy to erase. Let the holy water in the Church wash away that condemning attitude.

*Father Richard*



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## 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

## MISSIONARY OF MERCY

**Father Richard Shortall SJ** will be visiting our parish this week, 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 is 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 and private prayer).

## BISHOPS' LENT APPEAL/CARITAS

Final days of Lent – if you have been meaning to make a donation to the Bishops' Lent Appeal through Caritas, now is the time. Thank you.

## STATIONS OF THE CROSS

This Friday at 5.15pm, and on Good Friday at 10am.

## RECONCILIATIONS

Confession has been available during Lent at the usual times. There will be communal celebrations of Reconciliation this **Wednesday April 9, at both 11am and 5.30pm**. Just come, confess your sins, do penance and go home, forgiven!

## GARDENING MEETING

A meeting will be held after the 9am Mass THIS Sunday (6 April) to discuss ways to improve and maintain the gardens around the church and parish centre. We would love to see you there!

## REST IN PEACE

The funeral of **Vassili Ajello** will be held on Saturday, **April 12**, at 10.30am. May he rest in the arms of our loving and merciful Father. The 9am Mass will be held as normal.

## SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME

If you wish your Campion College child to be Baptised, make their first Communion or be Confirmed please contact Chris Goodwin (Director of Religious Studies) directly at gn@campioncollege.school.nz. A programme will be run with these students during **Wellbeing Time** at school during **Terms 2 and 3**. The students will have an opportunity to receive all three Sacraments later in the year.

## CHRISM MASS

Father Richard and Father Mark will be at the Cathedral for the Chrism Mass, so there will be **no Mass** in the parish on the **Tuesday of Holy Week**. The Chrism Mass being held at the Cathedral of the Blessed Virgin Mary, on the 15th of April, 12pm.

## 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**.

## POPE CONTINUING TO IMPROVE


Still recovering from a five-week stay in hospital suffering from double pneumonia, **Pope Francis is improving**. He is continuing physical and respiratory therapy, with the expected results. The Vatican says there is obviously also time for work, which the Pope does partly sitting at a desk.


## LENTEN PROGRAMME 2025 - FAMILY HARM

Holy Trinity EJP Group has been exploring the issue of family harm. Sessions finish this week with a prayer vigil in Holy Trinity's Parish Hall from **7.30pm on Wednesday April 9**.

EDUCATION		
<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

<u>This Sunday's Readings:</u>	<u>Next Sunday's Readings:</u>	<b>MASS OFFERING</b>
<i>Isaiah 43:16-21</i> <i>Philippians 3:8-14</i> <i>John 8:1-11</i>	<i>Isaiah 61:1-3.6.8-9</i> <i>Apocalypse 1:5-8</i> <i>Luke 4:16-21</i>	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 April 6</b>	6pm Vigil (Saturday)  9am (Sunday)	Dylan Gillies (RIP) 6pm Vigil	<b>Fifth Sunday of Lent</b>
<b>Monday April 7</b>	No Mass		St John Baptist de la Salle
<b>Tuesday April 8</b>	9am	Luke Walker (RIP)	
<b>Wednesday April 9</b>	9am		
<b>Thursday April 10</b>	9am		
<b>Friday April 11</b>	11am Holy Hour 12.10 pm 6pm Syro Malabar Malayalam Mass	Special Intention Lennore Simpson (RIP)	St Stanislaus
<b>Saturday April 12</b>	9am  6pm Vigil (Saturday)		
<b>Sunday April 13</b>	9am (Sunday)	Nina Ganal (RIP)	<b>Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord</b>

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