



PARISH OF ST MARY, STAR OF THE SEA, GISBORNE

Catholic Diocese of Hamilton

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

14 December 2025

Rejoice in the Lord always! Today is **Gaudete Sunday**, the Sunday of Advent on which we rejoice that the Lord draws ever nearer. Our first reading this Sunday is full of joy – “the desert and the parched land will exult, the steppe will rejoice and bloom.” As the land here dries off for the summer, may it remind us not to let ourselves dry up spiritually, especially in this season of expectation and delight. St James also reminds us in the second reading not to complain – it’s a trap we can all fall into too easily (myself included!). Good to have **Pā Gerard Paterson** with us last weekend, and what a wonderful Miha we celebrated together on Sunday morning. Ngā mihi ki te rōpu.



St Mary’s School’s Thanksgiving Mass was also a great celebration. We hope and pray that all our young people have restful and safe holidays.

The Christmas angels have put up the crib, and we wait for Jesus to arrive, as we do throughout this Advent Season. Thank you to those who make our church beautiful at this time, and all through the year. During these Advent days, let us continue to pray for one another. Ngā mihi o te Wā ki a koutou kātoa!

Father Mark

Father Mark Field

Parish Priest

021 844 231

ppgisborne@gmail.com

Father Ritche Maguinda SVD

Assistant Priest *On Leave*

021 172 0515

ritche.maguinda@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

CAROLS EVENING

Tonight (Sunday), St Andrew’s Church in Cobden St, 7pm. Come and join with people from other churches and prepare the way of the Lord.

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE

Our sympathy to parishioner Connie McDonald on the death of her sister, **Bella Aurora Paloma**, in the Philippines – may she rest in peace.

Geoffrey Sharp was buried during the week also – may he, too, rest in the Lord’s peace. Former parishioner **Paul Hickey** passed this week. His funeral will be in Tauranga next week.

BIBLE DIARIES: \$20 per copy; **COLUMBAN CALENDARS:** \$15 each.

CHRISTMAS MASSES

Christmas Eve

6pm Vigil Mass

10pm Mass During the Night

Christmas Morning

9am at St Mary, Star of the Sea

11am at Tolaga Bay

PARISH OFFICE

The Parish Office will close on Tuesday, December 23 at 12pm and will re-open on Monday, January 12. Next Sunday’s newsletter (21 Dec) will be the last for the year. The first newsletter in 2026 will be Jan 18.

ANOINTING

There will be a Liturgy of Anointing at Kiri Te Kanawa – Ryman this Tuesday at 1.30pm, the final for the year. Pray for our elderly, especially for those who might find Christmas a lonely time. (There is no Liturgy of Anointing in the rest homes during January, but if an individual resident needs to be anointed, please let one of the priests know.)

HOME TO RENT

Three-bedroom sound and tidy house to rent. Call 021 021 65483.

CHILDREN’S LITURGY

Today is the last Sunday for the children’s liturgy. It will resume on February 8. A big thank you and Merry Christmas to everyone involved.

ACCOMMODATION REQUIRED FOR NEW RELIGIOUS EDUCATION TEACHER

A room with an ensuite would be ideal or a studio unit for a male, preferably close to school. Please email namalaq@gmail.com or contact Chris Goodwin at chris.goodwin@campioncollege.school.nz

A MESSAGE FROM FATHER RITCHE...

As of this time, my family has already returned home. The main house is almost completely done. The water well is to be cemented since it is their laundry area. The materials are already purchased but the builders are unavailable again because of their prior commitments. We will wait again for their availability or find another builder.

My family are tenants in this land. Unfortunately, the owner of the land did not allow us to build a small concrete house, which we completely understand.

I am full of gratitude to all people who helped us especially: the parishioners of St. Mary Star of the Sea, Gisborne; my friends from other parishes and to the Diocese of Hamilton. My family is secured and comfortable now because of your generous assistance. My family is also very very grateful. Thank you so much. May God bless you abundantly.

Father Ritche

Let us continue to keep Father Ritche's family in our prayers at this time. We look forward to welcoming Father Ritche back to the parish just before Christmas.



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:

Is 35:1-6,10

James 5:7-10

Matt 11:2-11

Next Sunday's Readings:

Isaiah 7:10-14

Romans 1:1-7

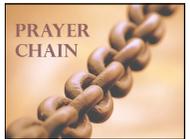
Matthew 1:18-25

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 **Chris Crowe** (027 2838936). 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 every day before Mass.

Date	Mass Times	Intentions	Feast / Saint
Sunday December 14	6pm Vigil (Saturday) 9am	6pm Sat: Parishioners' Intentions 9am: Mick & Mary Rofe RIP Theo Broeke (RIP)	THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
Monday December 15	No Mass		
Tuesday December 16	5.30pm	Zvonko Filkovic (RIP)	
Wednesday December 17	9am	George & Esther Ryan (RIP)	
Thursday December 18	9am	Paul Hickey (RIP) Suzanne Coughlan (Birthday)	
Friday December 19	12.10pm	Jack Clark (Birthday)	
Saturday December 20	9am	Fr Kees (Case) Keijsper o.p.	
Sunday December 21	6pm Vigil (Saturday) Sunday 9am	6pm Sat: Andrea Cepeda & Alexandar Filkovich Parishioners' Intentions	FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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 11.25 — 11.45am

Saturday 9.30 — 10am

Or by appointment with one of the priests