



PARISH OF ST MARY, STAR OF THE SEA, GISBORNE

Catholic Diocese of Hamilton

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

21 December 2025

My sisters and brothers – greetings! We hear today the story of **Joseph**, that righteous man, called to be the husband of Mary and the foster father of Jesus. May this good man, this faithful man, be a model for us also.

This is the final newsletter for 2025 – and it an opportunity for me to thank all those who have contributed in any way to the smooth functioning of our parish. A particular word of acknowledgement to Father Ritche (returning tomorrow) and Deacon Mike for your ministry and support. I am grateful also to Elaine Clark who looks after the secretarial needs of the parish so well; to Calvin Gedye and Aaron Brown who chair the Parish Pastoral Council and Finance Committees respectively; to Mark O’Sullivan who keeps the church and Parish Centre clean and tidy, to Sisters Meg and Cynthia for your ministry amongst us – and to all those parishioners (and you are so many) who contribute in any way to the life, liturgy and ministry of the parish. Thank you all! You make my task so much easier.

I wish you all a joy-filled and holy Christmas, and the Lord’s abundant blessing during 2026. Let us also spare a thought for those who have experienced the death of a loved one during this past year, and for whom this will be their first Christmas without them.

During these final Advent days, may we find some time for the Lord, and pray for one another. Come, Lord Jesus!

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

Email: stellamaris003@gmail.com

Website: www.stmarysgisborne.co.nz

Facebook: Tairawhiti Catholic

CHRISTMAS MASSES

Christmas Eve

- No Mass Wednesday morning
- 6pm Vigil Mass
- 10pm Mass During the Night

Christmas Morning

- 9am at St Mary, Star of the Sea
- 11am at Tolaga Bay

NEW YEARS DAY

- 5.45am Dawn Mass on the beach (weather permitting).
- 9am Mass in the church

HOLIDAY MASS TIMES (December 26 to January 8)

There is a blue A5 insert in this newsletter – please keep it somewhere for easy reference. Note the following:

- Sunday Mass times (including the Vigil) at the usual times - but no Mass in Tolaga Bay, Tokomaru Bay and Matawai during January
- Weekday Masses (Tuesday to Saturday) will be at 9am
- The 12.10pm Friday Mass will resume on Friday 9 January and following Fridays (as the Sunshine Bus begins its services again on January 7).
- The 5.30pm Tuesday Mass will resume on Tuesday 13 January and following Tuesdays.
- There will be no Holy Hour during January

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE

Our sympathy to the family of **Anne Milner-Harvey** who died earlier in the week – may she rest in the Lord’s peace. We also pray for the repose of the soul of **Brent Gillard**, son of Kathryn and Vaughan, who died in Auckland. May he rest in peace.

THANKS

A special word of thanks to **Leigh Anderson** for her many years of coordinating Children’s Liturgy in the parish – thank you Leigh, you have touched the lives and nourished the faith of hundreds of children.

BIBLE DIARIES: \$20 per copy – just a few left

A REQUEST

If you bring someone to church who is not of our faith, please ensure that they know how to ask for a blessing at Communion so that there is no confusion. Thank you.

PARISH OFFICE

The Parish Office will close this Tuesday 23 December at 12pm and will re-open on Monday 12 January. The first newsletter in 2026 will be Sunday 18 January.

HOME TO RENT

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

ACCOMMODATION REQUIRED FOR NEW RELIGIOUS ED 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

ST VINCENT DE PAUL

Season's greetings to you all from Vinnies! The Haven will close on Friday December 19 and reopen on Monday January 12. The phone will be manned for urgent requests. Phone number: 020 4171 8608.

CATHOLIC ENQUIRY CENTRE—THREE PART-TIME ROLES

The Catholic Enquiry Centre (an agency of the NZ Catholic Bishops' Conference) is expanding its digital outreach in 2026 and is seeking passionate, faith-filled people to join the team:

- 1: **Digital Ministry Specialist (Content & Platform)** – oversee CEC's website and social media, creating content that helps explore faith.
 - 2: **Digital Ministry Specialist (Media Production)** – create short videos, testimonies, and reels introducing Catholic faith and traditions.
 - 3: **Resource & Enquiry Support Officer** – respond to enquirers and coordinate the dispatch of printed resources across Aotearoa.
- All roles are **part-time (0.4 FTE)** and may be remote or Wellington-based. Expressions of interest to carly@catholicenquiry.nz by **Friday January 9, 2026**. Roles may be filled sooner for the right candidates.

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

<u>This Sunday's Readings:</u> <i>Isaiah 7:10-14</i> <i>Romans 1:1-7</i> <i>Matthew 1:18-25</i>	<u>Next Sunday's Readings:</u> <i>Ecclesiasticus 3:2-6, 12-14</i> <i>Colossians 3:12-21</i> <i>Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23</i>	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 21	6pm Vigil (Saturday) 9am	6pm Sat: Special Intention. Andrea Cepeda & Alexandar Filkovich. 9am: Parishioners' Intentions	FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
Monday December 22	No Mass		
Tuesday December 23	5.30pm	Deceased members of the Allen Family, especially Terry & Hilary.	St John of Kanty
Wednesday December 24 Christmas Eve	6pm Vigil Mass 10pm Mass	Both at St Mary, Star of the Sea	
Thursday December 25 Christmas Day	9am 11am	St Mary, Star of the Sea Tolaga Bay	THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS)
Friday December 26	9AM 5.30pm:	Iain & Dylan Gillies Alf Wootton Malayalam Mass	St Stephen, The First Martyr
Saturday December 27	9am	Beth & Ray Mead	St John, Apostle & Evangelist
Sunday December 28	6pm Vigil (Saturday) Sunday 9am	Parishioners' Intentions	THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH

<u>SUNDAY MASS AT OTHER CHURCHES —</u> Second Sunday: Sacred Heart, Tolaga Bay (11am) Third Sunday: St James, Tokomaru Bay (11.30am) Fourth Sunday: St Bede's, Matawai (11am)	<u>CONFESSIONS —</u> Friday 11.25 — 11.45am Saturday 9.30 — 10am <i>Or by appointment with one of the priests</i>
--	---