



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

Catholic Diocese of Hamilton

## SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

15 FEBRUARY 2026

A challenging Gospel for us today: “I tell you, unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.”

“**Know thyself**” is an ancient Greek aphorism, once inscribed on the forecourt of the Temple of Apollo at Delphi – but I think it’s also what Jesus is saying to us in the Gospel today . . . before we criticise another for their behaviour, we must look at our own hearts and recognise the anger, the lust, the untruths that we struggle with, at times. The Good News is that God, despite our unworthiness, continues to call us his beloved. May today’s Gospel allow us to know ourselves better – and to grow to be more like Christ.

Best wishes to our **young people** who begin their tertiary studies soon, here and at various universities around the country – enjoy your studies, and take care!

It is **Saint Valentine’s Day** on Saturday – before the hype of this day, there was a priest in the Roman Empire, Valentine, who ministered to persecuted Christians and was martyred on February 14 for his charity towards them. We pray for all married couples in our parish, that their love for one another remain strong, and that our Church and our faith may be a source of strength and encouragement for them.

Have a good week everyone!

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## MINISTRY FAIR

Take some time before or after Mass today to visit the various tables in the foyer, and see the variety of ministries in our parish. Maybe there is something you could be involved in? Maybe the Lord is calling you to serve in another way?

## COMING UP

For your diaries:

- **Liturgy of Anointing** at Kiri Te Kanawa / Ryman this Tuesday at 1.30pm
- **Ash Wednesday** this Wednesday (February 18) - Masses at 9am and 5.30pm
- The **Commissioning Mass** for the staff of our Catholic early childhood centre, school and college will be on Tuesday 24 February at 3.15pm
- **STAR Magazine** deadline is February 28. Please send articles to [starmagazinegisborne@gmail.com](mailto:starmagazinegisborne@gmail.com)
- The **Diocesan Catholic Women’s League Conference** will be held in our parish on Thursday 5 March
- **Lenten Reconciliations** will be celebrated on Thursday March 12 at 5.30pm

## CARITAS

The **Caritas Lenten Appeal envelopes** are available this Sunday. Please support the Bishops’ Appeal for those who are less fortunate. The theme this year is “**Hear the voice, answer the call.**” We will not run the discussion programme in the parish this year—however, some webinars are being held which you can join. These can be accessed at <https://www.caritas.org.nz/lent-webinars>

## TOKOMARU BAY

Mass at St James Church, Tokomaru Bay, this Sunday at 11.30am

## ASH WEDNESDAY—FEBRUARY 18

This Wednesday—Masses will be at 9am and 5.30pm.

## BILLETS AND HELPERS NEEDED FOR CWL DIOCESAN CONFERENCE

The St Mary's Catholic Women's League is hosting the Diocesan Conference on March 5 and is calling on parishioners to step up as billets for attendees. President Sue Baker said it was preferable if hosts could offer two-night stays for members. The CWL also needs volunteers to help serve refreshments. Please call Sue Baker on 027 330 4982.

## STATIONS OF THE CROSS

This ancient devotion of our Church will be prayed **each Friday in Lent at 5.30pm, beginning this week**. All are welcome. "We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you."

## ANOINTING OF THE SICK

If you are significantly unwell, or are going to spend time in hospital for any reason, do not hesitate to ask one of the priests to anoint you. It is not the Sacrament of the dying—it is a prayer for healing and strength.

## LENT: GIVE SOMETHING UP OR DO SOMETHING FOR OTHERS

Lent is traditionally a time when we give up goodies. But it can also be a good time to spread joy — maybe visit the elderly, offer to mow lawns, commit to daily Bible readings or be more forgiving. Start planning now.

## LENT 2026 WITH FOOD FOR FAITH

Visit [www.foodforfaith.org.nz](http://www.foodforfaith.org.nz) and sign up to receive daily email encouragements from Fr. John O'Connor.

## POPE TO HEAD DOWNUNDER

Pope Leo XIV has indicated a desire to visit Sydney in the spring of 2028 to preside over the International Eucharistic Congress, according to The Catholic Weekly. New Zealand-born Bishop Richard Umbers, who is Eucharist28 CEO, said on Monday: "Archbishop Anthony Fisher was in Rome speaking to Pope Leo. He said to him, 'Look, we're counting down the days for you to come to the International Eucharistic Congress (IEC)' which will be held here in 2028 and the Pope said, 'Well, it's still a way off, but I'll be there.'"

<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>	Karyn Sadler (Principal)	(06) 867 9309

<b><u>This Sunday's Readings:</u></b> <i>Esuc. 15:15-20</i> <i>1Corinthians 2:6-10</i> <i>Matthew 5:17-37</i>	<b><u>Next Sunday's Readings:</u></b> <i>Genesis 2:7-9, 3:1-7</i> <i>Romans 5:12-19</i> <i>Matthew 4:1-11</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.
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<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>Chris Crowe</b> (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.	
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	<b>THE HOLY ROSARY</b> The Rosary is prayed in the side chapel before Mass.
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Date	Mass Times	Intentions	Feast / Saint
<b>Sunday February 15</b>	6pm Vigil (Saturday) 9am	Kitty Landon Parishioners' Intentions	SIXTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME
<b>Monday February 16</b>			
<b>Tuesday February 17</b>	5.30pm	Kath Kendall (RIP anniversary)	The Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order
<b>ASH WEDNESDAY February 18</b>	9am 5.30pm	Marie McIntosh (RIP)	Day of Fast and Abstinence
<b>Thursday February 19</b>	9am		
<b>Friday February 20</b>	12.10	Derek Parker (RIP Birthday)	
<b>Saturday February 21</b>	9am		St Peter Damian
<b>Sunday February 22</b>	6pm Vigil (Saturday) Sunday 9am	6pm: Annabelle Buick (RIP) Parishioners' Intentions	FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

<b><u>SUNDAY MASS AT OTHER CHURCHES —</u></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><u>CONFESSIONS —</u></b> Friday 11.25 — 11.45am Saturday 9.30 — 10am <i>Or by appointment with one of the priests</i>
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