



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

Catholic Diocese of Hamilton

## FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

22 FEBRUARY 2026

Brothers and sisters, we officially begin the season of Lent, a sacred season for renewal of heart and life. Lent invites us to walk with Christ through the desert, guided by the three pillars of our Lenten journey: prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.

Through prayer, we deepen our relationship with God. Through fasting, we learn self-discipline and rediscover our dependence on Him. Through almsgiving, we open our hearts to the needs of others and practice concrete love.

As we begin this season, Pope Leo XIV in his Lenten message challenges us: “Let us begin disarming our language, avoiding harsh words and rash judgement, refraining from slander and speaking ill of those who are not present and cannot defend themselves.”

Lent calls us to examine not only what we do but also what we think and say. May this season help us speak with kindness, act with generosity, and turn our hearts back to God, so that we may be renewed in faith, hope, and charity.

May this Lenten season be a grace-filled and Spirit-filled journey for you and your family.

*Father Ritche*

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## MINISTRY FAIR

Thank you to everyone involved in the Ministry Fair last weekend—the energy in the foyer was great, and a number took the opportunity to learn about some of the ministries in the parish and to sign up. A special thank you to all who set up tables and shared their passion for ministry with other parishioners. Well done!

## MAY SHE REST IN PEACE

**Ellen Naden** died early last week and her Requiem Mass was celebrated on Friday. Our sympathy to her husband Pat, and to their children Bernadine, Mark and Sean, and their families. May Ellen now be at rest in the arms of the God she loved and served so faithfully.

## COMING UP— For your diaries:

- The **Commissioning Mass** for the staff of our Catholic early childhood centre, school and college will be celebrated this Tuesday, February 24, at 3.15pm. All are welcome. There will not be a Holy Hour before the 5.30pm Mass
- Mass at Beetham Healthcare this Wednesday at 10.30am
- **STAR Magazine** deadline is February 28—the end of this week
- The **Diocesan Catholic Women’s League Conference** will be held in our parish on Thursday March 5
- **Lenten Reconciliations** will be celebrated on Thursday March 12 at 5.30pm

## CARITAS

The **Caritas Lenten Appeal envelopes** were distributed last 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>

## ST VINCENT DE PAUL INDUCTION MEETING TODAY FEB 22

A brief induction meeting will be held in the Parish Centre after 9am Mass on Sunday for parishioners interested in joining.

## BILLETS NEEDED FOR CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE CONFERENCE

The St Mary's CWL is grateful to those who have offered to act as billets and help at the Diocesan Conference being held here on March 5.

However, more billets are still needed and anyone who can host a delegate from another parish should contact president Sue Baker on 027 330 4982. The CWL will host a barbecue for the conference dinner and parishioners are invited to attend. Bring along a plate for a shared meal and meet the guests from throughout the Diocese.

## MATAWAI

Mass at St Bede's Church, Matawai, this Sunday at 11am.

## STATIONS OF THE CROSS

This ancient devotion of our Church will be prayed **each Friday in Lent at 5.30pm**. 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.

## JOSEPHITE COMPANIONS

The Gisborne Josephite Companions Group meet on Thursday February 26, 5.15pm – 6.30 pm, in the Mary MacKillop Room (Parish Centre). The Josephite Companions are men and women of any age who are interested in learning more about the values and spirit of Mary MacKillop and Fr Julian Tennyson Woods. You are warmly invited to join us. Phone Tracy for more information: 0274 894 373.

## EASTER TRIDUUM

For those who like to plan ahead:

- Holy Thursday—Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7pm
- Good Friday—Stations of the Cross at 10am; Commemoration of the Lord's Passion at 3pm
- Holy Saturday—Easter Vigil will be at 7pm
- Easter Sunday—Mass at 9am (and also the end of Daylight Saving!)

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

### This Sunday's Readings:

*Genesis 2:7-9, 3:1-7*  
*Romans 5:12-19*  
*Matthew 4:1-11*

### Next Sunday's Readings:

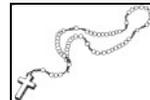
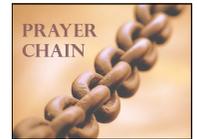
*Genesis 12:1-4*  
*2 Timothy 1:8-10*  
*Matthew 17:1-9*

### 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 before Mass.

Date	Mass Times	Intentions	Feast / Saint
<b>Sunday February 22</b>	6pm Vigil (Saturday) 9am	6pm: Peter Evans (RIP) Parishioners' Intentions	FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT
<b>Monday February 23</b>			St Polycarp
<b>Tuesday February 24</b>	5.30pm	Special Intention	
<b>Wednesday February 25</b>	9am	Michael Leydon (RIP anniversary)	
<b>Thursday February 26</b>	9am	Richard Jackson (RIP)	
<b>Friday February 27</b>	12.10	Luke Walker (RIP anniversary)	St Gregory of Narek
<b>Saturday February 28</b>	9am	Michael Leydon (RIP)	
<b>Sunday March 1</b>	6pm Vigil (Saturday) Sunday 9am Miha Maori	6pm: Parishioners' Intentions 9am: Melva Atkins (RIP)	SECOND 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 11.25 — 11.45am  
 Saturday 9.30 — 10am  
*Or by appointment with one of the priests*