



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

Catholic Diocese of Hamilton

## THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

08 MARCH 2026

We hear today the story of the “Woman at the Well” from John’s Gospel, and Jesus’ promise to her – and us – of **living water**. It’s a story that reminds us of our own baptism, and our call to be living members of Christ’s Body, the Church. During Lent, we continue to prepare to renew our own Baptismal promises at the Easter Vigil.

The **Scrutinies** begin this Sunday, with special prayers for those who will be received into our Church at the Easter Vigil. Please pray for Chrystal and Sophie (both preparing for Baptism), and James, Song, Cindy and Janine (for Confirmation). Please pray for them in the coming days.

It has been a big week in our parish, with two funerals on Monday, and the Catholic Women’s League Diocesan Conference on Thursday—great to be together for the BBQ afterwards. A big “well done” to the CWL! You are a blessing for us. The **Pacific Island church communities** will be worshipping together in our church this afternoon—it is good to be able to welcome them and share our facilities. Father Ritche will say Mass at **Tolaga Bay** this Sunday at 11am—please give them our greetings, Pa.

**Lenten Reconciliations** take place this Thursday evening, and Father Trevor from Wairoa will be with us. Just come any time between 5.30pm and 6.30pm, confess your sins and know the Lord’s forgiveness.

It’s **Laetare Sunday** next weekend, the Fourth Sunday of Lent. Why not wear something rose (or pink)?

Good to see the number of people who are coming to pray the **Stations of the Cross** each Friday. Try to pray this beautiful devotion at least once during Lent. Lenten blessings on you all.

*Father Mark*

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## MAY SHE REST IN PEACE

**Leigh Schultz** died unexpectedly and a family service for her has been held—may she now be at rest in the Lord’s embrace. Our sympathy to Leigh’s parents, Denise and Otto, formerly of Gisborne.

## COMING UP

For your diaries:

- **Lenten Reconciliations** will be celebrated this Thursday, March 12 from 5.30pm to 6.30pm

- Bishop Richard has called all the priests of the Diocese to a meeting in Hamilton **March 17-19**, and so our priests will be away from the parish, and there will not be Mass on those days.

## EASTER TRIDUUM

- 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!)

There will also be Mass on Easter Sunday at Sacred Heart Church, Ūawa-Tolaga Bay, at 11am. (No Mass there the following Sunday, April 12.)

## 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.

## TOKOMARU BAY

Mass at St James Church, Tokomaru Bay, next Sunday (15 March) at 11.30am.

## A MESSAGE FROM CAMPION COLLEGE

If you would like to receive the Campion College weekly newsletter by email, we would love to include you. Our newsletter shares College news, upcoming events, student achievements, and moments from our Catholic life and learning community. To be added to our mailing list, please contact the College office at [office@campioncollege.school.nz](mailto:office@campioncollege.school.nz) or **phone 06 8679309**. We value the strong connection between our parish and our College and welcome your interest and support.

## CARITAS

Thank you for your support the Bishops' Appeal for those who are less fortunate. A reminder that some webinars are being held which you can join. These can be accessed at <https://www.caritas.org.nz/lent-webinars>

## FELLOWSHIP DAY FOR WOMEN

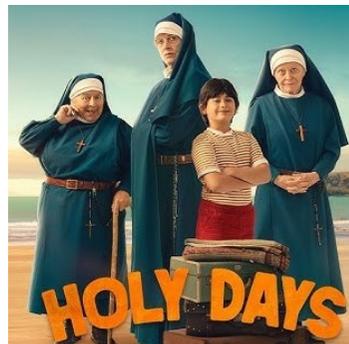
CWCI – Christian Women Communicating Internationally – invites women of our parish to a day of Bible Teaching with Melbourne speaker Julie Potts: **“WHAT IS GOOD? Micah 6:8”** Tuesday March 17, 2026 at the Mission Hall, 707 Gladstone Road, from 10am to 3pm. Morning tea at 10am, followed by two teaching sessions. Lunch will be provided followed by an afternoon session, finishing at 3pm. More information is available on the noticeboard in the foyer.

## PILGRIMAGE OF MERCY WOMEN'S RETREAT

Registrations are open for the three-day Pilgrimage of Mercy being held at the St Francis Retreat Centre in Auckland from May 29 to 31. Register here: <https://tinyurl.com/4berb6aj>

## CATCH 'HOLY DAYS' AT THE ODEON

Three nuns and a young boy come together in Holy Days — a film of love, grief and faith — which is showing at the Odeon. Join Elijah Tamati, Jacki Weaver, Judy Davis and Miriam Margolyes as they try to save a convent.



## 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:

*Exodus 17:3-7*  
*Romans 5:1-2, 5-8*  
*John 4:5-42*

### Next Sunday's Readings:

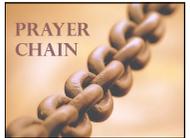
*Samuel 16:1.6-7, 10-13*  
*Ephesians 5:8-14*  
*John 9:1-41*

### **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 March 8</b>	6pm Vigil (Saturday) 9am	Vigil: Iain & Flora Gillies (RIP) Parishioners' Intentions	THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT
<b>Monday March 9</b>			St Frances of Rome
<b>Tuesday March 10</b>	5.30pm	Annabelle Buick (RIP)	
<b>Wednesday March 11</b>	9am	Kevin Gavin (RIP 1st anniversary)	
<b>Thursday March 12</b>	9am		
<b>Friday March 13</b>	12.10	Trudy Meredith (RIP)	
<b>Saturday March 14</b>	9am		
<b>Sunday March 15</b>	6pm Vigil (Saturday) Sunday 9am	Vigil: Cyril Lundon (RIP) 9am: Bernard Jack Thompson (RIP)	FOURTH 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*