



PARISH OF ST MARY, STAR OF THE SEA, GISBORNE

Catholic Diocese of Hamilton

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT 22 March 2026

Another powerful Gospel reading this Sunday, as Jesus raises his dear friend Lazarus from the dead. On this Sunday, six years ago, we were in “lockdown”, wondering what would happen, how we would emerge again into everyday life . . . and we did. Like Lazarus, the Lord brought us back into the light. Today we live in a world with different challenges, but equally serious. May the Lord call us out once again, into peace, into justice, into hope.

Father Ritche and I spent some time with Bishop Richard and many of the priests of the Diocese during this past week. We met at the Cathedral, in the new parish hall complex there, and we also had a look through the new Chanel Centre (the Diocesan offices). Quite amazing developments—we really do have a Catholic precinct there now, as we do here in Gisborne. I hope you get to visit some time.

Together we reflected on **synodality** and what it might look like in everyday parish life. It asks us to reflect together on what God wants to say to us, and where God is leading us. We encounter, we listen, we discern, and we journey together. Challenging times ahead for us all.

Thank you to those who led Liturgies of the Word during this past week.

Monsignor Frank sends his warm greetings to everyone. He celebrates his 80th birthday on Saturday May 9, with Mass at the Cathedral at 11am. He doesn't expect people to go all that way, but asks us to pray for him.

Busy days ahead as we move closer to the great Paschal feasts of the Easter Triduum. Thank you to those who will do so much to prepare us for those celebrations. Lenten blessings on you all

Father Mark

Father Mark Field

Parish Priest

021 844 231

ppgisborne@gmail.com

Father Ritche Maguinda SVD

Assistant Priest

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

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.)

RECEIVING FROM THE CHALICE

There is a higher incidence of Covid in the community at present—in the light of this, we will pause receiving the Precious Blood at Mass until Holy Thursday. Thank you for your understanding.

POPE LEO'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR MARCH

For disarmament and peace—let us pray that nations move toward effective disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, and that world leaders choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy instead of violence .

MASS AT MATAWAI

This Sunday, 11am. (Apologies for the confusion re. the CWL attending—we were getting ahead of ourselves. That will take place in April—petrol prices permitting!)

BISHOPS' LENTEN APPEAL

The New Zealand Bishops are encouraging the Catholic community to prayerfully consider how they can contribute to the annual Lenten Appeal. The appeal supports the work of Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand, which through its global network serves some of our world's most vulnerable and needy communities. The Bishops explain that acts of Christian charity can change the lives of those who benefit from that charity, but also can transform those who give with generosity — according to their own circumstances. www.caritas.org.nz/lent

WELCOME TO THE FAMILY

Nau mai, here mai, tamariki mā! We welcome **Tureia Iorangi James Soutar-Nicolson, Tōmairangi Tuporo Soutar-Nicolson and Naia Rose Jahnke-Swann**, all of whom were baptised yesterday (Saturday) at St Mary, Star of the Sea Church. May they always know that they are beloved children of God. Blessings upon them and their whānau.

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."



EZEKIEL RETURNS FOR 2026 SENIOR RETREATS

Senior students from the College participated in a retreat day this week with Ezekiel Bartlett from Just One in Melbourne. The themes they covered were: **Year 13** – Into the Unknown: Students reflected on their life journey—past, present, and future to see the unknown not as something to fear, but as an opportunity for growth. They explored how prayer, courage, and discernment prepare them to move forward with hope, trusting that faith guides them step by step. **Year 12** – The Voice in the Wilderness: Inspired by Saint John the Baptist, students examined servant leadership focussing on humility, integrity, and courage. True leadership

is about helping others flourish, guided by purpose and a willingness to serve rather than seek recognition. **Year 11** – Signs and Wonders. Students were encouraged to recognise everyday acts of compassion and faith as signs of God's presence. They reflected on how their actions and relationships can bring hope and belonging, becoming visible expressions of love in the world.

FLOWERING OF THE CROSS

Please bring flowers on Easter Sunday so our children can place flowers on The Cross. There will be a basket in the foyer for your blooms.

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	Karyn Sadler (Principal)	(06) 867 9309

This Sunday's Readings:

Ezekiel 37:12-14
Romans 8:8-11
John 11:1-45

Next Sunday's Readings:

Isaiah 50:4-7
Philippians 2:6-11
Matthew 26:14-27: 66

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
Sunday March 22	6pm Vigil (Saturday) 9am	Vigil: Parishioners' Intentions 9am: Michael Joseph Liddell (RIP 1st anniversary)	FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT
Monday March 23	NO MASS		St Turibius de Mogrovejo
Tuesday March 24	5.30pm	Margaret Wolter (97th birthday) Terrence Parker (RIP)	
Wednesday March 25	9am	Dylan Gillies (RIP)	THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD
Thursday March 26	9am	Allen & Barbara Clark (RIP)	
Friday March 27	12.10	Harry Appleby (RIP) Hubert Wolter (RIP)	
Saturday March 28	9am		
Sunday March 29	6pm Vigil (Saturday) Sunday 9am	6pm: Special Intention Paddie McCallion (RIP anniversary)	PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

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