



PARISH OF ST MARY, STAR OF THE SEA, GISBORNE

Catholic Diocese of Hamilton

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

29 March 2026

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Today is Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord and the beginning of our Holy Week journey.

We remember how Jesus entered Jerusalem, welcomed with joy and praise. The people waved palms and honoured Him as King. As the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC 559) teaches, Jesus enters His city as the humble Messiah, fulfilling God's promise of salvation and winning hearts not by force, but by love.

In today's liturgy, we also hear the story of His Passion. The same crowd that shouted "Hosanna" would later cry out, "Crucify Him". This reminds us how quickly people can change, and how we too can be faithful one moment and turn away from Him the next.

Palm Sunday invites us to walk with Jesus, not only in moments of our joy, but also in suffering.

As we enter Holy Week, may we remain faithful to Him, follow Him, and trust in His saving love. Today, as we hold and wave our palms and say "Hosanna", hopefully it comes from our hearts.

May we recognise Jesus as our true King, and trust that He alone brings us true salvation.

Father Ritche

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

MASS TIMES THIS WEEK

- ◇ No Mass Tuesday evening, as our priests will be at the Chrism Mass in Hamilton
- ◇ Mass on Wednesday will be at 12.10pm
- ◇ No morning Mass on Holy Thursday

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—Miha Maori 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.)

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

- There will be a newsletter on Easter Sunday.
- There will not be a newsletter on the Second Sunday of Easter.
- The Parish Office will be closed on Easter Monday and Easter Tuesday.

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY—APRIL 12

Divine Mercy Sunday, (the Sunday after Easter), is a feast day dedicated to celebrating God's mercy. It offers the "greatest promise of grace", where Catholics who attend confession and receive Holy

Communion in a state of grace can obtain total forgiveness of sins and punishment—essentially resetting the soul to a state of baptismal innocence. Everyone is welcome to attend the concluding prayers for the Divine Mercy Chaplet at 3pm (or 5mins earlier) to re-cite/sing the Chaplet and concluding prayers.



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.



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>

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 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

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.

JOSHUA 40-YEAR CELEBRATION

All men are invited to the Joshua 40-Year Celebration Weekend being held from Friday August 14 to Sunday August 16 at Keswick Christian Camp, 5 Cooper Ave, Holden's Bay, Rotorua. The keynote speaker is leader of Australia's menAlive and author of "Importance of a Present Dad", Robert Falzon. The \$247 cost includes accommodation and meals. Register here: <https://tinyurl.com/ykwnprmn> or contact Mike Lobo (021) 2809285 or Greg Sullivan (021) 437747

PLEDGE ENVELOPES FOR 2026 ARE ON THE FOYER TABLE

Collect your pledge envelopes now. Thank you for your generosity.

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:

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

Next Sunday's Readings:

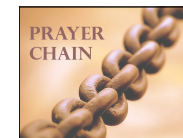
Acts 10:34. 37-43
Colossians 3:1-4
John 20:1-9

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
Sunday March 29	6pm Vigil (Saturday) 9am	Paddy McCallion (RIP anniversary) + Special Intention Parishioners' Intentions	PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD
Monday March 30	NO MASS		MONDAY OF HOLY WEEK
Tuesday March 31	NO MASS	(Priests in Hamilton for Christm Mass)	TUESDAY OF HOLY WEEK
Wednesday April 1	12.10pm	Jean Hillan (RIP) Special Intention	WEDNESDAY OF HOLY WEEK
Thursday April 2	7pm	No morning Mass	HOLY THURSDAY
Friday April 3	10am 3pm	Stations of the Cross Commemoration of the Lord's Passion	GOOD FRIDAY (Day of fast and abstinence)
Saturday April 4			HOLY SATURDAY
Sunday April 5	7pm Vigil (Saturday) Sunday 9am	Vigil: Iain & Flora Gillies 9am: Parishioners' Intentions	EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION 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