



**PARISH OF ST MARY,
STAR OF THE SEA, GISBORNE**
Catholic Diocese of Hamilton

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

26 April 2026

Today is **Good Shepherd Sunday**, a day when we remember Christ is our good and gentle shepherd who leads us in life, even through the dark moments, and who will, we pray, welcome us to the banquet table of heaven. It is also a day to pray for vocations to the priesthood and the Religious Life. Thank you to those who will contribute to the **Seminary Collection** today – you are investing in our future Church. Four young men are currently training for priesthood in our Diocese: Nhat Long Cao, Hung Van Ha, Sam Turnbull and Jack Fraser-Jones. We pray for them in a special way today.

May is traditionally the **Month of Mary**. If you have the time to pray a Rosary each day, that would be wonderful. Maybe even set up a simple altar to Our Lady in your home?

I will be away for a few days this week – attending a friend’s 70th birthday in Wellington, and catching up with friends and family in Auckland. Before all of that, I will say **Mass at Matawai today** at 11am. It will be good to welcome members of the Catholic Women’s League who are joining the small community there for Mass today.

May the Risen Lord bless you all

Father Mark

Father Mark Field

Parish Priest

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MAY SHE REST IN PEACE

Doreen Fitzharris died on Tuesday evening and her Requiem Mass was celebrated on Anzac Day afternoon – may the Good Shepherd now give her rest after her long illness. Our sympathy to Mary, Anne and Michael.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

The Parish Pastoral Council met on Tuesday evening, and a verbal report will be given at Mass today.

TREES

Our property is blessed with many trees, some planted over 60 years ago. Maintenance is costly, and storms like that of two weeks ago can cause problems. We recently had to remove the large Mānuka at the back of the Parish Centre, as it was affected by rot and splitting. For many years children played in its branches and cars were parked in its shade, but safety is paramount. Maybe a parishioner would like to present and plant a new tree? Talk to Father Mark.

LEGION OF MARY – INVITATION

Everyone is invited to the Acies (Latin for “standing army”), the most important Legion of Mary function of the year, when members renew or make their consecration to Mary, Our Heavenly Mother. Rosary and Benediction, prayers and hymns are offered to Our Lady. Come pray the Rosary for World Peace (as instructed by Our Lady of Fatima in 1917) next Sunday, May 3rd, at 2pm. There will be a cuppa afterwards.

SEMINARY APPEAL

Leaflets for the Seminary Appeal were distributed last Sunday, and some more are available in the foyer. Please give as you are able – you may be helping to form your future parish priest! Thank you.

MONSIGNOR FRANK’S BIRTHDAY

Monsignor Frank Eggleton turns 80 soon and there is a card in the foyer for you to sign if you wish.

ALPHA

Next week our parish begins an Alpha Pilot Programme with a group of parishioners who have kindly agreed to help us prepare for Alpha for the whole parish later this year. This pilot group will allow us to experience the programme, learn how it works, and build a team ready to welcome and support others. The full Parish Alpha Programme will be open to all parishioners and those interested in exploring faith during Term 3 with an invitation coming out towards the end of Term 2.

Alpha offers a welcoming space to share a meal, watch a short presentation, and have open conversations about life, faith, and meaning in a respectful and relaxed environment. Please keep this new initiative in your prayers as we prepare to invite our wider parish community in the coming months. Yours in Christ, *Tamin and Denzil Simmer*

CWL EXCURSION INCLUDES MASS AT MATAWAI

The Catholic Women's League will be going to Matawai today (Sunday 26th April) for Mass, followed by a shared lunch and, weather permitting, afternoon tea at Motu Falls. All are welcome to join them. They plan to meet in Campion Rd (Bridge end). Bring something for a shared lunch and afternoon tea, warm clothes and a raincoat! If you are intending to come along, please text Helen on 027 369 0962 and we can organise transport.

VACANCIES AT STELLA MARIS CATHOLIC ECE FROM JUNE

Anyone looking for early childhood education for two, three or four-year-old children should check out Stella Maris. Positions will be available in June. The centre is across the road from St Mary's Star of the Sea Church. Visit the centre to find out more information or go to <https://sites.google.com/stellamaris.cdh.nz/stellamaris-gisborne/home>



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:

Acts 2:14.36-41
1Peter 2:20-25
John 10:1-10

Next Sunday's Readings:

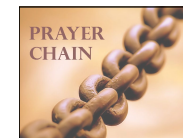
Acts 6:1-7
1Peter 2:4-9
John 14:1-12

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 027 2586378) 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 April 26	6pm Vigil (Saturday) 9am Sunday	Vigil: Flora Gillies (RIP birthday) 9am: Parishioners' Intentions	4th SUNDAY OF EASTER
Monday April 27	NO MASS		St Louis Grignion de Montfort
Tuesday April 28	5.30pm		St Peter Chanel
Wednesday April 29	9am	Allen & Barbara Clark	St Catherine of Siena
Thursday April 30	9am		St Pius V, Pope
Friday May 1	12.10pm	Jeanette O'Sullivan (RIP 25th anniversary)	St Joseph the Worker
Saturday May 2	9am	ANZAC DAY MASS Effie & Patrick Parker	St Athanasius
Sunday May 3	6pm Vigil (Saturday) Sunday 9am	Vigil: Iain & Flora Gillies 9am: Parishioners' Intentions	5th SUNDAY OF EASTER

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