



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

Catholic Diocese of Hamilton

## FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

03 May 2026

Welcome to the 5th Sunday of Easter. As usual there are a few points that we can ponder from today's scripture.

Jesus is the way, the truth and the life: Jesus comforts the disciples, promising that believing in him is the path to the Father and that we will perform "even greater works". This challenges us to trust God's guidance when facing uncertainty or fear. The question being can we let go and let God?

Trust and Action: The early Church handled the practical needs of daily life (feeding the poor) by having Deacons to administer the every day tasks which allowed the disciples to focus on the Word, showing that faith must result in both service and spiritual commitment.

The church as "living stones": Peter reminds us all to be "living stones" built into a spiritual house, with Christ as the cornerstone.

A couple of questions posed by the scripture readings this week are how we can better trust that Jesus is "the way" in our current life challenges, rather than just relying on our own efforts? Does the way that we live demonstrate the sacrificial love of Christ to those around us?

May our Lord Jesus Christ guide us all along the way to the truth of eternal life, Amen.

*Deacon Mike Rolfe*

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## 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) this afternoon, Sunday May 3rd, at 2pm. There will be a cuppa afterwards.

## FATHER MARK AWAY

Father Mark has some sabbatical time due, and will be away from the parish from this Friday (May 8) until June 19. Father Ritche will be in charge of the parish while he is away, and Father Alliston Fernandes will be assisting him. Please make Father Alliston welcome – he does not have a car, so may need help from parishioners to drive him here and there. Let Father Ritche know if you can help. (Please keep Father Mark in your prayers while he is away, that he has safe travels.)

## CONGRATULATIONS

This Tuesday, Deacon Mike celebrates the 21st anniversary of his Ordination to the Diaconate. May the Lord bless you and your ministry, Deacon Mike, and watch over you always. Thank you for all you do.

## PRO-LIFE YOUTH CAMP

ACTIV8 Pro-life Youth Camp is back! The four-day camp in Ngāruawāhia, from July 14 to 17, will include teaching, thoughtful discussions, and vibrant community! The pro-life youth camp is open to any young person who is aged 16 to 25. Learn how to speak up for the voiceless with clarity and confidence, dive deep into pro-life apologetics, build friendships, and discover your unique role in building a culture of life in New Zealand. Spaces are limited so register early by visiting [www.activ8nz.org](http://www.activ8nz.org) to secure your ticket.

## CWL ATTENDS MASS AT MATAWAI

It was great to have members of the Catholic Women's League and others with us for Mass at Matawai last Sunday. Before Mass began, Jim Langer gave a short



history of St Bede's Church – including the fact that he was the first to be baptised in the church, after it was moved to Matawai, back in 1949!

## FR RITCHE'S VOCATION STORY

Fr Ritche's deep devotion came to him later than most priests. You can enjoy reading the story of his journey to priesthood on the Hamilton Diocesan page. <https://tinyurl.com/bdh2wwun>

## INVITATION TO PLANT NATIVES ALONG RIVERBANK AT ST MARY'S

Parishioners are invited to join students from St Mary's School in planting native trees along the Taruheru River (just below the school). Students would love it if members of our parish community helped with the planting next Monday and Tuesday (May 4 & 5). The planting schedule is from 9am to 2.15pm.

## 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. <https://tinyurl.com/3z36wjxe>

## PLEDGE RECEIPTS ARE AVAILABLE ON THE FOYER DESK

Please collect your 2025-2026 pledge receipts from the foyer. Thank you for your generosity.

### 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:

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

### Next Sunday's Readings:

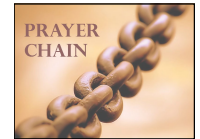
*Acts 8:5-8, 14-17*  
*1Peter 3:15-18*  
*John 14:15-21*

### 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
<b>Sunday May 3</b>	<b>6pm Vigil</b> (Saturday) <b>9am Sunday</b>	<b>Vigil:</b> Iain & Flora Gillies (RIP) <b>9am:</b> Parishioners' Intentions	<b>5th SUNDAY OF EASTER</b>
<b>Monday May 4</b>	NO MASS		
<b>Tuesday May 5</b>	5.30pm		
<b>Wednesday May 6</b>	<b>9am</b>	Thanksgiving Mass Maria Carruthers' 80th Birthday	
<b>Thursday May 7</b>	<b>9am</b>	Mick & Mary Rofe (RIP)	
<b>Friday May 8</b>	<b>12.10pm</b>	John Thompson (RIP)	
<b>Saturday May 9</b>	<b>9am</b>	Special Intentions of Maria Carruthers	
<b>Sunday May 10</b>	<b>6pm Vigil</b> (Saturday) <b>9am Sunday</b>	<b>Vigil:</b> Parishioners' Intentions <b>9am:</b> Bill Hocquard (RIP 53rd anniversary) & grandson Ben Hocquard (RIP)	<b>6th SUNDAY OF EASTER</b>

### 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*