



PARISH OF ST MARY, STAR OF THE SEA, GISBORNE

Catholic Diocese of Hamilton

ASCENSION SUNDAY

17 May 2026

Blessed Ascension Sunday everyone,

Today we celebrate the Ascension of the Lord. Jesus returned to the Father, but entrusted His mission to His disciples. Before ascending into Heaven, Jesus commanded His disciples: "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." As disciples of Christ, we too are called to proclaim and witness to the Gospel through our words and actions.

As we also observe World Communications Day, we are reminded of the responsibility to use communication wisely and truthfully. In a world filled with noise and division, our words, whether spoken personally or shared online should promote truth, kindness, unity, and hope.

This week, is also the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Jesus prayed that His followers "may all be one". Though Christians may belong to different religions, we are united by our faith in Christ. May this week encourage dialogue, respect, and friendship among all Christians.

May we continue Christ's mission by becoming instruments of truth, unity, and love in the world.

Fr Ritche Maguinda

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PENTECOST NOVENA

In preparation for the Solemnity of Pentecost, this is the link for the Novena before Pentecost Sunday. The Novena is said during the week (Friday May 15 to Saturday May 23) leading up to Pentecost.

<https://ascensionpress.com/pages/novena-to-the-holy-spirit>

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

From Monday (May 18) to Sunday (May 24) it is the week of prayer for Christian Unity. As a church let us pray for the unity of all Christians.

<https://www.christianunity.va/content/unitacristiani/en/settimana-di-preghiera-per-l-unita/semaine-de-priere-pour-l-unite-des-chretiens-20241/anglais.html>

THREE-BEDROOM HOME TO RENT

If you are looking for a private three-bedroom home with a sleepout, two living areas, two showers (one toilet), and three-car garaging with room for four more vehicles in the yard, call Abin on 027 4743 482. In a safe area and down a driveway, this home will be available during the first week of June.

TOKOMARU BAY MASS

Mass will be held at St James Church in Tokomaru Bay today (Sunday May 17) at 11.30am.

ARTICLES FOR THE STAR

The deadline for the June issue of the STAR magazine is May 29. Please send articles to: starmagazinegisborne@gmail.com

CWL MEETING

The Catholic Women's League will hold their monthly meeting this Thursday May 21. We will meet the recipients of last year's Year 10 CWL scholarships. The meeting will be held in the Parish Centre at 1.30pm.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Saturday, 23 May at 10:00 AM: Parish Pentecost Recollection

Everyone is invited to our Parish Pentecost Recollection at the St Mary Star of the Sea. The talk is titled, "Come, Holy Spirit: The Role of the Holy Spirit in the Life of a Christian". Our facilitator will be Fr Alliston Fernandes. This recollection will help us prepare spiritually for the celebration of Pentecost, the birthday of the Church.

Sunday, 24 May at 5:00 PM: Solemn Vespers

Everyone is warmly invited to join the Solemn Vespers on the evening of Pentecost Sunday. The vespers will be led by Fr Alliston Fernandes.

May 18-24: Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

As we begin this Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, let us unite in praying that all Christians of different religions may grow in understanding, respect, and love for one another, and that our differences may lead us toward acceptance, dialogue, and friendship.

ST CARLO ACUTIS RELIC COMING TO AOTEAROA


There will be plenty of opportunity for parishioners to see the relic of Saint Carlo Acutis, which will be in New Zealand from June 7 to 21. The NI visits will include Hamilton, Rotorua, Taihape, Palmerston North and Wellington. St Carlo Acutis, the Church's first millennial saint, continues to inspire young people throughout the world through his love of the Eucharist. Public opportunities include Mass, adoration, veneration of relic, reconciliation, evening talks and a special Diocesan Youth Mass. St Carlo Acutis was a teenager who loved gaming, football, and computers. But what truly shaped his life was a simple and profound discovery: **Jesus is truly present in the Eucharist**. He called it "my highway to Heaven". Using his digital skills, St Carlo Acutis documented Eucharistic miracles from around the world — inviting others to explore the reality of God's presence.


HELP PRESBYTERIANS CELEBRATE THE END OF AN ERA

Parishioners are invited to celebrate and give thanks for the life of the Gisborne Presbyterian Parish before closure at the end of June. A big King's Birthday weekend is planned and the programme can be viewed here — <https://www.standrewsgis.org.nz/>

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

<u>This Sunday's Readings:</u> <i>Acts 1:1-11</i> <i>Ephesians 1:17-23</i> <i>Matthew 28:16-20</i>	<u>Next Sunday's Readings:</u> <i>Act 2:1-11</i> <i>1Corinthians 12:3-7,12-13</i> <i>John 20:19-23</i>	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.
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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.	
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 THE HOLY ROSARY The Rosary is prayed in the side chapel before Mass.
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Date	Mass Times	Intentions	Feast / Saint
Sunday May 17	6pm Vigil (Saturday) 9am Sunday	6pm: Parishioners' Intentions 9am: Winnie Tuohy (RIP)	ASCENSION OF THE LORD
Monday May 18	NO MASS		St John 1, Pope
Tuesday May 19	5.30pm	Paul K L (RIP) Special Intention	
Wednesday May 20	9am	Peter Donovan (RIP 1st anniversary)	St Bernardine of Siena
Thursday May 21	9am	K V Lazer & Philomina Lazer (RIP)	St Christopher Magallanes & Companions
Friday May 22	12.10pm	Colleen Montgomerie's Special Intention	St Rita of Cascia
Saturday May 23	9am	Fr Ritche	
Sunday May 24	6pm Saturday Vigil 9am Sunday	Vigil: Parishioners' Intentions 9am: Frank & Jo Gavin (RIP)	PENTECOST SUNDAY

<u>SUNDAY MASS AT OTHER CHURCHES —</u> Second Sunday: Sacred Heart, Tolaga Bay (11am) Third Sunday: St James, Tokomaru Bay (11.30am) Fourth Sunday: St Bede's, Matawai (11am)	<u>CONFESSIONS —</u> Friday 11.25 — 11.45am Saturday 9.30 — 10am <i>Or by appointment with one of the priests</i>
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