



PARISH OF ST MARY, STAR OF THE SEA, GISBORNE

Catholic Diocese of Hamilton

17TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

July 26th, 2026

This week's readings centre on recognising the immeasurable value of God's kingdom. They remind us that finding God requires both discerning His true desires through prayer and recognizing His love as our ultimate, life-changing treasure.

The first Reading 1Kings 3:5,7—12

Solomon's prayer teaches us the virtue of spiritual wisdom over worldly success. Are we asking God for what truly matters, or are we consumed by material ambitions?

The second Reading Romans 8: 28—30

This is a powerful reminder to surrender control and trust in God's providence, even when life's circumstances seem confusing or painful.

In other words "let go and let God".

The Gospel Matthew 13: 44—52

The Kingdom of Heaven requires an all-in commitment; it asks us to detach ourselves from fleeting worldly things to embrace the ultimate prize of God's grace.

This Sunday is also designated as a day of prayer for grandparents and the elderly. These people are a gift from our loving God; they are in most cases a shining example to assist us in our journey through life and using their lived experience of life's many challenges bring peace and grace to those around them. May the Lord bless and keep them always.

Nga mihi

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ALPHA

Our first Alpha evening was a warm, welcoming gathering, with about 40 people beginning the journey together. Everyone appreciated the opportunity to meet new people & share a delicious meal in a friendly atmosphere. This week's topic, "Who is Jesus?", sparked thoughtful discussion as we explored the historical evidence for Jesus and reflected on who He is for us as faithful followers today. It was a fruitful evening filled with meaningful conversations, questions, and shared faith. Participants left with excitement and enthusiasm for next week's session, where we will explore the important question, "Why Did Jesus Die?". If you are still interested in joining Alpha, it's not too late! Registration forms are available in the church foyer, and new participants are warmly welcome.

NEED HELP WITH PLEDGE ENVELOPES OR AUTOMATIC PAYMENTS

If you make a donation of \$5 or more to an approved charity in NZ, you may be eligible for a donation tax credit. The benefit of registering for pledge envelopes or making automatic bank payments to the parish, is that the money can be tracked back to the giver. This isn't possible with eftpos and loose collection donations. This means you can claim up to one-third of your donation from Inland Revenue.

CAMPION COLLEGE OPEN DAY SUNDAY AUGUST 2

Enrolments for 2027 are now open. Choosing the right school is an important decision and Campion would like to welcome you to meet staff, explore learning spaces, and discover what makes it special. Campion caters for students from Years 7 to 13.



OPEN DAY



Sunday
August 2nd 2026
1.00pm - 3.00pm

• Commitment • Compassion • Community •

YEAR 7-13 CATHOLIC CO-EDUCATIONAL COLLEGE

Families with prospective students are invited to meet in the gymnasium at 1.00 pm for a welcome and address by the Principal. This will be followed by a tour of the College.

To request an enrolment pack, please contact the Campion College Office or visit our website at www.campioncollege.school.nz:

☎ 06 8679309
✉ enrolments@campioncollege.school.nz

Enrolments close: **FRIDAY 11th SEPTEMBER 2026**

ST VINCENT DE PAUL NEEDS YOU

Join our phone roster team
Once every 4-5 weeks / even from home
Easy / helpful / practical / rewarding
Call Patrick (027) 335 5873



WORLD YOUTH DAY 2027 KOREA

The bishops of NZ are hopeful many Catholics from NZ will attend WYD Korea 2027 and they want to make sure everyone knows what is up for grabs. The WYD information night will be held today (Sunday July 26), at 6pm at the Cathedral of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Hamilton.

<https://forms.gle/8qoH47eCjVic7ocr5> The Hamilton Diocese will be taking a group to WYD with the Auckland Diocese.

RCIA

We have a number of people who have expressed interest in taking part in the Enquiry Period to explore the Catholic faith – you might know someone who is also interested in becoming a Catholic? Why not invite them? It's not too early – we will begin the next programme in October.

PILGRIMAGE

A 14-day pilgrimage to Catholic sites in Japan, departing November 15. See the noticeboard for details, or contact Laura Yap on 021 390 055.



Stella Maris Catholic Early Childhood Centre

Located next door to St Mary's School, Campion Road

Vacancies available

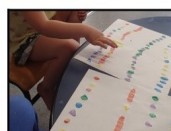
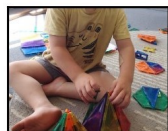
If you or you know of any families that would like their 2, 3 or 4 year olds to attend Stella Maris we have positions available this year, please visit us and find out more information.

We look forward to meeting you

44 Campion Road, Gisborne

Our website:

www.stellamaris.cdh.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

This Sunday's Readings:

1Kings 3:5,7-12
Romans 8:28-30
Matthew 13:44-52

Next Sunday's Readings:

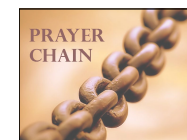
Isaiah 55:1-3
Romans 8:35,37-39
Matthew 14:13-21

MASS OFFERING

Mass can be offered for Holy Souls, Thanks-giving, 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 July 26	6pm Vigil (Saturday) 9am Sunday	6pm Vigil: Mick Rofe (RIP Anniversary) Parishioners' Intentions	SEVENTEENTH WEEK OF ORDINARY TIME
Monday July 27	NO MASS		
Tuesday July 28	5.30pm	Fraser Willson (RIP)	
Wednesday July 29	9am	Iain Gillies (RIP birthday); Fr Gerard Boyce (Birthday); Steven Wright (RIP birthday)	Sts Martha, Mary & Lazarus
Thursday July 30	9am	Bruce Maguire (RIP)	St Peter Chrysologus
Friday July 31	12.10	Deceased members of Melville/Martin Family	St Ignatius of Loyola
Saturday August 1	9am		St Alphonsus Mary Liguori
Sunday August 2	6pm Saturday Vigil 9am Sunday	Vigil: Bonnie Shanks (19th Birthday) Parishioners' Intentions	EIGHTEENTH WEEK OF ORDINARY TIME

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