



PARISH OF ST MARY, STAR OF THE SEA, GISBORNE

Catholic Diocese of Hamilton

19th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

9 August 2026

Sister Cynthia wrote the following for the "Christian Comment" article in a recent issue of the Gisborne Herald – thank you, Sister, for helping us to understand AI and its implications for us . . .

I hear many talking about AI. Some love it, others fear it. Where do I stand? I see AI as a convenience whether it be a search or a recommendation.

It also raises many questions. Is AI serving human dignity or eroding it? Is it stripping away our means of sustenance and self-expression in the name of profit? Is AI being used to improve our work or simply to cut costs? Is AI neutral when making decisions? Pope Leo's encyclical Magnificent Humanity helps me to clarify my thinking. He warns us that if we let the current models of AI make decisions about people's lives, particularly the most vulnerable, this will only reinforce prejudice and injustice. He argues that our work enhances our dignity through self-expression and relationships. We are continuing God's work and contributing to the community.

I choose not to use the self-checkout at the supermarket as I see it as a trend to dehumanize daily transactions.

AI is not neutral. Someone built these systems. Someone owns them. Someone decides whose knowledge would train them. Those decisions are quietly shaping what the rest of the world will be allowed to know. AI presents its conclusions as correct, not partial. My fear is that AI has the potential to separate us from our natural world each other, our deepest selves and our Creator God, who through Jesus, affirmed bodily life as sacred. AI doesn't have a body; doesn't experience joy and suffering; doesn't mature through relationships; doesn't learn through love; doesn't experience sacrifice or grief. Wisdom emerges through all these experiences.

The question is not whether AI is powerful, or innovative, or economically transformative. We know it is. The question is whether that power is directed to the flourishing of every person?

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MAY THEY REST IN PEACE

The Requiem Mass for **John Unverricht** was celebrated on Thursday – . John has suffered greatly these past months, but his faith has been a source of strength for him. Our sympathy to his son Kieran, and all his family and friends. And our thanks to the music group, Catholic Women's League, Campion College and parishioners for their support. Funeral prayers were held for **Queenie Morrell** on Monday. She passed on Sunday. Queenie's father, Ted Morrell, carved the baptismal font in our church. Our sympathy to Ted and all the family. May they both rest in peace.

RCIA

Do you know someone who is also interested in becoming a Catholic? Why not invite them? We will begin the next programme in October.

FAMILY LIFE INTERNATIONAL

This organisation publish a very good magazine which is available on-line, with excellent articles. Go to www.fli and then scroll down to "Download our free publications".

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.

SOLEMNITY OF THE ASSUMPTION

Mass next Saturday evening and Sunday morning will be the Mass of the Assumption, a Holy Day of Obligation. (Because it occurs on the Saturday, our Bishops have directed that it is to be shifted to the Sunday.)

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



BAPTISM

Charlotte Hollis, daughter of Joel and Alana, was baptised last week. We welcome you to our family of faith, Charlotte, and pray that God watch over you always.

EXTRA FRUIT WELCOMED

Thank you to those who bring oranges and mandarins to Mass to share with parishioners, especially in these cold days – a good source of Vitamin C. If you have fruit to spare, why not bring some to the church?



MEDJUGORJE & ROME PILGRIMAGE 2027

Save the 'date' for a pilgrimage to **Medjugorje and Rome in April 2027**, with **Bishop Richard** intending to join the journey. Travel with Mir Pilgrimages whose founder has visited Medjugorje over 35 times. We are currently seeking **expressions of interest** from people across our Diocese who may wish to travel with this group. Registering your interest is **not a commitment**, it simply means you'll receive updates as plans, and pricing are confirmed. www.cdh.org.nz/pilgrimage2027

JOSHUA 40—YEAR CELEBRATION WEEKEND

All men are invited. When: Friday pm August 14 to Sunday midday August 16. Venue: Keswick Christian Camp, 5 Cooper Ave, Holden's Bay, Rotorua. Keynote speaker: Robert Falzon, leader of Australia's menALIVE and author of "Importance of a Present Dad". Cost: \$247pp including accommodation and meals. To Register: Contact Mike Lobo (021) 2809285 or Greg Sullivan (021) 437747 <https://menforchrist.wufoo.com/forms/joshua-40th-anniversary-celebration-rotorua>

CLEARLY

The latest copy of the Diocesan newsletter, "Clearly", is available at cdh.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

This Sunday's Readings:

1Kings 19:9,11-13
Romans 9:1-5
Matthew 14:22-33

Next Sunday's Readings:

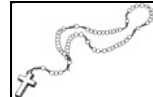
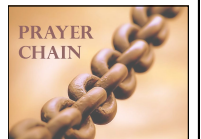
Apoc 11:19;12:1-6,10
1Corinthians 15:20—26
Luke 11:27:28

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 August 9	6pm Vigil (Saturday) 9am Sunday	6pm Vigil: Gillies/Clark/Shanks Family Intentions Parishioners' Intentions	NINETEENTH WEEK OF ORDINARY TIME
Monday August 10	11.30am	Campion Mass for St Mary MacKillop — All welcome	St Lawrence
Tuesday August 11	5.30pm	Varghese Thomas (RIP 18th Anniversary)	St Clare
Wednesday August 12	9am	Dylan Gillies (RIP 2nd Anniversary) Gordon Lynch (RIP)	St Jane Frances de Chantal
Thursday August 13	9am		Sts Pontian, Pope & Hippolytus
Friday August 14	12.10	Dave Wahl (RIP)	St Maximilian Mary Kolbe
Saturday August 15	9am		
Sunday August 16	6pm Saturday Vigil 9am Sunday	6pm Elaine Teutenberg (RIP) Iain & Flora Gillies (RIP) Parishioners' Intentions	ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

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