



PARISH OF ST MARY, STAR OF THE SEA, GISBORNE

Catholic Diocese of Hamilton

21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

23 August 2026

Today is the 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time. This Sunday's Gospel brings us to a very important question from Jesus: **"Who do you say that I am?"**

Jesus asks this question not to test His disciples, but to invite them to examine their personal relationship with Him. Many people may have different opinions about who Jesus is, but Peter boldly professed, **"You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."**



Peter's profession of faith becomes the foundation of his mission and leadership in the Church. Jesus entrusts to Peter the keys of the Kingdom and gives him the responsibility of strengthening and guiding the community of believers.

As the **Catechism of the Catholic Church** teaches, "Jesus entrusted the keys of the Kingdom to Peter and established him as the shepherd of the whole Church. The Pope, as Peter's successor, continues this ministry of unity and service in the Church." CCC 881

The question Jesus asked His disciples is also addressed to each of us:

Who is Jesus for me?

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OCIA (ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS)

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

STAR MAGAZINE

Articles for the September issue of the Star Magazine need to be in by **August 26**. Email it unformatted to starmagazinegisborne@gmail.com

POPE LEO PRAYER REQUEST

"As our world continues to be wounded by wars in the Holy Land, in Ukraine and in other parts of the world, I invite all the faithful to implore the Lord to grant us peace and justice, and to wipe away the tears of those who suffer."

MASSES THIS WEEK

- ♦ Mass at Matawai this Sunday, 11am
- ♦ The Catholic Women's League Regional Conference takes place on Thursday (August 27) and Father Ritche will say Mass at 12pm

ALPHA

The Alpha participants have their "Holy Spirit Day" this coming Saturday, 29 August. Please pray for them.

CHAIR SURVEY

We have secured some funding to replace the seating in the Parish Centre, and are looking at three styles of chair. Please try them, and indicate with a tick on the sheet which one you prefer. That would be helpful — thank you.

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



YOUTH MASS

It is always good to see so many young people at the Youth Mass. Saturday is the final Youth Mass and Campion College Youth Group meeting for 2026. They should have a great night as clear skies and a dry evening are predicted. Bring a koha for a delicious sausage sizzle.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S INSTITUTE REGIONAL DAY INVITATION

Women of the parish are invited to attend the non-business part of the Eastern Regional Day Conference being hosted by St Mary Star of the Sea Catholic Women's League this Thursday, August 27. Mass will be held at 12noon; followed by lunch and the guest speaker will be Tracy Robinson from Alzheimers New Zealand, the organisation chosen for CWL's At Home Appeal this year. Come enjoy a meal and learn about the work done by Alzheimers NZ.

FOOTSTEPS OF POMPALLIER PILGRIMAGE — 100KM OVER 4 DAYS

Spaces are limited, so don't miss out on this special opportunity to take part in this Hokianga walk taking place over Labour Weekend, October 24-27, 2026. Places are limited to 60 pilgrims, who will walk 100km over four days, following in the footsteps of Bishop Pompallier. **Not able to walk but still want to be involved?** There are limited spots on the volunteer Pilgrim Support Team providing base camp support, assisting with catering and driving in the convoy. This pilgrimage, from Waitangi to Motuti, offers a unique opportunity to reconnect with the Catholic faith and Tangata Whenua in Northland. Join us as we retrace the footsteps of NZ's first Catholic pilgrims. Organisers are: Auckland Latin Mass Chaplaincy. Register: [Footsteps of Pompallier Pilgrimage](#)

WYD SEOUL 2027 INFO ZOOM NIGHT—SEPTEMBER 9

An online WYD Seoul Info Zoom on will be held on Wednesday, September 9, from 6.30pm – 7.30pm. This is for those who couldn't make the July meeting. They will cover everything young people need to know about the trip, what to expect, costs, the application process and upcoming deadlines. There will also be an opportunity for young people to ask any questions they may have. **Who is this for?** Young people who will be 18 years old and out of school by April 2027.

[WYD Seoul Zoom Registration Form](#)

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:

Isaiah 22:19-23
Romans 11:33-36
Matthew 16:13-20

Next Sunday's Readings:

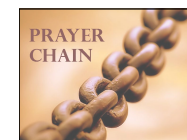
Jeremiah 20:7-9
Romans 12:1-2
Matthew 16:21-27

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 August 23	6pm Vigil Youth Mass 9am Sunday	6pm: Brent Gillard (Birthday RIP) Parishioners' Intentions	21st SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
Monday August 24	NO MASS		St Bartholomew, Apostle
Tuesday August 25	5.30pm	Nigel Nicholson (RIP) & Family	St Louis, St Joseph Calasanz
Wednesday August 26	9am	Trevor Coker (RIP)	
Thursday August 27	9am	Special Intention; Daniel Walters	St Monica
Friday August 28	12.10	Special Intentions of Julian Avisenis	St Augustine
Saturday August 29	9am	Tony Gedye (RIP)	The Passion of St John The Baptist
Sunday August 30	6pm: Saturday 9am: Sunday	Parishioners' Intentions Rhian (RIP)	22nd SUNDAY IN 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