



PARISH OF ST MARY, STAR OF THE SEA, GISBORNE

Catholic Diocese of Hamilton

22nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

30 August 2026

Jesus says in today's Gospel: **"Those who wish to come after me must deny themselves, take up their cross and follow me."** This is the hard part of the Christian calling! The Christian life is great when all is going our way – but when the cross looms, it's not so easy. No wonder that Peter, who did so well last Sunday, makes a hash of it today, in trying to deny the cross. Would we be any different? Are we any different?

Congratulations to the **Catholic Women's League** for an excellent and successful Regional Conference held here in Gisborne on Thursday.

The Sacramental Programmes in our parish end this week, and we celebrate **Confirmation and First Communion next Sunday at the 9am Mass**. Bishop Richard is unable to be with us for this year's ceremonies, and sends his apologies. This is always a very joyful occasion for our parish, and I ask that you pray for our candidates. Our thanks to those who have prepared them so well. (No Mihinā Māori next Sunday, unfortunately.)

Welcome to Richard Shortall SJ and Kirsty Muir who are with us this Sunday to conduct a **"Listening and Discernment Workshop"**. I am grateful to the Parish Council members and parishioners who have accepted the invitation to take part.

Father Ritche travels to Wellington this Friday for an ordination – we wish him safe travels.

Elizabeth McLeod died earlier in the week and her Requiem was celebrated on Friday – may she now be at rest in the arms of her loving God. The unveiling for **Trudy Meredith** takes place next Saturday (September 5) – may she also rest in peace.

Busy days in a busy parish!

Mā te Atua koutou e manaaki – may God bless you all

Father Mark

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PARISH CENTRE CHAIRS

Thank you for taking part in the survey of possible chairs for the Parish Centre – we have placed an order for 50 of the "Swift" design. These chairs are being funded by the Bienne – La Neuveville Pastoral Area in Basel, Switzerland, where **Father François-Xavier Gindrat** is the Parish Priest. Many will remember him as a seminarian working in our parish in 2010, during the time of Pa Yvan. We are very grateful to Father François-Xavier for his generous support of our parish, of which he has fond memories.

WORKING BEE

... and now that we have new chairs for the Parish Centre, we need to take the best of the existing chairs in the Parish Centre and "crying room" and make 30-40 chairs in good condition (and discard the damaged cushions, and recycle the damaged frames). We will have a **working bee on Saturday morning, 12 September, at 10am**. If we get 10 people, it should only take one hour. All you need to bring is a Phillips screwdriver. Please let Elaine know if you will be there. (If someone could volunteer to coordinate the working bee, that would be great also.)

KITCHEN DOOR

We have been experiencing petty theft from the Parish Centre kitchen for some time now, and pictures of the culprit have been shared with the police. Unfortunately, we now need to lock the kitchen, and a digital lock has been fitted to the outside door. The **code** is available for parishioners – speak to Elaine or one of the priests. Please ensure that all the doors into the kitchen are locked after use.

DEMYSTIFYING DEATH WITH DIGNITY— FR SHENAN J BOQUET

Dying well is an art, a spiritual preparation . . . come and hear Fr Boquet explain how best to accompany those approaching the end of life.

When? Tuesday 15 September - 6pm Rosary and Mass; 7pm talk

Where? St Thomas More Catholic Church, Mt Maunganui

For more information, follow this link: [Demystifying Death with Dignity](#)

Or contact Simon Archer | 021 400 729 | simon@fli.org.nz

OCIA

Do you know someone who is also interested in becoming a Catholic? Why not invite them? We will begin the next programme in October. A good number have already expressed interest.

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.

MEETING REMINDER

Community Lay Ministers of Holy Communion meet this Tuesday September 1 at 2.30 in the St Mary MacKillop Room.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S INSTITUTE (CWL)

Members from Mt Maunganui, Whakatane and Gisborne Catholic Women's League got down to business at the East Regional Day held here on Thursday. Tracy Robinson from Alzheimers NZ was the guest speaker.

Save the date: The CWL will be hosting their Annual Courtyard Sale after Mass on Sunday, September 20. Money raised goes to the parish's three education centres Campion College, St Mary's and Stella Maris. Parishioners are encouraged to donate baking, plants and crafts to this good cause. Come along with cash and treat yourself to some goodies and a sausage sizzle.



REGISTER INTEREST FOR 2027 MEDJUGORJE & ROME PILGRIMAGE

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. They 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, itinerary and pricing are confirmed. Register your interest: www.cdh.org.nz/pilgrimage2027

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:

Jeremiah 20:7-9

Romans 12:1-2

Matthew 16:21-27

Next Sunday's Readings:

Ezekiel 33:7-9

Romans 13:8-10

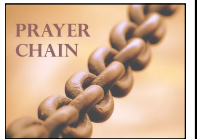
Matthew 18:15-20

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 30	6pm Vigil 9am Sunday	Special Intention Rhian (RIP)	22nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
Monday August 31	NO MASS		
Tuesday September 1	5.30pm	Elizabeth McLeod (RIP); Tony Gedye (RIP)	
Wednesday September 2	9am	Hubert Wolter (RIP)	
Thursday September 3	9am	Elizabeth McLeod (RIP)	St Gregory the Great, Pope
Friday September 4	12.10	Alexia English (RIP birthday); Laurie Ford (RIP 6th anniversary)	EMBER DAY
Saturday September 5	9am		St Teresa of Calcutta; Blessed Virgin Mary
Sunday September 6	6pm: Saturday 9am: Sunday	6pm: Iain & Flora Gillies (RIP) 9am: Confirmation	23rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
SUNDAY MASS AT OTHER CHURCHES —		CONFESSIONS —	
Second Sunday: Sacred Heart, Tolaga Bay (11am)		Friday 11.25 — 11.45am	
Third Sunday: St James, Tokomaru Bay (11.30am)		Saturday 9.30 — 10am	
Fourth Sunday: St Bede's, Matawai (11am)		Or by appointment with one of the priests	