



PARISH OF ST MARY, STAR OF THE SEA, GISBORNE

Catholic Diocese of Hamilton

25th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

September 20, 2026

Blessed Sunday everyone!
Today is the 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time. The Gospel today (Matthew 20:1-16) reminds us of the generosity of God. Jesus tells us the parable of the labourers, who were invited to work in the vineyard at different times of the day. Yet, at the end of the day, the landowner generously gave them the same wage.



Sometimes, like the workers who came early, we may compare ourselves with others and think that we deserve more because we have done more. But the generosity of God is not based on comparison. He does not give according to our expectations; He gives according to His generosity.

This Gospel also reminds us that it is never too late to respond to God's call. Whether we have followed Him for many years or are only beginning our journey of faith, God welcomes us with the same loving heart.

May we learn to be grateful for what God has given us and rejoice when He blesses others. Instead of comparing ourselves with others, let us trust in God's goodness and generosity. May we always remember: God's grace is a gift, not something we earn.

Father Ritche

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NOVENA TO MERE HOHEPA—SUZANNE AUBERT

We invite you all to pray a Novena to Suzanne Aubert, founder of the Sisters of Compassion, for the healing of **Michael Fraser**, a student at Campion College who is being treated for cancer. We will begin this Wednesday, 23 September, and continue through to Thursday, October 1, the Centenary of the death of Suzanne Aubert. Prayer cards are available in the foyer. We suggest you pray each evening at **7pm**—how wonderful would it be if we were all praying for Michael at the same time each day.

On the card:

- Specify Dates — write **September 23 to October 1**
- On the right handside, in both spaces, write **"Michael Fraser"**

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE

Desley Boyle died after a short illness and her funeral service was held on Wednesday—may she rest in peace. Our sympathy to Christine, Damian and Kate.

Last week **Sisilia Palusa** died in Auckland and her Requiem will be on Tuesday at 10am. We offer our sympathy to Hola and their family.

THIS WEEK

- Mass at Tokomaru Bay this Sunday, 11.30am
- Father Ritche will be away for this week and next weekend
- No Holy Hour or Mass this Tuesday evening—Father Mark has a Campion College Board meeting (and Father Ritche is away)
- Mass at **Beetham** on this Wednesday (23rd) at 10.30am (carried over from September 16)
- Alpha finishes this Thursday evening—well done everyone!
- End of Term 3 on Friday—best wishes for a safe and restful break

THANKS

- Our seminarian Nhat has returned to the seminary—thank you all for your hospitality towards him.
- A great Working Bee last week—thanks to all who came along — many hands do indeed make light work!

CASH IS KING FOR THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE SALE TODAY

Don't forget to bring cash for the CWL Annual Courtyard Sale after Mass today, September 20. Parishioners donating baking, plants and crafts to this good cause can drop them off before Mass on Saturday night or Sunday morning. CWL president Sue Baker will also be available to pick-up donations. Call her on 0273304982. Come along with cash and treat yourself to some goodies and a sausage sizzle. Money raised goes to the parish's three education centres Campion College, St Mary's and Stella Maris.



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 mid-October. Six people have already expressed interest. The team will meet this week to plan the programme for the new OCIA season.

SEASON OF CREATION

The Season of Creation runs through September to October 4 (the Feast of St Francis of Assisi). In this season, Christians worldwide unite in prayer and action to protect the environment and care for creation. See the display in the foyer for more information.

POMPALLIER PILGRIMAGE—100KM OVER 4 DAYS, LABOUR WEEKEND

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. Organisers are: Auckland Latin Mass Chaplaincy. Register:

[Footsteps of Pompallier Pilgrimage](#)

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 55:6-9
Philippians 1:20-24, 27
Matthew 20:1-16

Next Sunday's Readings

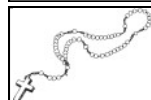
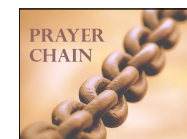
Ezekiel 18:25-28
Philippians 2:1-11
Matthew 21:28-32

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 September 20	6pm Vigil 9am Sunday	Parishioners' Intentions Bernie & Joan Thomson (RIP)	25th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
Monday September 21	NO MASS		St Matthew, Apostle & Evangelist
Tuesday September 22	NO MASS or HOLY HOUR		
Wednesday September 23	9am	Anthony Gregory (RIP anniversary)	St Pius of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio)
Thursday September 24	9am	Margaret-Ann Smith (RIP)	
Friday September 25	12.10pm	Janet Anderson (nee Zame RIP) and family	
Saturday September 26	9am		Sts Cosmas & Damian; Blessed Virgin Mary
Sunday September 27	6pm: Saturday 9am: Sunday	Darrin Berry (RIP anniversary & birthday) Parishioners' Intentions	26th 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