



# PARISH OF ST MARY, STAR OF THE SEA, GISBORNE

Catholic Diocese of Hamilton

## 27th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

October 04, 2026

Ngā mihi ki a koutou, e te whānau. We come to the end of the **Season of Creation**, the

annual Christian celebration to pray and respond together to the cry of Creation. The theme for the Season of Creation



this year has been “Living Water”, a time when we have tried, in small ways, to recognise the wonder of God’s Creation all around us and within us, and our need to take our part in sustaining God’s gift of Creation.

Good to have **Father Ritche** back with us — he will bless the simple statue of St Francis in the courtyard after Miha Māori today.

I hope students and staff of our schools are enjoying the holidays.

The **Month of the Holy Rosary** has begun, and we will have our Rosary Procession this afternoon (Sunday), at 2pm. All are welcome.

I will be at the **Clergy Jubilees** on Tuesday, and I have a wedding in Rotorua later in the week. I will take a few days to catch up with family after that. Father Ritche will look after things while I am away.

May God bless you all and keep you in his love and care

*Father Mark*

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Deacon

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**Parish Office Administrator:** Elaine Clark *Office hours: Monday to Friday, 8.30am—12.30pm*

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## ST JAMES CHURCH, TOKOMARU BAY

Sadly, the decision has had to be made to close St James Church in Tokomaru Bay, after more than 100 years. There is no resident Catholic population there, maintaining a presence in remote churches is an ongoing burden for our priests, and keeping the church open has placed a financial strain on our parish. The last Mass there will be on **Sunday November 15**. Alternative arrangements will be made for the Ruatoria parishioners who faithfully worship there.

## NOVENA TO MERE HOHEPA—SUZANNE AUBERT

Thank you everyone for praying the Novena to God through the intercession of Meri Hohepa — Suzanne Aubert for Michael. May he know the Lord’s healing.

## MAY THEY REST IN PEACE

**Suzanne Bunting** died in Whitianga earlier in the year, and her ashes will be brought to Gisborne for burial on Friday. The Friday 12.10pm Mass will be offered for the repose of her soul.

**Brother Roger Dowling FMS** died recently in Auckland. He used to be part of a small Marist community in Tolaga Bay, and served on the Campion College Board for a time. Rest in peace, Brother Roger.

## POPE URGES ROSARY FOR PEACE DURING OCTOBER

Our Lady of the Rosary feast day is on October 7 and the whole month is dedicated to the Holy Rosary. Pope Leo XIV urges Catholics to pray for peace. This week about 1,000 children prayed a rosary for peace with the Pope in the Lourdes Grotto in the Vatican Gardens as part of the global “One Million Children Praying the Rosary” campaign.

## OCIA—BECOMING CATHOLIC

We have eight candidates who will begin their formation in our faith on Wednesday October 21. Please keep them and the team in your prayers.

## WATER URN

Has anyone borrowed the portable hot water urn from the parish? Please return it. Thank you.

## THANK YOU

"Never see a need without doing something about it." (St Mary of the Cross MacKillop)

- To **Anne Dimery and Mark Tilley** for their work with parents seeking Preference Cards for enrolment of their children in Catholic schools — a huge task
- To **Father Ritche** for tidying up the Parish Library
- To those who look after our gardens, courtyard, and lawns

## LEIGHTON HOUSE LITURGY

We have been asked if we would be able to lead an ecumenical liturgy at Leighton House once a month, on the 4th Thursday of each month, at 2.30pm. It would consist of hymns, readings, prayers, but would not be a sacramental liturgy. Thank you to those who have offered to help with this. Father Ritche will work with those people to prepare the first liturgy, which will be on Thursday 22 October.

## BRING CASH FOR ST VINCENT DE PAUL COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND

Cash donations are collected in the foyer after Mass on the second Saturday & Sunday of the month, which is next weekend. "Vinnies" spends about \$1000 a month on groceries for food parcels, so every little bit helps. Please give generously. Bank details: SVDP Bay of Plenty Area Council 02-0506-0378043-011.



## VOICE FOR LIFE YOUTH GATHERING TONIGHT FOR GIZZY TEENS

Teenagers have the opportunity to take part in a Voice for Life event tonight (Sunday October 4) at Alive Church in Leith Street. If you are in high school, and have questions about pro-life issues, this event is for you! There will be pizza, games, quizzes — plenty of fun and learning. The Voice For Life Youth Tour — "God Is Pro-Life" starts at 5.30pm.

## SUPPORT LIFE SUNDAY 2026: LIVING PEACE

The 2nd Sunday of October, the Church in Aotearoa celebrates Support Life Sunday. Support Life Sunday is a time to focus on how we can better support a culture of love and life through prayer and action, with a particular emphasis this year on the need for peace in our world.

## EDUCATION

|                                            |                                   |               |
|--------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------|
| <b>Stella Maris Early Childhood Centre</b> | Bridget Armstrong (Centre Leader) | (06) 863 0428 |
| <b>St Mary's School</b>                    | Helen McGuigan (Principal)        | (06) 868 8332 |
| <b>Campion College</b>                     | Karyn Sadler (Principal)          | (06) 867 9309 |

## This Sunday's Readings:

*Isaiah 5:1-7*  
*Philippians 4:6-9*  
*Matthew 21:33-43*

## Next Sunday's Readings

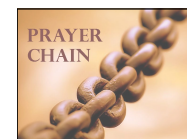
*Isaiah 25:6-10*  
*Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20*  
*Matthew 22:1-14*

## **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                                                                |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Sunday October 4</b>    | <b>6pm Vigil</b><br><b>9am Sunday—</b><br><b>Miha Maori</b> | Thanksgiving Mass<br>Tiaki McClutchie-Raroa<br>(RIP 1st anniversary) | <b>27th SUNDAY IN</b><br><b>ORDINARY TIME</b><br><b>St Francis of Assisi</b> |
| <b>Monday October 5</b>    | <b>NO MASS</b>                                              |                                                                      | St Faustina Kowalska                                                         |
| <b>Tuesday October 6</b>   | <b>4.30pm Adoration</b><br><b>5.30pm Mass</b>               |                                                                      | St Bruno                                                                     |
| <b>Wednesday October 7</b> | <b>9am</b>                                                  | Jack Allen (RIP)                                                     | Our Lady of the Rosary                                                       |
| <b>Thursday October 8</b>  | <b>9am</b>                                                  | Special Intentions                                                   |                                                                              |
| <b>Friday October 9</b>    | <b>12.10pm</b><br><b>6pm</b>                                | Suzanne Bunting (RIP)<br>Syro Malaba<br>Malayalam Mass               | St Denis &<br>Companions;<br>St John Leonardi                                |
| <b>Saturday October 10</b> | <b>9am</b>                                                  |                                                                      | Blessed Virgin Mary                                                          |
| <b>Sunday October 11</b>   | <b>6pm: Saturday</b><br><b>9am: Sunday</b>                  | Parishioners' Intentions<br>Terry Donovan (RIP)<br>Liz McLeod (RIP)  | <b>28th SUNDAY IN</b><br><b>ORDINARY TIME</b>                                |

## 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