



PARISH OF ST MARY, STAR OF THE SEA, GISBORNE

Catholic Diocese of Hamilton

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

22 December 2024

Our Gospel this Sunday is one of my favourites – the story of the visit of Mary to her cousin Elizabeth. It’s a story that can speak to us in many ways: of Mary’s courage and compassion, of Elizabeth and the child within her recognising the Lord, of hope and expectation, and of joy. It’s also a story that models the ministry of visitation – taking the Lord to others, being present for them. The Legion of Mary do this so well, as do those who take Communion to the sick and elderly. I am grateful to all of those in the parish who take the time to visit others, or simply check in by phone. You do Mary’s work!

This is the final newsletter for the year, and it is a good opportunity for me to thank everyone for your contribution to the life of the parish. I feel blessed to be a part of this parish, and to be able to call Gisborne “home” once again. Thank you all for finding room in the inn for me!

I want to thank our parish staff for all you do – Father Richard, Deacon Mike, Elaine Clark (and Lucy and Huia before her), and Mark O’Sullivan, our caretaker.

My thanks also to Sister Meg, Sister Cynthia and all the many ministers, volunteers and committee members who do so much – we are blessed!

It is good that some parishioners were able to attend the Carols Evening last Sunday at St Andrew’s – I completely forgot! Thanks to Sister Meg for stepping in for me.

Over Christmas, let’s remember those who have lost a loved one during the past year, and spend their first Christmas without them. May they know the Lord’s peace and consolation.

The Mass times over the holiday period are included in this newsletter – please put it on the fridge or under the teapot, for easy reference. (Note that there will not be a Friday Holy Hour until January 10.)

God bless you all in these final Advent days, and throughout the joyful days of Christmas.

Father Mark

Father Mark Field

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JUBILEE YEAR

The 2025 Jubilee Year begins on Christmas Eve with Pope Francis opening the Holy Door at St Peter’s Basilica in Rome. This is not a great time for us to launch the Holy Year in our parish or even in the Diocese, as everything shuts down for the summer – so we will wait until February to begin our own observation of the Holy Year . . . but the Jubilee banners will go up! (Bishop Richard will open Year of Jubilee in the Hamilton Diocese on Sunday, December 29.)



SPECIAL COLLECTION FOR VANUATU

Many of the RSE workers who join us for Mass each Sunday come from Vanuatu. We need to pray for them, for their families and for all who are rebuilding their lives. A special collection will be taken up at Masses this Sunday.

NEWSLETTER

This is the final newsletter for the year. The first newsletter for 2025 will be the newsletter for Sunday 19 January.

PARISH OFFICE

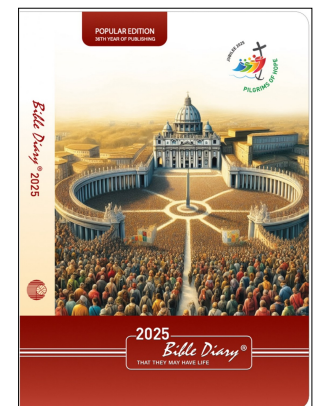
The Parish Office will close tomorrow, Monday, at 12.30pm, and will re-open in the New Year on Monday, January 13, 2025. All enquiries during that time to Father Mark or Father Richard. (Mark, our caretaker, will only be in on Mondays during that same period – so if you see something that needs doing, please help out.)

MATAWAI

Mass this morning is at 11.30am.

BIBLE DIARIES ARE HERE

The Bible Diaries have arrived and are available from Elaine in the Parish Office, \$20 per copy.



COLUMBAN CALENDARS

Some missed out on Columban Calendars for 2025 so we have a small number available from the Parish Office at \$15 each. (We will not be ordering any more.)

MASS TIMES IN THE DIOCESE

If you are travelling within our Diocese and want to know Mass times, go to <https://www.cdh.org.nz/churches-mass-times>

NEW YEAR'S DAY DAWN MASS AT MIDWAY BEACH NEAR THE BEACON, 5.45AM START

Volunteers are still needed to set-up the service at least 30 minutes before Mass begins at 5.45am. Anyone who can help should contact Jim and Kathy Langer on **027 8165 837** as soon as possible. **If you can, please bring a plate of fingerfood for a shared breakfast.**

The spot will be marked by a **yellow and white Papal flag** tied to a pole at the side of the road. Bring folding chairs, a rug, warm clothing and an umbrella in case of rain. *Please check the Parish app to see if rain is forecast, in case of cancellation.

PARISH-TO-PARISH BED & BREAKFAST

Catholics throughout New Zealand and a few in Australia host Catholics in their homes, a wonderful way for Catholics to meet and enjoy the company of other Catholics. A contribution of \$50 for one person, and \$30 for each additional guest, this is per night. Two people would pay \$80 per night. If you wish to purchase a book with the details of the hosts, the cost is \$15, includes postage. Contact or order from Marie Anderson, 2 Brent Place, Christchurch 8053; phone 027 2800 611; email marie.ian@xtra.co.nz

MEDJUGORJE IN-DEPTH

Join Mir Pilgrimages and chaplain Fr Joy Thottamkara on a group pilgrimage departing May 22, 2025 for 10 days and nights experiencing 'Medjugorje In-Depth'.

See your parish noticeboard or call Patricia Parsons on 027 421 9064.

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	Paul McGuinness (Principal)	(06) 867 9309

This Sunday's Readings:

Micah 5:1-4
Hebrews 10:5-10
Luke 1:39-44 Creed

Next Sunday's Readings:

Ecclesiasticus 3:2-6.12-14
Colossians 3:12-21
Luke 2:41-52 Creed

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** (08 868 6378) or **Shirley** (027 633 2320). 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 at 8.30am every morning, Except on Fridays when it is prayed at 11.25am .

Date	Mass Times	Intentions	Feast / Saint
Sunday 22 December	6pm Vigil (Saturday) 9am (Sunday)	Special Intention Extended Gillies Family Mary Parker (RIP)	Fourth Sunday of Advent
Monday 23 December			
Tuesday 24 December	No 9am Mass 6pm Vigil (Carols at 5.30pm) 10pm Mass In The Night	Parishioners' Intentions	
Wednesday 25 December	9am	Parishioners' Intentions	Christmas Day
Thursday 26 December	No Mass		
Friday 27 December	12.10 pm	Special Intention	St John
Saturday 28 December	9am Chapel		Holy Innocents
Sunday 29 December	6pm Vigil (Saturday) 9am (Sunday)	Father Richard	The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

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 11.25am
Saturday 9.30am
Or by appointment with one of the priests