



6th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Sunday 15th February 2026

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

The Season of Lent

This week the season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday. Lent is a season of penance in preparation for Easter and for celebrating Jesus' rising from the dead. Lent is not meant to be an easy season; it is meant to be a time of penance, reflection, and self-denial.

During Lent, we might choose to spend more time in prayer or take the opportunity to pray the Stations of the Cross, which will be held every **Friday at 7.00 pm at St Thomas More**. Lent may also be a time to give up foods we enjoy, to carry out acts of kindness for others, or to make a sacrifice by donating to the **Lenten Appeal** or to a charity of your choice. We might also decide to spend less time on our devices or watching television.

If we do nothing during Lent, even something small, then we do not truly enter into the season. Lent is about changing our hearts and returning again and again to the Father.

Ash Wednesday – 18th February

Mass Times:

9.00 am – St Thomas More

11.00 am – St Patrick's, Te Puke

7.00 pm – St Thomas More

Rite II Reconciliation for Lent - Friday 20th March

7.00 pm – St Thomas More

Kind regards,
Fr Eamon Kennedy

formed.org

A premier on-line platform filled with over 4,000 Catholic studies, movies, cartoons, audio dramas, eBooks, and talks – and it is FREE for every parishioner. **Please Note:** New Parish Login **Search: Parish of St Thomas Aquinas, Tauranga, New Zealand**

LENT 2026 with FOOD FOR FAITH

Visit www.foodforfaith.org.nz and sign up to receive daily email encouragements from Fr. John O'Connor. Prepared especially for those seeking greater maturity of faith.

Church Code of Conduct Survey

The Church Code of Conduct is an essential document used throughout the motu to support employees and volunteers in understanding expectations for their behaviour. It guides how we work, serve, and care for one another.

We are extending the timeframe on this survey to ask everyone in the Church - what in our Code of Conduct works well, and what could be strengthened?

Please share your perspectives via our brief online survey whether you are familiar with the Code or not. We also encourage you to share this invitation with others. You can read the existing document and complete the simple survey on the NOPS Reviews page: safeguarding.catholic.org.nz/reviews

CATHNEWS NEW ZEALAND: CathNews New Zealand shares the big news from the Catholic Church and stories of relevance to Catholics every Tuesday and Friday. Sign up for the free digital newsletter and read the latest stories at cathnewsnz.com



MISSION HUB: Our lives are full of moments where God's presence quietly guides, comforts, and inspires us. Sharing these experiences can uplift others, strengthen faith, and spark hope. This February, Mission Hub, in collaboration with the Catholic Enquiry Centre, is gathering online for Sharing Your Story – Testimony That Transforms. Join us to reflect on how telling our stories with honesty and humility can encourage others on their spiritual journey.

Monday 16 February

7:00–8:30pm (NZ time)

Online via Zoom. Everyone is invited to register here:

<https://bit.ly/february16webinar>

40 Days for Life

This Lent, become a 40 Days for Life Prayer Partner and spiritually unite with the global 40 Days for Life movement to pray for an end to abortion and to bear



witness to the dignity of every human person from conception - right where God has placed you.

From Ash Wednesday (18 February) to Palm Sunday (29 March).

Use the QR code to find the sign-up page

Carmelite Chapel Rebuild

The Carmelite Sisters in Christchurch are fundraising to rebuild their public chapel. Visit their webpage to view videos and find out more: <https://christchurchcarmel.org.nz/chapel-rebuild.html>. If you would like to contribute to this appeal, they would be very grateful.

Account Name: The Discalced Carmelite Nuns (Christchurch) Charitable Trust. **Account Number:** 03-1592-0216044-001

Pilgrimage of Mercy Women's Retreat with Sr Kat Stone MGL (Melbourne Australia) 29th -31st May 2026. St Francis Retreat Centre, Auckland. Bookings: <https://book.venue.life/stfrancis/register/pilgrimage-of-mercy-womens-retreat>

MARCH FOR LIFE 2026

The NZ National March has a new location this year. AUCKLAND Saturday 7th March. Gather from 1pm at the bottom of Queen St, Te Komititanga Square. March at 2pm up to Aotea Square.

Mothers Prayers

Meeting in the parish lounge on the first Friday of every month, during the school term, after 9am Mass.

Men's Prayer Group

Is held every Tuesday at 6am in the Parish Lounge. All men are welcome.

AA: Do you, or someone you love, have a problem with alcohol? Alcoholics Anonymous meet in the STM Parish Lounge every **Sunday** 6.30–7.30pm. All welcome.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION: Just got engaged? Visit <https://www.cdh.org.nz/marriage> for helpful information, available marriage preparation course dates and to register your interest.

ARE YOU BEING ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL? If you are admitted to Tauranga Hospital and would like to be visited by a hospital chaplain and or receive Holy Communion, please let the parish office know so this can be arranged. Please also ensure you enter on the Hospital Admittance form that you are a Roman Catholic.

PARISH OFFICE: Mrs Deearn Strawbridge admin@allsaintsbythesea.nz
9-1 pm Tue-Fri Ph 07 575 4807 (Ext 2) 17 Gloucester Rd, Mt Maunganui 3116.
Parish Priest: Fr Eamon Kennedy freamonkennedy@gmail.com
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Pastoral Worker: Mrs Heidi Nield pastoral@allsaintsbythesea.nz
WEB: www.allsaintsbythesea.nz www.facebook.com/catholiccoast/
APP: ChurchappsNZ – Allsaintsbythesea

St Thomas More Catholic School, Mt Maunganui 07 574 6782
Suzanne Aubert Catholic School, Papamoa 07 777 0438

Donations to: R.C. Bishop of Hamilton – Mt Maunganui Parish 02-0342-0050016-001
Or via ChurchAppsNZ

ROSARY is held at 9am on Mondays (no 9am Mass) & Tuesday to Saturday after the 9am Mass at STM Church.

PUBLIC ROSARY every Wednesday at 6pm, outside STM Church. For more information, please see <https://public-rosary.org/https://t.me/NZPrays>

ADORATION & BENEDICTION is held on Wednesday at STM Church after the 9am Mass.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION is Wednesday & Saturday 9.30am (after the 9am Mass)

MASSES FOR THIS COMING WEEK: Tues, Feb 17 to Sun, 22 Feb 2026

STM Church

9am Tues
9am & 7pm Wed **ASH WEDNESDAY**
9am Thurs
9am Fri
9am Sat
10am & 5pm Sun

SUNDAY READINGS 1st Sunday of Lent, 22nd February 2026

1st Genesis 2:7-9, 3:1-7 2nd Romans 5:12-19 Gospel: Matthew 4:1-11

St Patrick's Te Puke

5pm Sat Vigil (Reconciliation at 4.30pm before the 5pm Mass)

Suzanne Aubert School

8.30am Sun
11.30am **Maketū** (2nd Sun of month) & Liturgy (every 3rd Sun of month at 11.30am)

If you wish to have a Mass offered, contact the parish office & if you have a particular date that you would like the Mass offered, please "book" the Mass well in advance.