



## **Fifth Sunday of Easter, 3 May 2026**

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

### **THE LORD IS THE LIVING STONE**

Our second reading this Sunday (First Letter of St Peter 2:4–9) reminds us that Jesus is the living stone, the cornerstone, the keystone, whom we either accept or reject and stumble over. By believing in Jesus, the Living Stone and the Word, we become “a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation.”

Through our baptism, we share in this dignity and in Christ’s kingly, priestly, and prophetic mission. It is good for us to remind ourselves often that, because of our baptism, we truly are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, and a consecrated people. These are not just words, but a truth about who we are in God’s eyes.

Kind regards,

Fr Eamon Kennedy

### **SEMINARY APPEAL 2026**

You will find a brochure in the foyer titled Seminary Appeal 2026 – Hope Grows Here, which explains how you can contribute and why your support is so important. At present, we have four seminarians in formation, and your generosity helps make their journey possible. Thank you in advance for your prayerful and financial support in helping to form future priests for our diocese.

### **MESSY FAMILY PROJECT**

We are so excited to be welcoming Mike and Alicia Hernon from the Messy Family Project to our diocese this May. If you’ve ever wondered how to build a strong family life in the middle of the everyday mess... this is for you. Their talk on Growing a Family Culture is all about the reality of family life — how the small, often unseen things in our homes shape our children, our relationships, and the kind of family we become. Not through perfection, but through intention. They’ll be sharing five key elements that help create a family culture that is strong, faith-filled, and lived out day by day.

St Thomas More Catholic School Gathering Space, Mount Maunganui – Thursday 14 May, 7.00pm

Cathedral of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish Hall, Hamilton – Friday 15 May, 7.00pm. All are welcome - no registration required.

## **PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES AND TAX RECEIPTS**

Planned Giving envelopes are now available for collection from the foyer at St Thomas More. If your envelopes are missing, please contact the Parish office by email or phone.

Tax receipts have been emailed out. If you have not received yours, please contact the Parish by email.

## **GROUP OF PARISHIONERS VISITING RESIDENTS**

At Bishop Richard's encouragement in the **Easter Kete Kōrero**, you are invited to consider becoming part of a group of parishioners who visit residents in one of our local care homes.

This is a new initiative, involving approximately two hours a week, or as you are able. Many residents in care homes have few, if any, visitors, and their interactions with staff are often brief and practical. The aim is simply for volunteers to spend time in the lounge, perhaps sharing a cup of coffee and chatting with those who are present in a quiet and respectful way. A listening ear is the only requirement.

If you are interested, please call 027 227 8325 or email [dobsoncl@xtra.co.nz](mailto:dobsoncl@xtra.co.nz) to express your interest. Lorraine Dobson.

## **SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION FOR CHILDREN**

This programme is for families who are interested in their children becoming members of the Catholic Church. It is designed for children over the age of 9 who have not been baptised as Catholics.

Lessons will begin Sunday June 21st and will run through until after Easter 2027. If you are interested in enrolling your child or learning more about this programme, please contact Heidi at: [pastoral@allsaintsbythesea.nz](mailto:pastoral@allsaintsbythesea.nz)

## **MONSIGNOR FRANK 80TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION**

Mass at the Cathedral of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Saturday 9 May, 11.00 am. All welcome, please bring a plate of food to share in the Cathedral Hall following Mass. If you are able to please email [jo.eggleton@gmail.com](mailto:jo.eggleton@gmail.com) to RSVP.

## **500 CARDS**

We play 500 each Wednesday in the Church centre 1 pm – 4 pm. You are welcome to join us. Contact Barbara 572 4962 or 027 216 9066.

## **CALLED AND GIFTED**

The Holy Spirit has gifted each of us with charisms – spiritual gifts given for the service of others and the mission of the Church.

*Called and Gifted* is a prayerful and practical process that helps participants discern how God is inviting them to serve through the unique gifts He has given them. Rooted in Scripture and the Church's tradition of discernment, this workshop offers time for prayer, teaching, reflection and discussion.

We are excited to gather at St Mary Immaculate Church, Tauranga, on 25 June 2026.

## **RCIA – RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS**

Have you or someone you know asked about 'Becoming a Catholic'?

Do any of these describe you?

- . Are you interested in learning more about Christianity and the Catholic Church?
- . Are you a baptised Catholic who has not yet received First Holy Communion or Confirmation?
- . Are you married to a Catholic and attend Mass, but just do not know what the next step may be in becoming Catholic?
- . Would you like to better support your children at a Catholic school?

Come and join us. Please express your interest by contacting Heidi Nield (Faith Formation Coordinator) 5754807 Ext 6 or Email: [pastoral@allsaintsbythesea.nz](mailto:pastoral@allsaintsbythesea.nz)

## **MEN'S PRAYER GROUP**

Is held every **Tuesday at 6.00 am** in the Parish Lounge. All men are welcome.

**AA:** Do you, or someone you love, have a problem with alcohol?

Alcoholics Anonymous meet STM Parish Lounge every **Sunday 6.30–7.30pm**. All welcome.

**formed.org:** A premier, online 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**

**ROSARY** is held at 9.00 am on Mondays (no 9.00 am Mass) & Tuesday to Saturday after the 9.00 am Mass at STM Church.

**PUBLIC ROSARY** Every Wednesday at 6.00 pm, 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 9.00 am Mass.

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION** is Wednesday & Saturday 9.30 am (after the 9.00 am Mass)

**PARISH OFFICE:** Ph 07 575 4807 (Ext 2)

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17 Gloucester Rd, Mt Maunganui 3116.

**Parish Priest:** Fr Eamon Kennedy

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**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

**Masses for this coming week: Tues, 5<sup>th</sup> May to Sun, 10<sup>th</sup> May**

**St Thomas More Catholic Church**

9 am Tuesday    Mr. and Mrs. Alan Paterson (RIP)

9 am Wednesday    Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Warn (RIP)

9 am Thursday    Mr. and Mrs. Neuman Leet (RIP)

9 am Friday    Sydney Helsby (RIP)

9 am Saturday    Peter and Sarah O’Meeghan (RIP)

10 am and 5 pm Sunday

**Sunday readings: Fifth Sunday of Easter, 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2026**

Acts 6:1-7, Psalm 33, 1<sup>st</sup> Letter to Peter 2:4-9, John 14:1-12

**St Patrick’s Catholic Church Te Puke**

5.00 pm Saturday Vigil

**Suzanne Aubert School, Papamoa**

8.30am Sunday

**St Peter’s Catholic Church Maketū**

11.30am (2<sup>nd</sup> Sun of month) & Liturgy (3<sup>rd</sup> Sun of month)

*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.*