



## **Fourth Sunday of Advent, Sunday 21 December 2025**

*Dear Parishioners and Friends,*

### **Alpha**

Last week our Alpha programme finished. A big thank you to Heidi and her team of helpers who prepared and served the food, helped run the programme, and to all those who have been praying for God's blessing on Alpha. The next Alpha programme will begin at the start of October next year.

### **Wishing You a Blessed Christmas**

On behalf of Fr Sojan and myself, I wish you all a blessed and peaceful Christmas. A sincere thank you to everyone involved in the Christmas Masses. Your generous service is greatly appreciated.

Please note that the Parish Office will be closed from **24th December to 20th January 2026**.

Kind regards,  
*Fr Eamon Kennedy*

**SCRIPTURE FOCUS THIS ADVENT:** NZCBC in collaboration with Fr Frank Bird invites you to prepare for Sunday Mass by reading and reflecting on the Scripture we will hear that weekend. Marist priest Fr Frank Bird has for several years been helping people make those preparations through his Living the Word project. As the name suggests, Living the Word is an invitation for Catholics and others to allow the Word of God to shape their lives. You can download the resources, and access other rich content, at [www.livingtheword.org.nz/pray](http://www.livingtheword.org.nz/pray)

### **Sacramental Program 2026**

A final enrolment evening for 2026 Sacramental program will be held on **Tuesday 3rd February at 7pm** in the St Thomas More church centre. Please bring a copy of your child's Baptism certificate.

**MIR PILGRIMAGES TO MEDJUGORJE IN 2026:** Two departures tentatively planned for the first two weeks in **June and October 2026**. Take the opportunity to extend your stay in Europe post-pilgrimage. Expressions of

interest are welcome by using the contact form on: [www.pilgrimage.nz](http://www.pilgrimage.nz) or emailing: [info@mirpilgrimages.co.nz](mailto:info@mirpilgrimages.co.nz)

**"CALLED BY NAME" CATHOLIC YOUTH CAMP:** for 11–13 year-olds. Join us at Waitawheta Camp for a summer adventure. Make friends, deepen your faith, and have a break from Mum and Dad! **January 18-21, 2026.** More info and registrations here: <https://www.eventzilla.net/e/called-by-name-2026-2138677969> Or text CAMP to 0274279921 for details.

**SAVE THE DATE:** Joshua Catholic Men's Fellowship (JCMF) 40-year celebration in August 2026

JCMF celebrate our 40-year anniversary this year and will do so on 14-16 August in Rotorua, with 15 August 1986 being the date of our original gathering. The venue in Rotorua and the keynote speaker is booked and we are busy with planning and preparing the event. More to come in 2026.

### **SITUATIONS VACANT:**

**Family Life International** is seeking an Operations Manager to support the daily operations of our pro-life, pro-family mission. Ideal for someone with strong organisational abilities, solid business skills, and a heart for service. To express interest contact Michelle Kaufman [michelle@fli.org.nz](mailto:michelle@fli.org.nz) or visit [fli.org.nz/join-our-team](http://fli.org.nz/join-our-team)

### **Catholic Enquiry Centre: (Three Part-time Roles)**

The Catholic Enquiry Centre (an agency of the NZ Catholic Bishops Conference) is expanding its digital outreach in 2026 and is seeking passionate, faith-filled people to join the team:

- Digital Ministry Specialist (Content & Platform) – oversee CEC’s website and social media, creating content that helps people explore faith.
- Digital Ministry Specialist (Media Production) – create short videos, testimonies, and reels introducing Catholic faith and traditions.
- Resource & Enquiry Support Officer – respond to enquirers and coordinate the dispatch of printed resources across Aotearoa.

All roles are part-time (0.4 FTE) and may be remote or Wellington-based. Expressions of interest to [carly@catholicenquiry.nz](mailto:carly@catholicenquiry.nz) by **Fri 9 Jan 2026**. Roles may be filled sooner for the right candidates.

### **Catholic Diocese of Christchurch: Chief Finance Officer**

The Diocese is looking to recruit a Chief Finance Officer (CFO) to lead a passionate and committed team and be a key strategic partner in shaping the future of the Catholic Diocese of Christchurch. Email [applications@cdoc.nz](mailto:applications@cdoc.nz) or ph: Annette Pugh 03 378 3647.

**formed.org** is 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. Enter parish code GNQDK3 or All Saints by the Sea.

**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.

**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:** Wednesday & Saturday 9.30am (after the 9am Mass).

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY:**

There will be **NO** Children's Liturgy during school holidays



**PARISH OFFICE:** Mrs Deearn Strawbridge admin@allsaintsbythesea.nz  
9-12pm Tue-Fri Ph 07 575 4807 (Ext 2) 17 Gloucester Rd, Mt Maunganui 3116.

**Parish Priest:** Fr Eamon Kennedy freamonkenedy@gmail.com

**Assistant Priest:** Fr Sojan Abraham sojancmf@gmail.com

**Pastoral:** 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**

## **CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES 2025:**

### **Christmas Eve**

Please note: There will be no 9.00am Mass at St Thomas More on 24 December.

*Christmas Carols will be sung before each Mass*

St Patrick's, Te Puke: Vigil 5.00pm

St Peter's, Maketū LITURGY: 5.30pm with Christmas story. Carols: 5.00pm

St Thomas More, Mt Maunganui: Vigil 6.00pm & 9.00pm

### **Christmas Day**

Suzanne Aubert, Papamoa: 8.30am

St Thomas More, Mt Maunganui: 10.00am

### **New Year's Day**

St Peter's Church, Maketū LITURGY: 10:00am

St Peter's Church, Maketū

LAST 2025 LITURGY Sun, 21 Dec 2025 11:30am

## **READINGS The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph, 28 December 2025**

1<sup>st</sup> Ecclesiasticus 3:2-6, 12-14 2<sup>nd</sup> Colossians 3:12 -21 Gospel: Matthew 2:13-15,19-23

## **MASSES FOR THIS COMING WEEK: Tues, 23 Dec to Sun, 28 Dec 2025**

### STM Church

9am Tues Allan & Colleen Rook RIP

9am Wed

### **10am CHRISTMAS DAY**

9am Fri Horace Retter RIP

9am Sat Mr & Mrs Arthur Lowrie RIP

10am & 5pm Sun

### 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 (2<sup>nd</sup> Sun of month) & Liturgy (every 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.*