



**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent, Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2026**

*Dear Parishioners and Friends,*

### **Those who are becoming Catholic**

During Lent, we journey as a community with those who are preparing to become part of the Church at the Easter Vigil in our parish and throughout the diocese. This weekend the Catechumens and Candidates will be with Bishop at the Cathedral for the Rite of Election and the Rite of Welcome. Please keep in your prayers those who will become Catholic this Easter, and all who are on this journey of faith.

### **Rite II Reconciliation for Lent – Friday 20th March**

7.00 pm – St Thomas More

Kind regards,  
*Fr Eamon Kennedy*

### **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**

### **LENT 2026 with FOOD FOR FAITH**

Visit [www.foodforfaith.org.nz](http://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.

**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](http://cathnewsnz.com)



## **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.

## **St. Vincent de Paul Food Drive – Living Our Faith Through Service**

“Whatever you did for one of the least brothers of mine, you did for me.”

Matthew 25:40

Beginning next Sunday throughout March our St. Vincent de Paul Society Conference invites you to participate in our Food Drive to assist families in our community who are struggling to put food on the table. Through your generosity, we can bring hope, dignity, and nourishment to those facing difficult times. Our Conference members will be handing out brown bags after Mass next Sunday and donations may be placed under our flag in the foyer. If you find it easier, we have found food vouchers extremely well received. We can use these to purchase food items to include in food boxes and to enable recipients with specific dietary needs to meet those.

As a parish family, let us come together to be the hands and feet of Christ to our neighbours in need. Your kindness truly makes a difference.

## **Join our Bishops and other people of faith to explore the Gospels of Lent online**

Parishioners are warmly invited to take part in the Lent Webinar Series 2026, a six-week national online journey with New Zealand’s Catholic Bishops. Through prayer, reflection and sharing, Caritas and the Bishops of Aotearoa invite you to join us for a journey through Lent, in the light of the Gospel and the needs of our world. Hear what the Lord is asking of us in our moment of time. Each session includes guided reflection, insights from Catholic social teaching, and moments for quiet contemplation as we prepare our hearts for Easter.

To register, simply scan the QR code on the poster or visit the Caritas website.

[www.caritas.org.nz/lent-webinars](http://www.caritas.org.nz/lent-webinars)

## **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 7<sup>th</sup> March. Gather from 1pm at the bottom of Queen St, Te Komititanga Square. March at 2pm up to Aotea Square.

### **Cards 500 Group**

All are welcome to join in on an afternoon of cards playing 500. Wednesdays from 12.45pm-4pm weekly. Contact Barbara Jansen

### **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.

**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>

**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  
**Assistant Priest:** Fr Sojan Abraham sojancmf@gmail.com  
**Pastoral Worker:** Mrs Heidi Nield pastoral@allsaintsbythesea.nz

**WEB:** www.allsaintsbythesea.nz www.facebook.com/catholiccoast/

**APP:** Churchapps.nz – 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 ChurchApps.nz

**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 24 to Sun, 1 March 2026**

**STM Church**

9am Tues Lloyd Caesar RIP  
9am Wed  
9am Thurs  
9am Fri  
9am Sat  
10am & 5pm Sun Peter Downer RIP (5pm)

**SUNDAY READINGS 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent, 1<sup>st</sup> March 2026**

1<sup>st</sup> Genesis 12:1-4, 3:1-7 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 1:8-10 Gospel: Matthew 17:1-9

**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.*