



Ascension Sunday, 17 May 2026

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

ASCENSION OF THE LORD

The Gospel this Sunday for the Feast of the Ascension of the Lord reminds us of the mission and purpose of the Church: to go forth, make disciples, baptise, and teach. We all have a part to play in the mission of the Church to make disciples.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION AND CONFIRMATION

This Sunday we welcome Bishop Richard Laursen, the children and their families, and any special guests to our parish as the children make their First Holy Communion and receive the Sacrament of Confirmation at the 10.00 am Sunday Mass at St Thomas More.

A big thank you to Heidi Nield, our pastoral worker, for running the Sacramental Programme, and to those kind parishioners who taught the children. Please keep these children and their parents in your prayers as they continue this important journey of faith.

PENTECOST SUNDAY

On Pentecost Sunday, at the 10.00 am Mass at St Thomas More, a small group of children will receive the Sacraments of Initiation. Let us also pray for these children and their families, and that many more will begin their journey of faith and grow into full and active members of the Church.

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.

WANTED CATECHISTS – RCIC (Sacraments of Initiation)

Are you interested in joining a 'team of catechists' in helping teach children in the Catholic Faith? We would love to hear from you. Please contact Heidi for further information at pastoral@allsaintsbythesea.nz

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE

The CWL meeting on May 21st will be combining with Whakatane who are hosting WUCWO world day of pray. Meet in the church car park at 9.45 for shared rides. Raffle money would be appreciated.

DIVINE WILL CENACLE MEETING

On Wednesdays after Benediction, 10 a.m. Find out the reason for your creation. Contact Peter: 021 415 536

FRIDAY MORNING COFFEE CONNECT

Please join us for a social morning tea gathering after the 9am STM School Mass on Friday 22 May. This coffee morning will be held regularly on the 4th Friday of the month during term time, strengthening our Parish and School communities.

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. If you are interested, please call 027 227 8325 or email 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

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.

We are excited to gather at St Mary Immaculate Church, Tauranga, on 25 June 2026. Contact alisonc@cdh.org.nz

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

ACCOMMODATION WANTED

Young Catholic lady 35years of age starting a job on 25th May, 2026 at 15th Avenue in Tauranga, is looking for accommodation/ fully furnished room or unit. Thank you FYI- Rent, electricity and water included as her budget is only \$250. Please contact Lisa 021 2061515

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) admin@allsaintsbythesea.nz
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

Masses for this coming week: Tues, 19th May to Sun, 24th May

St Thomas More Catholic Church

9 am Tuesday Mr. and Mrs. Charles Bailey (RIP)
9 am Wednesday Eve Franklin (RIP)
9 am Thursday Teresa Kent (for her health)
9 am Friday Joyce Pierard & Family (RIP)
9 am Saturday Josephine Fernandes (RIP)
10 am and 5 pm Sunday

Sunday readings: Ascension Sunday, 17th May 2026

Acts 1:1-11, Psalm 47, Ephesians 1:17-23, Matthew 28:16-20

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 (2nd Sun of month) & Liturgy (3rd 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.