



First Sunday of Advent, Sunday 30 November 2025

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

A gathering after the 10.00 am Mass at St Thomas More

This Sunday, the First Sunday of Advent, everyone is invited for a cup of tea and refreshments after the 10.00 am Mass at St Thomas More as we gather to celebrate the beginning of a new liturgical year. Please bring some finger food to share.

Christmas timetable

Please note that the Christmas timetable for this year has changed slightly.

Our Rite II Reconciliation for our parish and Tauranga will be held as follows:

7.00 pm – Thursday, 11th December at St Mary Immaculate, Tauranga

7.00 pm – Friday, 12th December at St Thomas More

It is a good practice to go to Confession in preparation for Christmas.

Vocations retreat for men

Please keep in your prayers the upcoming retreat for men discerning a vocation, which will take place from 5th to 7th December at the Cluny Retreat Centre in Tauranga.

Kind regards,

Fr Eamon Kennedy

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME 2026:

The Sacramental Programme will begin in (Term1) February 2026 for children that are Baptised Catholic in preparation to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Confirmation & First Holy Communion.

Parent Information and Enrolment meetings are in the Parish Lounge at St Thomas More Church (**parents need only attend one meeting**).

Tuesday, 2nd December at 7pm

Tuesday, 9th December at 7pm

NB: Please bring along a copy of your child's Baptism certificate to the enrolment meeting).

If you require further information please contact: pastoral@allsaintsbythesea.nz

THE MASS OF REMEMBRANCE FOR OUR DECEASED CLERGY: will be held on **Tue, 9 Dec, at 11:00am**, St Patrick's Catholic Church, Te Awamutu. All are welcome to attend. A blessing of the graves at the Ōhaupō Catholic Cemetery will follow. As always, we issue caution with attending this due to the limited parking and access of the very busy SH3. Carpool where possible.

This Mass is being held in the same week as the 20 year anniversary of the passing of Pihopa Max Takuiria Matthew Mariu SM DD CNZM who was the Auxiliary Bishop of Hamilton. He was ordained as the first Māori Catholic Bishop in 1988.

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

ST THOMAS MORE SCHOOL SURVEY: We are creating a new strategic plan for 2026 – 2028. To help create this vision, we would be grateful for your voice. As members of wider Catholic whānau, your perspective on what we value and our future aspirations is incredibly important. We warmly welcome your thoughts and ideas. You can complete a hardcopy of our survey and pop it in the collection box in the church foyer, bring it over to the school office, or you can access the survey online: [\[Click Here for our Online Survey\]](#). Consultations close **Fri, 19 Dec**. Thank you for your partnership.

"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.

REQUEST FOR MINISTRIES: Some more people are needed for the Flower Roster, the Morning Tea roster, the Children's Liturgy roster, and Collectors for the Sunday 10am mass. If you would like to be part of these please contact the office. Thank you for your service to these ministries.

ST PATRICKS FAMILY GROUP: Meeting **Sat, 6 Dec. 12 noon**. 11b Kairua Rd for shared finger food lunch. Any queries ring Merrilyn 5754148.

BAPTISM COURSE: Will be held on **Mon, 1 Dec** from **7-9pm** at the STM Parish centre. This course is for **Catholic** parents who are wanting their child (aged 6 years & under) to receive the Sacrament of Baptism. If you wish to attend, please register your name with the parish office.

CHRISTMAS TREE FUNDRAISER FOR ST THOMAS MORE SCHOOL:

Order your Christmas Tree through our School PTFA! Trees will be delivered in the second week of December. The trees range from 5.5ft to 7ft and will be the same price at \$70 each. The trees are lovely and come beautifully shaped. The school will receive \$15 from every tree sold. All proceeds will go towards new chrome books for our students. To order your tree, please email our PTFA - ptfa@stm.school.nz - thank you for your support.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS GIFT DRIVE FOR CHILDREN:

We extend our sincere gratitude to the many of you who supported our Christmas Toy Drive with gifts and financial contributions. Your compassion and generosity are a beautiful reflection of Christ's love in action. Because of you, families and especially children in our wider community will know the joy and hope of Christmas. You truly reflect the heart of our Parish family.

INTERESTED IN THE PRIESTHOOD: Are you a single man who yearns to follow Him as one of His priests? Come - join Bishop Richard as he, Fr Adam and Fr Isaac lead a retreat to help you discern your vocation. **Fri, 5 Dec – Sun, 7 Dec**, Cluny Retreat Centre. Contact the Vocations team for expressions of interest, questions and registration: vocations@cdh.org.nz

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

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.

PARISH OFFICE: Mrs Julie Orsler 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: Churchapps.nz – Allsaintsbythesea

St Thomas More Catholic School, Mt Maunganui 07 574 6782

Suzanne Aubert Catholic School, Papamoa East 07 777 0438

formed.org is a premier on-line platform filled with over 4,000 Catholic studies, movies, cartoons, audio dramas, ebooks, and talks – and it's **FREE** for every parishioner. Enter parish code GNQDK3 or All Saints by the Sea.

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).

READINGS 2nd Sunday of Advent, 7 December 2025

1. Isaiah 11:1-10 **2.** Romans 15:4-9 **Gospel:** Matthew 3:1-12

MASSES FOR THIS COMING WEEK: Tues, 2 Dec to Sun, 7 Dec 2025

STM Church

9am Tues

9am Wed

9am Thurs

9am Fri

9am Sat

Margaret Mead RIP

10am & 5pm Sun

St Patrick's Te Puke

5pm Sat Vigil

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.