



3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Sunday 25 January 2026

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

Word of God Sunday

This Sunday we celebrate Word of God Sunday, an opportunity to reflect on the Word of God and to renew our commitment to read and pray with Scripture each day. Pope Benedict XVI said, “If all Catholics read the Scriptures, there would be a new springtime in the Church.” As well as the Bible and the weekday and Sunday Missals, there are also apps that can help us read the daily readings, such as *Universalis*, which also provides the Prayer of the Church and a short commentary on the Saint of the Day.

We do not need to read a large amount of Scripture. Even one to twelve verses are enough. The key is to read slowly, pausing at the end of each verse. This is prayer and is a simple and meaningful way of praying with the Scriptures.

Kind regards,
Fr Eamon Kennedy

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 or emailing: info@mirpilgrimages.co.nz

St Michael's Troops - Saturday 7 February 2026, Auckland

Do you long for authentic brotherhood and a space to grow deeper in faith alongside other men? St Michael's Troops is an event for men aged 18-35 seeking strength, discipline, and purpose rooted in Christ. This morning event in Auckland includes Mass and formation, physical activity, and a shared BBQ. Join us, and bring a mate. Register now at kingdomfitnz.com Early bird - \$25

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.

Franciscan Renaissance with Patrick Carolan

Monday, 16 February 2026, 7-8pm. Zoom (Koha/Donation).

Register to receive the Zoom link: www.studyjoy.nz/2026/01/08/franciscan-renaissance/

Crisis Pregnancy & Healing. Interview with Catherine Gillies.

<https://www.studyjoy.nz/2026/01/18/crisis-pregnancy-healing-muffin-talk-with-catherine-gillies/>

For more information: **www.studyjoy.nz**

Did you know...

that we are now in the Jubilee Year of St Francis of Assisi who died 800 years ago? On the Vatican website, Fr Marek Weresa reflects: "The figure of Saint Francis is particularly valuable in the context of spiritual fatigue. He does not propose "more practices," but simplicity and authenticity: a return to personal reading of the Gospel, joy in small things, a faith lived in relationships, not only in events."

formed.org

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.

Please Note: Our parish login is now **Parish: St Thomas Aquinas**

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.

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.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Children's Liturgy will resume from Sunday 1st February.

'Liturgy of the Word' for the children is for school aged children from age 5 upwards.

If anyone is interested in being part of this worthwhile

Children's Ministry, then please contact

Heidi: pastoral@allsaintsbythesea.nz

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)

Adults taking part in adult faith formation to

'Become Catholic' are gathering again on Thursday evenings at 7pm in the church center beginning on Thursday 29th January

If you or someone you know would like to take this step

on this faith journey then please contact Heidi at

pastoral@allsaintsbythesea.nz with your interest.

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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.

Feast days coming up this week:

28 January St Thomas Aquinas

His prayer;

*“Grant me, O Lord my God,
a mind to know you,
a heart to seek you,
wisdom to find you,
conduct pleasing to you,
faithful perseverance in waiting for you,
and a hope of finally embracing you. Amen.”*

PARISH OFFICE: Mrs Deearn Strawbridge admin@allsaintsbythesea.nz
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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

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 is Wednesday & Saturday 9.30am (after the 9am Mass)

READINGS Fourth Week Ordinary Time, 1 February 2026

1st Zephaniah 2:3; 3:12-13 2nd 1 Corinthians 1:26-31 Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12

MASSES FOR THIS COMING WEEK: Tues, 27 Jan to Sun, 1 Feb 2026

STM Church

9am Tues

9am Wed

9am Thurs

9am Fri

9am Sat

Herbert D Lawance 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** (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.