YOU'RE INVITED! TO THE

parish of
St Thomas Aquinas

SUNDAY MASS
November 15th, 2026

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Cycle A)

(Incorporating St Joseph's Church, Te Puna and St Mary Immaculate Church, Tauranga)

Welcome to the feast of eternal life! We are near the end of our liturgical year, and we live in the end times—as we have for two thousand years.

The Church gives us today's readings to remind us of—and teach us about—two key realities: eternal life after death, and the reward awaiting the servants of the Master. Today's Gospel is a parable from Matthew, the converted tax collector, recording the words of our Savior. It is paired with a first reading from the Book of Proverbs about the worthy wife—a perennial favorite. It is helpful for us to realize that this worthy wife can be understood not only in the literal sense, as an individual woman, but also as the individual soul—or the Church as a whole—striving to love and remain devoted to her Bridegroom, Christ the Lord. In this light, we see the deep connection between the two readings.

As Catholics we believe in life after death. As this parable makes explicit, sharing in the Master's happiness is our ultimate reward. Yet there is also an important call to active participation: we are called to do the Lord's will by performing good works in accordance with the gifts and "talents" entrusted to us. In the time of Jesus, a talent was actually a large sum of money—worth upwards of 15 to 20 years of a laborer's daily wages. By that measure, the servant given five talents received the equivalent of around a century's worth of wages.

We have all been given a generous portion, and we are called to use it to serve the Lord. If we bury our gifts instead of investing them in others, we will feel—when Jesus returns, or when we go to meet him—as though he is taking something away from us rather than welcoming us into his rest.

Let us be diligent, intelligent, and wise with the talents entrusted to us. And let us build up others so that they, too, may answer the great call to invest in the work of our good Master and Bridegroom, Christ the Lord.



Feast of Christ the King 22nd November
Adoration from 4pm to 5pm before Saturday Vigil (21st November).



Christmas Mass times available on our Parish website, click here.

Bishops Appeal this Sunday: Support your Bishop and His Diocese mission, of which you are called to participate please. Click here for further information or to donate.

Father Isaac
Assistant Parish Priest

Click here for the Sunday readings /15th November 2026
First Reading from the book of Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31
Second Reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians 5:1-6
Gospel: Matthew 25: 14-30



SVDP

"Vinnies Food Bank Desperately Need Food "

"Help us Help People" with Christmas approaching fast we are desperate for basic food for our FoodBank, we are the only organisation open throughout Christmas and this will put added pressure on SVDP. We are having a food drive starting on the weekend Masses on the 21st and 22nd of November and continuing through to December, our Vincentians will be giving out large brown paper bags at these masses so please generously donate with food items for those in need this Christmas. Return them to 766 Cameron road Vinnies Support Office or bring back to church.....get your kids involved to help pick suitable items to go in the bags....

Items needed.....

- tea bags, coffee, everything tinned, eg baked beans, tomatoes, corn, fruit, also tinned tuna, pasta & pasta sauce, soups, all spreads , cereals, rice, instant noodles, biscuits, muesli bars, small packs of raisins and children's snacks, and treats for Christmas.

All bathroom items -soaps, sanitary supplies, hair care, shower wash, flannels, toothpaste and toothbrushes, plus all house hold cleaning supplies....

Please give generously this Christmas to make a difference.

please contact Support Office for pickups or questions helpfromvinnies@gmail)

TAURANGA SHC OLD BOYS REUNION

To be held Monday 23rd November, 1pm, in the Raft American Sports Bar, 65 Chapel Street (off the Motorway at foot of the Harbour Bridge). Not necessary to advise attendance. Ashley Hayes 021 634 786; Peter O.'Connor 027 448 6638.

OUR PARISH, OUR HOME

Our Parish, Our Home

We are delighted to share some wonderful news! Our fundraising total is now $293,233.25. This is an incredibly encouraging start and brings us another step closer to achieving our $1.1 million fundraising target by July 2027.

We are truly grateful for the generosity and support shown by our parish community. If you have made a pledge but have not yet heard from our Fundraising Committee, please bear with us as we work through these as quickly as possible. Every contribution, no matter the size, is greatly appreciated and plays an important part in achieving our shared vision.

We are also excited to announce that our updated fundraising webpage is now live. This will be a central place for parishioners to follow our renovation plans, fundraising progress and latest news. You can also watch the full video of our appeal launch morning tea if you were unable to attend.

Visit:www.taurangamoanacatholic.nz/fundraising/

Thank you once again for your generosity, encouragement and prayers. Together, we are building a lasting legacy for future generations.

Blessings

The Finance and Fundraising Committee

Click here for access to the **FORMED WEBSITE** *(the Catholic faith on demand)*

Click here for the **CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF HAMILTON**

"Clearly" *from the Hamilton Diocese, stay connected with the life and mission of our Diocese*

HAMILTON DIOCESE



This Sunday, we are invited to support the **Bishop's Appeal 2026,** "Our Part in His Mission". The Appeal helps support faith formation, youth ministry, families and pastoral work across our Diocese. You can find more information and make a donation through our new diocesan website at cdh.org.nz/giving. Thank you for your prayer and generosity.

Safeguarding / NOPS is offering an online Strengthening our Culture of Safeguarding Workshop over the next few weeks. These are scheduled for the following day and time: Wednesday 25 November, 7.00pm - 8.30pm. To register: safeguarding@nops.org.nz

Alpha Ignite 2026 / Registrations are now open for Alpha Ignite. Come and hear Clare Bell, Alpha NZ's Catholic Engagement Manager, speak about how to use Alpha to ignite your parish. This event is for parish clergy, lay leadership, those responsible for evangelisation, and anyone interested in hearing how Alpha can help build their parish. Saturday 28 November 2026, 11.00am – 3.00pm. Pompallier Diocesan Centre, 30 New Street, Ponsonby, Auckland. Lunch and refreshments provided. Register: www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/alpha-ignite-2026

A Vocations Retreat for Men

Are you a single man who yearns to follow Christ as one of His priests?
Join Bishop Richard, Fr Adam and Fr Isaac for a retreat to help you discern your vocation. Friday 4 – Sunday 6 December. Cluny Retreat Centre, Tauranga. For expressions of interest, questions or registration, contact the Vocations team at vocations@cdh.org.nz
"Do not be afraid! Accept the invitation of the Church and of Christ the Lord!"
— Pope Leo XIV

Grow in Worship – OHP Worship Academy 2027. Applications are open for the One Hope Project Worship Academy, a six-month online programme for musicians, worship leaders and songwriters wanting to grow in faith, confidence and ministry. Read about Ann-Maree Fernandes' experience from Tongariro Catholic. Her takeaway? "It's all worship" – and prayer comes before performance. February – August 2027. Online, with sessions in NZ time. More information and applications: www.onehopeproject.co.uk/ohpacademy-nz



CathNews NEW ZEALAND

CathNews New Zealand. To sign up for free digital newsletter cathnewsnz.com

Click here for access to the Parish **ANCHOR** Magazine

Download our Church App
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Church Apps snApp mobile

Simple free download: In Google Play & App Store search **'ChurchAppsNZ'** & choose **our church** once installed

Phone: (07) 578 6209
Email: office@taurangamoanacatholic.nz
Website: www.taurangamoanacatholic.nz

Click here for information regarding **DONATIONS** or Planned Giving to the Parish.
The Parish account number is: 02 0342 0050032 000
Account name: RC Bishop of Hamilton – Tauranga

Parish Priest:
Fr. Arnold Punzalan
email:
frarnold@taurangamoanacatholic.nz

Assistant Parish Priest:
Fr. Isaac Fransen
email:
frisaac@taurangamoanacatholic.nz

Parish Finance Chairman:
Ashley Hayes (021 634 786)

Hospital Chaplain:
Leanne Brooks (021 056 3326)

SCHOOLS:
Aquinas College (543 2400)
Principal: Matthew Dalton
DRS:Marley Mackay

St Mary's School (578 8066)
Principal: Fay Warnock
DRS/AP: Donna Vincent

ST VINCENT DE PAUL
Mary Elmiger / ph. 021 022 43443
Support Centre / ph. 578 3814

COMPASSIO Services / Life-changing Counselling for the Catholic community. CONTACT: Gabi/Gabrielle Daly to book an appt, and for Fee info. 02111-26804.

WEEKDAY AND WEEKEND MASS TIMES

These times are subject to change
(Click here to access Mass Times on the Parish Website)

Monday: 5.30pm/St Mary Immaculate(Chapel)
LITURGY OF THE WORD
Tuesday: 5.30pm/St Mary Immaculate (main church)
Wednesday: 9.15am/St Therese Bethlehem
Wednesday: 11.00am/Aquinas College Chapel
Thursday: 9am/St Mary's School Chapel
Thursday: 5.30pm/St Mary Immaculate (main church)
Friday: 8.00am/St Joseph's Te Puna
Friday: 12.10pm/St Mary Immaculate Church

Saturday Vigil: 5.00pm/Omokoroa Community Church
Saturday Vigil: 5.00pm/St Mary Immaculate
Sunday: 8.00am/St Mary Immaculate
Sunday: 9.00am/St Therese Bethlehem (1st and 5th Sunday of the month) and St Joseph's, Te Puna (2nd, 3rd, and 4th Sunday of the month)
Sunday: 10.30am/St Mary Immaculate
Sunday: Korean Mass every 4th Sunday of the month, 5pm, St Mary Immaculate Church.

On the 4th Sunday of the month Masses at St Joseph's Matakana Island 11.30am.

Click here for link to the Tauranga City Council car parking information

CONFESSIONS:
Friday's 7.30am / St Joseph's Te Puna.

Friday's 11.15am to 12 noon
Saturday's 3pm at St Mary Immaculate, or by appointment.

Saturday's after the 5pm Mass
at Omokoroa (by request)

EMAIL:
frarnold@taurangamoanacatholic.nz
frisaac@taurangamoanacatholic.nz

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 11.00am – 12.00pm Friday before the 12.10pm Mass (St Mary Immaculate)

Parish QR Code

ANCHOR MAGAZINE:
Next issue out soon.

Parish Administration: Margie Cooper
P.O. Box 15-124, Tauranga 3144
114 Elizabeth Street.
Email: office@taurangamoanacatholic.nz
Phone: (07) 578 6209
Website: www.taurangamoanacatholic.nz

Pastoral Coordinator:
(for Holy Communion to the sick and housebound)
Email: pastoralcoordinator@taurangamoanacatholic.nz