



The Anglican Parish of Greater Hastings

An encompassing home for all, encouraging community connection, and nurturing faith in Hastings communities

Parish Newsletter

For the week commencing Sunday 1st February 2026

The Presentation of Jesus in the Temple

Haere Mai - Welcome

Services at St Matthew's Church
200 King Street South, Hastings

Today - 1st February - Presentation of Jesus in the Temple / Candlemas

8.00am - Eucharist (Lady Chapel)

10.00 am - Eucharist with Hymns

Sunday - 8th February - The Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8.00am - Eucharist (Lady Chapel)

10.00 am - Whole-of-Parish Worship

Sunday - 15th February - The Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8.00am - Eucharist (Lady Chapel)

10.00am - Eucharist with hymns

Services at St Peter's Church
1202 Ada Street, Riverslea, Hastings

Today - 1st February - Presentation of Jesus in the Temple / Candlemas

10.00am - Eucharist with hymns

There will be no service at St Peter's on Sunday, 8th February 2026. Please join us at St Matthew's Church for the Whole-of-Parish Eucharist at 10:00am.



WELCOME TO OUR SERVICES IN THE PARISH THIS WEEK

And a very warm welcome if you are visiting, or joining us for the first time, it's wonderful to have you with us; please introduce yourself to one of the Clergy or Welcoming team, and join us for morning tea after the 10am service.

Oh my goodness, we're into February already! Today we celebrate the Feast Day of the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple (also known as Candlemas), which brings to an end the trilogy of seasons, Advent-Christmas-Epiphany. We only have two week's before we enter the next trilogy, Lent-Easter-Pentecost, see the separate notice for information on Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday activities and services.

This week we return to our regular times, on Sundays (8am & 10am at St Matthew's, 10am at St Peter's), and next Thursday at 10.15am in St Matthew's Lady Chapel, which is followed by the start of the Parish Study Group - pick up an information leaflet or talk to Mark Hensman about the studies.

It has been wonderful to share our whole-of-parish services at St Matthew's during January with our friends from St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, and to welcome many visitors and holiday-makers.

This week also marks the start of a new school year as we welcome old and new students and staff to St Matthew's School, and the Kowhai Tec

team at St Peter's. We hope you have enjoyed your summer break and are now ready and excited for learning.

Please be aware of the added traffic volumes around St Matthew's and particularly alert for pedestrians during week-day school hours.

In the Diocese, Bishop Andrew has shared the news that the **Rev'd Alan Burnett** has resigned from his role as Vicar of Taradale Parish to take up a new role as Chaplain at Iona College commencing at the start of Term 2. Alan's last service at Taradale is Sunday 1st March and there will be a service of liturgical farewell that afternoon.

Bishop Andrew also shared the sad news that the **Rev'd Rosemary Russell** died on the 22nd January, aged 91. Rosemary was among the first five women ordained priests by Bishop Paul Reeves in 1977 during the historic weekend that marked the first ordination of women priests in Aotearoa New Zealand. Rosemary served for many years as a non-stipendiary priest at St Luke's Rotorua and was a strong advocate for social justice and social service - a true pioneer.

And we remember, and continue to pray for, our colleagues and brothers and sisters in other regions of the Diocese (and further afield in our country) as they support and assist those suffering the results of the tragic weather events and landslips.

**The Rev'd Margaret Thompson,
Priest Associate.**

The **Parish Study Group** starts this Thursday, 5th February, at 11.15am (following the 10.15am Eucharist) - studies led by Mark Hensman.

The February focus is '**Spiritual Disciplines for Lent**' - fasting, contemplation, charity, and dying to self

March is '**A Pre-Easter Focus**' - the Old Testament Road to Calvary, Jesus' Road to Calvary, the origins of resurrection expectations, Stations of the Cross.

April: '**Learning About Other Faiths**' - Principles of Interfaith Dialogue, Islam, Sikhism, Buddhism

Saturdays 28 February and 14 March, 9.30am–2.30pm, at St Matthew's - exploring **Comprehensive Anglicanism**.

This is ideal for those seeking Baptism or Confirmation; and for welcoming members from other traditions; BYO Lunch.

Senior Chef – Starts Tomorrow !

If you'd like to join, please reserve your seat ASAP.

Monday, 2 February 2026 | 9:30 am – 12:30 pm
St Matthew's Church, Hastings
hastingsparish@waiapu.com | 06 878 9476



Volunteers Needed

THE PARISH IS LOOKING FOR ENTHUSIASTIC VOLUNTEERS TO HELP MAKE OUR COMMUNITY EVEN MORE WELCOMING!

We urgently need new **Welcomers, Morning Tea helpers, and Sound-desk operators (training provided)**

How can you help? Let our Parish Administrator know
hastingsparish@waiapu.com | 06 878 9476

A new roster will be in place from March onwards.



LET'S DO IT TOGETHER !

Tidy & Clean inside & outside St Matthew's in preparation for Lent & Easter!

Date : Saturday 14th February, 2026

Time : 9am to 12noon

All hands are welcome! Bring your energy, enthusiasm, and a smile, and let's make our church shine for this special season.

Special Services Coming up



Tuesday 17 February, 6pm–7.30pm SHROVE TUESDAY – Mardi Gras Pancakes at St Matthew's - we will provide the pancakes and the toppings.



ASH WEDNESDAY 18 February

10.15am: St Matthew's, Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes (**Please note this service replaces the regular Thursday 10.15am Eucharist**)

11.15am STUDY GROUP Spiritual Disciplines for Lent

1.40pm School Ash Wednesday Service.

7pm St Matthew's whole-of-Parish Ash Wednesday Service with Imposition of Ashes. Please attend as we share together.

Diary Dates ... or “What’s on When?”

Date	Day	Time	Meeting / Event / Activity - February 2026
2	Monday		The Rev’d Margaret Thompson’s 29 th anniversary of Ordination to the Diaconate at St Clare’s, Flaxmere, 2 February 1997.
2	Monday		Term 1 begins - St Matthew’s Primary School
2	Monday	9.30am 12.30pm	We welcome back SENIOR CHEF for a 2026 season of culinary community.
3	Tuesday		3 February 1931. Hawke’s Bay Earthquake Commemoration
3	Tuesday	10.30am	Hawke’s Bay Earthquake Commemoration, 1931. Civic Square, Hastings.
4	Wednesday	2.00pm	Gracelands Resthome & Village
4	Wednesday	4.30pm	Building & Property Maintenance Sub-Committee
5	Thursday	10.15am	Eucharist at St Matthew’s
5	Thursday	11.15am	STUDY GROUP – Spiritual Disciplines for Lent.
6			Waitangi Day
8	Sunday	8.00am	Eucharist at St Matthew’s
		10.00am	Eucharist with Hymns - Whole-of-Parish Worship St Matthew’s
9	Monday	9.30am 12.30pm	We welcome back SENIOR CHEF for a 2026 season of culinary community
11	Wednesday	2.00pm	Eversley Resthome & Village
11	Wednesday	3.00pm	WARDENS Meeting
11	Wednesday	4.30pm	Finance, Stewardship & Bequests Sub-Committee
12	Thursday	10.15am	Eucharist at St Matthew’s
12	Thursday	11.15am	STUDY GROUP – Spiritual Disciplines for Lent.
12	Thursday	11.15am	Ministry Team Gathering
13	Friday	10.00am	Colwyn House Lifecare
13	Friday	1.40pm	School Eucharist

The Anglican Parish of Greater Hastings

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