



Stella Maris Parish

Catholic Parish of Christchurch Diocese

739 Ferry Road, Woolston, PO Box 19625, Christchurch 8241

Phone: 03 3841600; Email: parish@stellamarisparish.org.nz

www.stellamarisparish.org.nz

OUR PARISH VISION:

Our Stella Maris Parish will grow an inclusive welcoming faith community which supports one another to deepen our relationship with Jesus Christ and by our actions and words, encourage others to join our faith journey.

22nd December 2024 - Fourth Sunday of Advent, Year C

THE LORD COMES QUICKLY TO VISIT US PERSONALLY

We are on the last Sunday of Advent. Christmas is near and the birthday of the Saviour which we have been waiting for is at our door. The Church invites us to give the final touch to our preparations to receive the Lord who is about to come.

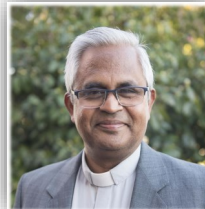
In the Gospel today we read about the visitation of Mary, where Mary travels to the hill country of Judah to visit her cousin Elizabeth. The visit of Mary to Elizabeth was not a mere coincidence. It was a well thought out plan of God.

This season, God has planned to honour each one of us personally with a divine visit. This visit is not by accident. Rather, it is a well-planned visit. He knows the way to where we live, he knows our house number, he knows the number of our flat, and he knows exactly the number of our room. He comes quickly to visit us personally in order to bring about some remarkable changes in our lives.

This season, we are about to have a divine visitation and encounter with the child Jesus. This encounter will fill us with the Holy Spirit who will empower us as he empowered Elizabeth. This divine encounter with Christ will bring us transformation and it will provoke peace and greater joy in our hearts as it did for Elizabeth and the child in her womb. Soon we shall hear a knock at our door, and hear the voice of Mary bearing the divine child. They are close to us.

On this last weekend of Advent, God calls us into action as Mary did. Mary visited Elizabeth and shared that she was carrying Jesus in her womb. Sharing Jesus with others is the best gift we can give. Let us take time to visit others this Christmas, to bring some inspiration into their lives, and hopefully to bring them closer to God, who is Love.

- Fr Job Thykalamuriyil



We light today the fourth candle, the candle of love.

May the light of this candle remind us to love one another as God loves us, and to prepare our hearts to receive the gift of Jesus, the light of the world.

Readings for the following weekends

29th Dec Next Sun- Holy Family: 1 Samuel 1:22-28; 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24; Lk 2:41-52

5th Jan 2025 Sun- Epiphany of The Lord: Is 60:1-6; Eph 3:2-6; Mt 2:1-12

12th Jan 2025 Sun -Baptism of The Lord: Is 40:1-11; Titus 2:11-14.; Lk 3:15-22

19th Jan 2025 Sun- C-OT 2: Is 62:1-5; 1 Cor 12:4-11; Jn 2:1-11

(No Newsletter for the next four weekends)

PARISH INFORMATION

MASS CENTRES

Woolston: St Anne's
739 Ferry Rd.

Sumner: Our Lady Star of the Sea
42 Dryden St.

New Brighton: St Mary's
116 Lonsdale St.

Diamond Harbour: St Andrew's
85 Marine Dr.

WEEKDAY MASS TIMES

Woolston: Tues, Wed & Thurs 9:15am
Friday 12:00pm

Sumner: Thursday 9:15am

New Brighton: Thursday 11:15am

A Funeral Mass replaces the week-day Mass.

WEEKEND MASS TIMES

Woolston: Saturday Vigil 6:00pm
Sunday 10:30am

Sumner: Sunday 9:00am

New Brighton: Sunday 10:30am

Diamond Harbour: 1st Sunday 5:30pm

Samoa Mass Times

Woolston: 1st Sunday 12:30pm

New Brighton: 2nd Sunday 12:30pm

Tongan Mass Time

Woolston: 1st Sunday 3:30pm

RECONCILIATION

Woolston: Friday 11:15am-11:45am

Saturday 10:30am-11:00am

New Brighton: After Sunday Mass

Sumner: After Thursday Mass

Diamond Harbour: After Sunday Mass

PARISH CONTACTS

Parish Priest

Fr Job Thykalamuriyil

Phone: 022 682 9886

Email: frjobs@gmail.com

Assistant Priest

Fr Paulo Filoialii

Phone: 027 955 7989

Email: paulo.filo173@gmail.com

Assistant Priest

Fr Tang Phan

Phone: 027 920 1720

Email: frtang@stellamarisparish.org.nz

Office Administrator - Alicia Ledesma

Phone: 03 384 1600

parish@stellamarisparish.org.nz

Parish Liaison - Siobhan Rooney

Phone: 022 101 4039

parishliaison@stellamarisparish.org.nz

Pastoral Worker - Janette Bradbrook

Phone: 03 384 1600

janette@stellamarisparish.org.nz

Finance Administrator

accounts@stellamarisparish.org.nz

PARISH OFFICE OPEN HOURS

Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday

9:30am - 12:30pm

PARISH NOTICES:

JUBILEE YEAR 2025

In 2025, the Diocese will join the global Catholic Church in celebrating a Jubilee Year — a centuries-old tradition dedicated to promoting renewal, spiritual growth, mercy and forgiveness.

Pope Francis has chosen the theme "Pilgrims of Hope" for the Jubilee. He encourages us to deepen our faith through pilgrimage, prayer, the sacrament of Reconciliation and works of mercy during the Jubilee year.

There are many universal celebrations for the Jubilee, including the opening of the Holy Doors at St Peter's Basilica in Rome, alongside many other celebrations in the 2025 calendar. Here in the Diocese, the Jubilee Year will open on Sunday 26 January, with Bishop Michael celebrating the 9.30am Mass at St Mary's Pro-Cathedral.

Pilgrimages are an important element of the Jubilee Year where individuals, parishes and groups are invited to visit as part of the Jubilee celebrations. A number of pilgrimage sites have been designated in the Diocese.

You can find out more about the pilgrimage sites and other diocesan initiatives by [visiting our dedicated Jubilee web page](#).



THE JUBILEE YEAR PRAYER

Father in heaven, may the *faith* you have given us in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother, and the flame of *charity* enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed *hope* for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.
May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth, when, with the powers of Evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, *Pilgrims of Hope*, a yearning for the treasures of heaven.

May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth.

To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for ever. Amen.



PROGRAMME START DATES FOR 2025

Baptism Programme resumes in February 2025.

Confirmation and First Holy Communion - registrations open Week 1 of Term 1

OCIA & OCIC restart on the last week of January 2025.

All 3 Youth Groups return on **January 31, 2025**.

Youth Proclaim Summer Camp for Years 9-13 will take place **January 17-19** at Woodend Christian Camp. Registration is closing soon—don't miss out!
A heartfelt thanks to all who have donated or sponsored campers. May God bless your generosity.

ALPHA

Next year, we are offering the **Alpha programme**—a wonderful opportunity to explore life and faith in a relaxed, supportive setting.

Volunteers Needed!

Are you passionate about creating a welcoming space where people can explore faith and build meaningful connections? **WE NEED YOU** to help run our upcoming Alpha Programme!

Alpha is a great opportunity to grow your own faith while helping others on their journey.

Training and support will be provided!

To join the team or learn more – please contact Janette



MASS INTENTIONS

Please pray for those who recently passed away and those whose anniversaries occur at this time. May they have eternal rest.



PARISH NOTICES:

A BIG THANK YOU

As we give farewell to the year 2024, we give thanks to God for all the blessing we have received this year. God has blessed our parish in many ways.

*First of all, we thank God for giving us 'Stella Maris' as our Patron Saint on 11th January.
May our Blessed Mother, guide, protect and watch over us.*

We thank our parish admin staff Alicia Ledesma, Siobhan Rooney and Janette Bradbrook for their dedicated work.

We thank Kathi Ryder and Makarita Fidow-Isaako for their dedicated volunteer support for the office, parish priest and the parish.

We thank the members of the finance committee: Mike Rossiter, Joe McCarthy, Gerry Doherty, Kathi Ryder and Mary Gilmour who look after our parish finances.

We thank the members of Leadership Team: Vanessa Shearer, Michael Sweeny, Pene Clifford, Abraham Atherton, Christine Sparks, Juliet Petelo, Rico Lopez, Marie Byrne and Philippa Ryan.

We thank all volunteers who are committed in various ministries in our parish: cleaners, sacristans, alter servers, musicians, organists, pianists, readers, extraordinary ministers of holy communion, florists, greeters, extraordinary ministers of the sick, handyman, counters, and hospitality team members.

We thank the Faith Team from St Anne's school who extended their hospitality after the 9.15 Mass on the first Wednesday of every month parishioners in their Mission Centre.

We thank all the Schools communities in our parish for their participation on our parish day.

We thank all those who support the daily running of parish and the mission of parish through their planned giving, Sunday contributions and donations.

We thank those who are involved in the prayer ministry, reflection group, faith development program, youth program, OCIA/OCIC program, Legion of Mary, Vincent de Paul and those who support Vincent de Paul.

We thank the Principals, Directors of Religious studies, staff, and the Bishop's representatives of our four schools for their dedication to spread the gospel values in the life of next generation.

We thank all parishioners for your wholehearted cooperation in our all activities. The Parish is so grateful to you. May God bless you and your family.

It is my prayer that everyone in our parish may get involved in any of the ministries in our parish through your strength, time, talent and treasure in the coming years under the patronage of 'Stella Maris—Our Lady Star of the Sea' and use all our parish structures for evangelisation.

From

Fr Job, Fr Paulo and Fr Tang



We Welcome a New Year 2025

Wishing you a blessed and joyful new year.

May the coming year bring you Hope in the midst of challenges,
Peace in the midst of chaos, Joy in the midst of uncertainty and Love in the midst of isolation.

May you be filled with God's presence, guidance, and blessings in the new year.

May your heart be filled with joy, your spirit be lifted with hope, and your life be filled with love and purpose.

Wishing you a happy, healthy, and holy new year.

May God bless you and your loved ones.

Sunday, 22nd December 2024 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

Micah 5:1-4

Hebrews 0:5-10

Luke 1:39-44

Psalm Response: Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

PARISH NOTICES:

Summer Holidays - No Signing Of Preference

Certificates

With the parish office closed during the Christmas and New Year Holiday, there will be no preference certificate signings between mid-December and the end of January.



FR PAULO AND FR TANG: ANNUAL HOLIDAY

Fr Tang will be on his annual holiday from 6th January to 17th and from 20th January to 8th February in Vietnam.

Fr Paulo will be on his annual holidays from 13th January to 31st January in Samoa.



CHRISTMAS EVE NATIVITY PLAY - ST ANNE'S CHURCH

We are excited to announce that preparations for this year's Nativity play are underway! We invite all children to take part in this wonderful celebration of the Christmas story. If your child would like to be part of our Parish Nativity play this year, please speak with Fr Tang at 027 920 1720 or email him at frtang@stellamarisparish.org.nz. There will be a practice prior to the Celebration, and your child will need to arrive at 5pm on the day for rehearsal. Costumes will be provided. Thank you.



PRIEST'S RETIREMENT VILLAS CAMPAIGN

This year, the Bishop's appeal at Christmas time is the priest's retirement villa. These villas will provide modest but comfortable accommodation for the priests who have served or people faithfully for decades. The Priest's Retirement Villas campaign was launched three weeks ago. More than \$2 million is still needed to meet the cost of the project. Please prayerfully consider supporting this campaign. Envelopes are in the foyer.



Need A Housekeeper for the Presbytery at St Anne's

Our priests are looking for a housekeeper. It is a part time job from Tuesday to Friday. If anyone is interested in this part time job, please contact Fr Job.

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

The parish office closes on Friday 20th December and opens on Tuesday 21st January 2025. Messages and emails will be unattended during this time. If you need a priest urgently like sick call or funeral, you may ring one of the priests.



Weekday Mass from 26th December to 31st January

There will be one weekday Mass in the parish from 26th December to 31st January and that will be at 9.15 am from Tuesday to Friday at St Anne's. There will be no weekday Mass at Our Lady Star of the Sea and St Mary's.

Reconciliation: Saturday 10:30 – 11: am at St Anne's
(There is no change for the Weekend Mass times)



RESTRUCTURING OF THE PARISH LEADERSHIP TEAM

The Parish is looking forward to restructuring the Leadership Team. The focus of the Leadership Team is on Evangelization. If you are interested in becoming a member of the Parish leadership team, please contact Fr Job at frjobs@gmail.com to find out what is involved.

Catholic Parish of Christchurch East—Parish App

How to set up the app

Step 1: On your phone, go to Google Play or Apple Play

Step 2: Search for ChurchAppsNZ

Step 3: Install ChurchAppsNZ

Step 4: Search and choose the Catholic Parish of Christchurch East



Our Parish is subscribed to FORMED

All of our parishioners have access to this amazing resource. It's very easy to log on and sign up

- Go to <https://signup.formed.org/>
- Search for Catholic Parish of Christchurch East, enter your name and email address
- Search for Catholic Parish of Christchurch East
- Enter your name, and email address
- Then you have access to a whole range of fabulous resources



Stella Maris Parish Schools

Aranui—St James

New Brighton—New Brighton Catholic

Sumner—Our Lady Star of the Sea

Woolston—St Anne's

Principal: Rose Firth-Scott

Principal: Deb Daines

Principal: Adele Greig

Principal: Dallas Wichman

Phone: 03 982-0009

Phone: 03 388 7982

Phone: 03 326 5315

Phone: 03 384 3073

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office@nbc.school.nz

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