



## Stella Maris Parish

Catholic Parish of Christchurch Diocese, New Zealand  
739 Ferry Road, Woolston, PO Box 19625, Christchurch 8241  
Phone: 03 384 1600; Email: parish.stellamaris@gmail.com

### 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.

23rd February 2025 — 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C



### LET US CELEBRATE WHAT IS BEST IN OURSELVES

'Fixing his eyes' on us, Jesus invites us to celebrate with him *what is best in ourselves*. What is the best in ourselves? It is love.

We are born to love. Every creature in this world longs for love. Love is the most powerful force in the world, in dealing with individuals as well as in building communities.

Today's Gospel challenges us to do precisely the opposite of what our human nature wants us to do - the principle of "an eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth". We must meditate today's Gospel text as Jesus wants us to: not as a burdensome obligation, but as a celebration of love and compassion.

The words of Jesus cut to the heart of the matter: Love your enemies; Bless those who curse you; Pray for those who mistreat you; Give to everyone who asks; Do good for your enemies, lend them money expecting nothing back; be merciful, just as your Father is merciful; Stop judging, Stop condemning, Forgive and you will be forgiven. Do to others as you would have them do to you.

We are given an example of this in our first reading, with David and Saul. Who were David and Saul? Saul was King. But who were they to each other? Saul was David's father-in-law, and he was hunting down his son-in-law to kill him. Saul saw David as a threat. Saul was jealous of David. However, David had the best opportunity to strike his enemy-Saul but never did. What a devout man! David exemplifies the teaching of our Lord in the Gospel today.

To be a Christian means celebrating love always and everywhere and creating a culture of love. It is how we evangelize; it is how we turn an unbeliever into a believer; it is how we turn a sinner into a saint.

- Fr Job Thyikalamuriyil

### 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.

#### WEEKEND MASS TIMES (ENGLISH):

Woolston: Saturday Vigil 6:00pm

Sunday 10:30am

Sumner: Sunday 9:00am

New Brighton: Sunday 10:30am

Diamond Harbour: 1st Sunday 5:30pm

#### Samoan Mass Times:

Woolston: 1st Sunday 12:30pm

New Brighton: 2nd Sunday 12:30pm

#### Tongan Mass Time:

Woolston: 1st Sunday 3:30pm

#### 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.

#### RECONCILIATION:

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

Saturday 10:30am-11:00am

New Brighton: After Sunday Mass

Sumner: After Thursday Mass

### PARISH CONTACTS:

#### Parish Priest:

Fr Job Thyikalamuriyil

Phone: 022 682 9886

Email: frjobs@gmail.com

#### Assistant Priest:

Father Paulo Filoialii

Phone: 027 955 7989

#### Assistant Priest

Fr Tang Phan

Phone: 027 920 1720

Email: frtang@stellamarisparish.org.nz

#### Office Administrator (Temporary):

Joseph Arackal

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



"Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth! Serve the Lord with gladness."

This Sunday, 23rd February, St Anne's Church, 9:30am—10:15am

### Masses Offered this week:

Please keep in your prayers those whose death anniversaries occur at this time. May they have eternal rest.



## **DIOCESAN NOTICES:**

### **LENTEN PROGRAMME FOR WOMEN—FIAT40**

Lent is approaching... and we invite women to join Fiat 40—a Lenten journey inspired by Mary's virtues of faith, humility, and devotion. Through daily prayer and an intentional lifestyle, Fiat 40 creates space for God's grace and deeper spiritual growth. - With the support of a small group, you are invited to simplify your life, strengthen your faith, and trust in Christ—following Mary's example. This journey is built on three core elements: prayer, disciplines, and community. This programme is initiated by the Catholic Diocese but is open to women from all walks of life and faith. First gathering: Monday, 3rd March, 10:30 AM at Sister Eveleen Retreat House. (Further dates/times to be arranged within school hours.) - Please get in touch to sign up or express your interest: [antje\\_duda@sistereretreat.com](mailto:antje_duda@sistereretreat.com) - More info: <https://cdoc.nz/news-events/flat-40> -

### **LENT MEN'S PROGRAMME – EXODUS 40**

Join us this lent on Exodus 40 for Men. Structured challenges are a path to gaining true Christian freedom from the things shackling us based on three pillars; prayer, brotherhood and a set of physical disciplines. Designed to make your Lent journey with our Lord more fruitful and deliberate. Register your interest online on the diocesan website or contact Mike Stopforth [mstopforth@cdoc.nz](mailto:mstopforth@cdoc.nz) 3669869. A "tips and tricks" night for those undertaking Exodus will be held on Thursday 27th February, 7.30pm, Assisi Lounge, St Mary's Pro-Cathedral to hear from those who have done Exodus in previous years.

### **VACANCY: DIRECTOR OF THE JOHN PAUL II CENTRE FOR LIFE**

The Christchurch John Paull II Centre for Life Trust Board (JP II Centre) invites applications for the full-time position of Director. The JP II Centre is dedicated to helping build a culture of life, marriage and family in the Christchurch Diocese through prayer, education and service. The Director is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the JP II Centre. For a position description, application form or more information, please contact Allan Holden on 027 574 7017 or [chair@jp2.org.nz](mailto:chair@jp2.org.nz). Applications close at 5pm on Friday March 7th.

### **CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE CHRISTCHURCH DIOCESAN CONFERENCE**



**When:** Saturday 8th March @ 9am

**Where:** Mass at Holy Name Church, Sealy St, Ashburton. Conference at M.S.A. Havelock St. Ashburton.

Registrations close 28th February. For more info contact Joy O'Connell:

Phone: 027 622 5618 or

email: [joymoc14@gmail.com](mailto:joymoc14@gmail.com)

### **BREAKFAST FOR MEN WITH BISHOP MICHAEL**

This is to be held on Saturday 1st March, at St Bede's College, Main North Road.

Adoration in the school chapel from 6.30am with breakfast at 7.30am. Suggested koha of \$5 to cover the cost of a cooked breakfast.

Registration is open now by

visiting [www.cathmen.nz](http://www.cathmen.nz) or contact Mike

Stopforth at the diocesan office, phone 366 9869 or 027 5398 542

### **WOMEN'S RETREAT DAY**

The next diocesan women's event is a retreat day on April 5th at Marian College. All women are invited to join us, beginning at 9.30am for mass with Bishop Michael. Pop the date in your calendar now, more info to follow.

### **HOW TO FOSTER VOCATIONS IN THE PARISH COMMUNITY** – a half day Vocations Conference.

A half day conference for interested parishioners is being held to learn about the role of the parish community in fostering vocations to the priesthood and Religious Life. The conference will be held on Saturday March 15th from 10am-1pm at the Lamb of God Centre. This conference would interest parishioners passionate about creating environments in parishes so that more young people will hear the call to the Priesthood and Religious Life. The conference will include practical tips on how to do this, focusing on the upcoming Vocations Week in May. For more details and to register please contact the Diocesan Vocations Coordinator, Matt O'Connell on [moconnell@cdoc.nz](mailto:moconnell@cdoc.nz) or 366-9869.

## PARISH NOTICES:

### PARISH RETREAT IN PREPARATION FOR LENT:

**When:** This Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> March 10am to 3.00 PM.

**Where:** Mary's Church, New Brighton.

**Retreat preacher:** Fr Zania, the Assistant Priest of Waimakariri

**Theme:** 'Top 10 list of Forgiveness'

**Bring your own lunch.**

All welcome to attend.

### BRING YOUR OLD PALMS:

Please bring your old palms to church so that we can burn them and use them during the distribution of the ashes on Ash Wednesday. Ash Wednesday is on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> March.

### LENT BEGINS WEDNESDAY 5<sup>th</sup> MARCH

This Wednesday we begin a season of grace, as we first mark ourselves with ashes, indicating our readiness to celebrate the season of Lent. Lent is a preparation to celebrate Easter. The season of Lent offers us exciting possibilities by strengthening our relationship with God, through prayer and actions of penance because we love God.

### ASH WEDNESDAY MASS & BLESSING OF ASHES

St Annes: 9.15am and 7.00pm

Our Lady Star of the Sea: 9.15am

St Mary's: 11.15am and 7.00pm

St James School, Aranui : 9.30am



### DAY OF FASTING AND ABSTINENCE FROM MEAT

Catholics are required to fast on Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, and on Good Friday, the day that Jesus Christ was crucified. Anyone over the age of 18, but under the age of 59, should eat only one full meal on those days. Although they can also have small amounts of food in the morning and the evening.

### DURING LENT

We are asked to undertake some penitential practices.

### STATIONS OF THE CROSS

During the Season of Lent, Stations of the Cross—every Friday 7:00pm at St Anne's Church. All are welcome to join in.

### REMINDER: 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
- Then you have access to a whole range of fabulous resources



### REMINDER:

#### Catholic Parish of Christchurch East—Parish App:

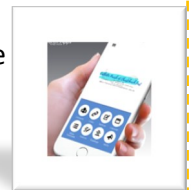
How to set up the app

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



### SCAN QR CODE OR VISIT THE PARISH WEBSITE.

Why can't we be smart?

Most of us are on smartphones and email. To apply for a preference certificate for catholic schools, register for baptisms, join the parish and planned giving, making enquiries, all you need to do is just focus on the QR code on your smartphone camera, click on the link, complete the form and submit. It saves your time and saves the time of the admin staff.

#### **Preference Application**



#### **Parish Enrolment**



#### **Planned Giving**



#### **Contact office**



## PARISH NOTICES:

### Sunday, 23 February 2025 — 7th Sunday Ordinary Time Year C

1 Samuel 26:2, 7-9,11-13,22-23

I Corinthians 15-: 45-49

Luke 6: 27-38

**Psalm Response:** The Lord is kind and merciful.

**THIS FINANCIAL YEAR 2024-2025** is coming to an end. It is time to print new envelopes for the Planned Giving. A new set of envelopes will be delivered to the existing planned givers by the middle of March. There are a few members in the planned giving list who have overlooked to contribute any amount after they have signed up. Please consider contributing money into your account before the end of the financial year. I encourage everyone in the parish to join the Planned Giving. Those who wish to join, can join at any time of the year.

**PLANNED GIVING** is where you commit (Plan) to give a regular donation each week/fortnight/month. At the end of the financial year, you will receive a statement of your giving. Under NZ Tax Law you are able to claim a rebate of 1/3rd of donations back from Inland Revenue.

**FIRST RECONCILIATION & FIRST HOLY COMMUNION:**  
**If you have** children who have received the Sacrament of Baptism and are 8 Years old and above, please register for this program. Registration forms are in the narthex.

**RESTRUCTURING OF THE PARISH LEADERSHIP TEAM:**  
The Parish is looking forward to restructuring the Leadership Team. The focus of the Parish Leadership Team is on Evangelization based on the 'Divine renovation' of Fr James Mallon: From a Maintenance to a Missional Parish. If you are interested in becoming a member of this team and wish to know what is involved, or if you know someone who could be appropriate for this role, please contact Fr Job. Email: [frjobs@gmail.com](mailto:frjobs@gmail.com)

**FRIENDLY AFTERNOON:** St Anne's, Woolston— Friday, 28th February after 12:00 noon Mass. Come along for an afternoon of friendship and FUN. Bring your own lunch, and a few \$\$\$ for raffles. All welcome.

### **PARISH DAY CHANGE: SUNDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER**

The Parish only recently noticed that Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> September falls during the school holiday time and we moved the date for the Parish Day to Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> September.

**THERE IS A PLACE FOR YOU ALL AT ALPHA:** Alpha is a space where people can explore life's big questions, encounter Jesus in a personal way, and connect with others in a warm and welcoming environment. We need volunteers to make it happen. As a **volunteer**, you'll play a vital role in creating that space.

Ways You Can Help:

- Hosts & Helpers – Lead small group discussions and create a friendly atmosphere.
- Hospitality Team – Help set up, serve food, and make guests feel at home.
- Prayer Team – Support participants through intercessory prayer.
- Tech & Setup Crew – Assist with audiovisual needs and room setup.



Whether you love meeting new people, praying for others, or working behind the scenes, there's a place for you at Alpha.

Please consider becoming a volunteer and contact Janette Bradbrook email: [janette@stellamarisparish.org.nz](mailto:janette@stellamarisparish.org.nz)

**STELLA MARIS PARISH OFFICE: 739 Ferry Road, Woolston**

**PARISH OFFICE OPEN HOURS:**

**Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 9:30am - 12:30pm**

### 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

[principal@stjames.school.nz](mailto:principal@stjames.school.nz)

[office@nbc.school.nz](mailto:office@nbc.school.nz)

[principal@ourladystar.school.nz](mailto:principal@ourladystar.school.nz)

[principal@stannes.co.nz](mailto:principal@stannes.co.nz)