



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.

16th March 2025 — 2nd Sunday of Lent Yr C

CLIMB THE MOUNTAIN OF PRAYER

The Gospel of the day – the Scene of the Transfiguration – is one of the most captivating and thrilling scenes of the Gospels. It's interesting to see that this scene takes place on a high mountain.

What is the purpose of the 'Mountain setting' of the Transfiguration Scene?

Mountains play a key role in the Bible, in the life of Jesus, Moses and Elijah. Moses is the man of 'Mount Sinai' and 'Mount Nebo' representing the Law of God. Elijah is the man of 'Mount Carmel' and 'Mount Horeb' representing the Prophets of God. Jesus is the 'God of all the Mountains' fulfilment of all the Laws and the Prophets.

Mountains are symbolic of 'being closer to God'. The purpose of the mountain setting is to see the way God sees us. To imagine the way God perceives us and to hear the way God wants us to hear Him. It is to look further, to imagine deeper, to hear beyond.

It is important to note that the Gospel highlights the moment of transfiguration in the context of prayer: *"And as He was praying, the appearance of this countenance was altered."* Prayer becomes the gateway to have a Divine experience and an entrance to a transformed life.

All of us are constantly invited – in the busy schedules of our life – to climb the 'mountain of prayer' and have a transfiguration experience.

St Francis de Sales beautifully reminds us: *"Pray at least half an hour every day, except when you are busy. And when you are busy? Pray for one hour!"*

During this Lent, the Transfiguration of Jesus reminds us to revive our prayer life, ensure that every day – without fail – we spend time with God in personal and family/community prayer, and come closer to God.

- 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: 2nd 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

Pastoral Worker: - Janette Bradbrook

Phone: 03 384 1600

janette@stellamarisparish.org.nz

Finance Administrator:

accounts@stellamarisparish.org.nz

PLANNED GIVING ANNUAL RENEWAL PROGRAM 2025:

The Finance Committee is looking forward to running the 'Planned Giving Annual Renewal Program 2025' over the next two weekends. The 22nd/23rd March will be 'Information Sunday'.

I humbly request that you all pray for the success of this program.

PARISH NOTICES:



THE JUBILEE 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

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

FORMED
THE CATHOLIC FAITH.
ON DEMAND.

REMINDER:

Catholic Parish of Christchurch East—Parish App:

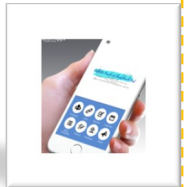
How to set up the app

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.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Recently Pope Francis endorsed the work of St Vincent de Paul when marking 400yrs since he founded the congregation. He said, "I hope that the celebrations of the fourth centenary will highlight the importance of St Vincent de Paul's vision of 'service to Christ in the poor' for renewal of the church in our time". Pope Francis expressed his hope that the founder's example "will particularly inspire young people, their enthusiasm, generosity and concern for building a better world and calling them to be bold and courageous witnesses to the Gospel among their peers wherever they are". Our Stella Maris SVDP Conferences are welcoming new members. Contact Anne Nicholls 021527741 for further information.



Preference Application



Parish Enrolment



Planned Giving



Contact office



Masses Offered this week:

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



DIOCESAN NOTICES:

CATHOLIC BUSINESS NETWORK LUNCH

Building Character to Shape our Future
We are thrilled to announce that Peter de Keratry will be our guest speaker at the first Catholic Business Network lunch of 2024 on **Thursday, April 3rd** at Rydges Latimer.

Peter has led significant church projects in the US and Australia and will share his powerful story of leadership in church initiatives, offering insights into how personal growth can positively influence people and communities around them.

For more information or to register, please visit cbn@cdoc.nz

FOOD FOR FAITH for Lent

Fr. John O'Connor offers brief daily encouragements for those seeking greater maturity in relationship with Jesus Christ. Sign up to receive daily emails at www.foodforfaith.org.nz

WOMEN'S RETREAT

Join us for our Diocesan Women's Retreat for a special day of faith, reflection, and renewal as we come together to celebrate this year of Hope. Date: Saturday, 5 April 2025

Time: 9:30 AM - 2:30 PM

Location: Marian College

Register here <https://cdoc.nz/news-events/wo...>

HEALTH CARE WORKERS MASS

Bishop Michael warmly welcomes you to Mass on Sunday 6th April, 6pm at St Mary's Pro-Cathedral, followed by hospitality in the Assisi Lounge afterwards. For more information contact: Paula Avery, averypaula@gmail.com or Mike Stopforth, mstopforth@cdoc.nz, phone 027 539 8542

INFERTILITY SUPPORT GROUP

We welcome you to a monthly Support Group if you are struggling with infertility. Join us to find encouragement, hope and a way forward through prayerful reflection, sharing and solidarity. Please contact us to register and to find out more: Ph 021 0814 8834 or email info@jp2.org.nz

VACANCY – Diocesan Archivist

The diocese is seeking a part time Archivist (5 hours per week) to join our team. The Archivist is responsible for managing and preserving the diocese's archival collection, ensuring the accurate inventory, maintenance, and accessibility of materials that document the history, mission, and activities of the Catholic Diocese of Christchurch. This role supports the Church's mission by safeguarding its heritage and enabling effective communication of its values and history. Please refer to the diocesan website <https://cdoc.nz/news-events/va...> for the full job description. Please send any enquiries or applications to the Manager-Finance & Support Services – Janice Rennell at jrennell@cdoc.nz

GLORY: A RETREAT ON THE HOLY SPIRIT

Saturday 12th April

Encounter the Holy Spirit in a deeper, more powerful way and explore your unique calling. Join us for a Holy Spirit Retreat Day at Replenish, where we will deepen our understanding of the Third Person of the Trinity and open our hearts to the transformative power of the Holy Spirit. Through prayer, reflection, and Scripture, we will explore the Spirit's presence in our lives, His gifts, and the ways He guides and empowers us.

The day will include praise and worship, Eucharistic Adoration, opportunities for prayer ministry, dynamic talks and small group discussions, so that you can experience a replenishing and strengthening of your faith to live boldly as a witness of Christ.

Led by Fr Michael-Therese Scheerger

Includes lunch and afternoon tea.

10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Cost: \$30

Register here <https://replenishretreat.co.nz...>

CHANGE OF DIOCESE OFFICE HOURS

The Diocese office at 391 Moorhouse Ave has updated its open hours. The new open hours are **Monday to Friday, 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM.**

PARISH NOTICES:

Sunday, 16 March 2025 — 2nd Sunday of Lent Year C

Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18

Philippians 3:17-4:1

Luke 9: 28-36

Psalm Response: The Lord is my light and my salvation.

APOSTLE'S CREED: During lent and Easter time we use the Apostle's creed because it is the 'baptismal Creed' of the Roman Church. The Apostle's Creed prepares people more directly for the questions they will hear at the Easter Vigil. The Apostle's Creed is more appropriate for Masses with Children, because those baptized as infants are expected to learn it in their catechetical formation.

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 Woolston. All are welcome to join in.

LENTEN RECONCILIATION RITE II

Wednesday 26th March at 7.00pm at St Annes' Church, Woolston.

MASS OF HEALING – ANOINTING MASS

Friday 4th April at 12.00pm at St Anne's Church, Woolston.

Thursday 10th April at 11.15am at St. Mary's Church, New Brighton.

THE PARISH OFFICE AT ST MARY'S CHURCH, NEW BRIGHTON has been closed and as such the role of Parish Liaison has been disestablished. We sincerely appreciate Siobahn Rooney's contribution and dedication over the years, which has had a meaningful impact on the community at New Brighton. All matters related to administration and inquiries will now be handled centrally from the Stella Maris Parish Office, located at 739 Ferry Road, Woolston. Office email and contact number are on the Newsletter.

NEW SETS OF ENVELOPES FOR THE PLANNED GIVERS:

Thank you to those who have collected their Planned-Giving envelopes for the year 2025-2026. There are still a few sets of envelopes to be collected from the narthex of the churches. Planned Givers please collect your envelopes. Those who wish to join using Planned Giving envelopes, can join at any time of the year, by contacting the parish office.

COMMISSIONING MASS – EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION:

Thank you to those who have attended the workshops and the training last year. After completing the Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion training workshop last year, the names of those who attended, were submitted to Bishop Michael. The Bishop has now given permission to commission them for three years with a certificate to be given to them at the Commissioning Mass. After three years, it has to be renewed. Join us on the **first weekend of April** as we commission those called to serve in this sacred ministry. Let us pray for them as they share Christ's presence with our community.

FREE NZ IMMIGRATION INFORMATION SEMINAR



The Society of St Vincent de Paul is hosting a free New Zealand Immigration seminar. A licensed and experienced Immigration Officer will be speaking with free information and advice in the latest NZ Immigration laws.

- ✓ Residential Visa
- ✓ Work Visa
- ✓ Other Visa
- ✓ Business Visa

Please RSVP to Cyrene: cyrene@svdpcanterbury.nz || 021530707

24 March 2025 Assisi Lounge: 373 Manchester Street 6:30pm to 7:30pm

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

Acting Principal: Nicole Buckley

Principal: Adele Greig

Principal: Dallas Wichman

Phone: 03 982-0009

Phone: 03 388 7982

Phone: 03 326 5315

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principal@stjames.school.nz

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