



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.

30th March 2025 — 4th Sunday of Lent Yr C: Laetare Sunday

RETURNING TO GOD'S LOVE

Today's Gospel (Luke 15:11-32) presents three key figures: the Father and his two sons. However, as we prepare our hearts during this Lenten season, we are especially called to reflect on the two sons.

The younger son believed he would find happiness by leaving his father's house and living on his own terms. However, instead of joy, he encountered suffering and hunger. Realizing the consequences of his poor choices, he humbly returned to his father, seeking mercy. His father, full of love, welcomed him with open arms, restoring him to his place in the family.

The elder son, though physically present in his father's house, was distant in heart. He failed to recognize and appreciate his father's boundless love. Because of this, he lacked empathy and could not accept his younger brother's return. His bitterness blinded him to the joy of reconciliation.

Each of us can see ourselves in these two sons. Like the younger son, we stray from God but are called to return to His loving embrace. Like the elder son, we may struggle to forgive others and share in the joy of reconciliation.

This Sunday of Joy invites us to return to God's love in two ways: through the Sacrament of Reconciliation, making peace with God, and through forgiveness, restoring unity with our brothers and sisters. In doing so, we will experience true joy in our hearts.

Fr Tang Phan.



LENTEN RECONCILIATION RITE II

Wednesday 2nd April at 7.00pm at St Annes' Church, Woolston.

The Holy Church asks the faithful to receive the sacrament of Reconciliation at least once a year during the time of Lent. Lenten reconciliation is an integral part of the Lenten season to celebrate Easter. Reconciliation Rite II is a communal celebration. It involves common preparation, individual confession of sins, individual absolution and it ends with a common blessing. Priest leads this Sacrament. There will be 7 Priests to assist us with Reconciliation. All welcome.



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

Samoa 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

PARISH NOTICES:

MASS OF HEALING – ANOINTING MASS



Friday 4th April at 12.00pm at St Annes Church, Woolston.

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

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

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

DURING LENT

We are asked to undertake some penitential practices.

WORKSHOP WITH PETER DE KERATRY:

Many thanks you to those who have signed up to attend this workshop. If anyone would like to attend this workshop please let me know by email: frjobs@gmail.com

The workshop time and the venue are the following.

Wednesday 2nd 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM - Fundraising Leadership Meeting at 391 Moorhouse Avenue.

Wednesday 2nd 1:30 PM – 4:30 PM- Parish Fundraising Leadership Meeting at Lamb of God, 21 Thames St, Mairehau.

Friday 4th 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM- Parish Leadership Workshop at Lamb of God Centre, 21 Thames Street, Mairehau.

MANY THANKS TO JOE MCCARTHY :

Joe McCarthy has stood down from the finance committee. Joe joined the committee at the time of Fr. Benito. The Parish is so grateful to him for the great input he has made into this committee with his knowledge and time.

THE COMMISSIONING OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

will be next weekend during the Mass after the homily, at all Mass centres. It is for those who have attended the workshop. They will be given a certificate signed by the

Catholic Parish of Christchurch East—Parish App:

Please download the parish App where you will find: the Newsletter, weekend readings, Rosters, Mass Centres, Mass timings, Contacts and Events.

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



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



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

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:

SAFEGUARDING

The Catholic Diocese of Christchurch has zero tolerance for all forms of abuse and is committed to safeguarding everyone involved in its activities, ministries, and services. The safety and wellbeing of children and adults-at-risk is our highest priority. Next Safeguarding Workshop – Ministries with Children.

Monday April 7th – 7pm-8.30pm
At St Teresa's School, Riccarton.

Details link here: [Safeguarding Workshop](#)

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

HOSPITAL CHAPLAINCY CONTACTS

Most hospitals no longer provide names of Catholic patients to our chaplains. If there is someone from your family going to hospital please either advise the chaplain or your parish office or let the nurses know that you would like to see the Catholic Chaplain/Priest on call

Christchurch Hospital:

Angela McCormick – 021 702 378

Burwood Hospital:

Jane Dick - 021 572 480

Hillmorton Hospital:

Joan Hough - 021 501 683

Nurse Maude Hospice:

Christchurch North Parish - 03 359 1438

St George's Hospital:

Christchurch North Parish - 03 359 1438

Southern Cross:

Cathedral Parish - 379 1068

HOLY WEEK LITURGY TIMES

Are you travelling during Easter? Are you looking for Holy Week times including Reconciliation? Parish Holy Week and Liturgy times can be found on the diocesan website <https://cdoc.nz/easter>

CHRISM MASS

You are warmly invited to the annual Chrism Mass on **Monday 14th April**, 5.30pm at St Mary's Pro-Cathedral. During this Mass, the bishop will bless the sacred oils used throughout the year in the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Orders, and the Anointing of the Sick and the clergy of our diocese will renew their commitment to priestly service. All are welcome to join in this celebration.

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

CHRISTCHURCH DIOCESAN JUBILEE PILGRIMAGE TO NORTHLAND

In this year of Jubilee, one of the exciting opportunities the Christchurch Diocese is offering is a Diocesan 6-day pilgrimage to the sacred places at the very foundation of the Catholic Faith in New Zealand. As 'pilgrims of hope', the pilgrimage will begin in Auckland and will explore the sites of the first missionaries that brought the faith to this country.

The pilgrimage is being held Oct 26 – 31, 2025. Places are limited. Matt O'Connell is leading the tour and there will be a priest chaplain. Bishop Michael will also join the pilgrimage for two days. For more information and a full itinerary, please contact Matt at the Diocesan Office on 366-9869 or moconnell@cdoc.nz

WOMEN'S RETREAT

Last chance to register for our Diocesan Women's Retreat! Step away from the busyness for a special day of faith, reflection, and renewal as we come together to celebrate this year of Hope.

Time: 9:30 AM - 2:30 PM

Location: Marian College

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

PARISH NOTICES:

Sunday, 30 March 2025 — 4th Sunday of Lent Year C

Joshua 5:9-12

2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Luke 15: 1-3, 11-32

Psalm Response: Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

Annual Planned-Giving Renewal Programme – Response Sunday 30th March 2025

Today Is the Day to Review my Giving

Many of our parishioners commented that they were very happy with the “Information Sunday” last weekend with the PowerPoint presentation and the Newsletter. Many thanks to the finance committee for preparing the financial data to open the eyes of the parishioners.

Parishioners are now aware that there is a greater need to review their giving at least annually and a growth in the number of givers every year. Without this we cannot meet our operational costs and fulfil our mission.

The Parish is so grateful to those who are involved in contributing to the parish through the planned-giving, Sunday collection, and various ministries. We are thankful for your generosity, and it is because of you, we carry out our mission and ministries in our parish.

Thank you for your prayers over the last week asking the Holy Spirit to help us and asking Our Lady Star of the Sea to guide us on how we can support the parish mission through the planned-giving renewal program.

Remember the words of St Paul 2 Cor 9:7 "Each of you should **give** what you have decided in your heart to **give**, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver"; Deuteronomy 16:17 says: "Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the LORD your God that he has given you"; Jesus said: "Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap."

Today I invite you all

***to review** the level of your giving by adding an extra \$..... per week according to your circumstances.
OR

***to enrol** if you are not in the Planned-Giving already

God knows us through and through about what we can do. Every contribution matters. Every gift, no matter how large or small, makes a difference in our parish's ability to carry out its mission. My hope is that every household will join the planned-giving and will be generous according to their circumstances.

Fr Job Thyikalamuriyil
Parish Priest.



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

Phone: 03 384 3073

principal@stjames.school.nz

nicole@nbc.school.nz

principal@ourladystar.school.nz

principal@stannes.co.nz