



# Stella Maris Parish

## Catholic Parish of Christchurch Diocese

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

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[www.stellamarisparish.org.nz](http://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.

7th December 2025—Second Sunday of Advent—Yr A

### PREPARING A WAY FOR THE LORD

In the First Reading, Isaiah reassures us that even when everything appears cut down—like the family tree of Jesse reduced to a stump—God brings new life. From that stump, a new shoot will spring: a king filled with the Spirit, rich with the virtues of his ancestors, and a champion of the poor who will restore peace.

The Second Reading continues this theme. St Paul reminds the Romans that Jesus is the one through whom God fulfils His promises and brings harmony, unity, and hope.

In the Gospel, Matthew introduces John the Baptist as the herald foretold by Isaiah. John's voice calls us once again to "prepare the way of the Lord"—not just in history, but in our lives today.

Advent is a season of renewal. It invites us to pause, to look honestly at where we are, and to open our hearts to what God desires to do now. Advent leads us toward hope—hope not as passive waiting, but as a confidence that God is at work in our lives. Hope strengthens our spirit just as prayer nourishes our soul and bread sustains our bodies.

This season offers each of us a fresh opportunity to commit ourselves to Jesus Christ and His Kingdom.

May this Advent be holy and blessed for all the families of our parish, Stella Maris.

**Fr Paulo Filoialii**  
Assistant Priest



### 'CHRISTMAS IS A CELEBRATION OF RECONCILIATION'

This week we light the second candle,  
The candle of LOVE.



If the first Sunday of Advent serves as a bridge between Ordinary time and Advent, the second Sunday is a stepping stone towards the feast of Christmas. Each year on the second and third Sundays of Advent the Church brings this message inviting us to repentance through John the Baptist' preaching: 'prepare the way'. The best way to prepare the way, for Jesus to be born in us, is to make Reconciliation during this advent.

### NEO CATECHUMENAL WAY- CELEBRATION OF MASS

Every Saturday at 7.30pm at St Anne's Hall.  
This is one of our weekend Masses in our parish  
and anyone who wishes to attend is 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

#### 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

Diamond Harbour: After Sunday Mass

### PARISH CONTACTS:

#### Parish Priest:

Fr Job Thyikalamuriyil

Phone: 022 682 9886

Email: [frjobts@gmail.com](mailto:frjobts@gmail.com)

#### Assistant Priest:

Father Paulo Filoialii

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#### Assistant Priest:

Fr Tang Phan

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#### Office Administrator

Joseph Arackal

Phone: 03 384 1600 / 022 101 4039

[parish@stellamarisparish.org.nz](mailto:parish@stellamarisparish.org.nz)

#### Pastoral Worker: - Janette Bradbrook

Phone: 022 317 4323

[janette@stellamarisparish.org.nz](mailto:janette@stellamarisparish.org.nz)

#### Finance Administrator:

[accounts@stellamarisparish.org.nz](mailto:accounts@stellamarisparish.org.nz)

#### Local Safeguarding representative

Makarita Fido-Isaako

Phone: 021 082 56819

[volunteer@stellamarisparish.org.nz](mailto:volunteer@stellamarisparish.org.nz)

## PARISH NOTICES:

### **Sunday, 7th December 2025—Second Sunday of Advent — Yr A**

Isaiah 11:1-10

Romans 15:4-9

Mathew 3:1-12

**Psalm Response: Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.**



**ADVENT RETREAT WITH ALEX CHIA** at St Mary's, New Brighton. On Tuesday, 9th December, 6:30pm-8:30pm followed by a Potluck dinner – please bring a plate to share with everyone. Come and prepare your heart for the Lord this Advent. **Everyone is welcome!**



#### **RECONCILIATION RITE II: St Anne's Church on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December 7.00pm**

Reconciliation Rite II is a communal Celebration of the Sacrament of confession. We all need reconciliation because we are all sinners. Who among us can say that we are not sinners? The best way to prepare our hearts for Christmas is to make Reconciliation during this advent.

**THIS THURSDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, MASS AT ST ANNES WILL BE AT 9.30 AM** due to the Year 8 Student's leavers mass. All are welcome.

#### **CHOIR FOR SUMMER CAROLS**

Singers required to help lead carols, 24<sup>th</sup> December 8:00pm at Star of the Sea. We are having a practice Wed 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm. All welcome. Any questions contact Murray.

#### **PRIEST'S MOVEMENTS 2026**

The following appointments have been made effective from the weekend of 24/25 January 2026 by Bishop Micheal Gielen. Please pray for the priests who are preparing to farewell their communities and take up their new roles.

Fr Chris Friel: Parish Priest of Opihi Parish

Fr Jolly : Parish Priest of Meckenzie Parish

Fr Tien Cao : Parish Priest of Timaru Parish

**Fr Tang Phan: Assistant Priest of Timaru Parish**

**Fr Vincent : Assistant Priest of Stella Maris Parish**

Fr John O'Connor: Diocesan Missioner

Fr Viet Thai : Chaplin to the Vietnam Community.

#### **FOOD DONATIONS FOR VINNIES**

This coming weekend please donate tins of fruit or jellies that could be included in Christmas food parcels for families in need of support.

#### **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.

#### **MASS OF HEALING AT ST MARY'S,**

**NEW BRIGHTON:** Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2025 at 11.15am

#### **CHRISTMAS PARISH APPEAL- CHRISTMAS GIFT TO THE PARISH THIS YEAR:**

This year there is no bishop's appeal for Christmas. So, please consider giving the parish a Christmas Gift this year. This is for us to meet the operational expenses! Every year the parish is in deficit. Please take the special envelopes available in the foyer, write your planned giving number if you wish to get GST receipt, and put it on the Sunday collection basket. If you wish to pay online the Account details: [03-1592-0207535-020 - Catholic Parish East](https://03-1592-0207535-020-Catholic-Parish-East)

**VOLUNTEER'S APPRECIATION:** At St Anne's Hall on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December from 3.00pm to 4.30pm.

**FORMED** is an on-demand digital platform for Catholics, offering a wide variety of content such as movies, books, and studies to help users explore and deepen their faith. It functions like a "Catholic Netflix" for individuals, families, and parishes, providing resources from over 60 organizations to watch, listen to, or read anytime and anywhere. The Parish pays an annual fee. Please use the link: [signup.formed.org](https://signup.formed.org)

#### **MAKE YOUR CHRISTMAS MEANINGFUL!**

Discover faith-filled gifts for every age at Saintly Gift Shop - from rosary bracelets, colouring books, Saint plush toys, Catholic games, and many more. Share your faith, give a gift. Shop now at [www.saintlygift.com](https://www.saintlygift.com).

#### **THE NEW BRIGHTON CONFERENCE OF ST VINCENT DE**

**PAUL** is very appreciative of the support of parishioners throughout the year. From January to November our small group of 10 members has responded to 717 requests, 485 of which were for food parcels. The remainder included clothing, bedding, furniture and budget advice. We'll be packing Christmas hampers for clients most in need on Sunday 21 December and would welcome contributions of festive goods in the SVDP basket up until that date. Thank you. May God bless you all.

#### **Masses Offered this week:**

Please keep in your prayers Mary Catharine Rossiter, Imelda Vissia Bout, Jane Andrea S. Boyo, and Tuipala Courtier. May they rest in peace.



**STELLA MARIS PARISH OFFICE: 116 Lonsdale Street, New Brighton**

**PARISH OFFICE OPEN HOURS: Tuesday 2.00pm to 4.00pm**

**Wednesday 8.30am to 4.00pm, Thursday 9.00am to 4.00pm, Friday 8:30am to 4.00pm**

#### **Stella Maris Parish Schools**

Aranui—St James

Principal: Rose Firth-Scott

Phone: 03 982-0009

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

New Brighton—New Brighton Catholic

Acting Principal: Nicole Buckley

Phone: 03 388 7982

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

Sumner—Our Lady Star of the Sea

Principal: Adele Greig

Phone: 03 326 5315

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

Woolston—St Anne's

Principal: Dallas Wichman

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