



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

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.

14th December 2025—Third Sunday of Advent—Yr A

JESUS – TRUE JOY OF OUR HEARTS

The Third Sunday of Advent is called “*Gaudete Sunday*,” the Sunday of Joy. The liturgy today invites us to rejoice because the Lord is near and because we share in the joy of his salvation. The *Entrance Antiphon* expresses this beautifully and leads us into that same holy joy: “Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near” (Phil 4:4–5).

True joy is not the result of entertainment or pleasure; it flows from the presence of God in our lives and from our relationship with Jesus Christ. Anyone who truly encounters Christ discovers a deep serenity and a lasting joy that no one and nothing can take away, because Jesus Christ comes to bring joy – He himself becomes our joy.

Jesus is the joy of all humanity. As the Gospel of Matthew (11:5) tells us: “The blind see again, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised to life, and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor.” With his presence, Christ will transform suffering into hope, and fill the hearts of the poor, the miserable and the broken with joy.

The reign of God invites us into a happier, more beautiful, and more fulfilled life by allowing Jesus to enter our hearts, especially through the Sacraments, by caring for one another, and by building a community of love. In doing this, we make known the face, the mercy, and the love of Jesus. We proclaim God’s love not through complicated theories, but through a life of service, compassion, and charity.

May we prepare our hearts well for the Lord’s coming. May he fill us with his joy. And through our generosity, our selfless commitments, our service and love for others, may many experience God’s presence and discover deep and lasting joy in their own hearts.

Fr Tang Phan - Assistant Priest



GAUDETE (REJOICE) SUNDAY

Today we light the third candle, the candle of Joy.



The Third Sunday of Advent is often known as Gaudete Sunday or Rejoice Sunday. This Sunday gets its name from the entrance antiphon for the day, which begins with the words ‘Gaudete in domino semper’ which means ‘Rejoice in the Lord always’. The third Sunday is a time to rejoice and celebrate the nearness of Christ’s coming. On this Sunday, some churches use rose-coloured vestments and decorations to symbolize joy and celebration.

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

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Assistant Priest:

Father Paulo Filoiali

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Assistant Priest:

Fr Tang Phan

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Office Administrator

Joseph Arackal

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Pastoral Worker: - Janette Bradbrook

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janette@stellamarisparish.org.nz

Finance Administrator:

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Local Safeguarding representative

Makarita Fido-Isaako

Phone: 021 082 56819

volunteer@stellamarisparish.org.nz

PARISH NOTICES

Sunday, 14th December 2025—Third Sunday of Advent — Yr A

Isaiah 35:1-6,10

St James 5:7-10

Mathew 11:2-11

Psalm Response: Lord, come and save us.



PASTORAL WORKER – CONNECT GROUP &

EVANGELISATION: The parish will be advertising early next year for a part-time Pastoral Worker to support our Connect Group ministry and evangelisation initiatives. If you know someone who may be a good fit for this role—or if you are personally interested—please contact the Parish Priest, Fr Job at frjobts@gmail.com

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.

RECONCILIATION: Thank you to everyone who came to Reconciliation last Thursday. If you haven't done your reconciliation, please find a time to do so before Christmas.

SAVE THE DATE: The last weekend for Fr Tang in this parish will be 4th January 2026, before he takes his new appointment as the Assistant Priest in Timaru. Fr Tang goes for his annual holiday on 5th January until 30th January 2026. A farewell to Fr Tang will be held on Sunday 4th January 2026 at St Annes Hall after 10.30am Mass. Please bring a plate. If you would like to contribute to a monetary gift for Fr Tang, please do so by internet banking or envelopes. **Account details: 03-1592-0207535-020 - Catholic Parish East.**

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.**

THE GRANDPARENT PRAYER GROUP is having the next meeting on **Saturday, 20th December 3 pm at St Mary's New Brighton church hall.** Please join us to intercede for our children and grandchildren. Come early for a 'cuppa' before we start. Contact: Sandy on 021 180 4445 for details.

CHRISTMAS VIGIL – NATIVITY PLAY:

ON 24TH DECEMBER AT 6.30PM. All children who would like to take part in this year's Nativity Play are invited to join us **this Sunday, 14th December**, for **Children's Liturgy during the 10:30am Mass at St Anne's.** This will be our first gathering to prepare roles and begin practicing.

Costumes: If you have any Nativity costumes you would like to donate or lend, please contact **Janette Bradbrook.** Your support is greatly appreciated as we get ready for a beautiful Christmas celebration with our parish children.

SIMBANG GABI MASS AND NOVENA at St Anne's Church, Woolston from 15th December to 22nd December, 7.30pm.

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

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.



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: 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



DIOCESAN NOTICES are on the notice board and are emailed with the newsletter.

Thanks Giving Mass Offered this week

For Imelda Vissia Bout by Mel Bout

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