



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.

21st December 2025—Fourth Sunday of Advent—Yr A

PUT JOSEPH INTO THE ADVENT SEASON AS A GREAT MODEL TO IMITATE.

The season of Advent is not about our preparation to receive Jesus. It is about allowing God to prepare and change us according to his plan to meet Jesus who comes on our way in various ways.

Today's first reading and the gospel talks about how God has prepared his chosen people to celebrate the first Christmas. The preparation was begun 700 years before the birth of his son Jesus with the prophesy of Prophet Isaiah.

God chose few people and prepared them for the Incarnation to take place.

They were Joachim and Anna, Elizabeth and Zachariah, and Mary and Joseph.

Today, we focus on Joseph. The gospel today narrates the role of Joseph.

Joseph does not speak one single word in the scriptures and yet he had a crucial role in the great mystery of the incarnation. Joseph was an honest man, and he had his own dreams about his life. All his dreams about his life are shattered when he found that that his wife is pregnant. Joseph was troubled, confused, and lost.

God in turn blesses him with a dream in which he reveals his plan. Joseph agrees to cooperate with God's plan by bringing Mary home in marriage. He adjusted his own dreams, hopes, desires and plan to save the people from their sins.

Like Joseph, we too find our life shattered due to sickness, unemployment, misunderstanding, loneliness, and confusion. One day we will realise as if in a dream that everything happened with a reason and it was to prepare us for a greater good.

Let us put Joseph into the Advent season as great model to imitate and allow God to prepare and change us as per his plan.

Fr Job Thyikalamuriyil
The Parish Priest



We light today the fourth candle, the candle of love.

May the light of this candle remind us to love one another as God loves us, and to prepare our hearts to receive the gift of Jesus, the light of the world.

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: frjobs@gmail.com

Assistant Priest:

Father Paulo Filoiali

Phone: 027 955 7989

Assistant Priest:

Fr Tang Phan

Phone: 0279201720

Email: frtang@stellamarisparish.org.nz

Office Administrator

Joseph Arackal

Phone: 03 384 1600 / 022 101 4039

parish@stellamarisparish.org.nz

Pastoral Worker: - Janette Bradbrook

Phone: 022 317 4323

janette@stellamarisparish.org.nz

Finance Administrator:

accounts@stellamarisparish.org.nz

Local Safeguarding representative

Makarita Fido-Isaako

Phone: 021 082 56819

volunteer@stellamarisparish.org.nz

PARISH NOTICES:

MERRY CHRISTMAS

On behalf of Fr Paulo and Fr Tang, I wish everyone a Merry Christmas. May the child Jesus bring peace to our hearts, hope to our families and unity in our community. May you all have a joy filled time with your family and friends. May God fill your hearts with love and your homes with warmth. Spread the values of love, peace, forgiveness and generosity. We invite you to join us for Christmas Carols and Mass.

From: Fr Paulo, Fr Tang, and Fr Job

WE WELCOME A NEW YEAR 2026

Wishing you a blessed and joyful New Year. May the new year 2026 bring you hope amid challenges; Peace amid chaos; Joy amid uncertainty; Love amid isolation.

May you be filled with God's presence, guidance, and blessings in the new year.

May your heart be filled with joy, your spirit be lifted with hope, and your life be filled with love and purpose.

May God bless you and your loved ones

Wishing you a happy, healthy, and holy New Year 2026.

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 all welcome.

RECONCILIATION ON THIS SATURDAY from 10.30AM TO 11.00 at St Anne's Church, Woolston

WEEKDAY MASS FROM 26TH DECEMBER TO 31ST JANUARY.

There will one weekday Mass in the parish from 26th December to 31st January and that will be at St Anne's at 9.15 am from Tuesday to Friday.

There will be no weekday Mass at Our Lady Star of the Sea and St Mary's.

(There is no change for the Weekend Masses)

SAVE THE DATE: The last weekend of 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 would be held on Sunday 4th January 2026 at St Annes Hall after 10.30am Mass. Please bring a plate. It would be appreciated if you can contribute to the parish either through internet payment or by an envelope to make a parish presentation to Fr Tang on the day of farewell. Account details: 03-1592-0207535-020 - Catholic Parish East.

A WORD FROM OUR PASTORAL WORKER

It's been a joy walking alongside our parish community in 2025 — seeing children, youth, families, and adults grow in faith, connection, and prayer. As we step into 2026, I'm excited to continue building opportunities for everyone to encounter Christ, deepen their discipleship, and belong fully in our parish family. Wishing you a joyful and peaceful Christmas, filled with the love of Christ and the warmth of family and community - Janette Bradbrook — Pastoral worker - Children, Youth and Family ministry, School Connector and Sacramental Programme Coordinator.

A BIG THANK YOU

*As we give farewell to the year 2025, we give thanks to God for all the blessing we have received this year.
We thank God for giving us the opportunity to celebrate the Jubilee Year this year.*

We thank our parish admin staff Joseph Arackal and Janette Bradbrook for their dedicated work.

We thank Kathi Ryder and Makarita Fido-Isaako for their dedicated volunteer support for the office, parish priest and the parish.

We thank the members of the finance committee: Mike Rossiter, Gerry Doherty, Kathi Ryder, Mary Gilmour and Dhanu Ignatious who looked after our finance.

We thank the members of the Leadership Team: Sandy Rayen (recently resigned), Abraham Atherton, Christine Sparks, Sone Nafai and Janette Bradbrook.

We thank all volunteers (There are over 150 volunteers) who are committed in various ministries in our parish: cleaners, sacristans, altar servers, musicians, organists, pianists, readers, extraordinary ministers of holy communion, florists, greeters, extraordinary ministers of the sick, handymen, counters, and the hospitality team members.

We thank those who support the parish mission through their planned giving and Sunday contributions.

We thank those who are involved in the prayer ministry, reflection group, faith development program, youth program, OCIA/OCIC program, Legion of Mary, Vincent de Paul Society.

We thank the school communities in our parish for their participation on our parish day each year.

We thank the Principals, Directors of Religious studies, staff, Bishop's representatives, of our four schools, for their dedication to spread the gospel values in the life of the next generation.

The Stella Maris Parish is very grateful to you all.

We invite you all to be connected to any of the groups in our parish and be a part of 'Maintenance to Mission' in the year 2026. May God bless you and your family.

From: Fr Job, Fr Paulo and Fr Tang

PARISH NOTICES:

Masses Offered this week:

Please keep in your prayers Jane Andrea S. Boyo, and Basilio Salazar.
May they rest in peace.



PASTORAL PARISH PLANNING 2026

2025 Highlights

- OCIA Programme
- Sacramental programmes
- Youth, children & family ministry
- Youth worship, formation & events
- Stronger parish–school connections
- Alpha Programme
- Welcoming our Neocatechumenal Way parish programmes

2026 Focus

- Youth ministry expansion (**Sumner & New Brighton**)
- **Children's Liturgy** at each Mass centre
- Men's & women's ministries & **Connect Groups**
- Young adult ministry & outreach
- Parish-wide events (Parish Feast Day, Cultural Day, Prayer rallies)
- Recruiting **Pastoral Worker – Evangelisation & Discipleship**
- **Deeper connection with our Parish Cultural communities**

How to Get Involved Next Year

Pray for our parish, ministries, and leadership

Join a Connect Group, men's or women's ministry, or parish programme

Volunteer in youth, children, family, or hospitality ministries

PROCLAIM CAMP 2026 23–25 Jan |

Woodend Christian Camp. Faith-filled summer camp for youth to encounter Christ, grow in confidence, and build lasting friendships. Talks, worship, small groups, games, and prayer encourage young people to live their faith boldly. Scan the QR Code to register:



SPONSORS NEEDED: We are seeking **sponsors** to help cover camp fees for young people to attend **Proclaim Camp 2026**. Your support ensures that all youth can participate, grow in faith, and experience this life-changing weekend. Any contribution, large or small, makes a real difference. Please contact Janette@stellamarisparish.org.nz

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

SCAN QR CODE OR VISIT 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



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.

PARISH NOTICES:

Sunday, 21st December 2025—Fourth Sunday of Advent — Yr A

Isaiah 7:10-14 Romans 1:1-7 Mathew 1:18-24

**Psalm Response: A virgin will give birth to a son; his name will be Emmanuel:
God is with us.**



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, 21st December**, for **Children's Liturgy during the 10:30am Mass at St Anne's**. This will be our last gathering to finalise roles and practice.

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.

NEW TENANT AT 733A FERRY ROAD, WOOLSTON: A new tenant has moved in at the house at 733A Ferry Road, Woolston, which was our former parish office. Please respect their privacy, **don't park car on their lawn, and don't put rubbish in their bin!**

THE PARISH HALL: It is a blessing that we have a hall at St Marys and St Anne's. It is free for parish activities, but a donation is required if it is not for parish activities. It is a requirement that the hall must be booked through the parish office. The hall must be left clean and tidy after each usage. We don't have volunteers willing to clean the hall after each usage. The finance committee has decided to charge a deposit amount to do the cleaning by a paid cleaner if the hall is not kept clean. Future bookings will depend on how you meet the requirements. **(From the Finance Committee)**

SUMMER HOLIDAYS -NO SIGNING OF PREFERENCE CERTIFICATE

With the parish office closed during the Christmas and New Year Holiday, there will be no preference certificate signings between mid-December to the end of January.

PARISH OFFICE

The parish office closes on Tuesday 23rd December and opens on Tuesday 20th January 2026. Joseph will be on leave until Friday 23rd January. Messages and emails will be unattended during this time. These messages and emails will be answered when the office reopens. If you have any urgency like sick call or funeral, you may ring one of the priests.

READINGS FOR THE FOLLOWING WEEKENDS

Sunday 28th Dec 2025: Holy Family

Ecclesiasticus 3: 2-6,12-14; Col 3: 12-21; Mt 2: 13-15, 19-23

Sunday 4th Jan 2026: Epiphany of The Lord

Is 60:1-6; Eph 3:2-6; Mt 2:1-12

Sunday 11th Jan 2026: Baptism of The Lord

Is 42:1-4, 6-7; Acts 10: 34-38; Mt 3:13-17

Sunday 19th Jan 2020: 2nd Sunday in ord time Year A

Is 49: 3,5-6; 1 Cor 1: 1-3; Jn 1: 29-34

(No Newsletter for the next four weekends)

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

TAP 'N' GO: The Parish has fixed a permanent Eftpos terminal machine in the narthex of St Annes Church, Woolston. The portable Eftpos terminal machine, which is used at the office, will also be made available at our Mass centres at the weekend and special events, if we get someone to monitor this. You are encouraged to use this **Tap 'N' Go** to donate to the parish and support the parish mission.



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 operational expenses! Every year the parish is in deficit. Please take a special envelope, available in the foyer, write your planned giving number if you wish to get a 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.**

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

New Brighton—New Brighton Catholic

Acting Principal: Nicole Buckley

Phone: 03 388 7982

nicole@nbc.school.nz

Sumner—Our Lady Star of the Sea

Principal: Adele Greig

Phone: 03 326 5315

principal@ourladystar.school.nz

Woolston—St Anne's

Principal: Dallas Wichman

Phone: 03 384 3073

principal@stannes.co.nz