



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.

15th February 2026—Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time —Yr A

FUNDAMENTAL OPTION FOR LIFE AND HAPPINESS

Today many people don't want to hear about 'dos and don'ts'. In the name of freedom and 'freedom of expression' in particular, many people want to do things the way they feel it is 'good'.

On the other hand, many people are careful in following the 'dos and don'ts' in the manuals of their expensive phones, TVs, cars, etc. Why? Because they don't want to damage their phones, TVs, cars, health etc.

Similarly, because God doesn't want us to destroy the precious life He has given us, He gives us His commandments ('dos and don'ts') to follow.

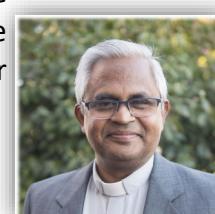
As the dos and don'ts of a good parent are not meant to make life unbearable for the child, but to enable the child to attain a better life in the future, so according to the first reading, God's commandments are not to make life unbearable, but to give us life instead of death (Sirach 15:15-20).

God, in His wisdom and based on His dream for our future, has given us dos and don'ts to enable us achieve life and not death; indeed, to attain eternal life in heaven and not eternal death. God makes it clear that whatever choice we make in life has its consequences.

Today, the church invites us to reflect on the law of Christ and urges us to pay attention to what she teaches us. The law of Christ is a divine law. However, it is not opposed to natural law. It is a product of God's love for us. It is filled with wisdom and gives life to those who are faithful to it. Hence, to obey it, is a fundamental option for life and happiness.

Fr Job Thyikalamuriyil

The Parish Priest



Next Sunday, 22nd February 2026, at St Anne's Church,
9:30am—10:15am—Come early for Mass and join us.

LENT BEGINS THIS WEDNESDAY 18th FEBRUARY ASH WEDNESDAY MASS & BLESSING OF ASHES

St Annes: 9.15am and 7.00pm

Our Lady Star of the Sea: 9.15am

St Mary's: 11.15am and 7.00pm



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 Filoialii
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Assistant Priest:

Fr Vincent Barboza
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Office Administrator

Joseph Arackal
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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:

Sunday, 15th February 2026—Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time — Yr A

Ecclesiasticus 15:15-20

1 Corinthians 2:6-10

Mathew 5:17-37

Psalm Response: Happy are they who follow the law of the Lord.

DAY OF FASTING AND ABSTINENCE FROM MEAT

Catholics are required to fast on Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, and on Good Friday, the day that Jesus Christ was crucified. Anyone over the age of 18, but under the age of 59, should eat only one full meal on those days, although they can also have small amounts of food in the morning and the evening.

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. All are welcome to join in.

PARISH RETREAT IN PREPARATION FOR LENT

When: Saturday 21st February 10am to 1.00 PM.

Where: St Anne's Church, Woolston.

Retreat is lead by Fr Vincent, Christine and Bryn Sparks
Retreat begins with Mass. All welcome to attend.

LENTEN MISSION: AT ST ANNES CHURCH

17th, 18th and 19th March at 6.30 pm to 8.00pm

Led by Fr Vincent Barboza- All Welcome

LENTEN REFLECTION 2026

For many years our parish has enjoyed and benefitted from having 2-4 Lenten Reflection Groups.- operating over the 6 weeks of Lent. If you are interested, please leave your name at the Parish Office or ring Mary Lynch 021387088. Depending on your time preferences we would try to have at least one afternoon and one evening group.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

The 6th of March is the World Day of Prayer. This year's service has been prepared by WDP Nigeria. For the Port Hills area (Woolston, Sumner, Lyttelton), this will be held at 10.30am at the Anglican Street Chapel, [87 Nayland Street](#), Sumner. If you would like to participate as a reader please contact the parish office by the 18th of February.

STELLA MARIS PARISH YOUTH GROUP FOR ALL 3 GROUPS IS BACK ON THE 20TH FEB 2026

Gen 1: Years 5-6 students - 3:15pm-4:15pm

Crowns and STAY: Years 7-13 - 4:30pm - 6pm

In the St Anne's Church Hall. All are welcome!

THERE WILL BE MASS: at Our Lady Star of the Sea both on Ash Wednesday and This Thursday.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION REGISTRATIONS OPEN

If you have children who have received the Sacrament of Baptism and are 8 Years old and above, please register for this program.

Registration forms are on the foyer or scan the QR code.

Information Evening:

22 February | 3:30–4:30pm

St Anne's Hall

Forms available in church foyers or register online via QR code.

Enquiries:

Pastoral Worker Janette Bradbrook
janette@stellamarisparish.org.nz



YOUTH MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Our Parish Youth Ministry is growing, and we are seeking volunteers to journey alongside our young people as mentors, supporters, and faith witnesses. If you have a little time, a listening ear, or a passion for helping young people encounter Christ, we would love to hear from you. Training and support are provided. Contact: Janette@stellamarisparish.org.nz for more information.

VACANCY – STELLA MARIS PARISH

Stella Maris Parish is seeking a passionate, organised, faith-filled Parish Event & Evangelisation Coordinator to support parish life through coordinating events, promoting parish activities, building relationships with ethnic and school communities, and leading evangelisation initiatives such as Alpha. An ideal candidate would be a committed Catholic who is organised, confident working with people, comfortable speaking publicly, and able to coordinate volunteers. A full NZ driver licence is required. This is a part-time role - 20 hours per week. Please email fjjobs@gmail.com for a full role description. To apply, please send your CV and cover letter to the above email with Parish Event and Evangelisation Coordinator Job Application in the subject line. Applications close on **Fri, Feb 20**.