



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.

22nd February 2026—First Sunday of Lent —Yr A

FACING OUR DESERTS: THE THREE TEMPTATIONS WE ALL BATTLE

The First Sunday of Lent invites us into the heart of our Lenten journey—a time to look honestly at our struggles and our commitment to God. The Gospel of Jesus' temptation in the wilderness in Matthew 4:1–11 reminds us that challenges and inner battles are part of every Christian life. The three temptations He faces reflect the weaknesses we confront each day and call us to renewal.

The first temptation, symbolised by bread, speaks to our longing for comfort, pleasure, and material security. We experience it when we avoid prayer because comfort is easier, turn to food or entertainment to escape, or rely too much on money or possessions for safety. Jesus teaches that true nourishment comes from God's Word and trust in His providence.

The second temptation, represented by the temple, reveals our desire for pride, recognition, and spiritual showmanship. It appears when we seek praise for our good deeds, try to impress others with our faith, or test God's love on our terms. Jesus shows that authentic faith grows quietly in humility, not in applause.

The third temptation, offering the kingdoms of the world, exposes our thirst for power, control, and shortcuts. It emerges when we manipulate situations, compromise values for success, or choose quick results over faithful perseverance. Jesus reminds us that true greatness comes from worshipping God alone.

These temptations are real, but so is Christ's victory. Lent calls us to walk with Him, surrender our weaknesses, and allow God to transform them into strength and grace.

Fr. Vincent Barboza
Assistant Priest



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

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 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 Vincent Barboza

Phone: 0225596472

Email: vincentbrbz7@gmail.com

Office Administrator

Joseph Arackal

Phone: 03 384 1600

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:

Sunday, 22nd February 2026—First Sunday of Lent — Yr A
Genesis 2:7-9, 3:1-7 Romans 5:12-19 Mathew 4:1-11
Psalm Response: Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

PARISH RETREAT IN PREPARATION FOR LENT

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

Where: St Anne's Church, Woolston.

Retreat is led by Fr Vincent, Christine and Bryn Sparks
Retreat begins with Mass. All are 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 are Welcome.

CREED: We recite the Apostles Creed during Lent and Easter.

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. The meeting starts from this Monday 23/02/2026 from 7pm to 8pm at Marian Room, St Anne's, Woolston.

PLANNED GIVING :

This is where you commit (Plan) to give a regular donation each week/fortnight/month. At the end of the financial year, you will receive a statement of your giving. Under NZ Tax Law you are able to claim a rebate of 1/3rd of donations back from Inland Revenue. I encourage everyone in the parish joining Planned Giving. Parish consider joining the automatic payment which will be more convenient both for you and the parish. Please contact the parish office if you wish to join: parish@stellamarisparish.org.nz

THIS FINANCIAL YEAR 2025-2026 is going to an end. It is time to print new envelopes for the Planned Giving. New set of envelopes will be delivered to the existing planned givers by the middle of March. There are a few members in planned givers list who have overlooked to contribute any amount after they have signed up. Please consider contributing money into your account before the end of the financial year.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

We warmly wish Fr Vincent Barboza a very happy birthday as he celebrates this Sunday, 22 February 2026.

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



FRIENDLY AFTERNOON:

St Anne's, Woolston—Friday, 27th February after 12:00 noon Mass. Come along for an afternoon of friendship and FUN. Bring your own lunch, and a few \$\$\$ for raffles. All welcome.

STELLA MARIS PARISH CULTURAL DAY

We had an amazing day last Friday. Many thanks to all those who were involved in various ways to make it a great success.

JUNIOR LEGION OF MARY:

The meeting starts 20th February 2026 from 5pm at St Anne's Church.

ANNOUNCING THE ALPHA PROGRAMME: STARTING APRIL 8TH!

We are happy to announce the launch of our upcoming **Alpha Programme**, beginning on **April 8th**. Whether you are a lifelong believer, a curious skeptic, or somewhere in between, there is a seat at the table for you.

What is Alpha

Alpha is a series of sessions exploring the Christian faith. Each session looks at a different question around faith and is designed to create conversation. No question is too big or too small, and no topic is off-limits. It's an open, informal, and honest space to explore the big questions of life. If you have questions about faith, purpose, or meaning, this is the place to ask them! This is a wonderful opportunity to **strengthen your own faith** and find community. We also encourage you to **share the word around**—invite a friend, a neighbor, or anyone who might be searching for answers. By bringing others along, you help create a supportive environment where we can all grow together.



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

Principal: Deb Daines

Phone: 03 388 7982

office@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