



# 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](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.

**1st March 2026—Second Sunday of Lent —Yr A**

## THE TRANSFIGURATION

Each year on the Second Sunday of Lent, the Church puts before us the transfiguration of Jesus. His face shone and his clothes became dazzlingly white. We too can experience transfiguration. Virtue transfigures us. But sin disfigures us.

Like the story of Jesus' baptism, the transfiguration is an epiphany story. Both stories are manifestations of Jesus as he is, or as he will be. In both there is a voice, and the voice says the same words. A mountain is a place of divine manifestation. The cloud is a sign of the presence of God. Moses and Elijah stand for the Law and the Prophets.

It is no longer possible to say what happened on the mountain. Was it a vision? Was it a profound religious experience? There has been a tendency to see the Transfiguration simply as a stage in the education of the apostles. But its first and chief significance was for Jesus himself. It was meant to confirm him in the course he had taken. But of course it also benefited the apostles. And it is this that Matthew emphasises. In the transfigured Jesus they got the glimpse of glory of the risen Lord. Even so, they could not understand until Jesus had risen from the dead.

So let us turn to the Lord for the help we need in this period of Lent, so that we can transfigure our lives by the practice of faith, hope and love.

Have a holy and blessed Lent to all the families of Stella Maris Parish.

**Fr Paulo Filoialii**  
Assistant Priest



### 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.

### LENTEN MISSION: AT ST ANNES CHURCH

17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> March at 6.30 pm to 8.00pm

Led by Fr Vincent Barboza- All Welcome

### RECONCILIATION ROTE II

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March: 7.00pm at St Annes

### 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

#### Samoa 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 Filoialii

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, 1st March 2026—Second Sunday of Lent — Yr A**

**Genesis 12:1-4      2 Timothy 1:8-10      Mathew 17:1-9**

**Psalm Response: Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.**

### 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](mailto: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.

### WORLD DAY OF PRAYER ECUMENICAL SERVICE

**Friday, 6th of March.** The theme: "*I will give you rest: Come*" - a service prepared by the women of WDP Nigeria. There will be an offertory collection for Nigerian projects and Aotearoa hospital chaplaincy. The Port Hills area service will be held at the Nayland Chapel, 87 Nayland Street, Sumner at 10.30am."

### CARITAS LENTEN REFLECTION PROGRAMME

"*Hear the voice, answer the call*", will be held in Lyttelton on Wednesday evenings at 5pm at Holy Trinity Church, Winchester Street."

### NEW PARISHIONERS:

A warm welcome is offered to new parishioners. If you have moved into our parish area or have started attending Mass in any of our Mass centres in the Stella Maris Parish, please make yourself known to one of our priests, fill out the form found in the foyer and place it in the collection basket.

### PREFERENCE FORMS FOR SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES:

Parents and guardians seeking a Preference Form for schools or colleges are invited to submit a request through the parish website or by scanning the QR code displayed in the church foyer or at the school. Once your request has been received, the office staff will contact you and one of our priests will be in touch to arrange an appointment with the parents.

### FRIDAY YOUTH GROUP IS BACK ON!

Gen 1 | 3:15pm–4:15pm | Years 5–6  
Crowns | 4:30pm–6:00pm | Years 7–8  
STAY | 4:30pm–6:00pm | Years 9–13

All are welcome — bring a friend! Supper is provided.

For more information, contact

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

### FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PREPARATION BEGINS THIS WEEK

9:30am in St Anne's Hall. Please keep our children and families in your prayers as they prepare to receive Jesus for the first time.

**\*Missed registration?** Don't stress — we've extended it for two more weeks. Scan the QR code to register your child.



### SHARE THE GOOD NEWS: INVITE SOMEONE TO ALPHA!

As followers of Christ, we are called to be His hands, His feet, and His voice in our community. On **April 8th**, we begin our new **Alpha Programme**, and we want to ensure everyone has the opportunity to hear the message of hope.

#### **How Can You Help?**

We encourage every parishioner to:

**Invite a Neighbour:** Is there someone on your street who might be looking for community?



**Bring a Friend:** Do you have a friend who is curious about faith or searching for meaning?

**Spread the Word:** Share our social media posts or pass this newsletter along to those outside our parish walls.

#### **Why Invite Them?**

Alpha is a safe, no-pressure environment where anyone can explore the big questions of life and the Christian faith. By inviting others, you aren't just sharing a program; you are sharing the **Good News** and helping them strengthen their relationship with God.

Let's be bold in our faith and open our doors wide.

Who will you invite to join us on **April 8th**?

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

**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

Principal: Deb Daines

Phone: 03 388 7982

[office@nbc.school.nz](mailto:office@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

Phone: 03 384 3073

[principal@stannes.co.nz](mailto:principal@stannes.co.nz)