



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.

8th March 2026—Third Sunday of Lent —Yr A

“I HAVE FOUND THE MESSIAH”

Without food, we can live for ages. But, *without water, we die in days*. Water is one of the most important requirements for the sustenance of all lives. Without water there is no life.

The thirst for water is so important that the companies like Coca-Cola and Pepsi spend millions on TV ads, in all over the world to stimulate our thirst and get us to buy their product.

There is a thirst in every human heart, which cannot be satisfied just by water, or by any of the things in this world. This thirst can only be satisfied by a person who loves us and accepts us as we are. That Person is *Jesus*, our saviour. *Jesus is the ‘living water’ who can satisfy the thirst of our human heart*. The Samaritan woman and the other women in her town found this living water, through an encounter with Jesus.

We too need an encounter with Jesus to find the living water. When it happens, he will cause a spring to well up inside us. The water from this spring will sustain us, in our journey to the promised land of eternal life.

Let us look into the wells of our own lives. Are they still the wellsprings of happiness and peace or are they like waterless pits filled with rubbles and rubbishes, choking the springs of life?

It is time to tell our story to Jesus like the Samaritan woman to clean our own well. It is time to tell our story to the people around us like the Samaritan woman and become a missionary like the Samaritan woman. At the end, we can rejoice with her and the entire Samaritan village saying: **“I have found the Messiah.”**

Fr Job Thyikalamuriyil
The Parish Priest

LENTEN MISSION— THE SUFFERING SERVANT

As we journey through this holy season of Lent, you are invited to a three-day spiritual reflection on **“The Suffering Servant”** based on the moving prophecy in **Isaiah 53**.

Dates: 17th, 18th & 19th March

Time: 6:30 pm each evening

Venue: St. Anne’s Church, Woolston, Christchurch

Programme: Mass, Praise & Worship, Talk, and Adoration

Preacher: Fr. Vincent Barboza

Join us for these grace-filled evenings
as we pause, pray, and prepare our hearts for Easter.

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

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Assistant Priest:

Father Paulo Filoialii

Phone: 027 955 7989

Assistant Priest:

Fr Vincent Barboza

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Office Administrator

Joseph Arackal

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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, 8th March 2026—Third Sunday of Lent — Yr A

Exodus 17:3-7 Romans 5:1-2, 5-8 John 4:5-16, 19-26, 39-42

Psalm Response: If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

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.

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

RECONCILIATION ROTE II

Friday 20th March: 7.00pm at St Annes

THIS FINANCIAL YEAR 2025-2026 is going to an end. It is time to print new envelops for the Planned Giving. New set of envelops 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.

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

MESSAGE FROM ST ANNE'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL:

This Wednesday 11 March, we begin around 6 months of building work at our school. Please be aware, there will be less car parks on our court from now on, as space is required for these works. In the near future, the court will be repaired so may have a few weekends with no parks whatsoever. We advise that after this weekend, you leave earlier for Mass and explore streets around church for alternative parking. Thank you for your understanding at this time.

Masses Offered this week:

Thanks giving mass offered for Imelda Bout

ALPHA STARTS APRIL 8TH! BE AN APOSTLE TO YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD:

Evangelization starts with a simple invitation. We are calling on every parishioner to look beyond our church walls and reach out to:



- Neighbours who may be feeling isolated or searching for purpose.
- Friends who have questions about faith but don't know where to start.

Family members who have been away from the Church for a while.

Details to Share: Start Date: April 8th at 6.30 pm, St. Anne's school Hall.

SHORT-TERM RENTAL ACCOMMODATION:

SHORT-TERM RENTAL ACCOMMODATION: David and Fiona Piccolo, along with their seven children (ages 5–16), will be returning to our parish this June and July to guide a period of evangelisation and 'Neo Catechumenal way of life' catechesis. They are currently seeking short-term rental accommodation from 1 June to 7 August 2026. If you know of an available suitable home (3 bedrooms or more, either furnished or unfurnished) please contact Aaron and Annamaria O'Sullivan at 021 0882 3942 or email David directly at david.piccolo79@gmail.com

CITY TO SURF AT NEW BRIGHTON:

Parishioners at New Brighton need to know that the Sunday 15th March is the City to Surf and access to Lonsdale Street will be limited, buses will be parked along the Street. Keyes Rd and New Brighton Road will be closed from 9am, access via Marine Parade may be possible but be aware that road works are in place. It is suggested that the main access will be via Pages Road then Hawke Street and Shaw Ave. School gate will be open until 10.30am for the parishioners to park car. I encourage few parishioners to come early with high viz to reserve the parish/school car park for those who come to 10.30am Mass.

NEED CLEANERS AT ST MARY'S, NEW BRIGHTON: Only two weekends are rostered for cleaning. Three more weekends are to be covered. Can you help?

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