



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 March 2026—Fifth Sunday of Lent —Yr A

“CHRIST, THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE”

Fifth Sunday of Lent is the Sunday of Lazarus who is risen from the death.

In today’s Gospel we see a scene with which all of us are familiar, namely, people weeping over the death of a loved one. Jesus is at the centre of that scene. He is the one who gives hope to those who are surrounded by the shadows of death.

John’s main aim is to elicit faith in Jesus and to show the effects of faith in him. “Lazarus is dead; and for your sake I am glad I was not there, because now you will believe.” And the story ends with the words: “Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and had seen what he did, believed in him.”

Martha is presented as a model of faith. In defiance of the evidence, she makes a wonderful profession of faith: “I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into the world.” Jesus is the source of life, not just physical life, but the undying life of God. This new life is not a mere future hope but a present reality which physical death, despite appearances, does not negate.

The key words in the story today are: “**I am the Resurrection and the Life.**” The delay in coming to Martha and Mary, and the fact that Lazarus has been dead for four days, serve to underline the point the evangelist is making, namely that Jesus is the Master of life and death.

For we know that God gives life, and nothing is impossible for him, because he is the Lord of the living and the dead.



Fr Paulo Filoialii
Assistant Priest



*“Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth!
Serve the Lord with gladness.” (Psalm 100)*

**This Sunday, 22 March 2026, at St Anne’s Church, Woolston
9:30am—10:15am—Come early for Mass and join us.**



**We Celebrate Palm Sunday Next Weekend
28th Saturday and 29th Sunday March 2026**

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 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:

HOLY WEEK BEGINS NEXT WEEKEND

Holy week is a special time to clear out schedules of unnecessary activities. It is a time to fix our hearts and minds on Jesus and what he did for us. Holy Week is most definitely a very sacred time of the year, for it is now that we will commemorate and remember the last week of Jesus' life on this earth. Those who engage themselves wholeheartedly in the Holy week liturgies will discover that it can change them forever.

PALM SUNDAY WEEKEND: 28/29 MARCH

We celebrate Palm Sunday next weekend. Palm Sunday serves as the official start of **Holy Week** and is the final Sunday of Lent. **Palm Sunday** commemorates Jesus Christ's "triumphal entry" into Jerusalem exactly one week before his resurrection.

THE ANNUAL CHRISM MASS: MONDAY 30TH MARCH @5.30 PM

It is celebrated in the Pro Cathedral. The Holy Oils for the celebration of Baptism, Confirmation, Ordination to the Priesthood and the anointing of the Sick are blessed by the Bishop at this Mass. A Representative from each parish collects the Oils for their parish. During this Mass, the priests of the diocese renew their vows. Prior to this Mass priests join for Reconciliation Rite II

HOLY THURSDAY: 2ND APRIL @7.00PM AT ST ANNES, WOOLSON AND ST MARY'S NB

Mass of the Lord's Supper. This Mass commemorates, the washing of the feet by Jesus, commandment of the Lord concerning fraternal charity, the Institution of the Eucharist and the Priesthood, at the Last Supper. There will be an opportunity for quiet prayer at the 'Altar of Repose' for 30 minutes after the Mass.

GOOD FRIDAY: 3RD APRIL @ 3.00 PM:

AT ST ANNES, WOOLSON AND ST MARY'S NB

COMMEMORATION OF THE LORD'S PASSION AND HOLY COMMUNION

This involves the reading of the Passion of Jesus, Veneration of the Cross and Holy Communion. There is a retiring collection to assist with the care of religious shrines in the Holy Land- that the Catholic Church has responsibility for maintaining. Fasting day.

There are no Masses on Good Friday and on Holy Saturday until we conclude the Easter Vigil.

HOLY NIGHT - EASTER VIGIL

The **Easter Vigil** is the greatest and noblest of all solemnities. On this night, the faithful keep watch for the Lord; carrying lighted lamps, they await his return so that he may find them awake and invite them to his table. The Church calls upon her sons and daughters, scattered throughout the world, to come together in watchfulness and prayer. The entire celebration of the Easter Vigil takes place under the **cover of night.**"

EASTER VIGIL- 4TH APRIL @ 7.00 PM AT ANNES

The Easter vigil begins with the blessing of the fire and lighting of the Paschal Candle at the Church door followed by the Easter proclamation, special readings from the Word of God, Blessing of the Baptismal water, reception of OCIC/OCIA catechumens & candidates into the Catholic faith, renewal of our Baptismal promises with lighted candles and the Liturgy of the Eucharist which is the climax of the Vigil.

PASTORAL WORKER: THE PARISH EVENT AND EVANGELISATION COORDINATOR

I am very delighted to announce the appointment of Jay Reforial as our new Pastoral worker: Parish Event and Evangelisation Coordinator. Jay has an extensive experience in parish life, evangelisation initiatives, liturgical coordination and volunteer mobilization. Jay will be leading our efforts to connect with the community, run the Alpha program, plan exciting events and share the love of Christ with everyone.

Jay is a Faith-driven and community-centred pastoral leader with a Diploma in Business and Project Management. This combines strong administrative competence with a heart for evangelization. She is experienced in parish coordination, retreat facilitation, and Catholic formation, with a deep commitment to the New Evangelization. Fostering meaningful engagement across youth, families, and adults. Passionate about creating welcoming, Christ-centred environments where individuals and families can grow in faith and belonging. Skilled in ministry coordination, volunteer leadership, and faith-based program development, while maintaining organizational systems that support effective parish life. Dedicated to serving the mission of the Church through relational evangelization, structured planning, pastoral sensitivity, and faithful collaboration with clergy and lay leaders. Jay's Top five Clifton's Strengths are Communication, Learner, Responsibility, Restorative and Includer.

Let us welcome **Jay Reforial** to our parish team and support her role as the Parish Event and Evangelisation Coordinator as she starts her ministry this Tuesday 24th March 2026.



Masses Offered this week:

Please keep in your prayers those whose death anniversaries occur at this time. May they have eternal rest.



PARISH NOTICES:

Holy Week Schedule 2026

All welcome

Thur 19 th March	Mass of Anointing	11.15am St Mary's, New Brighton
Friday 20 th March	Reconciliation Rite II	7.00pm St Anne's, Woolston
Frid 27 th March	Mass of Anointing	12.00pm St Anne's, Woolston
Sun 29 th March	Palm Sunday	6.00pm Vigil St Anne's, Woolston 9.00am Star of the Sea, Sumner 10.30am St Anne's, Woolston 10:30am St Mary's, New Brighton
Mon 30 th March	Diocesan Chrism Mass	5:30pm St Mary's Pro-Cathedral
Tues 31 st March	Weekday Mass	9:15am St Anne's, Woolston
Wed 1 st April	Weekday Mass	9:15am St Anne's, Woolston
Thu 2 nd April	Holy Thursday	
	Mass of the Last Supper	7:00pm St Mary's, New Brighton 7:00pm At Anne's, Woolston
Fri 3 rd April	Good Friday	
	Stations of the Cross	10:00am Star of the Sea, Sumner 10:00am St Anne's, Woolston 10.00am St Mary's, New Brighton 3:00pm St Andrew's, Diamond Harbour
	The Passion of our Lord	3:00pm St Anne's, Woolston 3:00pm St Mary's, New Brighton
Sat 4 th April	Easter Vigil	7.00pm St Anne's, Woolston 5:30pm St Andrew's, Diamond Harbour
Sun 5 th April	Easter Sunday	9:00am Star of the Sea, Sumner 10:30am St Anne's, Woolston 10:30am St Mary's, New Brighton

Have a blessed Holy Week and wish you a very happy Easter.

PARISH NOTICES:

Sunday, 22nd March 2026—Fifth Sunday of Lent — Yr A

Ezekiel 37:12-14

Romans 8:8-11

John 11:1-45

Psalm Response: With the Lord there is mercy, and fullness of redemption.

DURING LENT

We are asked to undertake some penitential practices.

LENTEN MISSION

Many thanks to Fr Vincent Barboza who led the Lenten Mission for our parishioners. It was so nice to see many of our parishioners in Lenten Mission.

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.

MASS OF ANOINTING- ALL WELCOME

St Anne's, Woolston: Friday 27th March at 12.00pm

BISHOPS' LENTEN APPEAL:

The New Zealand Bishops are encouraging the Catholic community to prayerfully consider how they can contribute to the annual Lenten Appeal. The appeal supports the work of Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand, which through its global network serves some of our world's most vulnerable and needy communities. The Bishops explain that acts of Christian charity can change the lives of those who benefit from that charity, but also can transform those who give with generosity — according to their own circumstances. Find out more at www.caritas.org.nz/lent

CARITAS LENT WEBINAR SERIES 2026

Bishop Michael Gielen will be reflecting on 'The Raising of Lazarus' at the next Caritas Lenten webinar on **Wednesday, March 25 at 7.30pm**. To register, visit www.caritas.org.nz/lent-webinars

VACANCY - CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

The Diocese of Christchurch is seeking an experienced and forward-thinking Chief Finance Officer (CFO) to lead a passionate and committed team and contribute meaningfully to the strategic direction of the Catholic Diocese of Christchurch. We invite applications from leaders who share the Diocese's sense of purpose, who value meaningful work, and who are energised by contributing to a mission driven organisation. For more information, or to apply, email applications@cdoc.nz Applications close at 9.00pm on **Apr 12**.

FRIENDLY AFTERNOON:

St Anne's, Woolston—Friday, 27th March 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 MEN'S BREAKFAST

Next Saturday, 28 March 7:30am – 9:00am, St Mary's New Brighton Church, Please RSVP to Sone by calling or texting +64 27 931 7793 by the 25th of March to assist with catering.



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

ALPHA STARTS APRIL 8TH!

This is a powerful opportunity to strengthen your own faith and fulfil our mission to evangelize by inviting neighbours, friends, and family to explore life's big questions in a warm, open environment. Whether they are lifelong believers or curious sceptics, your simple invitation can be the light that helps someone find their way home to Christ. Let's be bold in our faith, spread the word throughout our community, and grow together as we welcome everyone to the table this April.



NEW SETS OF PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES for the year 2026-2027 are kept in the foyer in all three Mass centres in the alphabetical order of their surname. Many thanks to those who are in the 'Planned giving Program'. You may please take your envelopes from the foyer.

THIS FINANCIAL YEAR 2025-2026 is coming to an end next weekend. If you have overlooked to contribute any amount after you have signed up, parish encourages you to make a one-off payment either by your envelope or via online. The parish account details are: **Catholic Parish East, 03-1592-0207535-020**. Under NZ Tax Law you are able to claim a rebate of 1/3rd of donations back from Inland Revenue.

THE GRANDPARENT PRAYER MEETING for March is on **Sunday, 22nd March at 3 pm at St Mary's New Brighton church hall**. Please join us to pray for our children and grandchildren. Come early for a 'cuppa' before we start. Contact: Sandie on 021 180 4445.

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