



# 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.

**29th March 2026—Palm Sunday —Yr A**

## CLEAR OUT SCHEDULES OF UNNECESSARY ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK HOLY WEEK BEGINS TODAY

**Holy Week** is a special week 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 on the last week of His life on this earth. Those who engage themselves wholeheartedly in the Holy Week Liturgies will discover that it can change them forever.

**Palm Sunday** marks the beginning of Holy Week. Today we celebrate the joyful entrance of Jesus into Jerusalem to accomplish the great mystery of redemption through suffering and so it is also called Passion Sunday.

**The Paschal Triduum:** Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil (Easter) are the three important days of Holy Week which are known as The Paschal Triduum. It is a single liturgical celebration that spans three days. It is not three separate liturgies. The liturgy that begins on the evening of Maundy Thursday, reaches its high point in the Easter Vigil, and closes with evening prayer on Easter Sunday.

At the end of the Mass on Holy Thursday, you will notice there is no final blessing or dismissal. People are invited to pray quietly before the Blessed Sacrament and then leave when they are ready. The liturgy simply pauses.

It picks up again on Good Friday with the Solemn Celebration of the Lord's Passion. It is not a Mass. Receiving Holy Communion on Good Friday links the celebration of this day with the Mass of the Lord's Supper and looks forward to the Eucharist of the Easter Vigil. There is no formal dismissal at the end. Another pause.

At the Easter Vigil, we pick up our prayer from where we left off the day before. It is only at the end of the Easter Vigil Mass we hear the formal dismissal of the assembly, "Mass is ended". The Easter Vigil is considered the Easter Mass.

**The Easter Vigil** is the greatest and noblest of all solemnities. The Church calls upon her sons and daughters, scattered throughout the world, to come together to watch and pray.

The Paschal Candle, lit from the newly blessed fire, reminds us that Christ is the Light of the World. He alone can dispel the darkness of sin and evil. We sing the Exsultet holding lighted candles, proclaiming that He is risen. The Church reads and reflects on the summary of our salvation history in the Sacred Scriptures. The water that is blessed and poured over the Catechumens during Easter Baptism reminds us that in Christ we are cleansed, purified and recreated.

May you have a blessed Holy week and clear out schedules of unnecessary activities this week.



**Fr Job Thyikalamuriyil**  
**The Parish Priest.**

### 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

#### Pastoral Worker: - Jay Reforial

Phone: 022 093 6373  
jay@stellamarisparish.org.nz

#### Local Safeguarding representative

Makarita Fido-Isaako  
Phone: 021 082 56819  
volunteer@stellamarisparish.org.nz

## PARISH NOTICES:

### HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE 2026

Palm Sunday marks the beginning of the Holy Week. Paschal Triduum: Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter vigil (Easter) are the three important days of the Holy week. Easter is the most important celebration of the Liturgical year and on this day, we celebrate Jesus' Resurrection.

### PALM SUNDAY WEEKEND:28/29<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2026

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

### HOLY THURSDAY-2<sup>nd</sup> APRIL AT 7.00M

**MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER:  
AT NEW BRIGHTON AND IN WOOLSTON.**

The Mass of the Lord's Supper 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' after the Mass.

(No Mass in the morning)

### GOOD FRIDAY: 3rd APRIL - AT 3.00PM: AT MARY'S AND ST ANNES

#### **COMMEMORATION OF THE LORD'S PASSION AND HOLY COMMUNION**

This is a special liturgy of the church as a part of the Paschal Triduum. This involves the reading of the passion of Jesus, the 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.

### DAY OF FASTING AND ABSTINENCE FROM MEAT

Catholics are required to fast 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.

### STATIONS OF THE CROSS

St Annes: 10.00am; St Mary's: 10.00am; Sumner:10.00am

Diamond harbour: 3.00pm

**There are no Masses on  
Good Friday nor on Holy Saturday  
until we conclude the Easter Vigil.**

### EASTER VIGIL

**St Anne's, Woolston:**

**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April At 7.00 Pm**

**Diamond Harbour:**

**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April at 5.30pm**

(No Mass at Diamond harbour on Easter Sunday)

### EASTER SUNDAY MASS 5<sup>th</sup> APRIL

**OLSOS Sumner at 9.00am,**

**St Mary's New Brighton 10.30am**

**St Annes's, Woolston 10.30am**

Mass with Renewal of baptismal promises.

## Masses Offered this week:

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



## PARISH / DIOCESAN NOTICES

### 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](mailto:applications@cdoc.nz) Applications close at 9.00pm on **Apr 12**.

### 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](http://www.caritas.org.nz/lent)

### CARITAS Lent Webinar Series 2026

Bishop John Adams will be reflecting on 'The Passion - I will strike the Shepherd' on the final Caritas Lenten webinar on Wed, Apr 1. To register, [www.caritas.org.nz/lent-webinars](http://www.caritas.org.nz/lent-webinars) . All are welcome to join!

### DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

The annual celebration Mass of Divine Mercy Sunday will be offered at St Mary's Pro-Cathedral at 2.45pm on Sun, Apr 12 with confessions from 1.30pm, all welcome. Book sales and refreshments to follow. Note; no parking on Cathedral grounds until after 2pm. Contact Pat on (03) 359 2087 for more info.

### BREAKFAST FOR MEN WITH BISHOP MICHAEL

What has now become a successful annual event, the men's breakfast is on again! It is coming up soon on Sat, Apr 18 and being held at Catholic Cathedral College, 62 Ferry Road. There will be adoration in the college hall from 6.30am with breakfast at 7.30am. Suggested koha of \$5 to cover the cost of a cooked breakfast. Come and be with other men of the diocese for food and encouragement. Register [www.cathmen.nz](http://www.cathmen.nz) or contact Mike Stopforth at the diocesan office, phone 366 9869 or 027 5398 542.

### MADE FOR LOVE: MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSE

Getting married soon? What are you really saying I do to? This one-day course is for engaged couples preparing to get married in the Catholic Church.

It's a chance to pause, reconnect, and invest in your future together. You'll explore what helps marriages thrive, how to navigate differences well, and what those vows actually mean. Plus, enjoy morning tea and lunch together, and take home plenty of practical resources.

**Next course: Sat, May 9. \$140 per couple.**

**Hosted by the John Paul II Centre for Life.**

**Sign up at: <https://jp2.org.nz/marriage-pr...>**

### FOOD FOR FAITH

Growing in maturity of Faith accompanied by Food For Faith through Lent with daily reflections at [www.foodforfaith.org.nz](http://www.foodforfaith.org.nz).

### SCAN QR CODE OR VISIT PARISH WEBSITE.

Why can't we be smart?

Most of us are on smartphones and email. To apply for a preference certificate for catholic schools, register for baptisms, join the parish and planned giving, making enquiries, all you need to do is just focus on the QR code on your smartphone camera, click on the link, complete the form and submit. It saves your time and saves the time of the admin staff.

#### Preference Application



#### Parish Enrolment



#### Planned Giving



#### Contact office



**DAY LIGHT SAVING** ending on Easter Sunday morning 05/03/2026 when clocks go backwards 1 hour.

## PARISH NOTICES:

**Sunday, 29th March 2026— Palm Sunday — Yr A**

**Isaiah 50:4-7**

**Philippians 2:6-11**

**Mathew 7:11-54**

**Psalm Response: My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?**

**ALPHA STARTS APRIL 8TH!** With only 10 days to go, the start of our Alpha Programme on April 8th is fast approaching! We are called by Jesus to share the Good News, and this is the perfect moment to evangelize by inviting a neighbour, friend, or family member to explore life's big questions. Whether you are looking to strengthen your own faith or help someone else find theirs, your simple invitation can change a life. Let's be bold in our mission, spread the word throughout the community, and prepare our hearts to welcome everyone to the Alpha Programme.

### **BREAKFAST FOR MEN WITH BISHOP MICHAEL:**

What has now become a successful annual event, the men's breakfast is on again! It is coming up soon on Sat, Apr 18 and being held at Catholic Cathedral College, 62 Ferry Road. There will be adoration in the college hall from 6.30am with breakfast at 7.30am. Suggested koha of \$5 to cover the cost of a cooked breakfast. Come and be with other men of the diocese for food and encouragement. Register - [www.cathmen.nz](http://www.cathmen.nz) or contact Mike Stopforth at the diocesan office, phone 366 9869 or 027 5398 542.

### **OLSOS SCHOOL PRINCIPAL FAREWELL**

Sumner parishioners are invited to join OLSOS school in their hall for the final assembly of term 1 at 1.30pm, Thursday 2nd April. This is an opportunity to join with the teachers, students, staff and Board members to celebrate and farewell Adele Greig, as she marks her last day as Principal of Our Lady Star of the Sea. You are also warmly invited for nibbles and drinks (BYO) from 3:00pm

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

**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 Stella Maris Parish, please make yourself known to one of our priests, fill out the parish form found in the foyer and place it in the collection basket.

**THIS FINANCIAL YEAR 2025-2026** is coming to an end next weekend. If you have overlooked to contribute any amount after you signed up, the 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.

**CARITAS LENTEN APPEAL:** there are Giving Envelopes for donations to the Caritas Lenten Appeal in the porches of the churches. Alternatively, you may make a deposit in the Caritas Bank Account via the website: <https://www.caritas.org.nz/ways-to-give> Money from the Lenten Caritas Appeal goes towards the Catholic Church's Relief and Development Programmes.

### **PREFERENCE FORMS FOR THE SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES:**

Those who are seeking preference forms may request for it through the parish website or by scanning the QR code displayed either in the church foyer or at school. The office staff will be in touch with you once we receive the request and one of our priests will contact you to make the appointment with the parents.

### **Catholic Parish of Christchurch East—Parish App:**

Please download the parish App where you will find: the Newsletter, weekend readings, Rosters, Mass Centres, Mass timings, Contacts and Events.



### **How to set up the app**

- Step 1: Go to Google Play or Apple Play
- Step 2: Search for ChurchAppsNZ
- Step 3: Install ChurchAppsNZ

### **REMINDER: Our Parish is subscribed to FORMED:**

All of our parishioners have access to this amazing resource.

It's very easy - to log on and sign up  
– Go to <https://signup.formed.org/>  
– Search for Catholic Parish of Christchurch East

- Enter your name, and email address
- Then you have access to a whole range of fabulous resources.



**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)