



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.

3rd May 2026—5th Sunday of Easter -Yr A

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER JESUS, THE WAY, THE TRUTH AND THE LIFE

The most traditional way of thinking about God comes from the history of His revelation to His chosen people in the Old Testament. They did not picture God philosophically, but as a God who was very close to them. A God who made them feel important when other people looked down on them. A God who fed them, when they were hungry and gave them drink, when they were thirsty.

There is a proverb going like this: "There is no other place on earth like home." The truth is this: after our hard work every day, the only place in our minds is to go back home as soon as possible. And when we arrive home, we are very happy to be with our family. It means that everybody needs a home to go to.

In the Gospel of John this Fifth Sunday of Easter, Jesus assures us that ultimately all of us have a home to go to, namely, the heavenly kingdom. He even promises that He has already prepared a place for us in that home.

Jesus consoled His apostles and us too, with these lovely words in the Gospel of John this Sunday: "There are many rooms in my Father's house. I am going to prepare a place for you. I shall return to take you with me, so that where I am you may be too." This means that we have an eternal home to go to, namely, the Father's house in heaven. That is why Jesus assures us that He is the Way, the Truth and the Life. And no one can come to the Father except through Him.

So, in what ways are we going to prepare if we want to go to that home? Firstly, we must believe in Jesus. Secondly, we must listen to Him. Thirdly, we must follow Him. If we practise all these in our lives, the Heavenly Father's home is for us.

May God bless all families in our parish.

Fr Paulo Filoialii
Assistant Priest



CATHOLICISM4CATHOLICS - FAITH FORMATION SERIES

A programme designed to help us understand the richness of our Catholic faith more deeply. The programme will be held by **Vincent Barboza** on Thursday starting from 7th May until 4th June and on Tuesday starting from 9th June at 7:00 PM in St Anne's Hall, and all parishioners—those new to the faith and those long on the journey—are warmly invited to participate.

Please find attached insert '**The Pathways of Welcoming, Belonging and Discipleship**' document for **Stella Maris Parish**. This resource outlines our parish's approach to fostering belonging, accompaniment, and growth in discipleship within our community.

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

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

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: frvincent@stellamarisparish.org.nz

Office Administrator/ Finance

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

Admin Support volunteer: Kathi Ryder

Phone: 03 384 1600

kathi@stellamarisparish.org.nz

PARISH NOTICES:

3rd May 2026—5th Sunday of Easter -Yr A

Acts 6:1-7

1 Peter 2:4-9

John 14:1-12

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

FR JOB WILL BE AWAY FOR HIS SABBATICAL for three months from 4th May 2026 to 6th August. Fr Moises will assist the parish during this time. Fr Dan Doyle will also assist the parish in case of emergency. Please keep Fr Job in your prayers.

For Anointing of the sick and Funerals:
Contact Fr Paulo or Fr Vincent

For Hall Bookings: Contact Kathi Ryder:
kathi@stellamarisparish.org.nz

For Baptism and Preference forms: Contact parish the office or scan the QR code. Contact details are in the newsletter, the parish App and the website.

ATTENDANCE DUES are no longer collected by the parish. Invoices are sent from the diocese, and the fees are to be paid to the bank account mentioned in the invoice. If any of the school parents have made an automatic set up with the parish, the automatic set up has to be changed. Some of the parents/sponsors are still paying to the parish.

NEO CATECHUMENAL WAY group will conduct their 2nd round of Catechesis starting from the 8th June 2026 to the 30th July on Mondays and Thursdays at 6.30pm at St Annes Hall. Fr Moises, a seminarian, David, Fiona and their children will be coming from Australia for this Catechesis. David and Fiona are still looking for accommodation for this period. If you know any house with three or four bedrooms available to rent, please let Aaron O'Sullivan know: ajo.osullivan@gmail.com

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS AT ST ANNES AND ST MARY'S CHURCH: Both St Annes Church and St Mary's Church need volunteers for the 10.30am Masses: Greeters, Sacristans, Sunday Collectors, and Altar servers. If you can help with one of the Sundays of each month, please contact Makarita Fido-Isaako who is the parish ministry coordinator volunteer@stellamarisparish.org.nz
Contact number: 0274 830 299

ST MARY'S AND ST ANNE'S HALL BOOKINGS Will be administered by Kathi Ryder, who is a member of the Finance Committee and an Administration Support Volunteer. Kathi will arrange a meeting of those who have already arranged bookings and explain the expectations of hall use. Including availability, cleanliness, tidiness and disposal of rubbish. Parish programs will have priority over any bookings taken. There will be a Koha for bookings, if the bookings are not for parish activities.

Kathi can be contacted by email:
kathi@stellamarisparish.org.nz

BUILDING OUR MISSION TOGETHER Our parish is a family of 844 households this year, each playing a vital role in our vibrant community. Currently, 236 households sustain our mission through Planned Giving and some through Sunday loose cash. While we are not running a formal renewal program this year, we invite you to prayerfully consider joining this core group .

By choosing **Automatic Payments**, you provide the steady foundation our parish needs to bring the Good News to all. Every gift, no matter the size, makes a difference.

Automatic payment is convenient: No need for envelopes or cash: Tax Benefits: Claim 33.33% rebate on your donations.

Please contact: Kathi kathi@stellamarisparish.org.nz

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. If you are in the Planned Giving Program, please take your envelopes from the foyer and there is a set of envelopes for the special collections for those who are on automatic payments.

TAX RECEIPTS for the financial year ended 31st March 2026 are available in the narthex of the mass centres in alphabetical order of the surnames of the planned givers. Those who would like to get the tax receipt by email, please contact Kathi, the Admin Support Volunteer: kathi@stellamarisparish.org.nz

Masses Offered this week:

We pray for the soul of Cristina Alojado and Jane Andrea Boyo
May they Rest In Peace.



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