



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.

24 May 2026 - Pentecost Sunday -Yr A



PENTECOST: A DAY THAT CHANGED EVERYTHING

Pentecost stands as one of the most defining moments in Christian history—a single day marked by two extraordinary events that reshaped the world: the coming of the Holy Spirit and the beginning of the Church. What started as an ordinary gathering of disciples waiting in obedience, turned into a divine turning point that no one could have predicted.

First, the coming of the Holy Spirit brought an unmistakable sign that God was no longer distant or confined to temples and traditions. The Spirit arrived with wind and fire—symbols that made it clear this was no gentle whisper but a powerful presence meant to transform fearful followers into bold witnesses. In that moment, ordinary men and women received extraordinary courage, understanding, and unity. Pentecost reminds us that faith is not sustained by human effort but by God’s living presence working within His people.

Second, this dramatic encounter marks the birthday of the Church. What had been a small circle of disciples suddenly burst outward into a global mission. With Peter’s bold proclamation and the miraculous understanding among diverse crowds, the Church took its first breath. This wasn’t an institution created by committees or strategies; it was a movement ignited by the Spirit, built on the message of Christ, and destined to cross languages, cultures, and centuries.

Pentecost invites us to remember that the Church began not with plans, but with power—not with human strength, but with God’s Spirit—calling believers to carry Christ’s light into the world.

On this Feast of Pentecost, may the Holy Spirit who gave birth to the Church fill your heart with courage, wisdom, and joy. May you experience a fresh outpouring of His grace in your life and family.

Fr. Vincent Barboza



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

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Assistant Priest:

Father Paulo Filoalii

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Assistant Priest:

Fr Vincent Barboza

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Office Administrator/ Finance

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Local Safeguarding Representative

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Admin Support volunteer: Kathi Ryder

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

**This Sunday, 24th May 2026, at St Anne’s Church,
9:30am—10:15am—Come early for Mass and join us.**

24 May 2026 | Pentecost Sunday | Yr A

Acts 2:1-11

1 Corinthians 12:3-7, 12-13

John 20:19-23

Psalm Response:

Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.

**CATHOLICISM4CATHOLICS
FAITH FORMATION SERIES**

A programme designed to help us understand the richness of our Catholic faith more deeply.

Talk 4: "Do Catholics Worship Idols?"

Our next session will address a question that is often raised: "Do Catholics Worship Idols?"

Fr. Vincent Barboza will guide us through Scripture and the Church's teaching to explain the Catholic understanding of images, statues, and true worship. In this session, we will understand how Catholic veneration points us toward God, not away from Him.

Join us this Thursday at 7:00 PM in St. Anne's Hall as we continue to grow in our understanding of the Catholic faith.

All parishioners—new and experienced in the faith—are warmly invited to attend.

Note: From next month, sessions will be held every Tuesday, starting 2nd June.



BISHOP MICHAEL

Bishop Michael will celebrate Mass on Wednesday, 27 May at St Anne's Church, Woolston at 9:15am.

WHAT DO VINNIES NEED?

We are supporting our St Anne's Youth Group who meet weekly on a Friday afternoon and are provided with afternoon tea during their session. If you are able to donate a packet of biscuits, a large bag of chips or popcorn or a packet of crackers the students who attend will be very grateful! Thank you, as always, for the many ways you support us with Parish projects like this and to help those in need in our community. Anne Nicholls 021527741.



NEO-CATH. CATECHESIS BEGINS ON 8TH JUNE

The Neocatechumenal Way is a Catholic movement that focuses on spiritual renewal and evangelization. It is a charism within the Catholic Church dedicated to Christian formation.

Starting on **8th June from 7.00pm to 8.00pm** for all Mondays and Thursdays, Fr Moises, David, Fiona, and Paolo, a missionary team of the Neocatechumenal Way will be running a series of catechesis in the **St Anne's Parish Hall**. All are welcome to attend.

MISSIONARY FAMILY SEEKING HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

The missionary family, David and Fiona and their children, arriving on 4 June, are seeking household furniture and appliances. Any assistance would be greatly appreciated.

They are currently looking for: Bunk beds with mattresses, Fridge, Washing machine, Household appliances (e.g. toaster, blender, etc.) Pots and pans, Plates, Kitchen utensils, Cutlery. Thank you for your generosity and support.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION RETREAT REMINDER

Please keep in your prayers all the children and families preparing to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist this year. Our First Holy Communion Retreat Day will be held this Sunday from 9:30am–1pm for all children and parents participating in the programme. We pray this will be a special time of preparation, encounter, and grace for our families.

FIRST RECONCILIATION – RITE II

Our First Reconciliation Rite II Celebration for our First Holy Communion children will be held on Wednesday 27th May at 6pm at St Anne's Church. All parishioners are warmly invited to attend and support our young people and their families through your presence and prayers. By being witnesses of faith and participating in the Sacrament of Reconciliation ourselves, we encourage our children and families to continue growing in the life of the Church and the mercy of God.

Masses Offered this week:

We pray for the soul of Philip Baker, Jane Andrea Boyo, Felimon Boyo, and Renato Navarro Jr. 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