



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.

19 July 2026 - 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time -Yr A

WHEN WORDS FAIL, THE SPIRIT PRAYS

There are moments in life when words simply fail us. A family facing the loss of a loved one, a person waiting for a medical diagnosis, parents worried about their children, or someone carrying a silent burden may find it difficult to pray. We may sit quietly before God with an empty mind and a heavy heart, wondering what to say.

St. Paul offers a beautiful reassurance in this Sunday's second reading (Romans 8:26–27): "The Spirit comes to help us in our weakness." Prayer does not depend on eloquent words or perfect thoughts. It begins with an open heart. When we cannot express our deepest fears, hopes, or sorrows, the Holy Spirit speaks for us. He carries our unspoken prayers to the Father, who knows our hearts completely.

This truth should bring great comfort. God does not measure our prayers by their length or beauty. He listens with the heart of a loving Father. Even our silence can become a prayer when we place ourselves in his presence. The Spirit transforms our weakness into an encounter with God's grace.

In a world that constantly demands answers and solutions, this reading reminds us that it is acceptable not to have all the answers. Faith is not about always knowing what to pray but about trusting the One who knows us better than we know ourselves.

The next time you struggle to pray, do not give up. Sit quietly before the Lord. Offer him your silence, your tears, and your longing. The Holy Spirit is already praying within you, leading you gently into the loving embrace of God.

Fr. Vincent Barboza
Assistant Priest



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

**Next Sunday, 26th July 2026, at St Anne's Church,
9:30am—10:15am
Come early for Mass and join us.**

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

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
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Office Administrator/ Finance

Joseph Arackal
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parish@stellamarisparish.org.nz

Pastoral Worker:

Janette Bradbrook
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janette@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

19 July 2026 - 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Yr A
Wisdom 12:13, 16-19 Romans 8:26-27 Mathew 13:24-30
Psalm: Lord, you are good and forgiving.

ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY COLLEGE

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,
 The recent news that the Christian Brothers are seeking to sell the land and buildings at St Thomas of Canterbury College is a source of deep concern.

For over half a century, St Thomas's has been an integral part of Catholic education in Christchurch. The Diocese gifted to the Christian Brothers the land on which the school sits – a place which has served the education of young men of faith, character and intellect.

As the Catholic Bishop of Christchurch, I have made it clear to the principal, Steve Hart, and to the chair of the school's board that I will stand alongside the college to ensure St Thomas's remains a Catholic college.

That in no way detracts from the responsibility held by the Church and the Christian Brothers to provide reparation to those who have suffered abuse. I will walk with the school community to achieve the outcome we all desire: the continuation of Catholic education on that site.



+ Michael Gielen
 Bishop of Christchurch

THE GRANDPARENT PRAYER MEETING for July is on **Saturday, 18th at 3 pm at St Mary's New Brighton Community Centre**. Please join us to pray for our children and grandchildren. Come early for a 'cuppa' before we start. Contact: Sandy on 021 180 4445 for details.

ENCOUNTERING GOD WITH FR DOMINIC – FINAL

SESSION: Don't miss the final evening of our Encountering God series with Fr Dominic Sultana on Wednesday 22 July at 7.00 pm in St Anne's Church.

Theme: Made for More

If you've missed the previous sessions, don't worry—this final talk is a wonderful opportunity to come and be inspired. Fr Dominic is an engaging and uplifting speaker who invites us to deepen our relationship with Jesus Christ and discover the purpose God has for our lives.

STELLA MARIS YOUTH IS BACK FOR TERM 3!

We're excited to welcome all our young people back as Stella Maris Youth resumes on Friday, 24th July!

For more information, please contact Janette at

Janette@stellamarisparish.org.nz.

INTERESTED IN BECOMING CATHOLIC?

Have you been thinking about becoming Catholic, or do you know someone who may be interested in learning more about the Catholic faith?

Our Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) and Order of Christian Initiation of Children (OCIC) programmes begin in September, and registrations are now open.

These programmes are for adults and children who are interested in exploring the Catholic faith and are considering becoming Catholic. Through a welcoming and supportive journey, participants will discover the teachings of the Church, grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ, and prepare to receive the Sacraments of Initiation.

Whether you're just beginning to ask questions or are ready to take the next step in your faith journey, we'd love to walk alongside you.

If you or someone you know would like to find out more, please contact Janette at

Janette@stellamarisparish.org.nz.

CATHOLICISM4CATHOLICS - DOES THE BIBLE REJECT SACRED TRADITION?

Many Christians ask:

- ◆ Is the Bible the only rule of faith?
- ◆ Why do Catholics believe in Sacred Tradition?
 - ◆ Are Catholic traditions biblical?
 - ◆ What did the Apostles teach?

Join us for a biblical and historical presentation that explains why **Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition belong together as God's revelation to His Church.**

📅 **Date: 21st July 2026**

🕒 **Time: 7.00 PM**

📍 **Venue: St. Anne's School Hall, Woolston**

📺 **Livestreaming Link:** <https://www.youtube.com/@fr.vincentbarbozayoutube/live>

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: Dean Isherwood

Phone: 03 326 5315

principal@ourladystar.school.nz

Woolston—St Anne's

Principal: Dallas Wichman

Phone: 03 384 3073

principal@stannes.co.nz