



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.

THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY YEAR A | 16 AUGUST 2026

THE FEAST OF ASSUMPTION SHOWS US WHERE WE ARE GOING



Today we celebrate the Feast of the Assumption, one of the most important feasts of Our Lady. We believe that when her earthly life finished, Mary was taken up, body and soul, into heavenly glory, where the Lord exalted her as Queen of Heaven. Mary is the first to fully live what Christ won for us at Easter.

It's easy to think this feast is only about Mary. It isn't. The Assumption is really about us. Through this feast, God is showing us, ahead of time, what He intends for every one of us. Mary has gone ahead to prepare a place for us.

This feast teaches us three things. 1). We live in a world of hospitals, funerals, and aging. It's easy to get discouraged. Mary in heaven says: "This is not the end. Look at me. This is where you're headed too." 2). Mary wasn't assumed just because she was Jesus' mother. She was assumed because she said 'Yes' not only once, but everyday of her life- 'Let it be done to me.' God is asking us to imitate Mary's 'Yes' and live with hope. 3). The way to heaven is the same way Mary walked: Faith, humility and service.

For us in New Zealand, this day carries unique significance as the Patronal Feast of our national Church. We look back to 1838 when Bishop Pompallier arrived and celebrated the very first Mass on New Zealand soil, dedicating his entire mission to the Assumption of Mary.

Let us follow Bishop Pompallier's example by helping others know Jesus and pray for Mary's daily guidance. As we navigate the different stages and challenges of life, our ultimate destination remains clear: heaven, where our Mother awaits.

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

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: frjobts@gmail.com

Assistant Priest:

Father Paulo Filoialii

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

Local Safeguarding Representative:

Makarita Fido-Isaako

Phone: 021 082 56819

volunteer@stellamarisparish.org.nz

Admin Support Volunteer:

Kathi Ryder

Phone: 03 384 1600



**Next Sunday, 23rd August 2026, at St Anne's Church,
9:30am—10:15am—Come early for Mass and join us.**

PARISH NOTICES:

16 August 2026 - The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary | Year A
Apocalypse 11: 19,12:1-6,10 1 Corinthians 15:20-26 Luke 1:39-56
Psalm: The queen stands at your right hand, arrayed in gold.

FR PAULO has been advised by his GP to focus on his health and reduce his pastoral duties. Please keep him in your prayers. For pastoral matters, please contact Fr Job or Fr Vincent.

FR VINCENT'S VISA STATUS

We are delighted to share the wonderful news that Fr Vincent has been granted a temporary visa for one year! Please keep him in your prayers as he continues the process to secure his resident visa.

STELLA MARIS PARISH ADMINISTRATOR:

At the request of Fr Job, Joseph has reconsidered his resignation and will continue in his role.

NEW TEMPORARY PORTACABINS AT ST ANNE'S

The parish has recently purchased and installed two portacabins near the presbytery. These will serve as temporary offices, so our three priests have a dedicated space to meet and take appointments with parishioners. This arrangement will remain in place until a suitable presbytery is available.

The cabins are designated as:

- **Priest's Office**
- **Parish Office Annex**

REVISED OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday: 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm | *Parish Office Annex at St Anne's*

Wednesday to Friday: 9:00 am – 3:00 pm | *Parish Office at St Mary's*

Joseph will be available during the updated hours and offices.

OFFICE CONTACT INFORMATION

Our parish landline (03 384 1600) is currently experiencing reliability issues. Technicians are working to fix this as soon as possible.

In the meantime, please use the parish mobile number to contact the office:

- **Parish Mobile: 022 101 4039**

AUGUST MASS COUNT will be taken at all masses on the weekends of August



SVDP Can Drive - PLEASE BRING A CAN OR TWO ALONG TO WEEKEND MASSES

There is always an increase in requests for food during the winter months when power bills are higher and families find themselves short of money for food. Over the next 2 weekends 15/16 and 22/23 August there will be an additional basket in the foyers at St Anne's and OLSOS. A huge thank you to EcoBay in Ferrymead who provide us with fruit and vegetables 3 times a week. Their generosity enables us to provide healthy food parcels to the families we support.

ST JOHN PAUL II CENTRE RACE NIGHT 2026

Join 200+ people from across the Diocese for a lively night at the trots — harness racing, a 2-course dinner, and our famous Priest Punter of the Year competition. Every ticket goes toward our work of helping marriages and families to flourish across the Christchurch Diocese.

Fri, 28 August, Addington Raceway. jp2.org.nz/racenight
We have booked 3 tables for Stellamaris. Individual Tickets – \$75. For registration email kathi@stellamarisparish.org.nz

OCIA PROGRAM STARTING SOON

Are you or someone you know interested in joining the Catholic Church? The **Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA)** program is about to begin.

Start Date: 8th September

Who it is for: Non-Christians and Non-Catholic Christians desiring to become Catholic.

Next Steps: If you or someone you know is intending to become Catholic in the near future, please reach out for more information.

Contact Details: Fr. Job

Janette Bradbrook (OCIA Co-ordinator)

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

Masses Offered this week:

We pray for the repose of the souls of **Carlos Moteno** and **Jane Andrea Boyo**. May their souls rest in peace.



STELLA MARIS PARISH OFFICE HOURS:

Tuesday 2.00pm to 4.00pm (St Anne's 739 Ferry Road, Woolston)

Wednesday to Friday 9:am to 3.00pm (St Mary's 116 Lonsdale Street, New Brighton)

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