



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.

23 AUGUST 2026 | 21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME | YR A

THE CHURCH WILL ENDURE

***"The gates of Hades shall not prevail against it."* — Matthew 16:18**

Throughout history, the Church has faced many storms. She has experienced persecution, division, scandals, opposition, and periods of great weakness. Yet, after two thousand years, the Church continues to proclaim the Gospel and bring people to Christ. Why? Because the Church does not ultimately depend on human strength. She belongs to Christ.

When Jesus said to Peter, "I will build my Church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it," He gave His disciples a promise. Notice that Jesus says, "I will build my Church." The Church is Christ's work. He is her foundation, her Lord and her source of life.

The image of the "gates of Hades" reminds us that the Church will encounter opposition. The Christian journey is not promised to be free from difficulties. There may be times when the Church appears weak or surrounded by challenges. Even within the Church, human failures can cause pain and disappointment.

But the promise of Christ remains: the gates of Hades shall not prevail. The Church may suffer, but she will not be destroyed. She may pass through storms, but Christ remains with her.

This should give us hope. Our confidence is not in perfect people, perfect structures, or human achievements. Our confidence is in Jesus Christ. He has promised to remain with His Church.

Therefore, when we see difficulties in the Church, our response should not be despair but deeper faith, prayer, and fidelity. Instead of asking, "Will the Church survive?" we should remember the words of Christ:

"I will build my Church" and he will never abandon His Church.

Fr. Vincent Barboza
Assistant 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

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

Assistant Priest:

Fr Vincent Barboza

Phone: 0225596472

Email: frvincent@stellamarisparish.org.nz

Office Administrator/ Finance:

Joseph Arackal

Phone: 022 1014039

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

kathi@stellamarisparish.org.nz



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

PARISH NOTICES:

23 AUGUST 2026 - 21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME | YR A

Isaiah 22: 19-23

Romans 11:33-36

Mathew 16: 13-20

Psalm: Lord, your love is eternal; do not forsake the work your hands.

STELLA MARIS PARISH DAY

When:

Sunday 20th September 2026 at 10.00am to 2.30pm

Where:

Haeata Community Campus, 240 Pages Rd, Aranui.

Please mark your Calander and make yourself to be a part of this parish gathering.

One this day we gather as one parish family to celebrate the feast of our heavenly patroness once a year.

The Celebrations will start with Mass at 10.00am, followed by Entertainment from our four schools, Food

and Fun Family Games for all. There will be only one Mass on the parish day.

There will be a vigil at St Annes at 6.00pm for those who can not make this parish family gathering.

OFFICE CONTACT INFORMATION

Our parish landline (03 384 1600) has been fixed. You can contact the parish office either on the landline or on the parish mobile number: 022 101 4039

OLSOS SUMNER: SACRISTANS NEEDED

We are looking for one or two parishioners to join our team of Sacristans to help with duties at the 9.15am Thursday Mass and/or 9am Sunday Mass. There is also a need for an additional person to be on a roster to launder and iron the altar cloths used at Mass i.e. the Corporal and Purificator. These must be rinsed, washed and stored according to proper liturgical guidelines. Helen Bamber currently does this and would welcome someone to share the role.

Please contact Anne Nicholls on 021527741 if you would like more information or are willing to help with either of these roles.

FRIENDLY AFTERNOON:

St Anne's, Woolston—Friday, 28th August after 12:00 noon Mass. Come along for an afternoon of friendship and FUN. Bring your own lunch, and a few \$\$\$ for raffles. All welcome.

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.



REMINDER—Catholic Parish of Christchurch East—Parish App:

How to set up the app

Step 1: On your phone, go to Google Play or Apple Play

Step 2: Search for ChurchAppsNZ

Step 3: Install ChurchAppsNZ

Step 4: Search and choose the Catholic Parish of Christchurch East.



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 **Elizabeth McHugh, Jane Andrea S.Boyo** and **Fernando Salazar**. 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