



Stella Maris Parish

Catholic Parish of Christchurch Diocese

739 Ferry Road, Woolston, Christchurch 8023

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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.

20 September 2026 | 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time | Yr A

GOD'S WAYS ARE NOT OUR WAYS

There are times when we question why God allows certain things to happen—why some receive blessings while others experience difficulties, or why some prosper while others struggle. We may ask these questions, but the answers do not always seem satisfactory.

The First Reading from Isaiah reminds us that **God's ways are not our ways**. The Gospel conveys the same message through the parable of the generous landowner. The workers who were hired first could not understand why those who worked only a short time received the same payment as those who had worked throughout the day. At times, we too may struggle to understand God and His ways.

As God tells us through Isaiah: *"My thoughts are not your thoughts, and your ways are not my ways."* There is an **epistemic gap** between God and humanity—we cannot fully comprehend His wisdom and plans. *"As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts higher than your thoughts."* (Isaiah 55:9)

Yet God is close to all who sincerely seek Him. The Responsorial Psalm reminds us: **"The Lord is near to all who call on him."**

Through **prayer, faith and openness to God's grace**, we gradually learn to understand His ways and trust more deeply in His plans.

Today we celebrate our Parish Day and the feast of our heavenly patroness, Stella Maris—Our Lady, Star of the Sea. The parish is a family. We gather today as members of the Stella Maris Parish Family in one place to celebrate Mass, express our unity, get to know each other, thank God, and ask for the blessings of Our Lady, Star of the Sea.

On behalf of **Fr Job, Fr Vincent, Fr Dan and Fr Paulo**, we wish you all a **Happy Feast Day!**

Fr Paulo Filoialii

Assistant Priest



Next Sunday, 27th September 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:

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Assistant Priest:

Father Paulo Filoialii

Assistant Priest:

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Office Administrator/ Finance:

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Pastoral Worker:

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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

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Isaiah 55:6-9

Philippians 1:20-24, 27

Mathew 20: 1-16

Psalm: The Lord is near to all who call him.

PARISH DAY: THIS SUNDAY 20th SEPTEMBER 2026

Our parish proudly celebrates the feast day of our heavenly patroness,
"Stella Maris – Our Lady Star of the Sea"

Today, we come together as one big family alongside our school parents, children, and friends. May this special day help us get to know one another better, build stronger bonds, and foster a true sense of community. Let us celebrate with Mass, fun, games, and fellowship all in one place.

Location

Haeata Community Campus, 240 Breezes Road, Aranui, Christchurch

Mass Time: 10:00 am sharp

What to Expect

A Joyful Gathering of the Stella Maris Parish Family.

Celebration of Holy Mass Together!

Beautiful Music

Hymns sung by our Samoan, Filipino, Indian, and School communities.

Entertainment: Following Mass

Enjoy vibrant performances, singing by the school students, and live show of Mentalism

Food & Fellowship:

Lunch is provided, including a **free sausage sizzle!**

We kindly welcome any finger food you would like to bring and share.

Kids' Activities: Face painting and a bouncy castle!

Important Health & Safety Note

Auditorium seating will be limited to comply with health and safety regulations. A **screen will be set up in the lounge** where you can comfortably watch the Mass and performances.

Come and join the fun—bring everyone in our parish!

Livestream Link

<https://www.youtube.com/live/-aqHelHoCuU?si=Te3sUPDax9E0RDFe>

PHOTOGRAPHY & VIDEO

Photography and video footage will be taken during Parish Day for **parish communications and promotional purposes**, including parish newsletters, website and social media. If a student or family **does not wish to be photographed or filmed**, please speak with a member of the Parish team on arrival.

FRIENDLY AFTERNOON:

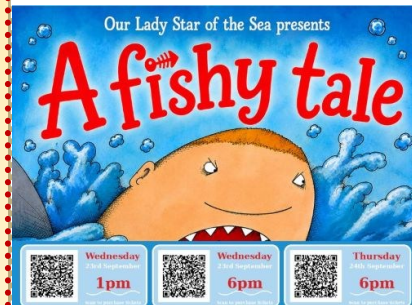
St Anne's, Woolston—Friday, 25th September after 12:00 noon Mass. Come along for an afternoon of friendship and FUN. Bring your own lunch, and a few \$\$\$ for raffles. All welcome.

THE DAYLIGHT

The Daylight Saving starts on 27th September, Clocks go Forward 1 hour!

OUR LADY STAR OF THE SEA SCHOOL

Our Lady Star of the Sea extend a warm invitation to our parish to come along and support our tamariki at this year's school production.



Masses Offered this week:

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

DIOCESAN NOTICES:

The Diocesan Notices are on the notice board and are emailed with the newsletter.



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
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Stella Maris Parish Schools

Sumner—Our Lady Star of the Sea
Principal: Dean Isherwood
Phone: 03 326 5315
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Woolston—St Anne's
Principal: Dallas Wichman
Phone: 03 384 3073
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