



Stella Maris Parish

Catholic Parish of Christchurch Diocese

739 Ferry Road, Woolston, Christchurch 8023

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.

4 October 2026 | 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time | Yr A

THE PEACE OF GOD IN AN ANXIOUS WORLD

We live in a world where anxiety has become part of everyday life. We worry about our families, health, work, relationships, finances and the future. It is precisely into this reality that St Paul speaks: **"Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God."**

Paul is not suggesting that Christians will never face problems. Rather, he shows us a different way of facing them. Instead of allowing our worries to occupy our hearts, we are invited to bring them before God. Prayer does not necessarily remove the situation that troubles us, but it changes our relationship with that situation.

When we surrender our needs to the Lord, Paul assures us that **"the peace of God that surpasses all understanding"** will guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. This peace does not mean that every problem disappears. It means that even in the middle of the problem, we know that God is with us.

Paul also reminds us to be careful about what occupies our minds. We are called to think about what is true, honourable, just, pure, lovely and worthy of praise. What we repeatedly dwell upon eventually shapes our hearts and our lives. If we constantly feed our minds with fear, negativity and resentment, anxiety can grow. But when we deliberately focus on God's goodness, truth and blessings, our hearts become more peaceful.

In a world filled with uncertainty, Paul's invitation remains simple and practical: **pray instead of worrying, give thanks instead of complaining, fill your mind with what is good, and trust in the God of peace.**

Fr. Vincent Barboza
Assistant Priest



NEO CATECHUMENAL WAY- CELEBRATION OF MASS

Every Saturday at 7.30pm at St Anne's Hall.
This is one of our weekend Masses in our parish
and anyone who wishes to attend is welcome.

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
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Office Administrator/ Finance:

Joseph Arackal
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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

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Isaiah 5: 1-7

Philippians 4:6-9

Mathew 21: 33-43

Psalm: The Vineyard of the Lord is the house of Israel

OCTOBER IS THE MONTH OF THE ROSARY:

Let us honour our Blessed Mother Mary by praying the Rosary daily in our families and in church before Mass. Rosary is a beautiful prayer given by Our Lady. Through 5 decades, we meditate on the life of Jesus with Mary. It brings peace to family, strength in trials, and leads us closer to Christ through Mary.

SUPPORT LIFE SUNDAY: 11TH OCTOBER 2026: LIVING PEACE

Support Life Sunday 2026 is a time to focus on how we can better support a culture of love and life through prayer and action, with a particular emphasis this year on the need for peace in our world.

PARISH DAY 2026:

AN IMPORTANT ACKNOWLEDGMENT

In last week's newsletter, I unfortunately missed thanking a few volunteers who played a massive role in making our Parish Day a success. Please accept my sincere apologies. I would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to **Makarita Fido-Isaako**, who served as the Ministry Co-ordinator for the Parish Day Mass. **Mary and Ash Gilmour**, who wonderfully managed the Hospitality Ministry. **Pauline Colette and Joyce Finnigan**, for their dedicated work as our Sacristans. **Kathi Ryder**, who prepared and kept excellent documentation from last year's Parish Day to help guide us. Thank you all so much for your time, effort, and dedication to our parish community!

MISSION SUNDAY 100TH CELEBRATION

The Catholic Church around the world will mark the 100th Mission Sunday on **18 Oct**. The day is set aside to pray for the Church's mission and to support those who carry the Gospel to places where hope is fragile, where faith is young and where believers often face hardship or persecution. That support can be financial and through prayer. Find out more at: <https://missio.nz/>

ANNUAL HOLIDAY

Fr Vincent Barboza will be on his annual holiday from 9th October to 9th November. We wish him a safe journey.

COLUMBAN CALENDAR 2027 is available for sale: \$14. Please contact the parish office or Pauline Colette at St Anne's or Helen Bamber at Sumner.

URGENT PLEA:

St Anne's Church needs Pianists/organists/keyboardsists to play the music for the Saturday 6.00pm Mass. Parish would appreciate it if any of you can help at least once a month. We also need an organist to play the organ on the fifth Sunday at 10.30am.

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

Please keep in your prayers all those who have recently passed away, as well as those whose death anniversaries occur this month. May their souls rest in peace.



STELLA MARIS PARISH OFFICE HOURS:

Tuesday 2.00pm to 4.00pm, 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