



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.

11 October 2026 | 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time | Yr A

THE WEDDING FEAST

When you have a birthday party or wedding party, how do you get your friends to come? What sort of information do you put on the invitations? Can you imagine how you would feel if everything was ready for your party and no-one turned up?

This is the situation that the Prophet Isaiah uses the image of a banquet to describe the fullness of life that God wants to bestow.

Jesus in Matthew 22:1–14 picks up the same theme of a feast in the context of a wedding party. He says a king (God) organised a party for some selected invited, but they refused to turn up. It's not enough; they misbehaved and killed those he sent to invite them to the wedding feast. This is a tragedy, the happy beginning ends on a sad note.

God wants to change our mourning into dancing, to bring transformation into our sad and difficult situation. So, he invites each one of us to come to the wedding feast and he will take away our burden or condition that we honour his invitation.

What is our disposition towards his invitation?

Sometimes life situations make it difficult for us to honour God's invitation. In such moments, let us, like St. Paul in the Second Reading, know that our ups and downs in life can be used to strengthen us; and therefore, there is nothing we cannot master with the help of God who gives us strength.

(Philippians 4:1–19)

May God continue his blessing to all families of our Parish Stella Maris, especially the sick and the needy.

Fr Paulo Filoialii
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.

SUPPORT LIFE SUNDAY: 11TH OCTOBER 2026: LIVING PEACE

Each year, on the second Sunday of October, the Church in Aotearoa celebrates Support Life Sunday. Support Life Sunday is a day 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 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

Assistant Priest:

Fr Vincent Barboza
Phone: 0225596472
Email: frvincent@stellamarisparish.org.nz

Office Administrator/ Finance:

Joseph Arackal
Phone: 03 384 1600 / 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

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Isaiah 25: 6-10

Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20

Mathew 22: 1-14

Psalm: I shall live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.

OCTOBER IS THE MONTH OF THE ROSARY:

October is designated as the Month of the Holy Rosary to honour the Blessed Virgin Mary through praying the Rosary, which consists of meditations on the mysteries of Christ's life. The church encourage us all to recite the Holy Rosary at home and in the church.

MISSION SUNDAY: OCTOBER 19TH 2025

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. On the Mission Sunday, the Catholics around the world take up a collection for the Pope to support the Church's mission. Planned Giving envelopes will have an envelope marked "MISSION SUNDAY". Find out more at: <https://missio.nz/>

ALL SOULS DAY: MONDAY 2ND NOVEMBER 2026

All Soul's Day Mass at 9.15am and 7.00pm at St Annes Church

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.

ORGANISTS: St Anne's Church is still looking to have someone to play keyboard or piano or organ for the Saturday 6.00pm Mass. We also need an organist to play the organ on the fifth Sunday at 10.30am. Parish would appreciate it if any of you can help at least once a month.

THE GRANDPARENT PRAYER MEETING for October is on Saturday, 17th 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.

TAP 'N' GO: Parish has fixed a permanent Eftpos terminal machine in the narthex of St Annes Church, Woolston. You are encouraged to use this **Tap 'N' Go** to donate to the parish and support the parish mission.

PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED this Thursday 15th afternoon and Friday 16th. Joseph will be on leave.

PRO-LIFE PRAYER VIGIL

First Saturday, prayer vigil for the unborn. Join us for an afternoon of prayer, hymns, and fellowship as we pray together for an end to abortion. All Catholics and Christians are invited, men, women, and children. We meet on the first Saturday of each month at 3pm in Hagley Park, Christchurch, Matai Street east entrance. Next gathering Saturday 7 November. Contact: info@fftkingdom.com

PROCLAIM CAMP 2027 – Registrations Opening Soon!

Join us **15–17 January 2027** at **Woodend Christian Camp** for three days of faith, friendship, fun and encountering Jesus! Open to students entering **Years 8–13 in 2027**. Registrations open **Friday, 16 October at 6 pm**. Spaces are limited! **All our Parish Youth Groups are back for term 4 on the 16th October in St Anne's Hall. Years 5–6: 3:15–4:00 pm, Years 7–13: 4:30–6:00 pm.**

Donations Welcome! Help cover camp fees and support more young people to attend.

Parish Account: 03-1592-0207535-020

Name: Catholic Parish East | **Reference:** Youth Camp

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.



Masses Offered This Week

Thanksgiving offered for Imelda Vissia Bout.

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