Stella Maris Parish

The Catholic Parish of Christchurch East (2020)
739 Ferry Road, Woolston, Christchurch 8023
Phone: 03 384 1600; Email: parish@stellamarisparish.org.nz
www.stellamarisparish.org.nz

8 November 2026 | 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time | Yr A

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.

PARABLE OF THE LAMPS

The First Reading eulogises Wisdom. We see this wisdom exemplified in the five bridesmaids in the Gospel parable. Whereas St. Paul, from the Second Reading to the Thessalonians, expects the Second Coming of Christ to happen soon.

In biblical times, on the last day of a wedding feast, the bridegroom, along with his friends, would go to the bride's house towards evening to take her to the Wedding Ceremony. But the groom's coming may be delayed, and those who wait can fall asleep. Once awakened by the groom's arrival, the bridesmaids need to be ready to accompany the bride to the feast.

From the Gospel of Matthew, this weekend, Jesus has accepted that the Parousia may be delayed. The point of the parable is this: Jesus is drawing attention to the need to be 'wise' and ever 'watchful'. Regarding the Kingdom, He underlines the symbolism of 'being asleep' and 'staying awake'.

On the other hand, "being awake" means to be alive and dedicated to one's Christian calling, active in the service of God and neighbour, living one's life to the full, never postponing conversion to the last minute. This is being prepared and being wise.

For us, there are moments in the lives of each one of us when we need to 'wait' in the dark moments of tension, of temptation, of struggle, or discouragement that put us into the dark night of the soul.

So, as we do not know the day nor the hour of the Lord's coming, we must be prepared at any time, so when He comes, we can enter His Kingdom. To be prepared means to be a doer rather than a mere hearer of the Word: like the five sensible bridesmaids.

"Stay awake, because we do not know the day nor the hour."

May God bless all the families
in our parish of Stella Maris.

Fr Paulo Filoialii
Assistant Priest



ST ANNS ADVENT RETREAT:

CELEBRATING CHRIST - THE GREATEST GIFT

Enter the advent story through Ignatian contemplation.

Saturday 28th November
9.30am coffee/tea. 10am to 3pm: Ignatian Retreat.

Bring your imagination, a bible, a journal, an open heart and your lunch.
We will be working with chapter 1 and 2 from Luke's Gospel.

Read it through a few times before you come, allow yourself to be immersed in the story.

Led by ***Colin Renouf***, Ignatian Spiritual Director, member of St Marys Pro-Cathedral.

Please mark your calendar.

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.

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WEEKEND MASS TIMES (ENGLISH):
Woolston: Saturday Vigil 6:00pm
Sunday 10:30am
Sumner: Sunday 9:00am
New Brighton: Sunday 10:30am
Diamond Harbour: 3rd Sunday 5:30pm

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Samoan Mass Times:
Woolston: 1st Sunday 12:30pm
New Brighton: 2nd Sunday 12:30pm

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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

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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

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PARISH CONTACTS:

Parish Priest:
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PARISH NOTICES:

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Wisdom 6: 12-16 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 Mathew 25: 1-13
Psalm: My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

DIOCESAN SYNODAL COMMUNAL DISCERNMENT PROCESS FOR PARISHES: Our parish had a "Conversation in the Spirit' gathering on last Wednesday 4th November at 6.00pm. 20 parishioners attended the meeting. This gathering was supported by four trained facilitators from the Diocese. Many thanks to those who attended this gathering.

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION REFRESHMENTS.

Stella Maris Parish is incredibly grateful to everyone involved in our various ministries. To say thank you, the parish invites all volunteers from all our Mass centres for refreshments on Sunday, 29th November at St Anne's Hall from 3:00 pm to 4:30 pm. Please mark your Calander.

INTERNATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS INFORMATION NIGHT

In September 2028, Sydney will host the 54th International Eucharistic Congress (IEC). The congress consists of a week of activities, talks, events, and processions culminating in a final Mass attended by hundreds of thousands of people, celebrated by Pope Leo XIV. This is a great opportunity for Eucharistic Renewal, and the organizing team are keen to involve New Zealand as much as possible. There will be an information night on Wednesday November 25th beginning at 6pm at St Anne's Hall, Woolston. Matt O'Connell, who is the NZ Bishop's national delegate, will present all the info about this congress, including how individuals and parishes can get involved. For more information and to RSVP please contact the parish office.

JUNIOR LEGION OF MARY PROMOTION

"Abandon yourself in the hands of Mary, She will take care of you"

St Anne's Church, Woolston: Saturday Mass 7th November 2026 at 6pm & Sunday Mass 8th November 2026 at 10:30am:

Our Lady Star of The Sea Church, Sumner: Sunday Mass 8th November 2026 at 9am

CANTERBURY ANNIVERSARY DAY: Next Friday, the 13th, is Canterbury Anniversary Day, which is a public holiday. The office will be closed, and Mass at St Anne's will be at 9:15 am.

FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN FOR BUILDING THE NEW CATHEDRAL

Bishop Michael has launched the campaign for building the new Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament. See more information: https://cdoc.nz/news-events/plans- Bishop Michael is asking for pledges - gifts paid over 5 years that allow you to make a lasting impact without financial strain. If/when you make your donation/pledge use this form: https://blessedsacrament.nz/donate/ - and nominate Stella Maris Parish. I encourage every household in our parish be a part of this 5-year pledge.

PROCLAIM SUMMER CAMP 2027 – REGISTRATIONS OPEN!

Stella Maris Parish Youth Ministry invites young people to three days of faith, fellowship and fun, growing closer to Jesus.

When: 15–17 January 2027
Where: Woodend Christian Camp
Who: Students entering Years 8–13 in 2027

Spaces are limited! Register early using the QR code or link: https://stellamaris.elvanto.com.au/form/cdc11025-e864-499d-8bef-dc2431db1cf4

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 Christ-church East

– Enter your name, and email address

– Then you have access to a whole range of fabulous resources.

CATHOLIC PARISH OF CHRISTCHURCH EAST-PARISH APP:

Please download the parish App where you will find: the Newsletter, weekend readings, Rosters, Mass Centres, Mass timings, Contacts and Events.

How to set up the app

1: Go to Google Play or Apple Play
2: Search for ChurchAppsNZ
3: Install ChurchAppsNZ
4: Search and choose the **Catholic Parish of Christchurch East.**



Masses Offered This Week

Please remember in your prayers all those who have departed this life.
May the Lord grant them eternal rest and let perpetual light shine upon them.
Thanksgiving mass offered by Imelda Vissia Bout.



STELLA MARIS PARISH OFFICE: 116 Lonsdale Street, New Brighton.
Tuesday 2.00pm to 4.00pm, Wednesday 8.30am to 4.00pm, Thursday 9.00am to 4.00pm, Friday 8:30am to 4.00pm

Stella Maris Parish Schools

Aranui—St James	Woolston—St Anne's	New Brighton-New Brighton Catholic	Sumner—Our Lady Star of the Sea
Principal: Rose Firth-Scott	Principal: Dallas Wichman	Principal: Deb Daines	Principal: Dean Isherwood
Phone: 03 982-0009	Phone: 03 384 3073	Phone: 03 388 7982/	Phone: 03 326 5315
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