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

29 November 2026 | First Sunday of Advent | Yr B

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.

STAY AWAKE AT ANY TIME

Advent is a time of **'WAKE-UP CALL'** or time of watchfulness. We are waiting for the coming of Christ at Christmas time. And we are also waiting for his coming to us at the time of our death. Both times are hidden from us, we should maintain a state of watchfulness, so that we are ready to meet the Lord at any moment.

The season of Advent prepares us for Christmas. In order to understand the message of Christmas, we have to start at the beginning – with the history of salvation. The Advent liturgy relives in a microcosmic way the history of Israel, viewing it through the eyes of Christian faith. It shows that all history was pointing and leading towards Jesus Christ. He was the one who fulfilled the messianic prophecies.

As for today's readings – the First is a poem (written by a returned exile) entreating God to come and save his people. It recalls God's past goodness and candidly acknowledges the ingratitude and sinfulness of his people.

The Second Reading and the Gospel talk about the final coming of Christ, something the early Christians believed was imminent. For the faithful, the Lord's coming is not something to fear. They are urged to live in such a way as to be always ready to meet the Lord when he is coming. These words are addressed to us now.

Happy Advent to all families of our Parish Stella Maris!

Fr Paulo Filoialii
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.

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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:
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PARISH NOTICES:

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Isaiah 63:16-17, 64:1,3-8 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 Mathew 13:33-37

Psalm: Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

ADVENT REFLECTION GROUP: ALL WELCOME

Wednesdays 2nd, 9th,16th and 23rd December. 7:00 pm at St Anne's hall. We will use the material from Formed "How to Advent". A gentle time to set aside to remind us of the importance of Advent in the midst of the craziness that sometimes surrounds Christmas. Come along, bring a friend. From the Parish Leadership Team: River and Anna Clare.

TABLETOP MORNING (BOARD GAMES): Join us after Mass on Wednesdays at in St Anne's hall. Next gathering is on Wednesday 9th December: 10.00am to midday. Have a cuppa, catch up with other, play a board game. From: Anna and River.

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION AFTERNOON: This Sunday 29th November at St Anne's Hall from 3:00 pm to 4:30 pm The parish invites all volunteers from all our Mass centres to a 'Volunteer Appreciation Afternoon. Please make yourself available to come and join us!

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.

SVDP NEEDS DONATIONS FOR CHRISTMAS FOOD PARCELS: The Stella Maris conference is providing 40 food parcels to families in our wider parish area on Saturday 19 December. Donations of food items in the baskets at weekend Masses would be greatly appreciated, especially tinned fruit, potato chips and treats.

Bless you all for your generosity!

GARDENING HELP NEEDED AT OLSOS MASS CENTRE

There is not a lot of garden to be maintained and it has been suggested that if we had a few parishioners willing to look after a small section each there would not be the need to call a working bee. If you are able to spare some time to pull a few weeds when it suits your schedule please let me know or put your name on the clipboard in the foyer at OLSOS. Anne Nicholls 021527741.

CHOIR PRACTICE: The parish invites all those interested in joining our Festive Occasion Choir. Practices are to be held at St Anne's Church, Woolston on Mondays.

7th December 6.30pm to 7.30pm
14th December 6.30pm to 7.30pm
21st December 6.30 pm to 7.30pm

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

PREFERENCE CERTIFICATE: Summer Holidays - With the parish office closed during the Christmas and New Year Holiday, there will be no preference certificate signings between mid-December to the end of January. Those who are seeking for preference certificate please try to get it before mid-December.



Masses Offered This Week

Please keep in your prayers Jane Andrea Boyo, may the soul rest in peace.

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
principal@stjames.school.nz	principal@stannes.co.nz	office@nbc.school.nz	principal@ourladystar.school