

PARISH NEWSLETTER FOR THE 23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Weekend of the 7/8 Sep 2024

First Reading: Is 35:4-7 Second Reading: James 2:1-5 Gospel: Mk 7:31-37

Embracing the faith communities of St Mary's Buderim, St Peter's Coolum, Stella Maris Maroochydore and St Catherine of Siena, Sippy Downs.

STELLA MARIS CATHOLIC PARISH

Our Parish has zero tolerance for all forms of abuse and is committed to safeguarding everyone involved in its activities, ministries and services. The safety and wellbeing of children and adults-at-risk are paramount.

In this weekend's gospel, we hear of Jesus healing a man born deaf. It is these miracle stories that stand out and figure predominantly in our imagination of who Jesus was and what he was on about. Indeed, you could be forgiven for thinking that miracles played the central part in Jesus' message and ministry. That would be a mistake! Jesus was fully aware of the risk of being seen by the people as simply a miracle worker. That is why, from next weekend's gospel, suddenly and without warning Jesus will say to the disciples, *"The Son of Man is to be handed over to men and they will kill him, and three days after his death the Son of Man will rise"*. Jesus, whom the people saw as quick fixer of their health and other earthly concerns, will now concentrate on the cross and all that it implies.

At the heart of this new focus on the cross is the message about God's love for us and the relationship which is being offered. If we are honest with ourselves, all of us will acknowledge our struggle to identify and deepen that relationship. We're not the first from Augustine to Mary MacKillop and all the saints in between; the one constant is the struggle to understand and respond to this relationship.

I don't know about you, but when I hear other people's faith journey I sometimes get envious that they have all the ingredients of a great story. Like the miracle worker, somehow Jesus has stepped in and changed their lives. My life and story here on the Sunshine Coast is just too pedestrian for that to happen to me!

That would also be a mistake. Like all those, who I think have a great faith story to tell, it began with a simple realisation that we don't have to find God, God is always present. Indeed, the secret to prayer is not to try to make God present, but to make ourselves present to God. The problem of presence is not with God, but with us. But how can we be present to God if we start from the position that our lives are just so dull, mundane and predictable?

The poet, Rainer Maria Rilke, who died in 1926, struggled with the difficulty of belief in an age of disbelief and profound anxiety. At the height of his fame, he was once contacted by a young man from a small, provincial town. The young man expressed his admiration for Rilke's poetry and told him that he envied him, envied his life in a big city, and envied a life so full of insight and richness. He went on to describe how his own life was uninteresting, provincial, small-town, too dull to inspire insight and poetry. Rilke's answer was not sympathetic. He told the young man: *"If your life seems poor to you, then tell yourself that you are not poet enough to see and call forth its riches. There are no uninteresting places, no lives that aren't full of the stuff for poetry. What makes for a rich life is not so much what is contained within each moment, since all moments contain what's timeless, but sensitive insight and presence to that moment."*

Like beauty and love and the true riches of life, God is always present. Our own individual faith journey has all the ingredients of a great story and, at the heart of it, is the realisation that we don't have to find God, God is always present.

Karl Rahner, the influential German theologian who played such a prominent role in the Second Vatican Council, was once asked whether he believed in miracles. His answer: *"I don't believe in them, I rely on them to get through each day!"* Indeed, miracles are always present within our lives. **Are we?**

Wishing you every blessing for the week ahead,

Fr Peter Brannelly

At Your Service

Fr Peter Brannelly
Fr Isaac Falzon
Deacon Michael Khoury
Bishop Brian Heenan
Bishop Emeritus



Stella Maris Parish Office

Adjacent to the Stella Maris Church
Office Hours 9am—2pm Weekdays
Telephone: 5443 3488
Email: suncoast@bne.catholic.net.au
Website: maroochydoreparish.com.au

THE WEEK AHEAD

We acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which our communities celebrate liturgies and live out our faith.

We pay respects to leaders past, present and emerging. May their example of stewardship be reflected in our lives.

Monday, 9 September

- ◆ Benediction (5.15pm, Stella Maris Church)
- ◆ **Mass** (5.30pm, Stella Maris Church)

Tuesday, 10 September

- ◆ **Mass** (9.00am, S M Primary School Chapel, all welcome)
- ◆ Funeral Peter Appel 12.30pm (Gregson & Weight, Buderim)
- ◆ Craft Group (1.00pm St Peter's Church)
- ◆ Funeral Frank Blake 1.00pm (Gregson & Weight, Buderim)
- ◆ Parish Finance Council Mtg (5.30pm Stella Maris Boardroom)
- ◆ Sisterhood (6-8pm)

Wednesday, 11 September

- ◆ **Mass** (7.00am, St Mary's Church)
- ◆ **Mass** (9.00am St Catherine of Siena)
- ◆ Scripture Study Group (9.30am, Zoom)
- ◆ Latin Prayer Group (6.00pm, Stella Maris)

Thursday, 12 September

- ◆ **Mass** (8.30am St Peter's Church)
- ◆ Rosary (2.00pm Stella Maris Church)
- ◆ **Maroochydore 10:10** (5.30pm at St Catherine of Siena-Parish Youth Group)

Friday, 13 September *St John Chrysostom*

- ◆ **Mass** (9.00am Stella Maris Church)
- ◆ Community Meal for the Homeless, Vulnerable and Disadvantaged (6.00pm, Stella Maris)

Saturday, 14 September

- ◆ Reconciliation (8.30am Stella Maris Church)
- ◆ Baptisms of Halo Anderson, Huxley Anderson, Lachlan Hartmann, Nora Peachy, Parker Peachey & Mila Sunderland. (10.00am Stella Maris Church)
- ◆ Baptisms of Charlie Hawthorne Brown, James Hawthorne O'Leary, Henry Hawthorne O'Leary & Makenna Thurgood.
- ◆ El Shaddai group (11.00am Sippy Downs)

- ◆ **Vigil Mass** (4.30pm, St Peter's Church)
- ◆ **Vigil Mass** (6.00pm, Stella Maris Church)
- ◆ Spanish Mass (St Mary's, Buderim)

Sunday, 15 September *24th Sunday in Ordinary Time*

- ◆ **Mass** (6.30am Stella Maris Church)
- ◆ **Mass** (7.30am St Peter's Church)
- ◆ **Mass** (8.00am St Catherine of Siena Church)
- ◆ **Mass** (9.00am Stella Maris Church)
- ◆ **Mass** (9.30am St Mary's Church)
- ◆ Junior Ministers (3.00pm Stella Maris Bliss Room)
- ◆ **Mass** (5.00pm Stella Maris Church)
- ◆ Young Adults 6.00pm (Stella Maris)

Gluten-free hosts are available. To arrange, simply contact the sacristan or Mass coordinator before Mass. The priest will always distribute the gluten free host at communion.

New Kids on the Block?

We live in an incredibly mobile society and there are always plenty of new faces popping up on the Sunshine Coast. In such a large and busy Parish like ours, it is very easy for new faces to get lost in all the activity and the rush of modern living! The ministry of our Welcome Committee is to extend a warm welcome to new parishioners and provide information about the local Catholic Community. If you are new or if you are returning to the Church at the front door you will discover a "Welcome Envelope" containing information about the parish. On behalf of the entire parish, *thanks for joining our local Catholic Family.*

School Break

Our Junior Ministers Group (children from grade 3 to 6) now have two weeks off during school holidays. They resume at 3pm on Sunday, October 6 at Stella Maris. Don't forget our school holiday programme "Fun Days with God" on ????????????????????

Misa en Español

On the second Saturday of every month, our Spanish chaplain, Fr Luis, celebrates Mass in Spanish at St Mary's, Buderim. It is a great celebration with hospitality and a warm welcome to new faces. The next Mass in Spanish will be on next Saturday, 14 September, 6.00pm at St Mary's. Their Facebook page is Comunidad Catolica Latina de Sunshine Coast (CCLSC).

Następna polska Msza św

The next Mass in Polish will be celebrated at St Mary's Buderim on the fourth Sunday of every month. The next Mass in Polish will be on Sunday, 22 September at 4.00pm - tell your Polish friends—all welcome.

Golden Wedding Anniversary Mass



To be celebrated by Archbishop Mark Coleridge

Couples celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary or more are invited to attend, together with family and friends

Saturday 28th September 2024
11:30am

RSVP: Wednesday 25 September
Email: cathedral@bne.catholic.net.au | Phone: 3324 3030
The Cathedral car park will be available

ON THE JOURNEY—WHERE LIFE MEETS FAITH

We welcome into God's Family, the Church,
Eleanor Froud, George Froud & Nika Micallef.
who will be baptised this weekend in our parish.

We pray for all those who have died, especially **Peter Appel, Frank Blake, Carmel Boyce, Catherine Josephine Doyle** and **Shirley Grams.**

Shirley's funeral rites were celebrated this week at St Peter's. Peter's funeral rites will be celebrated on Tuesday 12.30pm, Frank's funeral rites, Tuesday 10 September 1.00pm both services at Gregson & Weight Buderim.

Carmel's funeral rites will be celebrated on Friday 4 October at St Peter's.

May all who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith, through the rich mercy of God,

Rest in Peace.



For five consecutive Mondays beginning on the 14th of October, St Peter's Coolom will be the venue for this year's Ignatius Retreat. If you have a desire to deepen your relationship with God and find God's presence in your everyday life then this could be a retreat for you! **Where are you now is where God is waiting for you!** There are no special requirements to attend.

This First Spiritual Exercises retreat runs over four weeks in daily life. It guides you in prayer and reflection for 30mins each day. The retreat is for anyone who desires to grow in their relationship with God.

The retreat was composed by Michael Hansen SJ and is based on the Spiritual Exercises by St Ignatius of Loyola. Come and experience this journey into divine friendship in your everyday life through a program of personal prayer and attending a weekly gathering of guided spiritual conversation.

What's Involved

Participants pray at home for 30mins each day, and meet together with retreat guides within a group once a week for 90mins, for listening, prayer and spiritual conversation.

There are five 90min group meetings.

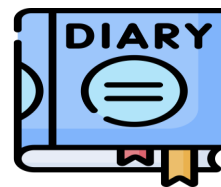
These sessions guided by trained givers of the First Spiritual Exercises.

Your Commitment

- ◇ Spend 30 minutes daily in personal prayer. Keep a journal.
- ◇ Willingness to commit to four weeks of the retreat and attend five weekly group meetings.
- ◇ Willingness to participate in group sharing and conversation.

To register or for more information contact info@jisa.org.au

LOOKING AHEAD



Mark in your Diary



To mark the 20th anniversary of the opening and blessing of St Catherine of Siena church at Sippy Downs Archbishop Mark Coleridge will preside at the 8.00am anniversary Mass on **Sunday 13 October**. This is a celebration for the entire Parish and all parishioners are invited to join the Sippy Downs community.



The annual Men's Retreat will be held on Saturday, **26 October** at the Sunshine Coast Hockey Clubhouse. The retreat Director will be Rev Peter Pellicaan. All fathers and sons on the Sunshine Coast are warmly invited to attend.



WOMEN'S RETREAT

The annual Women's Retreat will be at Stella Maris Primary School on Saturday, **23 November**. Once again we will welcome women from across our Parish Family and the wider Sunshine Coast to a day of fun, friendship & formation.



Traditionally here at Stella Maris, we have celebrated the **nine day novena** leading up to Christmas called *Simbang Gabi*. This year, plans are well underway and we are incorporating the many different groups that make up our Parish Family. This year, the Mass will be at 6.00am 22 December culminating in the great celebration on the morning of 24 December.

The Stella Maris Parish Invites You To Our



Adoration and Prayer Night

8 September
6pm - 8pm

at Stella Maris Church

Hosted by the Maroochydore Young Adults Group.
Come join us, all parishioners are welcome.

Catholic Foundation

Thank you to everyone who supported last weekend's annual Catholic Foundation appeal. Money raised through the appeal helps support the different Centacare ministries, as well as Holy Spirit Seminary, the Mary MacKillop Education Fund and our sick and retired priests. There are still appeal envelopes at the entrance to the church – simple drop your envelope on the collection plate. Thank you once again for your generous support.

ARCHDIOCESE OF BRISBANE SYNOD24

This weekend at the Holy Spirit Seminary, the first of two gatherings of the synod is taking place. 150 people representing the diversity of the Archdiocese will discuss, debate and vote on the proposed practical and measurable action plans. Representing our Deanery are Fr Peter Brannelly, Fr Josh Whitehead, Jacinta Elks and Henry Martin. To find out more information about the synod go to: <https://aobsynod2024.com/what-is-synod24/>

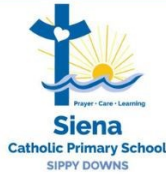
Catholic Education in our Stella Maris Parish Family

Siena Catholic Primary School

58 Sippy Downs Drive,
Sippy Downs

psippydowns@bne.catholic.edu.au

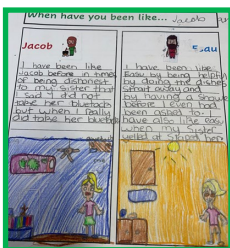
Principal: Glen Bucklar



At Siena, the teachers are passionate in teaching all areas of the curriculum; ensuring learning takes place where their particular learners are in their education journey. It is no different with teaching of Religious Education.

The enjoyment of learning in RE is obvious at Siena. We have Prepies acting out The Good Samaritan and writing prayers to be read out at morning messages. The Year 1 children are delighting in learning about Egypt with the Moses story. Year 2 learning about forgiveness and healing through the stories of Jesus Healing the Blind. Year 3 children are learning about God's relationship with his people through the story of Moses and the lives of Esau and Jacob. Year 4 studying the structure of the Jewish faith in First century Palestine. The Year 5 classes are studying the writings of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop and how Catholic charities live these words through their mission to serve and Year 6 are studying the Images of Jesus depicted in the Gospels and Old Testament stories.

dear God
help me to look
after the world
AMEN



Stella Maris Primary School

Stella Maris Way,
Maroochydore

pmaroochydore@bne.catholic.edu.au

Principal: Mark Ballam



We had so much to celebrate with Father's Day on last weekend. We had the chance to shop at our very own Father's Day stall.

There were all sorts of special arts and crafts happening.

We had a huge Father's Day breakfast.

The Prep students got to have a fun morning in Prep with their Dads.

We celebrated and prayed for all the father-figures both in our community and beyond.

These pictures are just a snapshot.



Siena Catholic College

60 Sippy Downs Drive,
Sippy Downs

ssippydowns@bne.catholic.edu.au

Principal: Sharon Collins



Who can believe that the holidays are almost here! Luckily, Week 9 was relatively quiet, as students looked to complete assessment tasks and prepare for upcoming exams. Marking and reporting were also underway, with staff members keen to finish these tasks before the break.

Our Year 10s are getting excited for their three-day Wilderness Adventure Camp, which begins on Monday, and they are definitely looking forward to a time of both fun and challenge.

On Wednesday, we had our final Assembly for the term, and it was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the achievements of the last ten weeks. Special mention must go to our sportsmen and women who have attained wonderful results, not only in school sport, but also in representative teams. Congratulations, too, to Frank and Louis Martin, who were named in the Top 5 of the triple j unearthed high competition. We are so proud of this

extremely talented duo and are confident that their music careers will continue to go from strength to strength.



Available at the entrance of all our four churches, we have new information envelopes containing details about our **Parish Planned Giving** programme and the many ways you can support your Parish and our **Endowment Fund**, which will provide your Parish Family with financial security into the future. For new and returning members of our Parish there is a **Welcome Pack**. It contains valuable information about your new Parish Family. Please feel free to take an envelope home with you today.



These School Holidays—Fun Days with God

All primary school aged children are invited to participate in our parish school holiday programme called "Fun Days with God". These days occur once each school holidays. Our next "Fun Days with God" will be on **Wednesday 18 September** from 9.00am-3.00pm at the Stella Maris Church.

It will be an exciting day of fun activities—Children need to bring their own morning tea, lunch and hat. The cost of the day is \$10.00 per child with a maximum of \$20 per family. High school students are also welcome to come and assist us on the day. *For more information or to register please email Bernie Baillie at bbailie811@gmail.com or phone the Parish Office 5443 3488.*