

SOLEMNITY OF CHRIST THE KING

Weekend of the 23/24 November 2024

First Reading: Daniel 7:13-14 Second Reading: Revelation 1:5-8 Gospel: John 18:33-37

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.

This weekend, with the Solemnity of Christ the King, we reach the triumphant end of our journey through the Church's year. Throughout this past year we have been on a rollercoaster ride of emotions and during the year visited many different landscapes as we heard anew the stories of Jesus and his life among us.

Sure, there have been the open plains of our day-to-day life when we have heard the extraordinary stories of what Jesus said and how he reached out to those who had come off second best in life.

But there have also been the shadowy valleys of temptation, betrayal and death on the cross, wilderness times of despair and devastating suffering. There've been mountain tops of breath-taking excitement: resurrection, ascension and the coming of the Holy Spirit. For a while now the scenery around us has been that of the Kingdom of God and the imminent return of Christ as King and Judge.

But this Kingdom of God that we hear about is not some cute phrase consigned to the pages of scripture. It is also not some abstract, pious term that is devoid of meaning. The reign of Christ and the Kingdom of God is real! Today as we celebrate the Feast of Christ the King we are reminded that the **Kingdom of God is a space**. It exists in every one of our Sunshine Coast homes where parents and children love each other. It exists in our Parish schools when our children learn about and experience the wonder of God's creation. It exists in our community when we move from just thinking about ourselves to making sure that the weakest and most vulnerable are looked after.



If the **Kingdom of God** is a space **it is also a time**. It happens precisely whenever someone feeds a hungry person, or shelters a homeless person, or reaches out to someone on the fringe of our community. There is a concrete experience of the Kingdom of God when our two St Vincent de Paul conferences, the volunteers of our Friday night Community Meal for the Homeless, Vulnerable and Disadvantaged not to mention Stella Care Pantry and Siena Soul Food volunteers and all the other Parish Groups do what they do best – *show practical care to someone or some family in need*. Our outreach to a family in turmoil or our response to a simple cry for understanding and acceptance is also a practical experience of the Kingdom of God. It happens when anyone of us here in our Sunshine Coast parish family joins in the great struggle to bring peace and forgiveness, erase ignorance, and pass on the faith.

We are continually surrounded by practical examples of the Kingdom of God breaking in upon our experience.

Next weekend, with the first Sunday of Advent, we will begin another new Church year. Like the one which is now ending, we will each be on our own unique journey. We, too, will walk through plains of ordinary day-to-day living, through our own valleys of shadow and up to our own high places of good news, joy and excitement. There'll be times in the journey when we'll get lost or discouraged, confused or simply stuck! Those are the very times when we'll need this vision of Christ the King to give purpose and meaning to our journey, just as it gives purpose and meaning to the Church's journey of faith.

Wishing you every blessing as we begin next week the journey of Advent

Fr Peter Brannelly

Next weekend, being the first weekend of the month, **hospitality** is the focus of our Sunshine Coast Catholic Family. Across our community parishioners and visitors alike are invited to catch up, reconnect and enjoy each other's company by sharing some light refreshments after Mass. A big thank you to all the coordinators—*your ministry is appreciated!*

ON THE JOURNEY—WHERE LIFE MEETS FAITH

We welcome into God's Family, the Church,

Theo Alvarez

who will be baptised this weekend in our parish.

We pray for all those who have died, especially those whose names are inscribed in our Parish Book of Remembrance.

This week we hold in prayer NAME whose funeral rites will be celebrated this week.

May all our deceased priests, religious, parishioners and family members, through the rich mercy of God

Rest in Peace.

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, 25 November

- ◆ Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 4:30pm
- ◆ Benediction (5.15pm, Stella Maris Church)
- ◆ **Mass** (5.30pm)
- ◆ New parishioner's "Welcome Party" 6 to 7:30

Tuesday, 26 November

- ◆ **Mass** (9.00am Stella Maris Primary School Chapel)
- ◆ Coolum Craft Group (1pm St Peters Church)

Wednesday, 27 November

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

Thursday, 28 November

- ◆ **Mass** (8.30am St Peter's Church)

Friday, 29 November

- ◆ **Mass** (9.00am Stella Maris Church)
- ◆ Grief Support Team Meeting (9.30am Stella Boardroom)
- ◆ Community Meal for the Homeless, Vulnerable and Disadvantaged (6.00pm, Stella Maris)

Saturday, 30 November

- ◆ Reconciliation 8:30—9:30am
- ◆ Baptisms (10am Stella Maris Church)
- ◆ El Shaddai group (11.00am Sippy Downs)

Hospitality Weekend and the launch of this year's St Vincent de Paul's Christmas Appeal

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

Sunday, 1 December

First Sunday of Advent

- ◆ **Mass** (6.30am Stella Maris Church)
- ◆ **Mass** (7.30am St Peter's Church)
- ◆ **Mass** (8am 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 Group (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.

Thank you to all visitors and friends who are joining us this weekend as we celebrate the **Feast of Christ the King**. This weekend marks the end of the Church's liturgical and next week we begin **Advent**, the short, four week season that leads to the birth of the Christ Child. As we contemplate the journey ahead we once again gather around the altar as parishioners and visitors, to celebrate Christ's abiding presence along our pilgrim journey.

A Journey Ends — A Journey Begins

Over the next two weeks our parish is overjoyed to welcome 20 individuals into the Catholic Church through the **Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA)**. While we welcome and rejoice in those who will join our faith community we remember the other 13 "searchers and enquirers" who are continuing on their own unique journey that will hopefully lead to full communion with the Church at Easter.

The first celebration will take place this Sunday at the 9:00am Stella Maris Mass, where five catechumens and candidates will be received into the Church. Then, on Saturday, December 7th, during the 8:00am Mass on the Feast of Saint Ambrose, an additional 15 individuals will complete their journey of faith. We are honoured that Bishop Brian Heenan will preside over this special liturgy. The entire Parish is invited to join us in this celebration.

The RCIA process has been a transformative journey for these individuals, marked by prayer, study, and fellowship. Supported by their sponsors and our RCIA team, they have prepared to receive the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist. We are grateful for all involved and to you, our Catholic Family here on the Sunshine Coast, who have provided the witness, been examples of faith and supported their journey by prayer.

PHOTO

So welcome NAME, NAME, NAME, NAME, NAME, your journey of faith brings us joy and your witness gives us courage to *"run with endurance the race God has set before us."*

Older Children Baptism

If you have a child between the ages of **7- 15 years old**, we will be holding a baptismal preparation session for this age group on **Wednesday 4 December at 5pm** in the Stella Maris Church, Maroochydore. The initial session will be followed by a practice on Sunday 19 January. The celebration of the Sacrament will take place on Saturday 1 February at 8am in the Stella Maris Church. Please register via our website maroochyshoreparish.com.au/

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: maroochyshoreparish.com.au



At Your Service

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

Over two thousand parishioners have already signed up and become registered members of our Sunshine Coast parish – **have you?** It is easy, simply use your phone and this QR code will take you directly to the parish sign-up page. You will receive a confirmation code, which will allow you to securely enter your family details. Option two is to go on your computer and follow this link maroochydore.flocknote.com/register as it will also take you to our Parish Flocknote data page. Finally, if all else fails, at the entrance to the church there is a hard copy of the registration form – please complete it and return it to the parish so that we can register you. However you register, thank for taking the time and becoming a registered and known member of your Catholic Parish.



Better than an invite to the Chairman's Lounge !

Several times a year our Parish Welcome Group hosts a function for new members of our Parish Family. We live in such a mobile society and our part of the Sunshine Coast is a popular destination which means that **sitting beside or in front of you might be someone new to our Parish Family – make sure that you make them feel welcome!** If you are new to the Parish, or returning after being away for a while, could you pick up a welcome pack at the entrance of the church so that we can formally welcome you to your new Parish family. This Monday night **On Monday, November 25th we are hosting a “New Parishioners Cocktail Party”** which is really just a fancy name for a gathering at the presbytery to welcome you! **It is not too late to join us** – collect a welcome pack and give a call to the Parish Office this Monday (5443 3488).

Bargains Galore

You might remember this time last year we welcomed the Sisters of Mary Morning Star to our parish family and they had a stall containing some of their crafts. **Well, they are coming back!** Next Sunday, December 1st, the Sisters will be at Stella Maris and will have a stall containing a wide a variety of handmade crafts and goods. So after the 6:30am, 9am and 5pm Masses why not take a moment and explore what is on offer and in doing so support the sisters' mission while perhaps finding unique gifts for the holiday season!

We are who we are because of you !

Our Parish Family is blessed with an extraordinary number of volunteers who keep everything bouncing along – they are literally the mortar that holds us all to gather! Quietly, behind the scenes, fellow parishioners clean our churches, put their hand up to be part of the music ministry, lead our children's church, take Holy Communion to those who can't join us for Mass, coordinate our celebrations, are part of different groups and ministries – **the list goes on and on!** Every year, before the craziness of the holiday season really kicks in, we try and gather all volunteers for a **Christmas Thank You party**. So, if you are a faithful volunteer, up front or behind the scenes, whether your ministry is either easy or time consuming, a grateful Parish would like to extend to all volunteers a warm invitation to this year's **Christmas Thank You party** on Monday, December 2nd, from 6pm to 7:30pm. Everyone is invited!

Why Not give it a go ?

Traditionally during each of the school holidays we have a one day junior youth gathering called **Fun Days with God**. On Monday, December 16th at Stella Maris church all primary school children are invited to **Fun Days with God - Advent Adventures**. **It promises to be a fun and rewarding day.**

However, with possibly over 50 children we have a major problem! We need adult help otherwise we will have to turn some of the children away! We don't have the NET team to fall back on! We need some adults to help - you don't have to be young, just young at heart, enthusiastic, and eager to make a difference. We'd love for you to join us in this inspiring ministry! Your involvement can help bring more joy and connection to our parish family. If you are interested in giving your time from 8:45-3:00pm on that day, it would be greatly appreciated. To be a part of this wonderful opportunity, reach out to **Bernie Baillie** at bbaillie811@gmail.com

Make the most of Advent

Advent Starts next weekend and it is a short, focused season of expectation – waiting for Emmanuel – God is with us! A great way to help prepare is by spending a little time reflecting on the approaching birth of the Christ Child as part of an Advent programme. Each Wednesday during the 4 weeks of Advent, commencing November 27th, you are invited to join our Advent programme at St Catherine's. Please call Helen Matchett on 0403 617 512 for more details.

Leading by Example

During school term, each Sunday afternoon our **Junior Ministers** gather from 3 to 5pm at Stella Maris. While there are plenty of fun and games this term we have also focused in on ministry and being aware of our responsibility to be of service. The ministries they were involved in last Sunday evening included being Welcomers, Readers, Altar Servers, Computer Operators, Singers including soloists, Offertory and Money Collectors – **in fact they were involved in everything!** This Sunday is our final gathering for the year and our Christmas party is next weekend and we resume when school recommences in 2025. *Thanks for your support throughout the year.*

Your continued generous financial commitment makes all our ministries possible – thank you.

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



This term, our Year 1 students have been deeply engaged in learning about Mary, the mother of Jesus, and her significance in our Catholic faith. Through exploring the words of the Hail Mary, they have gained a deeper understanding of this beautiful prayer and its importance in our daily lives. The children have also read and enjoyed Bible stories about Mary, such as the Angel visiting Mary where Mary says 'Yes' to God and Mary visits her cousin Elizabeth. These stories have inspired the students to reflect on Mary's role as a model of faith and devotion.



In addition to learning about Mary's life, the students have discovered the many ways we honour her today. They have observed how Mary is adored through paintings, statues, and prayers, and have learned about the numerous schools and churches named in her honour. By understanding and honouring Mary, the children are developing a deeper connection to their faith and the rich traditions of the Catholic Church.



Stella Maris Primary School

Stella Maris Way,
Maroochydore

pmaroochydore@bne.catholic.edu.au

Principal: Mark Ballam



It's on for young and old! There is no such thing as 'cruising to the finish line' at Stella Maris School. On the contrary, it's all about 'Finishing Strong!' just like Olympic champions. This week we've had all Year 1-3 classes heading off to daily swimming lessons while the Year 4-6 students have double specialist lessons. Next week we'll be swapping over. We've also had the first two rounds of the Teachers Vs Students sports competition.



Our super Staff Oztag team just managed to beat the representative student team at the final siren in Round 1. In Round 2, the Staff took out the Netball win with a convincing 10-point lead. We will have to wait until the end of next week for our Swimming Carnival, to see exactly who will take out Round 3 and ultimately the competition, to win the inaugural trophy. On top of all this, our Year 6 students enjoyed sharing a special Graduation Dinner and Awards Night with their parents, staff and peers and we finished the week with a special school prayer assembly and Colour Blast afternoon to celebrate our school feast day. We are really going to deserve our Christmas holidays!

Siena Catholic College

60 Sippy Downs Drive,
Sippy Downs

ssippydowns@bne.catholic.edu.au

Principal: Sharon Collins



We are certainly on the final countdown for 2024, as attested by this week's farewell to our Year 10 and 11 students. Our Year 11s finished strongly, with most of them completing at least one piece of Year 12 assessment in the last few weeks.



Secondary journey.

The Year 10s spent a fun, but very wet afternoon at Aussie World on Wednesday, as they took the time to celebrate the end of their Junior

Our Year 7, 8 and 9 classes are still going strong, with students completing their term assessments. In the meantime, our teachers are completing marking and reporting, as well as engaging in moderation meetings, professional development sessions, and collaborative planning activities in order to ensure that they are ready for all that 2025 will bring.

A practical way of supporting the different youth ministries of your parish - **Youth Group 10:10, Young Adults, Junior Ministers and our Fun Days with God holiday programme** - is by saving up your bottles and utilizing the **"Container for Change"** scheme. Our parish has a "Container for Change" account. When you drop off your recyclable cans, beer, wine, and spirit bottles, as well as poppers and small flavoured milk containers, please quote our parish **Scheme ID number C10193859**. Put in your mobile under "Containers for Change" so you'll always have it. Thanks for your support!

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.



Planning Ahead: as a community that also has to welcome many holiday makers and visitors we have to plan ahead. For your information, our **Christmas schedule** is as follows:

Communal Rite of Reconciliation, Caloundra Saturday morning December 21, 9am

Communal Rite of Reconciliation, Maroochydore Monday evening December 23, 5pm

Christmas Eve: Maroochydore 4pm, Coolum 5pm, Sippy Downs 5pm, Maroochydore 6pm, Maroochydore, Midnight

Christmas Day: Maroochydore 6:30am, Coolum 7:30am, Maroochydore 9am, Buderim 9:30am