

We welcome all visitors and friends. Thanks for joining our Parish Family as we together celebrate the **Ascension of the Lord**. Our scripture this weekend comes from the Acts of the Apostles 1:1-11, Hebrews 9:24-28, 10:19-23 and the Gospel is from Luke 24:46-53

Embracing the faith communities of **St Mary's Buderim, St Peter's Coolumb, 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.

The Ascension

June this year is very unusual, with five Sundays and each of them marking a Solemnity. This weekend is the Ascension of the Lord, then there is Pentecost, followed by the Most Holy Trinity, the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, and finally, Saints Peter and Paul. So, because we are in Cycle C, our Gospel today for the Solemnity of the Ascension is taken from the conclusion of the Gospel of Luke.

There are similarities in the reports of Jesus' Ascension found in the Synoptic Gospels—Mark, Matthew, and Luke. In each account, Jesus assigns his disciples the task of proclaiming the Gospel to the entire world. There are also notable distinctions. In the Gospels of Mark and Matthew, the disciples are sent by Jesus to baptise as well as to preach. In Luke's Gospel, however, this commission to baptise is absent. Instead, Jesus directs the disciples to return to Jerusalem to await the fulfilment of his promise to send them the Holy Spirit. Curiously, only Mark and Luke actually report Jesus' Ascension into heaven. Matthew's Gospel concludes with Jesus' promise to remain with his disciples forever. Only the Gospel of Mark notes that Jesus ascended to sit at the right hand of God. In noting this, Mark teaches that Jesus' Ascension affirms the glory Jesus received from God after his death and Resurrection.

What is undeniable in all accounts of Jesus' Ascension is that it is both an ending and a beginning; it marks an absence and a presence. The physical appearances of Jesus are at an end; his revelation of the "good news" is complete; the promise of the Messiah is fulfilled. Now begins the work of the disciples: to teach what they have learned and to share what they have witnessed.

So, the words Jesus addresses to his disciples on the mountain of the Ascension are addressed to all of us two millennia later, here on the Sunshine Coast. This week we are called to teach, to witness and to heal in our own small corners of the world, to hand on to others the story that has been handed on to us about Jesus and his Gospel of love and compassion.

Hospitality is the focus of our community on the first weekend of every month – please accept this invitation to join your fellow parishioners and visitors after Mass today.



The preparation is getting serious for 101 of our younger parishioners as they prepare to celebrate the sacrament of Confirmation on Thursday, June 12th. Over the past couple of weeks, working on the foundation provided by their families, they have gathered on a Wednesday night, deepening their faith and understanding. Now, with only two weeks to go, there is an urgency to the preparation as they get ready to take this next important step in their spiritual journey – we keep them and their families in our prayers during this time. We also pray that we might be a Parish Family that is a good witness of faith to these younger and important members of our community.

Young Adults—This Sunday Evening

Each week, over 20 young men and women aged 18 to 30 come together as part of our vibrant parish Young Adult group. These gatherings are a mix of prayer, fun, and faith formation, providing a supportive space to grow spiritually and build strong friendships.

We're excited to announce that our next Young Adult session will be led by **Michael Fitzpatrick, on the topic of 'How the Eucharist forms us, consciously and unconsciously'**. We're looking forward to the insight and inspiration he'll bring. We'll be meeting this Sunday, **June 1st**, at Stella Maris Maroochydore. Dinner starts a **6:00pm** and formation at **6:45pm**.



It's a great time to get involved and surround yourself with like minded Young Adults. So, if you are between 18 –30 years old, we would love to see you. For more information, see our 5th year seminarian, Dylan Asmus.

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 02 June

- ◆ Benediction (5:15pm, Stella Maris Church)
- ◆ **Mass** (5:30pm, Stella Maris Church)

Tuesday 03 June

Charles Lwanga & Companions

- ◆ **Mass** (9:00am, Stella Maris School Chapel)
- ◆ Sisterhood Meeting 6:00pm, Stella Maris
- ◆ RCIA All Saints Group 6:00pm, Duffy Room
- ◆ RCIA Pentecost Group 6:30pm, Training Room

Wednesday 04 June

- ◆ **Mass** (7:00am, St Mary's Church)
- ◆ **Mass** (9:00am, St Catherine of Siena Church)
- ◆ Play & Pray group—Stella Maris, 9:00am
- ◆ Scripture Study Group (9:30am, Zoom)
- ◆ Confirmation Preparation 4 (5:00pm)
- ◆ Community Meetings:
Coolum 12:00pm; **Buderim** 2:30pm;
Sippy Downs 4:00pm; **Stella Maris** 6:00pm
- ◆ Latin American prayer group meets every Wednesday in the Duffy Room (6:00-8:00pm)

Thursday 05 June

St Boniface

- ◆ **Mass** (8:30am, St Peter's Coolum)
- ◆ Baptism Preparation (6:00pm, Stella Maris)

Friday, 06 June

- ◆ **Anointing & Healing Mass** (9:00am, Stella Maris Church—followed by morning tea)
- ◆ Community Meal for the Homeless

Saturday, 07 June

- ◆ **First Saturday Mass** (8:00am, Stella Maris)
- ◆ Reconciliation (8:30—9:30am, Stella Maris)
- ◆ Multicultural Mass meeting (9:30 Stella Maris)
- ◆ Jesus Shine Catholic Charismatic Prayer Group meets (11:00am, Sippy Downs)

- ◆ **Vigil Mass** ((4:30pm, St Peter's Church)
- ◆ **Vigil Mass** (6:00pm, Stella Maris Church)

Sunday, 08 June *Pentecost Sunday*

- ◆ **Mass** (6:30am, Stella Maris Church)
- ◆ **Mass** (7:30am, St Peter's Church)
- ◆ **Mass** (8:00am, St Catherine's) *Children's Church*
- ◆ **Mass** (9:00am, Stella Maris) *Children's Church*
- ◆ **Mass** (9:30am, St Mary's Church)
- ◆ Junior Minsters (3:00pm, Stella Maris)
- ◆ 10:10 Youth Group (3:00pm, Stella Maris)
- ◆ **Mass** (5:00pm, Stella Maris) *Children's Church*
- ◆ Young Adults (6:00pm, Stella Maris Church)

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.

Parish Clergy

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



Welcome to the Family

Next week is Pentecost, the coming of the Holy Spirit, and there could be no more appropriate time to welcome into the Church those who have been on a journey of discernment and reflection leading them to baptism and full communion. Next Sunday evening at the 5:00pm Mass, we will welcome into the Church: **Jane, Rosie, Ryan, Janice, Sophie, Maiah, Tanya, Donald, Christina and Thomas**. As these final days of preparation draw to a close, as a parish family, we pray for our soon to be brothers and sisters in the faith.

Also, when we think of Pentecost, traditionally we think of the colour **red**. That is understandable because one of the descriptions we have is that of the Holy Spirit descending upon the disciples like tongues of fire. The Holy Spirit is the gift that keeps on giving, giving us the vision and the courage to live out our faith and accept the challenges that accompany our journey, as people of faith. That we are conscious of the Holy Spirit accompanying us along our journey why not **next weekend wear something red** as we celebrate this most important solemnity.

Mark Your Diary

One of our major yearly gatherings is the Multicultural Mass and the celebrations that follow it. It is a chance to celebrate and marvel in the diversity of your Catholic Faith, while at the same time being reminded of what unites us as members of the Universal Church. **So, make sure that you mark in your diary Sunday, June 22nd, with Mass beginning at 11:00am. Next Saturday, June 7th, there is a short planning meeting at Stella Maris beginning at 9:30am** for all coordinators and anyone who would like to be involved.

We are also putting the final touches to the cultural celebrations after Mass, and we are drawing up a **timetable**. If you or your group want to be part of the cultural display, please email Dylan Asmus (asmusd@bne.catholic.net.au), who is drawing up the timetable and coordinating the different presentations.

First Friday

This coming Friday is our monthly Anointing and Healing Mass, and everyone is invited to join us at Stella Maris for Mass at 9:00am. As always, it is good to invite friends and neighbours, especially those who might need transport to Mass. Following Mass, there is always a great morning tea!

Local Groups

On the first week of each month, the members of the local groups meet. So, this Wednesday the Coolum Beach group meets at 12 noon, Buderim meets at 2:30pm, Sippy Downs at 4:00pm and the Maroochydore group meets at 6:00pm. As a parish family, we are grateful to our fellow parishioners who serve on these committees and help coordinate the many activities and ministries of our faith community.

All mums and dads are warmly invited to join us each Wednesday in the Bliss Room for

Play and Pray

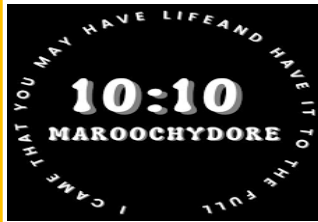
A friendly gathering of toddlers and young parents. It is a moment in our week when we get together for fun, friendship and faith-filled moments. So please come along and join us this Wednesday, 9:00am - new families are always welcome—we'd love to meet you!

Stella Maris Parish Office

Adjacent to the Stella Maris Church
Office Hours 9:00am—2:00pm Weekdays
Telephone: 5443 3488
Email: suncoast@bne.catholic.net.au
Website: maroochydoreparish.com.au

Junior Ministers

Each Sunday of the school term, around 30 Junior Ministers gather **from 3:00pm to 4:30pm** to learn and have fun. They receive training so they can serve during Mass (altar servers, reading, managing the PowerPoint, taking up collections, and acting as welcomers). This Parish ministry not only helps the students develop valuable skills but also enriches our parish community. For more information, contact Bernie - bbaillie811@gmail.com



Calling All High Schoolers

Every Sunday afternoon at **3:00pm at Stella Maris**, our Parish 10/10 High School youth group gathers, and all students are invited. It is an afternoon of fun, faith, and friendship, with a bit of food thrown in! Inspired by John 10:10 – *"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full"* – why not bring your friends and be part of something awesome? See you there! For more info, contact maroochydore@netministries.com.au

Sisterhood – our Parish Women's Ministry – meets this Tuesday at Stella Maris at 6:00pm. All women of our community are warmly invited - please invite a neighbour or a friend to our gathering. Also, a reminder that registration is open now for our annual Women's Retreat on Saturday, July 26th.

ARE YOU TURNING 80 THIS YEAR?

Or are you already over 80?

It is never too late to celebrate!

Join us for a grand celebration

St Peter's parishioners who are 80 this year (and over) are inviting all fellow parishioners who are marking this milestone to join in a unforgettable gathering filled with love, laughter and plenty of cherished memories. **So mark off in your diary Sunday June 15th after the 7:30am Sunday morning Mass at St Peter's, Coolum Beach.** Come, raise a glass, share a story, make this birthday celebration truly memorable. Please bring a plate to share.

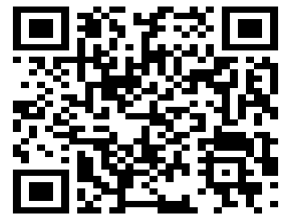


Take a moment to become a registered member of your Parish

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 office so that we can register you. However you register, thank you for taking the time and becoming a registered and known member of your Catholic Parish.



There are many things we take for granted which for new members of our Australian community are both confusing and daunting! A perfect example is the **Australian Tax System**. Our vibrant Latin American Spanish group has organised a workshop with Dante Garcia, an award-winning accountant, presenting a session on how the tax system works in Australia. It is especially tailored for Spanish-speaking international students and new migrants.

Date: Thursday, 26 June 2025 **Time:** 5:00 PM **Venue:** Bliss Room, Stella Maris *This is a practical way to support members of our community who are navigating their way for the first time through the Australian Tax system.*

Baptismal preparation for parents with infants is on **this Thursday evening**, 6:00pm at Stella Maris. Parents are requested to visit our Parish web page to register and complete the necessary details before the meeting. At the meeting we go through the symbols of Baptism, answer any questions and confirm the date.

Celebrating and Remembering

We welcome into God's Family, the Church,
Taze Bland, Ace Hopley, Sage Hopley, Sully Hopley and Kamila Quimsing
who will be baptised this weekend in our parish.

We pray for all those who have died, especially *John & Lesley Graham* and *Pauline Bradshaw*.

May their souls, through the rich mercy of God, **Rest in Peace.**

Catholic Education in our Sunshine Coast Parish

Siena Catholic Primary School

58 Sippy Downs Drive,
Sippy Downs
psippydowns@bne.catholic.edu.au
Principal: Eric Ellems



National Sorry Day

On Monday, our school community came together to observe National Sorry Day—a time to reflect on the injustices experienced by First Nations peoples and to acknowledge the need for healing and reconciliation.

Held each year on May 26, National Sorry Day commemorates the Stolen Generations and marks the beginning of National Reconciliation Week. This year's theme, 'Bridging Now to Next', invites us to walk together toward a more united and respectful future.

As a school, we paused to pray, reflect, and honour the enduring



strength and contributions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Each class created symbolic footprints, representing our shared journey to acknowledge past wrongs and build a better future.

A sincere thank you to Mrs Melinda Fowler, along with our staff and students, for their thoughtful participation in the liturgy and learning activities throughout the week.

Stella Maris Primary School

Stella Maris Way,
Maroochydore
pmaroochydore@bne.catholic.edu.au
Principal: Mark Ballam



This week, the Stella Maris school community came together to honour National Reconciliation Week, a time to reflect on our shared history and journey towards unity. Guided by this year's theme, we explored the importance of building relationships and respect between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and the wider community.

As a Catholic community, we strive to follow Christ's example of love, justice, and healing. National Reconciliation Week reminds us that every step towards understanding and respect brings us closer to a future where all people walk together in harmony.

Our week began with a staff prayer, grounding our reflections in faith and commitment to reconciliation. During assembly, the Maroochy Mob (our dedicated group of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students) presented insights and shared stories that deepened our understanding and appreciation. In classrooms, engaging lessons and activities encouraged meaningful discussions about history, inclusion, and ways we can all contribute to reconciliation in our daily lives.



Siena Catholic College

60 Sippy Downs Drive,
Sippy Downs
ssippydowns@bne.catholic.edu.au
Principal: Sharon Collins



Last term, several of our First Nations students and our First Nations Perspectives Liaison teacher, Caitlyn Hockam took part in a promotional filming project for BCE, creating a series of First Nations video resources to raise awareness on events and important topics. These videos consist of a compilation of staff and students from all BCE schools. Siena College and Primary students feature prominently in the films launched this week to coincide with National Reconciliation Week. We are incredibly proud of them.

The theme for this year's National Reconciliation Week is *Bridging Now to Next*, which encourages all Australians to honour the past, engage with the present, and step forward together toward a more united future. To celebrate and deepen our students' understanding of First Nations cultures, histories, and traditions, we planned a range of meaningful activities throughout the week, including a First Nations Native Garden Project. This long-term project will feature bush tucker plants, native trees, a reflection path, seating, and a special area for graduating First Nations students to leave handprints as a lasting legacy. These activities are great opportunities to reflect, connect and educate. Our College Assembly this week included a beautiful prayer involving First Nations students and spiritual motifs with emphasis on building a future where all cultures are celebrated and where there are new steps and new stories.

Sisterhood

WOMEN'S
RETREAT
JULY
26
2025
8.30am - 4.00pm
STELLA MARIS SCHOOL
5 STELLA WAY
MAROOCHYDORE
COST \$40

YOU
ARE
INVITED



Don't be Shy—Let's be Friends!

It has never been so easy to get in touch and keep up to date with the many ministries and activities of our Sunshine Coast Parish. Why not start by visiting our Parish Facebook page? You will receive updates on what's happening within the parish, religious articles and content of interest. It is also a way we contact you with urgent news. "Like" our Facebook page, and you will be kept notified of new posts and help to promote the Parish page to more viewers. Our Parish Instagram page also offers a wealth of information, while our E-Newsletter delivers our weekly Parish newsletter straight to your inbox!

INSTAGRAM



@stellamaris.parish



FACEBOOK



Stella Maris Catholic Parish

