

This is the last weekend before the majority of our schools resume their educational routine. For our visitors, holiday makers and families enjoying the last hours before the school bell on Monday, you are most welcome. For Fr Isaac, his focus this weekend is on being one of the leaders at the Ignite Conference in Sydney. We keep Fr Isaac and all the participants in our prayers over these days. Joining us this weekend is Fr David Willis, please make him welcome.

This weekend is the Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time.

Our scripture this weekend comes from **Deuteronomy 30:10-14, Colossians 1:15-20** and the Gospel is from **Luke 10:25-37**

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.

With school resuming this week and many of our fellow parishioners returning from holidays, it is timely to ask, *are you a traveller or a tourist?* You see, there is a difference!

A traveller is a person who is interested in unfamiliar settings and wild encounters that enlarge their perspective. Throughout history, we read about people who set off in search of adventure and experience. These are the people who write books about their adventures and stimulate the imagination of others. A traveller takes risks, plunges into diverse cultures, and seeks to learn local customs. Unplanned experiences are the traveller's norm, sometimes involving challenging exploits. Travellers eat whatever food is placed before them. They aim to learn as much of the language as possible. *Shopping for souvenirs plays no part in their ventures!*

On the other hand, tourism is a spectator sport often full of contrived, prefabricated experiences. Usually, a tourist is a pleasure seeker who passes through different exotic experiences only to return to a comfortable bed at night. In that comfortable bed, a tourist is protected from the noise, the smells, the food and the customs of the local people. Tourists expect interesting things to happen to them. *A tourist goes sightseeing!*

In the big picture, does it really matter? Well, in this weekend's Gospel, we hear the very familiar story of the Good Samaritan, and it contains two types of people - travellers and tourists. The first two, the priest and the Levite, were merely tourists; they were sightseeing from the safety of the other side of the street. The traveller in the story was the Samaritan because he was the only one who was prepared to be involved in the great drama of life.

In our world of mass tourism, we are all conditioned to stay on the "safe side of the street" and sometimes view the great drama of life as simply sightseers. Viewed from "the safe side of the street", a lot of life simply becomes photo opportunities where we are protected from any awkward or inconvenient involvement. The Good Samaritan, on the other hand, is definitely a traveller because he was prepared to take a risk and plunge headfirst into the drama of life with all its messiness and uncertainties. In doing so, the Good Samaritan becomes for us here in our Sunshine Catholic Parish an example of Gospel charity in action.

So, as you start another week, on this journey of life that God has set you on, are you an *engaged traveller or merely a tourist passing through?*

God bless,
Fr Peter Brannelly

FIRST COMMUNION PROGRAMME STARTS THIS WEDNESDAY

Don't procrastinate – **register now**— because of numbers and our duty to provide adequate preparation, once we begin our First Communion Sacramental Program, we cannot accept any late registrations. So, don't delay, registrations are now open for First Communion. If your child is in Year 4 or older, celebrated their Sacrament of Confirmation, please enrol online via our website maroochydoreparish.com.au. Parent information night will be on **this Wednesday, July 16th, at 5:00pm in Stella Maris Church, Maroochydore**. Please note: **parents only** are required to attend this evening. We look forward to supporting your child on this special step in their faith journey. For all enquiries, please contact Carrolyn Watt, our Sacramental Coordinator at sacraments.suncocast@bne.catholic.net.au or call the parish office.

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 14 July

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

Tuesday 15 July

- ◆ **Mass** (9:00am, Stella Maris School Chapel)
- ◆ Finance Committee (5:30pm)
- ◆ RCIA All Saints Group (6:00pm, Duffy Room)

Wednesday 16 July

- ◆ **Mass** (7:00am, St Mary's Church)
- ◆ **Mass** (9:00am, St Catherine of Siena Church)
- ◆ Play & Pray (9:30am—Stella Maris)
- ◆ Scripture Study Group (9:30am, Zoom)
- ◆ First Holy Communion Parent Information Session (5:00pm, Stella Maris Church)
- ◆ Latin American prayer group meets every Wednesday in the Duffy Room (6:00-8:00pm)

Thursday 17 July

- ◆ **Mass** (8:30am, St Peter's Coolum)
- ◆ SVDP Meeting (9:00am, St Peter's Coolum)

Friday, 18 July

- ◆ Stations of the Cross (8:00am, Stella Maris)
- ◆ **Mass** (9:00am, Stella Maris Church)
- ◆ Grief Support Meeting following Mass
- ◆ Community Meal for the Homeless

Saturday, 19 July

- ◆ Reconciliation (8:30—9:30am, 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, 20 July

16th Sunday of Ordinary Time

- ◆ **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) **Children's Church**
- ◆ Junior Minsters (3:00pm—Stella Maris)
- ◆ 10:10 Youth Group (3:00pm—Stella Maris)
- ◆ **Mass** (5:00pm, Stella Maris) **Children's 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.

OFF TO A GREAT START

We have started Children's Church at Buderim, and we extend an invitation to all families with young children to join us at our 9:30am St Mary's Mass. Like the Children's Church ministry at the 8:00am Sippy Downs Mass and the 9:00am and 5:00pm Maroochydore Masses, Children's Church is offered as a practical way of reaching out to the younger members of our Parish Family. We appreciate the generosity of our Children's Church leaders – if you would like more information or would like to join the team, please contact Carolyn Watt, our Parish Sacramental Coordinator at the Parish Office sacraments.suncoast@bne.catholic.net.au

WE NEED YOU!

We are looking for volunteers to assist as catechists for our First Holy Communion program at Stella Maris and St Catherine's Churches. This is a wonderful opportunity to share your faith and help guide our children as they prepare for this important sacrament. Commitment:

Just four Sunday mornings — 27 July, 3 August, 10 August, and 17 August.

At St Catherine's Church, Sippy Downs, the candidates will attend Mass at 8:00am with the lesson following until 9.30am.

At Stella Maris, lessons begin at 8:30am, and will lead into Mass at the Offertory at Stella Maris Church, Maroochydore.

No teaching experience is necessary — just a love for our faith and a willingness to help our young parishioners grow closer to Jesus.

If you feel called to serve in this special way, please contact Carolyn Watt at sacraments.suncoast@bne.catholic.net.au

PUT YOUR THINKING CAPS ON !!!

Mark your calendars for our Trivia Night on Saturday, August 9th, a fun-filled community evening to raise funds for the Ignite Conference! Gather your friends, test your knowledge, and enjoy a night of laughter, games, and great company. We'll also be holding a raffle on the night, and we're seeking prize donations to help make the event even more exciting and successful. If you or your business can contribute, we'd love to hear from you! Please contact the office.

THANK YOU

Finally, a big thank you to all who prepared, served and cleaned up afterwards over this hospitality weekend. You are appreciated.

GLAD YOU ASKED

In our Catholic tradition, we normally baptise our children soon after they are born – *after all, why should they not be part of God's family?* Sometimes, for a whole lot of reasons, some of our children slip through the infant baptism journey and end up wanting to receive the sacraments and be fully a member of God's church here on the Sunshine Coast as they get older. If this is your story, then we have a pathway for you!

Enrolments for children aged 7 to 15 who wish to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.

Step 1: Begin by enrolling online through our parish website: <https://maroochydoreparish.com.au/baptism/>

Step 2: After enrolling, families are asked to attend the Baptism Preparation Session on Sunday, 14 September at 10:30am at Stella Maris Church, Maroochydore.

We look forward to supporting your family on this important faith journey. For any questions, please contact Carolyn Watt, our Sacramental Coordinator at the Parish Office sacraments.suncoast@bne.catholic.net.au

Parish Clergy

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 9:00am—2:00pm Weekdays
Telephone: 5443 3488
Email: suncoast@bne.catholic.net.au
Website: maroochydoreparish.com.au

Donald Trump's tariffs, regional conflicts and disruptions to the supply chain might make headlines, but for us here on the Sunshine Coast, our Parish financial position is pretty simple. We have to pay down our parish debt (this week standing at \$1,527,176.51) to ensure the regular maintenance and planned refurbishment is carried out and, make provision for the future through planning ahead.

This Tuesday, your parish Finance Committee will hold its scheduled meeting, and all three of those challenges will be well and truly on the agenda. Thank you for your continued support and trust in the administration and mission of your Parish. If you would like to join our planned giving programme, there is an information envelope at the entrance to the church. If you would like to readjust your financial commitment to the Parish, please send an email to suncoast@bne.catholic.net.au. If you have any other ideas on how you could support the mission and ministry of the Parish please get in contact with either Fr Peter or Fr Isaac.

A special thank you to all who already have contributed to the Buderim Appeal. Everything is quickly falling into place with the new pews almost completed, the craftsmanship of the new sanctuary furniture commissioned and, new carpet selected – it really is getting to the exciting phase of coordinating the different elements to bring the project to completion. If you would like to contribute to the appeal, you can make a donation on line ~ **Commonwealth Bank Buderim Project:**
BSB 064-786 Account Number: 100021388 *Together with trust we build our future.*



Plans are quickly falling into place for our annual Sisterhood Women's retreat. All women of our Sunshine Coast family, and your friends, are warmly invited to claim this day as a chance to pause amidst the busyness and hassles of our daily lives and regain some perspective on the journey ahead.

So, ladies, it's time to Arise and Awaken the powerful faith within you! Please join us for a vibrant and spirit-filled Sisterhood Retreat Day, a special parish initiative created to uplift, inspire, and connect women of all ages. We're thrilled to welcome two amazing speakers:

VON HOSKING and **CARRIE MCCORMACK**

These incredible women will speak into our hearts on the theme of awakening our faith potential — *because God isn't finished with us yet!*

Date: Saturday 26 July

Location: Stella Maris Primary School, 5 Stella Way, Maroochydore **Time:** 8:30am

Come for the faith. Stay for the sisterhood. Leave refreshed and on fire!

Let's rise together — don't miss it! Register Now <https://maroochydoreparish.com.au/sisterhood/>



The school bell will be ringing loud and clear on this Monday morning, meaning a new term has begun. We wish all those involved in the great adventure of education, teachers, support workers, students and parents, every blessing for the new school term. It also means our weekly routine resumes back to its normal, predictable and reassuring pattern.

PLAY & PRAY: A new parish initiative for families with young children in those important formative years before they get to primary school to come together, connect, and grow in faith! So please join us at 9:30am every Wednesday morning during the school term in the Bliss Room (near the parish office) at Stella Maris Church.

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

HIGHSCHOOL YOUTH GROUP : 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

YOUNG ADULTS : Calling all **Young Adults** (ages 18-30)! Mark in your calendars, **6:00pm, Sunday, July 27th** for our next formation session, which will be given by our very own **Fr Isaac Falzon**. The session is titled **"From Eden to Eternity: Living the Covenant Story"**, where Fr Isaac will be giving us a snapshot of what the bible is and 'God's holy covenants'. Join us immediately after the 5:00pm Mass for dinner and chats, followed by formation at 6:30pm. For more information, contact [Georgia, media.suncoast@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:Georgia.media.suncoast@bne.catholic.net.au)

Celebrating and Remembering

We welcome into God's Family, the Church,

Banksi Burnett, Maya Ladra, Emily Reyno, Alejandro Rodriguez, Oliver Scanlan, Knox Villany & Koa Villany
who will be baptised this weekend in our parish.

We pray for all those who have died, especially ***Leslie O'Brien, Michael Brown & John Rossiter***.
May their souls, and the souls of all our deceased priests, religious and family members, through the rich mercy of God,

Rest in Peace.

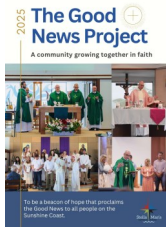
Social Media in our Parish

Sharing the Good News online

Recently, you may have noticed our growing online presence, aimed at keep you updated on the various ministries, events and gatherings taking place across our four church communities. Since the launch of our Stella Maris Catholic Parish website in 2022, our communications team has been working hard to develop our visual identity and online recognition.

Here are some of the ways we have used modern technology to grow how we communicate as a parish over the last three years:

We have introduced a reliable **weekly subscription-based eNewsletter**, where you can opt-in to stay informed on what's happening across our community, delivered straight to your inbox. If you haven't already, subscribe by registering online with our Parish Database, Flocknote, <https://maroochydores.flocknote.com/> and ticking 'Stella Maris eNews' when you sign up.



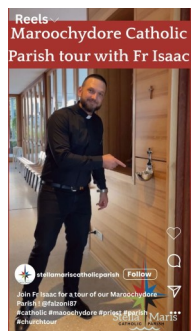
Early this year we launched '**The Good News Project**', a brochure highlighting the growth of our Parish over recent years and the key events of 2025. You may have noticed recent updates to '**The Many Faces of Our Community**' and '**Join a Ministry**' brochures, alongside the many brochures around our churches providing programmes and other various services available, including our **Columbarium**, **Endowment Fund** and **Planned Giving**.

We have also moved our **Maroochydores Sunday Mass live-streaming** to YouTube, creating easier accessibility for those unfamiliar with social media. To make sure you never miss our latest uploads and streams, subscribe to our YouTube channel, '**Maroochydores Catholic Parish**'. Mass live-streams are a vital ministry for those who are housebound or in a care facility.

Last year, we welcomed to the team, our **Social Media and Digital Manager, Georgia Whiteley**. Georgia is studying a Bachelor of Communications and has acquired skills in social media theories, trends, content curation and creation, which she has been pleased to use help grow our parish's online presence. With the goal of utilising **emerging social media platforms**, such as **Instagram** and **Facebook** to connect with our growing audience, Georgia schedules daily posts on these platforms detailing upcoming events and sharing the highlights of previous events with photos and videos. Through social media, parishioners, as well as the broader Sunshine Coast community, will be able to stay up to date with the great things happening in our parish, never missing out on all our fantastic events.



We are a diverse and vibrant parish, unified in our commitment to gather in friendship and share the good news so we invite you to assist in this mission and be **communications champions** by sending in your own photos when you gather at one of our parish events to Georgia (media.suncoast@bne.catholic.net.au). This way we can share the amazing things happening across all of our four communities.



Finally, last week we uploaded the first video of our new social media initiative, '**Just a Minute**', a series of short-form videos aimed at reaching an audience who are unfamiliar with our Catholic faith and wanting to know more. We were amazed to see our first upload received **6,515 views, 508 likes, 30 comments, and 37 shares between Instagram and Facebook**. This is the most interactions we've ever seen on one of our social media posts and this is just the beginning! **Follow our Instagram and Facebook accounts, @stellamariscatholicparish** to make sure you don't miss our next video from this series.

By being prepared to embrace the latest technology, we can continue to be a parish family here on the Sunshine Coast that is alive, engaged and connected! If you are liking your experience here at our parish, please consider leaving us a **Google review** to help us continue to grow and welcome new people to our community. You can do this by searching '**Stella Maris Catholic Church**' on Google and clicking '**Write a review**' under our profile.

THANK YOU FOR REMEMBERING THE MISSION AND MINISTRY OF YOUR PARISH IN YOUR WILL

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 **Saturday, August 9th**, 6:00pm at St Mary's. Their Facebook page is Comunidad Catolica Latina de Sunshine Coast. Also, every Wednesday evening at 6:00pm in the Duffy Room, our Spanish-speaking prayer group members meet, and all Spanish speakers are warmly invited to join them.

Następna polska Msza św

On the 4th Sunday of every month, Mass is celebrated in Polish. The next Mass in Polish will be on **Sunday, July 27th** at 4:00pm - tell your Polish friends—*all welcome*.

Brasileiros Católicos em Sunshine Coast

On the First Sunday of every month at Our Lady of the Rosary Church, Edmund Street, Caloundra, Mass is celebrated in Portuguese at 11:30am. Portuguese is the official language of Brazil, and we have a vibrant and growing Brazilian community here on the Sunshine Coast. The Brazilian Catholic Community email address is besc.contato@gmail.com and the Facebook page in **Brasileiros Católicos em Sunshine Coast**. The next Mass in Portuguese is on Sunday, August 3rd at 11:30am followed by hospitality – please let your Brazilian neighbours know about our Mass.

Available at the entrance of all four of our 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. To all new members of our Parish Community, you are welcome—*thanks for being part of our Parish Family*.

