

Welcome to the **Seventeenth Sunday of the Church's Year**, and especially we welcome the 100 younger members of our parish who are attending their **First Holy Communion** preparation class this weekend. It is appropriate that prayer, and the attitude to God that true prayer requires, is central to our scripture this weekend. In the Gospel, we hear the foundations of the Our Father, a prayer we all know so well. Then we hear a series of parables and images which underline the importance of persistence in prayer – *something we all probably need!*

Our scripture this weekend comes from **Genesis 18:20-32**, **Colossians 2:12-14**, and the Gospel is from **Luke 11:1-13**. Once again, to parishioners and visitors to our community, **welcome!**

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.

Be Brief, Be Bold, Be Persistent

Did you know that Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address was only 250 words long? The man before Lincoln spoke for over an hour. The man who followed Lincoln spoke for even longer. Yet today no one remembers who they were or what they said. Lincoln's two and a half minutes, by contrast, changed the history of the United States and the sentiments of his words are some of the most powerful and evocative in western literature.

I think, in part, it is the brevity of Lincoln's words that makes them so powerful. Brevity, knowing what point you want to make and getting to it is always a good challenge to preachers too!

In today's Gospel we will hear Luke's version of the Lord's Prayer. It is good to remember that it has only 38 words and, like Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, is another example of how a few sentences have changed our history.

It starts out as his disciples, which really means all of us, ask Jesus how to pray. That is a bit like the winner of MasterChef coming to our kitchen and showing us how to cook! Notice that he does not give instructions about how to stand or prostrate themselves. He does not even give lists of words or ideas. He starts out by addressing his Father as "Abba", meaning "Daddy" in the Aramaic language Jesus spoke. **Right from the start we are being told that prayer is about relationship - between us and our Father.** That's why we pray!

The second thing that stands out for me is - the more you say, or pray, or reflect upon the words, the more radical, challenging and life changing they become; because they encourage an approach or attitude to prayer which we might not even appreciate. It is almost as if Jesus is unambiguously encouraging a bold, confident, even brazen attitude towards approaching God in prayer. **To follow his example is to cultivate a way of praying that is hopeful, expectant and sure of God's goodness and generosity.**

This confidence in our relationship with God probably helps explain why Jesus goes on to reassure us in no uncertain terms that God answers our prayers. He reinforces this by telling a parable about a persistent neighbour who asks a friend for bread at midnight. The friend is already in bed and has no desire to disturb his family by opening the door. But because the neighbour is persistent, the sleeping man gets up and gives him all that he needs. If a neighbour is willing to help us if we are persistent enough, how could God not respond to our requests?

That is why if we seek, we will get a response. If we knock, we will get an answer. It might not necessarily be answered in the way we expect, **but God always answers our prayers!**

Wishing you every blessing for the coming week,

Fr Peter Brannelly

CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK

27 JULY - 2 AUG 2025



catholiceducationweek.com.au

COMMUNITIES
OF FAITH
HOPE
LOVE



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 28 July

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

Tuesday 29 July

Sts Martha, Mary and Lazarus

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

Wednesday 30 July

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

Thursday 31 July

St Ignatius of Loyola

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

Friday, 01 August

St Alphonsus Liguori

- ◆ Stations of the Cross (8:00am, Stella Maris)
- ◆ **Mass & Anointing** (9:00am, Stella Maris)
- ◆ Community Meal for the Homeless

Saturday, 02 August

- ◆ **Mass** (8:00am, Stella Maris Church)
- ◆ 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, 03 August

18th Sunday of Ordinary Time

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

A Dead Certainty !

There certainly was a rush for the Funeral Packs last week! Hopefully, the eagerness to get a pack reflects the reality that completing the information is a sensible activity, so that when the time comes, it will give some guidance to those you love the most! The challenge is to sit down and talk about the different options, complete the details and return the envelope to the Parish where it will be securely stored. Hopefully, a long, long time from now, the content of your envelope will give some direction and reassurance to your family as they prepare to celebrate your life.



This weekend, our annual Sisterhood Women's Retreat was held at Stella Maris School. Thank you to the guest presenters Carrie McCormack and Von Hoskings, our sponsors Holy Cross Funerals for morning tea, the Knights of the Southern Cross for preparing lunch, our Net team and Rhay Alicaya for leading the music at Mass, Susan Till for creating a beautiful environment and finally to our team Patricia Sweeney Fawcett, Bev Nunan, Anita Zinkel, Raeleen Pohl-Kelly, Nicola Ross and Carolyn Watt who coordinate our Parish Sisterhood Women's ministry here in our Sunshine Coast Parish.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Baptismal Guidelines

All You Need To Know !

Firstly, registration for all baptisms is via our website : (maroochyoreparish.com.au)

Our online registration is very easy with 4 basic steps: **1.** Fill out the enrolment form online, you will be required to upload a copy of your child's birth certificate **2.** Attend a baptism preparation session **3.** To comply with government legislation, both parents must sign the parental authority **4.** Choose a godparent (must be Catholic 16 years or older in good standing with the Church).

Infant Baptism: 0 – 6 years

- ◆ Parent(s) attend Baptismal Preparation first Thursday of the month. The next meeting is **Thursday, 7th August at 6.00pm, Stella Maris Church, Maroochyore.**

- ◆ Baptisms are celebrated Saturday morning 10:00am at Stella Maris Church.

- ◆ Other Churches and times during Mass are available on request.

Older Children Baptism: 7 - 15 years

- ◆ Attend 2 preparation sessions (Sunday 14 September & Sunday 19 October, 10:30am, Stella Maris Church).

- ◆ Candidate is required to attend 5 Masses and complete a baptism workbook.

- ◆ Baptisms will take place during Mass on the first Saturday of the month at 8:00am, Stella Maris Church, Maroochyore.

Older Children: 16- 17 years

- ◆ This age group will participate in the Rite of Christian Initiation for Youth. Dates will be set according to need.

Adults aged 18 years and over:

- ◆ Register via the Becoming a Catholic / RCIA drop down menu on the website. **Hurry—A new group is about to begin!**

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: maroochyoreparish.com.au

TRIVIA NIGHT ! REGISTER NOW for Trivia Night on **Saturday, 5:00pm August 9th**, at Stella Maris School. An event for all ages to raise funds for Ignite Conference! Gather your friends and book a table together—
Ticket Options: 1 ticket-\$40pp, 4 tickets-\$35pp, 8 tickets-\$30pp, All tickets include a meal, event entry and a chance to win the ultimate team prize. We're holding a raffle on the night, and we're seeking prize donations to help make the event more exciting. If you or your business can contribute, we'd love to hear from you.
 Visit <https://maroochydoreparish.com.au/trivia-night/> to register today! More information available on the website.

Mums and Dads – Granddads and Grandmums

Play & Pray

Especially designed for families of preschool children, each Wednesday from 9:30am to 11:00am at Stella Maris, we gather and enjoy each other's company, share the challenges of parenthood, marvel at the inquisitiveness of children, and all based on a faith foundation – so please join us this Wednesday.

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 and is specifically designed for children in primary school who have made their Confirmation. 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—This Sunday Night!: Calling all **Young Adults** (ages 18-30)! This Sunday **6:00pm, 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

Surely one of the incredible, spirit filled experiences of our Parish Family over the past two or so years is the number of new adult members we have welcomed to the Catholic Church. The **Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA)** is the journey of enquiry and discernment that we invite enquirers to journey on. It's a time when we invite individuals to go on to discover more about who we are and what we believe as Catholics. Over the past two years, over 60 adults have journeyed along this path and have made the free decision to seek baptism and fully become a member of the Church. We currently have a group journeying towards baptism which will take place towards the end of the year. There is pressure for another group to begin! Are you interested? Would you like more information. Simply email Dylan Asmus on asmusd@bne.catholic.net.au



The members of the two St Vincent de Paul conferences that minister within our Parish – **St Peter's at Coolum and the St Gerard Majella conference at Maroochydore** – would like to thank you for your generous support of their Winter appeal. All money raised through the appeal remains local and helps support our Vinnies conferences to support those on the fringe of our community. New members in their important ministry are always welcome, and if you would like more information, why not talk to a Vinnies member!



Buderim Update

Everything is falling into place for the refurbishment of St Mary's with the biggest challenge being coordinating what has to be done and when. Doors, carpet, paint, pews, sanctuary furniture, and electrical upgrades all need to be coordinated so that there is minimal disruption to the rhythm of our Parish life. At this stage, we are hoping that we will make a start on Monday, August 25th. Thank you to everyone for supporting the project – if you would like to make a contribution, we have a dedicated account: **Commonwealth Bank BSB 064-786 Account Number 100021388** Thanks for your support!

Celebrating and Remembering

We welcome into God's Family, the Church,
Oliver Andersen, Tadhg Bedford, Rylan Crummer, Claire Meagher, Penelope White and Reuben Williamson
 who will be baptised this weekend in our parish.

We pray for all those who have died, especially **John McCormack** and **Graham Blakeney**.
 May their souls, and the souls of all our deceased priests, religious and family members, 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



Last Friday, four teams from Siena Catholic Primary School competed in the Sunshine Coast Catholic Cup at Fisherman's Road Sports Complex. Despite a late arrival and stormy weather, the skies cleared and the competition went ahead.

Our students showed incredible spirit and teamwork throughout the day:

- Mrs Zerna's and Mrs Lincoln's Year 6 team demonstrated great growth, finishing fourth after a close match against Good Samaritan.
- Mrs Maher's Year 6 team played with strength and positivity, finishing the day undefeated.
- Mrs Ryan's Year 5 team were a force to be reckoned with—playing with courage, joy, and determination. Their enthusiastic chanting could be heard across the complex, and they finished as runners-up.

Our boys' team showed outstanding resilience, often playing back-to-back games. Their skills and teamwork improved with each match, and they finished **undefeated—winning the Cup!** Despite the wet weather, it was a fantastic day of sport, teamwork, and school spirit. Congratulations to all involved!



Stella Maris Primary School

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



Last Friday, **over 100 students** from Stella Maris Primary School represented our school at the **Sunshine Coast Catholic Cup**, competing in both **netball** and **soccer**. The event was a joyful celebration of teamwork, determination, and school spirit. Our students played with heart and integrity, demonstrating our school's values. Both on the netball court and the soccer field, their efforts were inspiring and commendable. A big thank you to our dedicated staff, coaches, and parent volunteers who made this day possible.

In addition to our sporting success, we're excited to share news of a major development at Stella Maris. Plans are now underway for a covered multipurpose court—a new facility that will enhance our school's capacity for sports, performing arts, assemblies, and liturgical celebrations. The proposed design includes a spacious covered area with netball runoffs, a canteen, amenity store, and future walkway links to existing buildings.

This new space will be a hub for learning, creativity, and community connection, reflecting our commitment to nurturing the whole child—spiritually, academically, and physically. We look forward to sharing more updates as the project progresses.

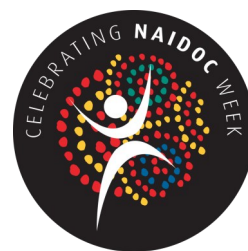
Siena Catholic College

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



Last week, the College recognised NAIDOC Week. National NAIDOC Week celebrations are held across Australia in the first week of July each year to celebrate and recognise the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. NAIDOC Week is an opportunity for all Australians to learn about First Nations cultures and histories and participate in celebrations of the oldest, continuous living cultures on earth. This year marked a powerful milestone with 50 years of honouring and elevating Indigenous voices, culture, and resilience. The 2025 theme, "The Next Generation: Strength, Vision & Legacy," celebrates not only the achievements of the past but the bright future ahead, empowered by the strength of our young leaders, the vision of our communities, and the legacy of our ancestors.

Our students and staff participated in an array of vibrant activities from storytelling, face painting, colouring, weaving and also enjoyed deadly music from First Nations artists.



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. There is also our **Funeral Preparation Pack** and **"The many Faces of our Parish"**, which helps you put a face to a name and a name to a ministry! To all new members of our Parish Community, you are welcome—*thanks for being part of our Parish Family.*

Catholic Formation – Understanding, Praying and Living the Scriptures

This module engages participants in the scriptures, exploring their inspiration, canonisation, unity and how to interpret scripture within the Catholic tradition. This module will also provide participants with introductions to various books within the canon as well as theological principles that inform the Catholic reading of scripture. Beyond the mechanics, this module provides an experience of listening to the voice of God in scripture, ensuring that scripture moves beyond mere text to being experienced as God's word to us. **Why not join us? Time: 7:00pm – 9:00pm Dates: Ten Monday nights, August 4th - October 20th, 2025** At the Bliss Room, Stella Maris Church. Contact Carolyn Watt for more information at the Parish Office.