

The journey of preparation for over 100 of our younger members of our Parish to receive their First Holy Communion is quickly drawing to a close. During the week, they celebrated their First Reconciliation, and this week in their preparation class, they will reflect on that experience of God's mercy and forgiveness. The real challenge for them, and us, is how we see the community and our relationships after experiencing God's forgiveness and the invitation to start again!!!

Welcome as we celebrate the 20th Sunday of the Church's Year

Our scripture this weekend comes from **Jeremiah 38:4-6, 8-10**, **Hebrews 12:1-4** and the Gospel is from **Luke 12:49-53**

The gospel speaks about division and having to make a decision on how we are going to live our lives – over the next 7 days these daily decisions will underpin the actions, attitudes and words of our journey together.

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

NET REPORT

Our Parish NET team presents our Parish Family with a snapshot of their ministry and activity.

What have we been up to recently? After we all had two weeks off to go home and spend time with family and friends, followed by a week of mid-year training with the other NET Teams, we returned in early July to the Parish and Siena College full of energy and inspired to serve and be witnesses of Jesus' love for the second half of the year! Wasting no time, our first full day back on the Sunshine Coast was spent with many of the Parish's primary school kids at Fun Days With God. We loved talking all about being alive in the Holy Spirit with them (led wonderfully by Bernie Baillie), getting to know them more and doing so many arts and crafts and games together!

Then, to change things up, the following night we had a Young Adults Open House to watch the State of Origin decider. We had lots of YAs come join, and we had a great time, helped by a strong win for Queensland. This past Wednesday, we hosted another Open House. We love this YA community, and we're so lucky to be part of it!

We've also been very busy contributing to Sunday Masses through leading music at St Catherine's and at Stella Maris 5:00pm, as well as on Wednesday mornings at St Catherine's every time that students from Siena College are attending. We've especially loved having parishioners and Siena students join us as singers and musicians! Through celebrating the Eucharist with a mix of old and new music, we hope we're able to bring an even greater beauty and reverence to each Mass.

At Siena College, Senior Catch-Ups for the Year 10-12s every Friday during break are thriving, building trust and opening up a great space for meaningful conversations about life and faith. We've also been joining in on lots of classes with the students to be present to them, chat with them and, in religion classes, share about our own personal faith and the faith of the Church (with some recent topics being the Holy Spirit, Abraham and Moses). Our room "The Well" (a reference to Living Water), which we open for the students to hang out with us during break times, is also bustling with people, and lots of deep relationships have been formed. As a whole, we're seeing Siena students engage in conversations about faith with us (and even with each other) and become open to the possibility of having a personal relationship with Jesus!

At 10:10 Maroochydore (youth group), we've been going through the Alpha Youth Series, and two Sundays back was our extended Holy Spirit Retreat Day. We watched Series' Two Holy Spirit videos, as well as having time for praise and worship, testimony (thanks to Alek Whiteley for sharing his powerful story!), prayer, small groups, pizza and games. The day went so well, with many of the students having impactful moments during worship and prayer. Please keep 10:10 and all of our ministry in your prayers!

Just a reminder for all high schoolers – 10:10 Maroochydore is every Sunday during school term, 3:00-5:00pm at Stella Maris Church – we can't wait to see you there! And for young adults on Wednesday, August 20th we're hosting an Encounter Night at 6:00pm – dinner, testimony, worship – come along! And make sure to register for the life-changing Ignite Conference – it's not to be missed!

Henry, Mariana, Sam, Damian, Georgia & Elizabeth

NET stands for National Evangelization Teams. NET Ministries originated in Minnesota, USA and in 1988 was pioneered in Australia. For over 30 years, NET has provided peer-to-peer youth ministry in schools, parishes and universities across Australia and New Zealand. Each year, NET recruits and trains teams of young Catholic adults from around the world, aged 18-30, who volunteer a year of their lives to share their experience of Jesus and to serve the Church. These volunteers, Netters, receive training led by experienced and qualified staff. They receive formation in prayer, Scripture, theology, Catholic spirituality, evangelisation, liturgy, ministry skills and Christian community living. This is the second year our Sunshine Coast Parish has been host to a NET team, and their ministry in our midst is made possible through your continued generous financial support of your Parish.

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 18 August

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

Tuesday 19 August

- ◆ **Mass** (9:00am, Stella Maris School Chapel)
- ◆ RCIA All Saints Group (6:00pm, Duffy Room)
- ◆ Knights of the Southern Cross Meeting - new date (7:00pm, Stella Maris)

Wednesday 20 August

- ◆ **Mass** (7:00am, St Mary's Church)
- ◆ SVPD Maroochydore Meeting (8:30am, Maroochydore)
- ◆ **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)
- ◆ Young Adults—Encounter Night (6:00pm, St Mary's Buderim)

Thursday 21 August *St Pius X, Pope*

- ◆ **Mass** (8:30am, St Peter's Cooloom)
- ◆ SVPD Cooloom Meeting (9:00am, St Peter's Church)

Friday 22 August

The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary

- ◆ Stations of the Cross (8:00am, Stella Maris)
- ◆ **Mass** (9:00am, Stella Maris Church)
- ◆ Craft Group (9:45am, Stella Maris)
- ◆ Community Meal for the Homeless

Saturday, 23 August

- ◆ 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, 24 August

21st 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)
- ◆ **Mass** (9:30am, St Mary's)
- ◆ Junior Minsters (3:00pm—Stella Maris)
- ◆ 10:10 Youth Group (3:00pm—Stella Maris)
- ◆ **Polish Mass** (3:00pm, St Mary's Buderim)
- ◆ **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.

Congratulations to the over 100 younger members of our Parish Family who celebrated their first Reconciliation at Stella Maris on Wednesday. This weekend is the final preparation class before next week's First Holy Communion celebrations across our Parish. As we all look forward to welcoming these young members of our Parish to the Table of the Lord, we continue to pray for them, and their families, that we might be a Parish that nurtures and sustains their faith. *At our First Communion Masses next weekend please make welcome all visitors who are joining us and please note that there will be reserved seating for First Holy Communion families.*

Important Meeting

Mandatory Communion Training – All Extraordinary Ministers of Communion and Mass Coordinators are asked to attend a **training session on Saturday, September 6th, at 10:00am at Stella Maris Church**. This short meeting is to address recent concerns and ensure the Eucharist is handled with the utmost care and reverence. Your attendance is essential, so please record this date and time.

A Dead Certainty!

There certainly has been a rush for the Funeral Packs over the past couple of weeks – but have you filled them out? 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.

Bargains Galore!

The craft group will be holding a small stall before and after the 9:00am Mass. There will be a few winter warmers and some other special bits and pieces for sale.

The craft group's next get together is on **Friday, August 22nd**, at 9.45am in the Bliss Room (following the 9:00am Mass). All crafts and people of any skill levels are most welcome. Even just come along for a chat and a cuppa. All most welcome.

Visible Progress

Thank you to our fellow parishioners who helped last weekend at St Mary's – it is amazing what a difference a coat of paint makes!!! Preparation work continues in anticipation of the **"Big Week"** starting on August 25th, when the new carpet and pews are installed. Before that, there is work on the sound system, electrical and other maintenance work that needs to be completed – to our fellow parishioners who have *rolled up their sleeves* and helped out, a grateful Parish says thank you. We are looking forward, in anticipation, to Sunday, August 31st, when Bishop Brian Heenan will dedicate the new altar and bless the completed refurbishments. 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!*

Food for Thought!

This Sunday at the 9:00am Mass, there is a sausage sizzle organised by our youth, and the proceeds will help fund sending some of our youth and young adults to this year's Ignite Youth Conference in Brisbane. A big thankyou as always to our Knights of the Southern Cross for their excellent sausage cooking!!!

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

Mums and Dads = Grandmums and Granddads

Every Wednesday morning from 9:30 to 11:00am, parents with pre-school age children gather at Stella Maris for our **Pray & Play group**. It is an excellent opportunity for young children to interact with each other while at the same time for adults to share their wisdom of experience, and in the process have some fun! Grandparents are especially welcome to share their experience and stories while at the same time enjoying the energy and inquisitiveness of those just starting out on the great adventure of life. *Please join us this Wednesday!*



MEN OF OUR SUNSHINE COAST PARISH

You are invited to our regular Men's Breakfast on next Saturday, August 23rd, 2025 at 7:00am-8.15am in the Bliss Room.

If you've never been to one, Men's breakfasts create a space for men to connect, build relationships, and support one another. These events also provide opportunities for sharing our personal experiences, and encouraging each other in our faith journey.

Our speaker for the morning will be Alek Whiteley, who will share how he grew up unchurched, to joining a protestant church and then becoming a Catholic and how God has profoundly changed his life.

A light breakfast consisting of cereal, fruit, toast and spreads is included; Tea and Coffee are also provided. Cost will be \$5.00, payable at the door. Please book early as seating is limited. Perhaps you could invite a friend.

PLEASE NOTE: To keep things simple, **please bring your own bowl, plate, cutlery and mug.** For catering purposes, RSVP Rob Hoy on 0401 498 059 by 7:00pm Thursday, August 21st.

Every Sunday afternoon from 3:00pm to 5:00pm, our **Junior Ministers** meet for an afternoon of training, fun and games. All primary school children who have made their confirmation are welcome to join us – for more information, please contact Bernie (bbaillie811@gmail.com)



Right next door, gathering also at 3:00pm at Stella Maris, is our **10/10Highschool Youth Group**. Coordinated by our NET team, it is an afternoon of fun, faith and friendship. If you would like more information, please email us (maroochydore@netministries.com.au)

You might have heard us talking about the **RCIA**. The initials simply stand for the **R**ite of **C**hristian **I**nitiation of **A**ddults. When people decide they would like to know more about the Catholic Faith, we invite them to COME AND SEE by joining the **RCIA** Group. The **RCIA**, also called the Catechumenate, is the process by which adult persons are brought into membership of the Roman Catholic Church. Over the past two years, we have welcomed over 60 adults into the faith and currently have an **RCIA** group journeying towards baptism and full communion towards the end of the year.

We have received several inquiries from adults wanting to discover more about what we believe as Catholics, so we are in the process of starting a new **RCIA** group, probably in late September – are you interested? If you would like more information, please talk to either Fr Peter or Fr Isaac or email Dylan Asmus, asmusd@bne.catholic.net.au

☐ Sisterhood is back in September! ☐

Mark your calendars, ladies! Our next Sisterhood Meeting is happening on Monday, September 9th at 6:00pm at Stella Maris Church, Maroochydore, and you won't want to miss it! We had a very prayerful and inspirational annual retreat and building on that experience, we continue on the journey of being faithful witnesses of the Good News here on the Sunshine Coast.

It's an evening of connection, inspiration, and a whole lot of laughter (plus maybe a few cheeky snacks). Whether you're a regular or it's your first time, there's a seat with your name on it! Bring a friend, bring a smile – **we can't wait to see you there!**



Celebrating and Remembering

We welcome into God's Family, the Church,
Michael Evans, Charlie Gale, Elias Karas, Sienna O'Neill, Austin O'Sullivan, Oakley Wilesmith and Elijah Squassoni
who will be baptised this weekend in our parish.

We pray for all those who have died, especially **Kathleen Brenton**. May Kathleen's soul, 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



This week marks *Bullying No Way: National Week of Action*, with the theme “**Be Bold! Be Kind! Speak Up!**” It’s a powerful reminder that each of us at Siena Primary can make a difference. Being bold means choosing to do what’s right—whether that’s standing up for someone safely, offering support, or reflecting on our own actions. Speaking up doesn’t mean confrontation; it means becoming an upstander, someone who helps rather than watches. Whether in the classroom, playground, or online, our words and actions matter. At Siena, let’s use them to build others up, not tear them down.

Kindness is the quiet force that can stop bullying before it starts. A smile, a kind word, or including someone who feels left out can transform someone’s day. When we choose kindness—especially when it’s hard—we create connection, and connection builds community. This week, and every week Siena, let’s work together: students, teachers, families, and friends united in support. Every small act of courage and compassion helps shape a safer, more respectful environment. Change begins with each of us. **Let’s be bold, be kind, and speak up—together.**



Stella Maris Primary School

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



Celebrating Courage and Creativity at Stella Maris. From 11–15 August, our school joins thousands across Australia in the National Week of Action Against Bullying, embracing the theme: Be Bold. Be Kind. Speak Up. Students are encouraged to take a stand against bullying by showing kindness, speaking up for others, and celebrating the power of belonging. On Friday, staff and students were invited to wear a splash of purple to show solidarity and raise awareness for this day. Throughout the week, students have engaged in:

- Classroom discussions exploring bullying behaviours and how to respond.
- A Compliment Station to share positive messages with peers.
- Kindness Chains, where acts of kindness were linked together and displayed.
- A Poster Challenge, with student artwork reflecting this year’s theme, to be showcased around the school.

This week, we have also been thrilled to have many groups of students representing Stella Maris at the Queensland Catholic Schools Music Festival, held from 15–18 August. This event brings together musicians and choirs from Catholic schools across Queensland to celebrate musical excellence and community spirit. Our students, including the Stella Bellas, Stella Fellas, String Ensemble, String Orchestra, Concert Band and Guitar Ensemble, will perform alongside peers from across the state, showcasing their talent and dedication. We wish them the very best and know they will make our school proud.

Siena Catholic College

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



Last Friday, College Campus Minister, Joan Prasser and I were really privileged to attend the **Solemnity of Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop**, which took place at St Stephen’s Cathedral. Archbishop Mark Coleridge was the celebrant for his last time at this public Mass, where there was not one vacant seat in the Cathedral. Cantor Anne Levitsky was beautifully backed by the Mary MacKillop College Choir from Nundah.

We were reminded of Mary’s words: “Never see a need without doing something about it.” Mary and five sisters of St Joseph arrived in Brisbane just before Christmas in 1869. In the following year, they opened four schools for disadvantaged children in Brisbane and Maryborough.

St Stephen’s Chapel was where Mary and her companions regularly prayed and attended Mass. The profound contributions of the Josephite Sisters were acknowledged. Their enduring influence has helped shape BCE schools since the founding of their first Queensland school in 1870. It was a beautiful occasion to be a part of.



A couple of weeks ago, the women of our community gathered for their annual retreat at Stella Maris school. It was an occasion to reflect on life and the challenges that are part and parcel of living, while at the same time listening to some inspirational speakers and refocusing on priorities.

This year, our annual **Men’s Retreat** will be held on **Saturday, October 18th**. The retreat master will be Fr Paul Chandler, a Carmelite priest and currently the Spiritual Director at Holy Spirit Seminary, Banyo. Fr Paul will bring his years of wisdom and experience to us and help us navigate what it means in practical ways to be people of faith living in a very busy, secular world. In the midst of all the

demands and pressures that we face here on the Sunshine Coast, this one-day Men’s retreat is an ideal opportunity to pause and reflect on what is important and where life is taking us. You can’t be too young or too old to be part of this day of reflection and prayer so please mark the date in your diary - Saturday, October 18th—**why not invite a friend?**

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. The Parish **Funeral Preparation Pack** is also available at the entrance to the Church. To all new members of our Parish Community, you are welcome—**thanks for being part of our Parish Family.**

