

Everyone loves a party! Have you ever wondered what sort of party Jesus would throw? What sort of host would he be? Or, how would Jesus act as a guest? This weekend's gospel of the wedding feast and the embarrassment of getting a good seat only to be told, humiliatingly, that you are in the wrong seat and you have to move to a lower seat, gives us a bit of a clue! So, when Jesus speaks of the "lowest place" in today's gospel, he is talking more of an attitude than location, a question of generosity rather than place setting. In doing so, Jesus is challenging us to see one another from the perspective of Christ-like humility that realises that we are not the centre of all things but part of a much larger world.

Welcome as we celebrate the 22nd Sunday of the Church's Year

Our scripture this weekend comes from **Sirach 3:17-20, 28-29, Hebrews 12:18-19, 22-24** and the Gospel is from **Luke 14:1, 7-14** and deals with humility and embarrassment!

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.

What If ???

This weekend, we will hear a lot about humility. Humility, in a nutshell, is how we respond to what we perceive as attacks on our pride. A singer in a concert may think "Only I can do this", but if he gets hit by a bus, the understudy will step in and the show will go on. A Prime Minister may think themselves quite important, but if they aren't around, the Deputy is right there to step up and do the job for them. Humility is realising that even though we have gifts and are called to use them for the good of others, none of us is irreplaceable and none of us are responsible for them; they come from God, that's why they're called gifts. One of the great things about Australian culture is that it values humility, we don't like to make a big deal of ourselves or pretend that we're the only ones who can do something. Sometimes things just happen, when we can't be around. Humility is the ability to say "thank you" when somebody fills in for us. Pride is to say "if it's not me, then there's no way it could possibly be done". It may not be the same, it may not be done as well, but it's better than the alternative of nothing at all.

This is very true in a Parish, especially our Parish, which is the largest by Catholic population in all of Queensland! With so many people and so many ministries going on, things are bound to go a little wrong sometimes. When one of our readers is sick or can't make it to their rostered Mass, we don't cancel Mass, we find a replacement and we carry on as normal. The same is true for our priests although unfortunately, we don't have any extra priests who can step in at the last minute. So, what do we do? Should we just pretend it will never happen and hope for the best, or is there something we can do just in case an emergency does happen?

Occasionally, we aren't able to have Mass. Either there is a crash on the highway, the Priest is unwell, there's been a hospital emergency or any number of other reasons. Rather than cancelling Mass, the Church has provided us an alternative, which we find in the Canon Law on the topic of being unable to attend Mass because there isn't a priest. "It is strongly recommended that the faithful take part in a liturgy of the word if such a liturgy is celebrated in a parish church". To gather, listen to the Word of God, pray together and receive Communion. This is called a Liturgy of the Word and Communion. Our brothers and sisters in the country Parishes experience these quite regularly. With only a single Priest to cover a vast area, it's not always possible for them to have Mass even on a Sunday, so they gather for a Liturgy of the Word and Communion.

If Mass is meant to begin and no Priest has arrived, those delegated by their local groups, trained and commissioned to be leaders of these Liturgies, will pick up the book that we have put together for them and will begin as normal. Either the priest will arrive in which case they will take over and Mass will go ahead as normal, or the priest doesn't arrive, and the Liturgy of the Word and Communion will continue. Either way, we will still gather as the people of God, the Word of God will be proclaimed, we will unite in prayer, and we will have the opportunity to receive Communion consecrated at a previous Mass.

To help with this, we have developed some 'break glass in case of emergency' folders for each of our four churches for them to use. If you've been to any Liturgies of the Word and Communion that I have done throughout the Parish, then you've seen one of these folders in action. These have been designed so that the person leading the Liturgy doesn't have to do anything other than read the words, the folders even tell them when to sit down and when to stand up!

The most important thing to remember is that these Liturgies are not an alternative option to Mass; instead, they are an alternative option to cancelling Mass. If we can have Mass, then we will, but rather than cancelling Mass and sending everyone home because Father has come down with the Flu, we will celebrate a Liturgy of the Word and Communion instead.

Dylan Asmus Seminarian in Residence

Your financial support powers the mission and ministry of your Catholic 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 01 September

- ◆ Benediction (5:15pm, Stella Maris Church)
- ◆ **Mass** (5:30pm, Stella Maris)
- ◆ Theology Hub at Stella Maris (7:00pm)

Tuesday 02 September

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

Wednesday 03 September

St Gregory the Great

- ◆ **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)

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)
- ◆ Young Adults Social (6:00pm, near St Mary's)

Thursday 04 September

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

Friday 05 September

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

Saturday 06 September

- ◆ **Mass** (8:00am, Stella Maris Church)
- ◆ Reconciliation (8:30—9:30am, Stella Maris)
- ◆ Communion Training (10:00am, 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, 07 September

Hospitality Weekend—bring a plate!

23rd 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)
- ◆ **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.

CELEBRATION

This weekend, our Parish Family joins with the St Mary's community in celebrating the completion of their church refurbishment. It is still a work in progress with plenty of other tasks to be completed, but the major work was completed during the past week. Thank you to all the parishioners who have quietly worked so hard painting, cleaning, and preparing for this weekend. Thank you to parishioners, especially beyond the St Mary's community, who financially supported the refurbishment project – your generosity and trust is truly appreciated. *(We still have more to do so if you would like to contribute simply contact the Parish Office or we have a dedicated account: Commonwealth Bank BSB 064-786 Account Number 100021388 Account Name Buderim Project)*

So this Sunday we welcome back our former Parish Priest, Fr Joe Duffy, who will join with Bishop Brian Heenan in blessing the work of the refurbishment and dedicating the new altar. To everyone involved – a very big thank you.

IMPORTANT MEETING

Mandatory Communion Training – All Extraordinary Ministers of Communion and Mass Coordinators are asked to attend a **training session on next 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 see you next Saturday!*

HOLY COMMUNION

The reception of Holy Communion is an important part of our weekly Eucharistic celebrations. We gather around one table where we are fed and nourished – that is why we strive to have one communion line going to the altar to reflect this theological understanding of the Eucharist. We don't receive Holy Communion at our seats – like "Uber Eats" – and that also helps explain why we receive Holy Communion, we don't take! Understandably, there are some in our community who have mobility issues, and we do not want to exclude them from receiving Holy Communion with the community. In all four of our Parish Churches we have designated seating closer to the altar, and we would appreciate if those with mobility constraints would utilise those seats. By using these seats, it assists the Eucharistic Minister and maintains the **dignity** and **reverence** of the reception of Holy Communion.

LOCAL GROUPS

This Wednesday, being the first of the month, all local groups are reminded of your respective meetings – **Coolum** 12 noon, **Buderim** 2:30pm, **Sippy Downs**, 4:00pm, **Maroochydore** 6.00pm. A grateful parish thanks all members of our local groups for helping to coordinate the many activities within our Parish Family and for being willing to oversee new pastoral initiatives in our community.

HOSPITALITY

We are, or at least we strive to be, a hospitable community! On the first weekend of every month, we make a special effort to live this ministry out by focusing after Mass on providing refreshments with the goal of inviting parishioners and visitors alike to stay behind and enjoy each other's company. For this to work and the share the burden, next weekend, why not bring a plate along to share with your fellow parishioners and visitors to our Sunshine Coast Catholic Community?

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

Sisterhood

SISTERHOOD GATHERING IN SEPTEMBER

Sisterhood is our Parish ministry for women. Our next Sisterhood Meeting is happening on Tuesday, 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. We are excited to announce that the NET Team will be leading us in a beautiful

Encounter Night at our next Sisterhood gathering! This will be a special evening of prayer, reflection, and spiritual nourishment — a perfect opportunity to pause, connect with God, and be refreshed. If your soul is craving a little peace and quiet, come along. We'd love to have you with us. [We can't wait to see you there!](#)

Are you a registered member of your Sunshine Coast Catholic Parish? To be part of our many ministries and for better communication, we need you to register. Simply go to our Parish Web Page (maroochyshoreparish.com.au) and follow the links. It is that simple! Having difficulties? Pop into the Parish Office—we are here to help!



THANK YOU

Last weekend's First Holy Communion celebrations were the culmination of weeks of preparation and planning. Congratulations to all our young First Communicants, your families and a big thank you to the catechists and members of the Parish communities who coordinated the celebrations. More photos are available on our Facebook page.



CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN

The annual Catholic Campaign, which supports our retired priests, seminary, Centacare and the Mary MacKillop Education fund, will be held in our Parish next week—thank you for your continued generous support.

In the midst of the busyness of our lives, an invitation is extended to all men of our Sunshine Coast Parish Family to take some time out and give yourselves a chance to reflect on some of the important issues of life!

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?*



Celebrating and Remembering

We welcome into God's Family, the Church,
Banks de Paula, Talley Taj de Paula, Evie Parkinson, Lenny Parkinson, Zali Parkinson, Ellenor Shinnie,
and *Olivia Shinnie* who will be baptised this weekend in our parish.

We pray for all those who have died, especially *Elizabeth Elson*, whose funeral Mass will be celebrated this Monday, 10:30am, at St Mary's, Buderim. May Elizabeth's soul, and the souls of all our deceased priests, religious, parishioners 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



Celebrating the Joy of Books Book Week 2025

Last Thursday's Book Week Parade was a joyful celebration of stories, creativity, and community. Thank you to our staff for joining the fun in the Book Week Quiz, hosted by Mrs Tonks and Mrs Maher—congratulations to Mrs Savage, our quiz champion!

The children's costumes were imaginative and delightful—thank you to all the parents for your support and participation. The choir and whole school sang a Book Week song called, 'Imagination', with great enthusiasm, filling the air with joy.

Students in Prep to Year 3 enjoyed a live performance of The Garden of Broken Things by the Meerkat Performance Group, while Years 4–6 were inspired by Aleesah Darlison, published author of over 65 books for children and young adults.

'It was a vibrant week celebrating the magic of books!'



Stella Maris Primary School

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



Stella Maris School joyfully embraced the theme 'Book an Adventure' during Book Week 2025, celebrating stories, creativity, and community.

Last week's highlight was the Book Character Parade. Students paraded in costume around Hunter Oval, finishing with a lively dance party. Families joined in, cheering on the children's imaginative outfits and enthusiasm.

Other activities included: Teacher Book Readings during afternoon tea in our library, a Guess the Teacher's Favourite Book challenge, Activity Boxes with themed tasks based on shortlisted titles, A Whole School Reading of The Wobbly Bike by our School Leadership Team and a Book Drive supporting the Indigenous Literacy Fund, with donated books available for a gold coin.

Book Week 2025 was a vibrant celebration of reading and community spirit. Thank you to all staff, families, and students who made it a memorable adventure.



Siena Catholic College

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



Seven of our Siena College students were recently invited by the global giant Apple to the Swift Student Celebrations in Sydney. Here, they had the opportunity to hear from leading voices in the IT industry. We were represented by four Year 8 students, one Year 10, and two students from Year 11. We are especially proud of the trio who were invited to present their applications to an audience of industry guests and fellow students from across Australia and New Zealand.

A heartfelt thank you to Mr Paul Dionysius, our Wellbeing & Engagement Curriculum Leader – Technologies, for his expert coaching and mentorship. His dedication continues to open incredible opportunities for our Digital Technologies students.

In more Technology news, we offer a huge congratulations to Kobe in Year 11 on being named one of the winners of Apple's prestigious Worldwide Developers Conference (WWDC) Student Challenge — an extraordinary achievement that reflects his talent, innovation, and dedication!

Held in June, Apple's WWDC is a global event that showcases the future of technology. As part of the week-long conference, Apple selected just 350 student winners worldwide, and Kobe was among them. His winning application, Deconstruct, uses augmented reality and interactive 3D models to teach students how to work safely in the Design Technologies workshop — solving a real-world problem with impressive coding skill.

We're incredibly proud of these students and wish them continued success as they explore the exciting world of technology and innovation.

You might have heard us talking about the **RCIA**. The initials simply stand for the **R**ite of **C**hristian **I**nitiation of **A**dults. 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

OLDER CHILDREN'S BAPTISM PREPARATION

Sometimes, with the best of intentions, some things are put off, and before you know it, the moment has passed! Certainly, this happens often with baptism. If this is you or someone you know, we have good news. We invite families to an Older Children's Baptism Preparation Session on: **Sunday, September 14th**, **Time: 10:30am** at Stella Maris Church.

If your child is between the ages of **7 and 15** and has not yet been baptised, this session is the first step in their journey of faith. To take part, please enrol your child online via our website: maroochydoreparish.com.au/baptism. We look forward to walking with your family in this special time of preparation and celebration.