

Half way through the school holidays we welcome all families and visitors to our Parish Family. Whether you are a local, travelling around Australia or just driving up the Bruce Highway, you are most welcome. Following on from last weekend's scripture, money and riches continues to be the theme of our readings where this week we encounter Lazarus, covered in sores and sitting at the gate.

Our scripture this weekend comes from **Amos 6:1, 4-7, 1 Timothy 6:11-16**
and the Gospel is from **Luke 16:19-31**.

Welcome to everyone as we celebrate the 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

**Embracing the faith communities of St Mary's Buderim, St Peter's Coolum,
Stella Maris Maroochydore and St Catherine of Siena, Sippy Downs.**

STELLA MARIS CATHOLIC PARISH

GOING TO THE TABLE OF THE LORD

Many of us are cradle Catholics – baptised as babies, educated through Catholic schools, taught by the brothers and nuns, have gone to Mass every Sunday. For us, Mass is as natural and as comfortable as putting on a favourite piece of clothing! We know what to do, what to expect, there is a certain sense of safety in the familiar things we do every time we go to Mass.

But have you ever thought about what it must be like for someone or a family who have never been to Mass before to enter through the doors of one of our churches for the first time on a Sunday? For those of us who are regulars, we know what to expect, when to stand, when to sit, when to kneel what to say and what to do! I can only imagine that it must be terrifying, confusing, and at times uncomfortable for first time visitors trying to work out what is going on!

Yet, sitting beside you today at Mass could be a first time visitor! Or a returning Catholic who has been away from the church for many years. Over the past three years we have welcomed through the RCIA programme over 60 adults into full communion with the Catholic Church. On the Feast of All Saints this year (November 1st), we will welcome 12 more adults into full communion and next week we are about to start another RCIA programme and we have already 25 inquiries ready to begin the journey.

All of them, at some stage, must have had the courage to walk through the front door of one of our churches! This is a reality unique to our Sunshine Coast Catholic Parish – it definitely is the manifestation of the Holy Spirit working through our Parish Community, welcoming these searchers, guiding their faith journey, leading them to a deeper understanding of God in their lives. And all of us, as a Parish Family, have a role to play in their journey!

So just remember this weekend you could be sitting beside, in front, behind, someone who is visiting for the first time – **be friendly, be welcoming, be accommodating!** Perhaps you might direct them to the printed Mass Responses sheet (at the door of every church) so that they can participate more fully.

We are all on a journey of faith and the Eucharist is the source and summit of our Catholic lives. Other faith traditions have different understandings of the Eucharist but for Catholics we are quite specific in what we believe—that is why our children prepare for their First Holy Communion and we approach the altar with a profound reverence as we receive Holy Communion. Knowing that we have so many visitors to our Parish Family – over the next couple of weeks, at the beginning of Mass, we will have a short video to remind ourselves of some of the guidelines when we receive Holy Communion.

For baptised Catholics who have received the sacraments, hearing the Word and receiving Holy Communion are the source and summit of our weekly journey – it makes sense of who we are and the sacrifices and values that define us people of faith. Each week we gather around the altar in fulfilment of His command, listen to God's word, break the bread and share the cup – every time we do this, we remember Him who is present in our midst. Receiving Holy Communion is a privilege, not a right! That is why we are encouraged to take advantage of Reconciliation so that we are right with our God and our brothers and sisters!

If you are joining us for the first time or if you are on a journey of faith, know that you are welcome here in our Parish Family. Thank you for joining with us in celebrating the Eucharist. As Catholics, we believe the Eucharist is central to our lives. It is the Real Presence of Christ, but it also signifies a unity that binds us together. That is why we call it 'Communion'. Therefore, it is important that all who receive Holy Communion are baptised and believe what the Church believes. If you are not baptised or not a member of the Church you are invited at Communion time to come forward to receive a blessing – simply approach the Priest or Communion Minister with your arms across your chest to receive a short blessing.

So wherever you are on the road of life and the journey of faith, we travel together as pilgrims here in our Sunshine Coast Parish Family.

With every blessing for the week ahead, **Fr Peter Brannelly**

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 29 September

Sts Michael, Gabriel, Raphael

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

Tuesday 30 September

St Jerome

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

Wednesday 01 October

St Thérèse of the Child Jesus

- ◆ **Mass** (7:00am, St Mary's Church)
- ◆ **Mass** (9:00am, St Catherine's Church)
- ◆ 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)
- ◆ Men's Rosary (6:30pm, Stella Maris)

Thursday 02 October

The Holy Guardian Angels

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

Friday 03 October

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

Saturday 04 October

St Francis of Assisi

- ◆ **Mass** (8:00am, Stella Maris Church)
- ◆ Reconciliation (8:30—9:30am, Stella Maris)
- ◆ Jesus Shine Catholic Charismatic Prayer Group meets (11:00am, St Catherine's Church)
- ◆ **Vigil Mass** (4:30pm, St Peter's Church)
- ◆ **Vigil Mass** (6:00pm, Stella Maris Church)

Sunday 05 October

Hospitality Weekend—bring a plate!

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

- ◆ **Mass** (6:30am, Stella Maris Church)
- ◆ **Mass** (7:30am, St Peter's Church)
- ◆ **Mass** (8:00am, St Catherine's Church)
- ◆ **Mass** (9:00am, Stella Maris Church)
- ◆ **Mass** (9:30am, St Mary's Church)
- ◆ **Mass** (5:00pm, 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.

IGNITE

Missing this week from our Parish Family is Fr Isaac, Dylan, our 5th year seminarian, our NET Team and 40 young members of our Parish who are attending the annual Ignite Conference in Brisbane. Each year the Ignite Conference gathers over 2,500 young people from around Australia for four days of prayer, reflection and inspiring witness from their peers. It is a powerful celebration of Catholic faith! Throughout the year our youth have been fundraising to help cover the costs of attending – and on their behalf – thank you for your generosity and support. Part of that fundraising was a raffle that was drawn after the Friday morning Mass last week. A big thank you to everyone who purchased tickets in our parish raffle, and those who donated the prizes. We are delighted to announce the lucky winners: 7th Prize – Rose (Black Ticket F01) Glamper wine tasting set
6th Prize – Pusko (Black Ticket F75) Gift card and wine
5th Prize – Jeanette (Blue Ticket F51) Gasmate and picnic blanket
4th Prize – Estelle Smith (Green Ticket D02) Kitchen set
3rd Prize – Chris Dickens, Sidney Wilcox wine set
2nd Prize – Pauline (Blue Ticket F27) Lancome perfume
1st Prize – Patricia Sweeny-Fawcett Picnic mat and fuel card.
Congratulations to all our winners! To claim your prize, please visit the Parish Office during office hours.

THIS OCTOBER

October is traditionally a month to pray the Rosary. As individuals, families and as a community, there is no better prayer than the Rosary as we ponder the mystery of salvation and ultimately God's unconditional love for each one of us. During the month of October, you are invited to join in praying the Rosary for peace in the world, Pope Leo, our priests and parish, vocations to the priesthood and religious life, our families, the sick, the souls in Purgatory, and many other prayer intentions. There are several Rosary Prayer Groups in our Parish. Visit our parish webpage (under devotions) to see when and where we pray the Rosary and please accept this invitation to join us.

LOCAL GROUPS

This Wednesday, being the first of the month, all local groups are reminded of your respective meetings – Coolum 12:00pm, 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.

SAFEGUARDING UPDATE

Last Saturday coordinators of ministry teams requiring accreditation met for training on the changing legal requirements and processes for blue cards and police checks. Keeping up with the changing legal legislation is a challenge for our Parish but we accept it because we take seriously our commitment to keep children and vulnerable adults safe. With over 250 accredited volunteers the coordinators provide a crucial role. Ministry Coordinators liaise with their team members and the Safeguarding Team to help ensure a safe and welcoming place for the children and vulnerable in our Parish. Thank you to our Parish Safeguarding Team: Dennis Mulholland (Maroochydore), Carolyn Healy (Coolum), Sue Power (Sippy Downs) and Susan Flanagan (Buderim) for coordinating the meeting.

MEN'S ROSARY

The monthly Men's Rosary takes place this Wednesday, October 1st, 6:30pm at Stella Maris. All men (young and not so young) are invited to join together this Wednesday evening.

Parish Clergy

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



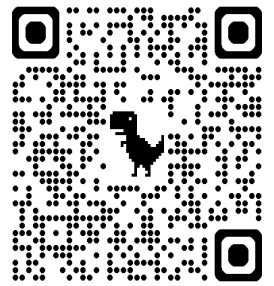
Stella Maris Parish Office

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

MEN'S RETREAT



Preparations are well underway for our annual Men's Retreat which will take place on Saturday, October 18th. We are delighted that Fr Paul Chandler has accepted our invitation to lead our retreat. Fr Paul is 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. Don't miss this opportunity to recharge and reconnect!

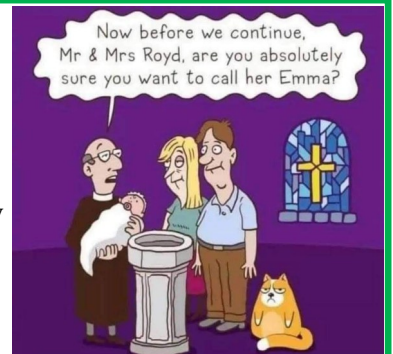
Date: Saturday, 18th October **Time:** 8:30am **Location:** Sunshine Coast Hockey Club, Buderim

Theme: Men on a Mission: Saints who changed the world. To help with catering please log onto the QR code.

HOSPITALITY

Next weekend, being the first of the month, hospitality is the focus of our community. After Mass you are invited to stay and mingle with parishioners and encouraged to make new visitors feel welcome! To help carry the load, why not bring a plate to share? Back by popular demand, for the month of October only, **Dylan's Donuts** makes a comeback after the 9:30am Mass! So please, next weekend, let us all enjoy the hospitality of each other and our Parish Family.

A reminder that on the **first Thursday** of every month at Stella Maris, 6:00pm, we have baptismal preparation for parents with infants. At this short meeting we explain the symbols used during the sacrament, answer any questions and confirm times and dates. Please register before attending by visiting our website.



RCIA

We are now approaching a very important time for one of our RCIA groups, with around **12 adults** soon discerning whether they will be received into the Catholic Church. At the same time, we are blessed to have another group beginning their journey, with about **20 people** taking their first steps in exploring the Catholic faith. Please keep all of these men and women in your prayers as they seek to follow Christ more deeply. We are especially grateful for the wisdom and generosity of our faithful parishioners who guide and accompany them along the way—thank you for your ongoing support.

If you or someone you know wants to join the group about to begin send an email to Dylan—asmusd@bne.catholic.net.au



Last Tuesday, 47 of our Sunshine Coast Parish's younger members gathered at Stella Maris for our school holiday programme "Fun Days with God". Perfect weather, fascinating challenges and plenty of activities ensured that everyone had a great day. Thank you to the coordinator, Bernie Ballie, the NET Team and adult assistants who made the day possible.



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!



Celebrating and Remembering

Congratulations to **Jose Andaya** and **Justine Soliongo** who were married at Stella Maris this week.

We welcome into God's Family, the Church,

Xavier George, Harper Manteufel, Joseph Howell, Edward Mackenzie, Roger Mackenzie, Frankie Proude, Willow Proude, and Claire Stuart

who will be baptised this weekend in our parish.

We pray for those who have died, especially we hold in our prayers **Tony Fayer, Bob Robertson & Malcolm Macnaughtan** May they rest in the peace of the Risen Lord.

St Vincent de Paul Society – St Gerard Majella Conference, Maroochydore.

Dear Parishioners,

Since our Foundation on 7 November 1982, we have supported families and individuals experiencing hardship, trauma and family breakdown with care and kindness. We are a team of 26 Members, 15 Associate Members, and 7 Associate Life Members—all volunteers and we are the largest Conference in Queensland. Our Support Office operates for three days with no paid staff. We are not the Vinnies Shop - we are St Vincent De Paul Family Support, next door to the Vinnies Shop.

Our Impact

Over the past year, we welcomed 1,305 Companions and their families through our doors and provided assistance to 2,947 people. Our support includes:

- Food parcels and digital food vouchers
- Pharmacy vouchers for prescriptions
- Emergency fuel cards
- Donated food, including from Aldi and Urban Angels (frozen meals)
- Telstra online support for those in hardship
- Vinnies cards for use in our shops
- Shower packs for homeless people to have a hot shower at a Council pool
- Furniture when needed

The total value of assistance provided for the financial year ending 30 June 2025 was \$124,668.62.

How We Help

Each person who seeks our help receives a thorough interview to assess their needs. Depending on the situation, we provide food parcels, emergency vouchers, or arrange home visits. Some of our members also assist with collecting donations of food, manning the service counter, or inputting essential information into our CARE programme ensuring that assistance is provided efficiently and compassionately to those in need.



Our Role in the Parish

Many of our Vincentians are also active parishioners at Stella Maris Maroochydore, St Mary's Buderim, and St Catherine of Siena, Sippy Downs. They serve in various roles such as; Ministers of the Word, Ministers of the Eucharist, Sacristans, Singers, Ministers of the Sick, Grief Support Ministers, Knights of the Southern Cross and Community Meals for the homeless and disadvantaged on Friday nights. We are proud to contribute our time and talents both within the parish and in the wider community.

We are very blessed to have Seminarian, Dylan Asmus as our Spiritual Advisor. We appreciate his spiritual guidance at our fortnightly Meetings.

Supporting Education

The Conference supports families with school-related expenses through the **Smart Start for Students** fund, which raised \$4090.00. Special thanks to Tony Welsh and Shamus Conway and the team for their fundraising efforts at Bunnings Sausage Sizzles.

Statewide, the St Vincent de Paul Society Queensland through its **Children's Education Fund** supported students from low-income families with \$912,000. Our Conference administered \$18,590.00 of these funds to assist 38 local families and 70 children.

CEO Sleepout

The 19 June CEO Sleepout at Maroochydore Beach was successful, raising **\$178,000** for the Diocese. Christopher Byrnes, our new Treasurer, represented our Conference, raising nearly \$9000.00. These funds will support homeless individuals on the Sunshine Coast with temporary accommodation and essential supplies. On a wider scale, there is social accommodation being built at Nerang and Toowoomba by the St Vincent de Paul Society. This has been possible with monies raised through the CEO Sleepouts throughout Queensland.

Appeals and Community Support

Our Winter and Christmas Appeals received incredible support from parishioners. The Mooloolaba-Alexandra Headland Kindergarten contributed warm clothing and battery-free toys, while our three Catholic schools donated toiletries, dry food and funds. Living Choice, Kawana, donated handmade wooden toys and funds for our Christmas hampers. Special thanks to Olga Girle and her team for distributing 126 hampers to families and individuals at this holy and festive time.

Global Outreach

As part of the global Vincentian family in 153 countries, we support two Conferences in India through our **Twinning Program**—both named St Anthony's, located in Kerala and Tamil Nadu. We maintain correspondence and provide financial assistance to help them serve their communities.

Student Bursaries

We awarded SVDP Bursaries to students who showed compassion, care, empathy and respect for people in need and encouraging others to do the same.

- **Siena Catholic College**
Tertiary Bursary: Abbie Nield
- **Siena Primary**
Primary Bursary: Mikayla Fairweather
- **Stella Maris**
Primary Bursary: Georgia Hull

Vinnies Shop

Our local Vinnies Shop is one of five on the Sunshine Coast, managed by a paid staff member and supported by volunteers. If you're interested in volunteering, please contact Jacqui, the Shop Manager, on 5451 7620.



Join Us

We are always looking for new members to help us continue our mission. If you're interested in learning more, please speak to a Vincentian at Mass or email us on

sgm4558@svdpqld.org.au

Thank You

Your unwavering support and generosity make our work possible. We are deeply grateful for your kindness and commitment to helping those in need. God bless you.

With sincere thanks,

Carmel Barbagallo