

## Welcome as we celebrate the Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Our scripture this weekend comes from **Numbers 21:4-9**, **Philippians 2:6-11** and the Gospel is from **John 3:13-17**

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

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.

## Parish Communion Training

We are blessed to be such a vibrant parish! Every week we welcome new faces—some who have just moved into the area, others who may not have stepped foot inside a Catholic church for many years, and even some who are walking through our doors for the very first time. This means that what we do at Mass matters. The way we serve not only supports our regular parishioners but also offers visitors the very best encounter with Christ and His Church.

Last Saturday, our parish gathered for Communion training, and what a vital reminder it was of the precious gift we hold in our hands at every Mass. Statistics today are both shocking and sad: only 10% of people who identify as Catholic attend Mass regularly, and of that group, 70% do not believe in the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist.

But we must be clear: when we speak of the Eucharist, we are not speaking of a symbol, or even just a moment where we feel the “power of Christ,” like in a song that moves us or a homily that stirs our hearts. At the consecration, through the words of the priest and the power of the Holy Spirit, the bread and wine become the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Jesus Christ. The appearances remain, but the reality is completely changed.

That means when we hold the Host or offer the Chalice, we are holding and offering Jesus Himself. What a profound responsibility! No wonder the angels themselves are jealous of this privilege given to us.

Because of this, our training reminded us of the seriousness and love with which we approach this ministry. We spoke about practical things:

- If a Host is dropped, pick it up immediately—never ignore it. The minister will place the dropped host back in the Paten and deal with the dropped host later.
- If the Precious Blood is spilled, cover the spot with a purifier and continue; it will be cleaned reverently after Mass.
- Hold the paten with care and reverence.
- When someone approaches with arms crossed, do not give a blessing with the Host. Simply place it back in the paten, smile, and with an extended hand say, “*God bless you.*”
- At Stella Maris, stand on the green dot when distributing Communion. In other communities, be mindful of spacing to avoid long lines crossing over.
- Always say the words clearly: “*The Body of Christ,*” “*The Blood of Christ.*” Look at the person, smile, and serve with reverence.
- Remain watchful—if someone does not consume the Host immediately, in a polite manner, ensure that they do. Sadly, there are those who seek to take the Eucharist for desecration, which shows even they know it is not just bread, but Jesus truly present.
- If you have any mobility challenges, we warmly encourage you and your family to sit in the front row so that Communion Ministers can come to you first. This helps us ensure everyone receives with ease and reverence, as Communion will not be distributed throughout the congregation.

Serving as a Minister of Holy Communion is not just a roster duty—it is a profound honour. It is a privilege beyond compare, one that angels themselves long for. Let us take this ministry seriously, approach it humbly, and serve with the joy of knowing that when we give the Host or the Chalice, we are truly giving Jesus Christ Himself.

**YOUR CONTINUED FINANCIAL SUPPORT POWERS THE MISSION, MINISTRY AND OUTREACH OF OUR PARISH**  
**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY AND TRUST**

# 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 15 September

*Our Lady of Sorrows*

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

## Tuesday 16 September

*Sts Cornelius and Cyprian*

- ◆ **Mass** (9:00am, Stella Maris School Chapel)
- ◆ Craft Group (1:00pm, St Peter's Coolum)
- ◆ RCIA All Saints Group (6:00pm, Duffy Room)
- ◆ Sisterhood Meeting (6:00pm, Stella Maris)

## Wednesday 17 September

- ◆ **Mass** (7:00am, St Mary's Church)
- ◆ **Mass** (9:00am, St Catherine of Siena Church)
- ◆ SVDP Meeting
- ◆ 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 18 September

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

## Friday 19 September

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

## Saturday 20 September

*Sts. Andrew Kim Tae-gŏn,  
Paul Chŏng Ha-sang, and Companions*

- ◆ Reconciliation (8:30—9:30am, Stella Maris)
- ◆ Safeguarding Information (9:00am, 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, 21 September

### *25th 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.*

# RCIA

We are now approaching a very important time for one of our RCIA groups, with around **17 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.

## Children's Church

Children's Church is back on every Sunday at our **8:00am Sippy Downs Mass** and at our **9:00am & 5:00pm Maroochydore Masses**. At the start of Mass, all primary-aged children are sent forth with their catechist to celebrate a more age appropriate reflection on the Gospel before returning to the church towards the end of the Eucharistic prayer. In addition, we have now introduced Children's Church at **St Mary's Buderim during their 9:30am Mass**. Please let your friends know about these exciting Sunday family options. As an adult, if you would like to be involved, please email Carolyn Watt, our sacramental Coordinator, [sacraments.suncoast@catholic.net.au](mailto:sacraments.suncoast@catholic.net.au).

## Parish Raffle

This weekend, raffle tickets will be on sale after some Masses to help raise funds for parishioners attending **Ignite Conference** in just two weeks' time. The conference is a powerful opportunity for young people and families to encounter the love of Christ in a life-changing way. As a parish, we are supporting this mission—but it comes at a cost. Just hiring buses alone is **\$2,000**, and your generosity makes it possible for more of our parish family to attend. There are **seven great prizes** to be won! **Tickets:** \$2 each, or 3 for \$5. Thank you for supporting our parishioners on their journey of faith! Prizes will be drawn in the following week.

## Final Reminder

A reminder that our **Baptism Preparation Session for older children aged 7 to 15** will take place this **Sunday, 14<sup>th</sup> September, 10:30am** at Stella Maris Church, Maroochydore.

This session will need to be attended by both the candidate and parents. **Please ensure your child is registered before the session** via our parish website, <https://maroochydoreparish.com.au/baptism/>. We look forward to walking this faith journey with you and your family.

## Safeguarding

**Important information session on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2025, 9:00am**

Parish Team members, community Contacts and Coordinators of ministries (rosters) are to attend. New laws began that impact compliance and monitoring of organisations and individuals regulated by the Blue Card system. Strengthened legislation around vulnerable adults will be introduced in the near future.

Father Peter has asked the Safeguarding Team to hold an information session on **Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup> September, 9:00am** in the Duffy Room to discuss compliance and oversight obligations. Please email us [Safeguarding.suncoast@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:Safeguarding.suncoast@bne.catholic.net.au); if you are attending by **Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> September**.

## 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](mailto:suncoast@bne.catholic.net.au)  
Website: [maroochydoreparish.com.au](http://maroochydoreparish.com.au)

## Mums and Dads = Grandmums and Granddads

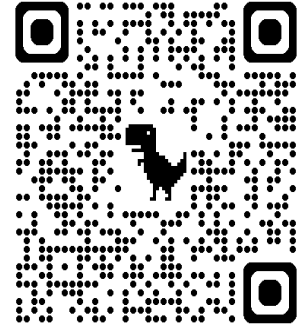
Every Wednesday morning from 9:30am to 11:00am, parents with pre-school age children gather at Stella Maris for our **Pray & Play group**. It is an excellent opportunity for young children to interact with each other while at the same time for adults to share their wisdom of experience, and in the process 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's Retreat



All men of our parish are warmly invited to join us for a one-day **Men's Retreat** with **Fr Paul Chandler**, a Carmelite priest and the current Spiritual Director at **Holy Spirit Seminary, Banyo**. This retreat is an ideal opportunity to pause, step back from the busyness of life, and reflect on what is truly important and where life is leading us. **Date:** Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup> October **Time:** 8:30am  
**Location:** Sunshine Coast Hockey Club, Buderim  
**Theme:** Men on a mission: Saints who changed the world.  
Don't miss this chance for spiritual renewal and brotherhood.  
**Register, via the QR code provided**



## Men's Breakfast

All men of the parish are invited to join us for our next **Men's Breakfast** on **Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup> September**, starting at **6:30am in the Bliss Room**. At our last breakfast, around 30 men gathered for good food, laughter, and great conversation—and we're looking forward to another wonderful morning together. Once again, we'll have a **guest speaker** who will share about his journey of **manhood and spirituality**. A light breakfast consisting of a choice of cereal, muesli, fruit, yoghurt, toast and spreads is included. Juice, tea and coffee are also provided. A suggested donation of \$5 to help cover the costs would be appreciated.  
**NOTE:** To keep things simple, **please bring your own bowl, plate, cutlery and mug**. To RSVP or find out more, please speak to **Rob Hoy – 0401 498 059**.



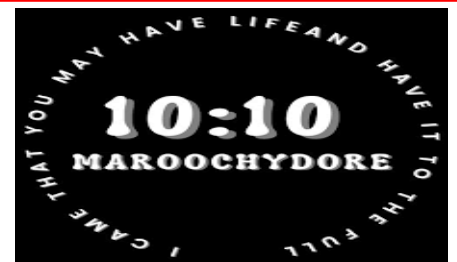
## Junior Ministers—Join Us!



Every Sunday afternoon from **3:00pm to 5:00pm**, our **Junior Ministers** gather for an afternoon of training, fun, and games. All **primary school children who have made their Confirmation** are warmly invited to join. Junior Ministers are trained to serve at the **Altar** and in many other ministries during Mass. We are still looking for more Servers—both young and old—to help in this important ministry of service. For more information, please contact **Bernie** at [bbaillie811@gmail.com](mailto:bbaillie811@gmail.com).

## Calling All High Schoolers

Every Sunday afternoon **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](mailto:maroochydore@netministries.com.au)



## Stay Connected



Did you know our parish has an active social media page? It's the easiest way to stay connected with our busy parish community, with all the latest news, events, ministry updates, and inspiring content posted regularly. You'll also find plenty of informative (and often funny!) videos from your two favourite priests, Fr Isaac and Fr Peter. Join us!



## Celebrating and Remembering

We welcome into God's Family, the Church,  
**Phoenix Cassell, Elkie Garrard, Kahlani Garrard, Sofia Kelly, Lincoln Stuckey and Finn Woods**  
who will be baptised this weekend in our parish.

We pray for all those who have died, especially **James Walker**. May James'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



On Wednesday, our school celebrated **Indigenous Literacy Day (ILD)**, a national event held annually. Established by the **Indigenous Literacy Foundation**, ILD promotes the stories, cultures, and languages of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, while raising awareness about the educational challenges faced by Indigenous children in remote communities. We began the day with a whole-school prayer, followed by a special assembly where students watched a Torres Strait Islander video presentation of *Our Flag, Our Story*. This year's theme, "**Strength in our Stories: For Now, and Future Generations**," highlighted the importance of storytelling in preserving culture and connecting generations.

Throughout the week, students participated in buddy class activities that celebrated reading and creativity. Prep and Year 6 students enjoyed **Rug Reading**, sharing stories together in the Prep area, while Year 1 and Year 5 buddies teamed up to read and create **origami corner bookmarks**. These activities fostered connection, cultural appreciation, and a love of literacy across all year levels.

## Stella Maris Primary School

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



As we journey through the Season of Creation—celebrated annually from September 1 to October 4—Stella Maris School joyfully embraces this sacred time to reflect on our relationship with God's creation and renew our commitment to ecological stewardship. Inspired by Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si'*, which calls us to "care for our common home," our school community has taken meaningful steps to integrate ecological awareness, sustainability, and spiritual reflection into daily life. Our school's *Laudato Si* Action Plan outlines a clear and heartfelt commitment to ecological conversion. Guided by the principles of sustainability, solidarity, and spirituality, we are working to:

- Reduce our environmental footprint through improved waste management, energy conservation and landscaping initiatives.
- Foster ecological education by embedding environmental themes into our classroom learning and encouraging students to explore the beauty and fragility of the natural world. This includes the work of a lunch time garden club and Laudatory Si Club.
- Celebrate creation through prayer and liturgy, with special services and reflections that honour God's gift of the Earth.

From our youngest learners to our senior students, everyone at Stella Maris is involved in this mission. The Season of Creation reminds us that caring for the Earth is not just a scientific or political issue—it is a moral and spiritual one.

## Siena Catholic College

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



### Year 11s Share Sacred Stories with Siena Primary

This Term in Religion and Ethics, our Year 11 students have been exploring the power of storytelling by creating their own "sacred stories" — original tales designed to teach moral values to younger children, inspired by sacred Bible narratives.

Last week, the fruits of their creativity came to life as they shared these stories with the Prep and Grade 1 students at Siena Primary. It was heartwarming to witness the joy and engagement from both the little ones and our senior students. The younger children were captivated by the imaginative characters and beautiful hand-drawn illustrations, while our Year 11s thrived in the presence of such an enthusiastic audience. This experience not only showcased the students' learning but also strengthened the bonds between our campuses. It was a wonderful example of community-building through faith, creativity, and connection.

The Parish Footy Tipping Competition is heating up faster than a sausage sizzle on a sunny Sunday! At the summit, leading the charge with all the confidence of a shepherd on game day, is **Farnwyn**, holding a precarious 11-point lead over the chasing pack. Hot on their heels – or occasionally tripping over their own shoelaces – are **Hackle and Jeckle**, **KarentheCowboy**, **Schyvo**, and **Jimmary63**, all vying for the holy grail of bragging rights.

Down the leaderboard, **Fr Isaac** is quietly showing he knows his footy, sitting in a respectable 12th place and proving that priests can tip with skill when they put their minds to it. Meanwhile, **Dylan** and **Fr Peter**... well, let's just say their footy sense might need a little prayerful guidance, languishing in 40th and 45th place respectively.

With just 11 points separating the top five, one miracle, fluke, or eyebrow-raising call could turn the competition upside down. Parishioners, keep your eyes on the scoreboard, your prayers handy, and your banter ready – because in this footy tipping saga, anything can happen. And remember: whether you're in first or forty-fifth, there's always next week... and maybe divine intervention.



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*.

