

Like last weekend, prayer is once again the focus of our scripture. However, the issue this week is not so much persistence in prayer, but rather the kind of person whose prayer is most likely to receive a favourable hearing from God.

Perhaps the challenge of the parable is to approach God with humility rather than self-justification!

Welcome to everyone as we celebrate the 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Our scripture this weekend comes from **Ecclesiasticus 35:12-14, 16-19, 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18**
and the Gospel is from **Luke 18:9-14**

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.

A LITTLE BIT OF HUMBLE PIE ! ! !

The Pharisee we meet in today's Gospel is no scoundrel. In fact, he is an honest, faithful family man and a meticulous observer of the law. He does even more than the law requires of him. It only requires one fast per year on the Day of Atonement, but we hear that he fasts twice per week! The law only required tithes on certain commodities, but he pays tithes on everything. **So, where did he go off the rails????**

Firstly, we see his error in his selfish attitude. The prayer is about himself: **"I"** did this, **"I"** did that... He mentions himself in that short prayer no less than six times. He believes that he has run up a formidable credit balance with God. Therefore, God is in his debt. He despises others. He is a proud man without a trace of humility, and humility is the soil in which all other virtues flourish. In this Pharisee, we see arrogant self reliance, complacency and scorn of the sinner. The Pharisee is full of himself. He does not pray to God but to himself.

Now, on the other hand, the prayer of the tax collector is a model prayer. He simply says: **"Lord, be merciful to me, a sinner."** In saying this, he says one of the most moving of all prayers and one that God cannot fail to hear. He leaves the sins of others between them and God. He makes no attempt to hide anything. He stands before God in humility, and as a result, he goes home at right with God. I wonder, if Jesus were to tell this parable today, what character he might have substituted for the tax collector?

This coming Saturday, **1st November, is All Saints' Day.** On this day, we remember all saints both known and unknown, as sources of encouragement for our own journeys. There is a long history involved in situating the celebrations at the beginning of November. Pope Gregory VII, 1073-85, instituted the feast taking over an earlier pagan festival; as the cold of the winter set in, the Celts thought of their ancestors, building fires made of sacred Oak branches to keep good spirits around. It was these traditions that the church built on.

While this year, next Sunday, **2nd November, is All Souls' Day.** Naturally, at all our weekend Masses, we will especially remember all our loved ones who have gone before us and, in their own way, handed on the faith to us. Yet, our prayers next Sunday are for the entire departed, not just the faithful departed. This is proclaiming that each and every soul has the possibility of reaching salvation. This tradition evolved from a practice in the early days of the church where the names of those who had died were posted up on a wall in the church so that the community could remember them in prayer. Slowly, different traditions grew to remember the departed each year and we continue that tradition today.

Here in our Sunshine Coast Parish, we have a tradition of celebrating a special Mass that is coordinated by our Grief Support Team. At this **Mass of Remembrance**, which will be celebrated **next Saturday, 9:00am at Stella Maris**, we remember and pray for all who have died but, especially those within our community who have passed away during the past twelve months. Everyone is invited to this Mass of Remembrance.

You are also invited to record the names of your deceased loved ones in our Parish **Book of Remembrance**, located at the entrance of the church this weekend. Throughout November, the month of remembrance, these books will be placed on the altar at every Mass. **Our resurrection faith bolsters our hope and strengthens our lives.**

Where Faith and Life Meet

With joy, we welcome into God's Family, the Church,
Franco de Bakker, Kalyx Gapasin, Lottie Macaulay and Leila Van Steenberghe
who will be baptised this weekend in our parish.

We prayerfully remember our loved ones who have died, especially this week, we remember

Fran Anderson and Therese Finn.

May their souls, and the souls of all our departed priests, religious, fellow parishioners and loved ones,
Through the rich mercy of God, **Rest in Peace.**

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 27 October

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

Tuesday 28 October *Sts Simon and Jude*

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

Wednesday 29 October

- ◆ **Mass** (7:00am, St Mary's Church)
- ◆ Safeguarding Training (7:45am, St Mary's)
- ◆ **Mass** (9:00am, St Catherine's Church)
- ◆ Play and Pray (9:30am, Stella Maris)
- ◆ Scripture Study Group (9:30am, Zoom)
- ◆ Latin American Group (6:00pm, Duffy Room)
- ◆ NET Open House (6:00pm, near St Mary's)

Thursday 30 October

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

Friday 31 October

- ◆ Stations of the Cross (8:00am, Stella Maris)
- ◆ **Mass** (9:00am, Stella Maris Church)
- ◆ Funeral of Fran Anderson (11:00am, St Peter's)
- ◆ Community Meal for the Homeless

Saturday 01 November *All Saints Day*

- ◆ NO Confessions
- ◆ **Remembrance Mass** - (9:00am, Stella Maris Church)
- ◆ Jesus Shine Catholic Charismatic Prayer Group (11:00am, St Catherine's Church)
- ◆ **Vigil Mass** (4:30pm, St Peter's Church)
- ◆ **Vigil Mass** (6:00pm, Stella Maris Church)

Sunday, 02 November

First weekend of the month hospitality
The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls' Day)

- ◆ **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)
- ◆ "Sounds of Celebration" Concert (2:00pm, St Peter's)
- ◆ Junior Ministers (3:00pm, Stella Maris)
- ◆ 10:10 Youth (3:00pm, Stella Maris)
- ◆ **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.

Parish Clergy

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



Next weekend is the first weekend of the month, and across our Parish Family, we have a special focus on **hospitality**. Why not help by bringing a plate along? All parishioners and visitors are warmly invited to enjoy the hospitality and company of our community, and a big thank you to all those who coordinate and generously support this important Parish ministry.

A DEAD CERTAINTY

If you have not already collected your Funeral Preparation Pack, they are available at the entrance to the church. The purpose of the preparation envelope is not to be taken home and collect dust. It is to be opened, reflected upon and discussed with your loved ones. Please fill out and then return to the parish office (or some obvious place at home), where hopefully it will not be opened for many years to come! The trick with the preparation pack is – **don't procrastinate!**



As much as we might like to avoid it, go to any supermarket or shopping centre and **"Christmas is in the air"**. Actually, our Parish Christmas preparations are also quietly underway with rosters being drawn up and important ministries being assigned. One of the ways we prepare here in our Sunshine Coast Parish, is through our Christmas Novena. A Novena comes from the Latin *novem*, which means **"nine"**. The practice of the novena is inspired by the nine days the apostles and Mary spent in prayer between Jesus' Ascension into heaven and the descent of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. So, for the nine days before Christmas, we will have a special Christmas Novena Mass at 6:00am. Starting on Tuesday, 16th December, and concluding on Wednesday, 24th December, you and your family and neighbours are invited to be part of our Christmas Novena journey. Hopefully, it is a time of prayer, family, preparation and faith. Traditionally, at the end of the morning Mass, different groups provide a simple (yet delicious) little bit of sustenance to get us through the day! The Christmas Novena journey ends on the morning of Wednesday, 24th December with a great feast at the end of Mass. So please, mark in your diary our Christmas Novena and let it be part of our journey to welcome the birth of the Christ Child this year.

SAFEGUARDING TRAINING

If you're a volunteer in a ministry that requires a Blue Card or Police Check, thank you for all you do! As part of keeping our community safe, safeguarding training is a mandatory requirement and needs to be renewed every two years. For anyone who isn't able to complete the preferred online training, the safeguarding team is offering a face-to-face session, **7:45am (after Mass) this Wednesday, 29th October** at **St Mary's Buderim**. To register, email to the Parish Office at safeguarding.suncoast@bne.catholic.net.au.

Fr Dan Ryan is leading a pilgrimage to Ireland next year—interested? For more information, please visit the Web Page: <https://www.harvestjourneys.com/tour/pv2563/>

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: maroochyshoreparish.com.au

LAST WEEKEND'S MEN'S RETREAT

Seventy men of our Parish family, from young and excited, to older and full of experience and wisdom, came along to our annual Men's Retreat last Saturday. We were fortunate to have as our Retreat Director, Fr Paul Chandler, a Carmelite priest and spiritual director of Banyo Seminary. The theme of the retreat was 'Men on a Mission: Saints who Changed the World'. Fr Paul lead us through St Ignatius of Antioch's radical example of total self-giving for God, St Benedict's example of a rule and rhythm to life, St Augustine's battle within as we struggle with our own desires and wants, St Therese's little way, the power of the Scriptures and finally St Titus Brandsma's example of faith enduring when we are left totally powerless. We ended the day with Mass and Adoration, a wonderful time for us to come together as Men in prayer and celebrate one another's company. We are extremely grateful, both for everyone who came along, and to Fr Paul Chandler for coming to speak with us. Fr Paul is a world renowned expert on St Titus as well as a Doctor of Medieval Spirituality, and we were extremely blessed to have him as our Retreat Director this year.



For the past several months, under the care of their Catechist, Henry Martin, a group has been meeting weekly, exploring the many facets of our Catholic Faith. It has been a journey of faith, and next Saturday, at the 6:00pm Stella Maris Vigil Mass, we will welcome them into full communion with us and the Catholic Church. So this week, let us keep in our prayers *Billy, Louise, Angus, Jasmine, Anita, Clair, Stan, Emma-Kate, Pablo, Rosie, Jerrod, Nikita and Jacob*. May their witness give us courage along our own journey of faith and inspire us to be hopeful for the future. We also keep in our prayers the more than twenty-five people who have just begun the RCIA journey.

WHAT'S ON

There are plenty of activities happening in our Parish Family this week – *why not be part of the life of your faith community?*

*This Sunday night, after the 5:00pm Mass, the Young Adults have **Compline** at 6:00pm. Compline or Night Prayer or the Prayers at the End of the Day, is the final prayer liturgy or office of the church. Compline was a service to close the day, an opportunity to give thanks for the joys and graces experienced and a chance to reflect upon the sins committed throughout the day. If your day began with Morning Prayer, then Compline is designed to end it well.

*Every Wednesday from 9:30 to 11:00am, we have our **Pray and Play** group gathering at Stella Maris. This group is the perfect place for parents and grandparents to come together – learning, discussing and deepening our faith while our children interact with each other.

*As their year wraps up, our NET team is having a “**Young Adults Open House**” this Wednesday, 6:00pm at the Buderim House.

*Our **Spanish speakers** gather on Wednesday evening in the Duffy Room at 6:00pm for their prayer meeting. *Todos los hispanohablantes son bienvenidos.*

*Sunday afternoon at Stella Maris is busy with both our high school **10:10 Maroochydore Youth Group** and our **Junior Ministers** (for primary school children - First Communion to Year 6) gathering at 3:00pm. Always an afternoon of fun, faith & service.

*Next Sunday, 2:00pm at St Peter's, Coolum, the annual “**Sounds of Celebration**” concert is held – plenty of raffle prizes and beautiful harmonies!!!

KNOWN BY NAME

Did you get a chance to fill out a name badge order form? In such a large and busy parish, there is always the risk of being overwhelmed by the numbers. But everyone here in our Parish Family is more than a number! To be known by our name is to belong. As you look around, you will notice many of your fellow parishioners with name badges – it is a simple but effective way of being known by your name, and knowing the name of your fellow believers sitting beside you. Through the generosity of a parishioner who will underwrite this project, I am happy to offer everyone a name badge free of charge. You have seen them already on your fellow parishioners, why not join them and become known within your community? Simply complete the details below, place it in an envelope, and put it on the collection plate or return it to the office.

NAME ON BADGE: _____ (Please Print)

YOUR COMMUNITY: _____

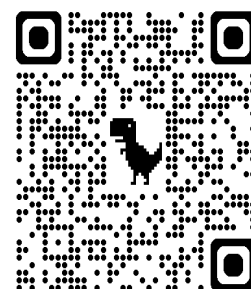
- * St Peter's Church, Coolum
- * St Catherine's Church, Sippy Downs
- * St Mary's Church, Buderim
- * Stella Maris Church, Maroochydore

Are you a registered parishioner: **YES / NO**

(If NO, please use the QR code to become a registered parishioner of your parish.)

Your full name: _____

Mobile: _____ Email: _____



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



School - Parish Mass

On Sunday, our Siena Primary had the privilege of hosting the parish Mass at St Catherine's Church, bringing our community together to share in the celebration of the Eucharist. It was a joyful occasion, marked by the respectful participation of our students and the uplifting music performed by the school choir. Special appreciation goes to Gabby Khoury for her dedicated leadership of the choir and to Mrs Summit for her wonderful piano accompaniment.

After Mass, parishioners enjoyed a convivial morning tea featuring delicious sweet and savoury bites kindly provided by SG Bakery and Banjos. The gathering was a lovely chance for conversation and connection, reflecting the welcoming spirit of our parish. We are grateful to all the staff and parent volunteers whose efforts made the event run smoothly. The morning was a testament to the close ties between our school and parish, and we look forward to many more opportunities to come together in faith and fellowship.



Stella Maris Primary School

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



At Stella Maris School, we understand that the move from Kindy to Prep is a significant milestone—not just for our students, but for their families too. That's why we place great importance on creating a nurturing and engaging transition process. The Taste of Prep Morning is designed to ease this change by offering children a glimpse into the Prep experience in a safe and joyful environment. The Taste of Prep Morning marks the beginning of a beautiful journey for our 2026 Prep students as they prepare to transition into 2026. The morning was filled with laughter, learning, and a strong sense of community as we welcomed families into the next chapter of their child's education. Our future Prep students participated in a variety of hands-on learning activities in small groups, guided by our dedicated staff. From storytelling and creative play to gross motor skills, each activity was thoughtfully planned to spark curiosity and build confidence. While the children explored, parents had the opportunity to connect with one another over morning tea—sharing stories, hopes, and forming friendships that will support them throughout their child's school journey.

We now look forward to our upcoming **Prep Orientation Day**, where families will return for a deeper dive into the Prep experience. This day will include classroom visits, meet-and-greets with teachers, and practical insights into how we support each child's spiritual, emotional, and academic growth as they begin school.

Siena Catholic College

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



The Catholic Mission 2025 event *Socktober* invites students across Australia to make a difference in the lives of children and families in Zambia. The iconic symbol of Socktober is a tattered, recycled ball made of socks, t-shirts, and plastic bags tied with string, representing the essence of the event. Decades ago, a young boy named Jorge Mario Bergoglio played with a similar ball on the streets of Buenos Aires. He later became Pope Francis, but he always cherished sport and had a special connection with children from impoverished communities through this shared experience. In 2015, he initiated "[Sport at the Service of Humanity](#)" to promote sport's values like compassion, respect, love, and joy, uniting people from diverse backgrounds, with soccer being a prime example.

As part of *Socktober*, Siena College Year 8 students have created their own sockballs to connect with and support underprivileged children, fostering empathy and understanding for their circumstances. This initiative reflects the framework of Head, Heart, Hands, motivating students to offer support to those in need.

On Friday, all students will wear crazy socks for the day and bring in gold coin donations for a Year 9 Business Market stall. All monies raised will be donated to Catholic Mission 2025.

November Mass envelopes are available at the entrance to the church – also, take a moment to record the names of your loved ones in our **Parish Book of Remembrance** – they will be the focus of our prayers during the month of November.

SAVE THE DATE - MEN OF STELLA MARIS PARISH

You are invited to our last Men's Breakfast for the year at **7:00am-8:15am** on **Saturday, 22nd November** 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 Rob Hoy who will share his journey to knowing Jesus.

A light breakfast consisting of cereal, fruit, toast and spreads is included; Tea and Coffee are also provided.

Cost will be \$5.00 cash, (payable at the door). Please book early as seating is limited. Perhaps you could invite a friend.

NOTE: To keep things simple, **please bring your own bowl, plate, cutlery and mug.**

For catering purposes, RSVP to Rob Hoy on 0401 498 059 by 12:00pm, Friday, 21st November.

