

Welcome to the Fourth Sunday of Advent

20th/21st December, 2025

Our Scripture this weekend comes from **Isaiah 7:10-14**, **Romans 1:1-7**, and the Gospel is from **Matthew 1:18-24**

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 Prayer for Bondi and for All of Us

In the Torah, a story is told of the first murder. Abel is killed by his brother Cain. When God confronts Cain, we are told that the Lord says that the ground soaked with Abel's blood is **"crying out to me"** in condemnation of this violence.

Today, a part of Bondi Beach is soaked with the blood of dozens of our Jewish sisters and brothers and shouts out to all of us, in a voice that echoes throughout human history: **"You must not murder."**

Let us pray for
healing for those injured,
justice for the dead,
appreciation for all those who risked their lives to resolve the deadly shooting,
solidarity with and support for all persecuted and oppressed people and
our country, as it struggles, too slowly, to respect more profoundly
all those who share this amazing continent.

As Hanukkah continues, may we take inspiration from a ritual that marks the human desire for tradition, culture and identity, particularly in the face of threats, loss and prejudice. There are not enough bullets to snuff out every candle.

Let us be lights for each other, especially in the darkest moments of life. Whether we are religious or not religious at all, we can choose to learn to see each other as being uniquely valuable and having inherent dignity.

Shalom

Christmas Week

Communal Rite of Reconciliation:

5:00pm, This Monday,
Stella Maris, Maroochydore.

Christmas Eve: Wednesday

4:00pm, 6:00pm & Midnight Mass
Maroochydore.

5:00pm Coolum,
5:00pm Sippy Downs.

Christmas Day: Thursday

6:30am & 9:00am Maroochydore,
7:30am Coolum,
9:30am Buderim.

These unbelievably busy, crowded days leading up to Christmas will pass by quickly. In the midst of all the gatherings, preparations and frantic efforts to meet deadlines, I would like to thank you for your support and wish you and yours every blessing for this Christmas Season.
May hope and peace be renewed as we together celebrate the birth of the Saviour.

Fr Peter IF Dylan Asmus
Bishop Brian Deacon Michael

This Week

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 22nd December

- ♦ **Christmas Novena Mass** (6:00am, Stella Maris Church)
- ♦ Communal Rite of Reconciliation (5:00pm, Stella Maris Church)

Tuesday 23rd December

- ♦ **Christmas Novena Mass** (6:00am, Stella Maris Church)

Wednesday 24th December

- ♦ **Christmas Novena Mass** (6:00am, Stella Maris Church)

Christmas Eve

- ♦ **Mass** (4:00pm, Stella Maris Church)
- ♦ **Mass** (5:00pm, St Peter's Church)
- ♦ **Mass** (5:00pm, St Catherine of Siena Church)
- ♦ **Mass** (6:00pm, Stella Maris Church)
- ♦ **Mass** (Midnight, Stella Maris Church)

Thursday, 25th December

Christmas Day

- ♦ **Mass** (6:30am, Stella Maris Church)
- ♦ **Mass** (7:30am, St Peter's Church)
- ♦ **Mass** (9:00am, Stella Maris Church)
- ♦ **Mass** (9:30am, St Mary's Church)

Friday, 26th December

- ♦ **No Mass**

Saturday, 27th December

No Saturday morning Reconciliation

- ♦ **Vigil Mass** (4:30pm, St Peter's Church)
- ♦ **Vigil Mass** (6:00pm, Stella Maris Church)

Sunday, 28th December

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

- ♦ **Mass** (6:30am, Stella Maris Church)
- ♦ **Mass** (7:30am, St Peter's Church)
- ♦ **Mass** (8:00am, St Catherine of Siena Church)
- ♦ **Mass** (9:00am, Stella Maris Church)
- ♦ **Mass** (9:30am, St Mary's Church)
- ♦ **Polish Mass** (4:00pm, 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.

The school holidays have certainly started and we welcome to our Parish Community and the Sunshine Coast, visitors and families who join us this weekend. Whether you are new to our Parish or visiting while on holidays,

Welcome

as we celebrate the Fourth Sunday of Advent.

Why Not ? ? ?

Reconciliation should be part of everyone's journey during Advent as we await the birth of the Christ Child. Here in our Sunshine Coast Parish, everyone is invited to celebrate God's mercy and forgiveness by joining together and celebrating our Communal Rite of Reconciliation, 5:00pm, **this Monday evening**, 22nd December, at Stella Maris. We are grateful for the generosity of the priests from our neighbouring parishes for assisting us on Monday.

Handing on the Faith

The imminent start of another New Year means the start of another Sacramental Programme. Handing on the faith is the most important mission of our community, and assisting parents with their task is something we take seriously as a Parish Family. All baptised children in Year 3 or above are welcome to join our Confirmation programme. All children in Year 4 or above, who have celebrated their Confirmation, are invited to join our First Holy Communion programme. Parents are invited to go to our parish web page maroochydoireparish.com.au for more details about when the programmes start.

Parish Office

Our Parish Office will be closed from Christmas Eve and will reopen on Monday, 12th January, 2026. This will allow our parish staff some well earned rest after the Christmas rush.

Calendar

Each year, working with the four Mass communities, our three Parish Catholic Schools, and the host of our groups and organisations operating within our parish, we compile a master diary to help coordinate our daily life. As you can imagine, it is a challenge to ensure that competing priorities are managed and our normal routine is flexible enough to respond to the emergencies that are part of our busy parish life. From all the details in the master diary, we compile a parish calendar which is available at the end of Mass.

Hopefully it will not only serve as a reminder of the important dates for 2026, but also provide you with some of the links that connect our diverse Sunshine Coast Parish Family. In inviting you to take a 2026 Parish Calendar today, you are also encouraged to use it as an item for evangelisation, Perhaps you can give a calendar to someone who can't make it to Mass or to a family member or friend who is, for whatever reason, estranged from the church. The Stella Maris Parish Calendar is an invitation to all of us to be part of the journey of faith in 2026.

Please take a calendar on your way out of Mass today.

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: maroochydoireparish.com.au

THANK YOU



Parishioners were amazed at the amount and variety of items that our craft group had on display at their craft sale. Twice a month throughout this year, in the Bliss Room, they have gathered to create and enjoy each other's company. Looking forward to the New Year, new members are always welcome to join them. The proceeds from their craft sale stay within our community, and this year the craft group supported **Urban Angles**, who produces meals and distributes food to the needy in our community. Also, **Outlook 07** supports young people facing mental health challenges. The Craft Group has also supported next year's **NET Team** through the craft sale. On behalf of the members of the Craft Group – thank you to all parishioners who supported the craft sale. *A special thank you to the coordinators of the Craft Group.*

This is the time of the year when everyone gathers to celebrate the end of a busy year. Our Play & Play group had their last gathering Wednesday, our Spanish Prayer Group had their last meeting for the year, our Junior Ministers, 10:10 Youth Group and Young Adults now have a couple of weeks break to recharge themselves in preparation for a busy 2026. This will be the last weekend where we will have Children's Church; we recommence at the end of January. For all the other Parish groups and organisations who are having a break, enjoy this special time. We look forward to a great 2026 together.



Did you get a chance to check out Michael Fitzpatrick's guided tour of Stella Maris church? Michael highlights some of the different symbols and the thinking behind the architectural design of the church. Our parish has a very active and informative social media presence – so check us out! You can watch the video by visiting our YouTube channel, *Stella Maris Catholic Parish*. Please like, comment, share and subscribe to help our Parish Channel grow in sharing the good news with the world.



Our Christmas Novena continues this week, culminating with the great celebration on Wednesday morning, the Eve of Christmas. Thank you to the different parish groups who have helped lead the morning Masses and all the parishioners who have helped in any way. It is not too late to make our Christmas Novena part of your journey of preparation for the birth of the Christ Child – join us this Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday morning, 6:00am, at Stella Maris.

Where Faith and Life Meet

As a Parish Family, we welcome into God's family, the Church,
Parker Borghardt and Nelson Villarosa
who will be baptised this weekend in our community.

During this Christmas week we prayerfully remember our loved ones who have died, especially this week, we remember **Mary Cuell**. May her soul, and the souls of all our departed priests, religious, fellow parishioners and loved ones, through the rich mercy of God, **Rest in Peace.**

Mass is celebrated in Spanish on the Second Saturday of the month, 6:00pm, at St. Mary's, Buderim. Please let your Spanish speaking friends know! Last Saturday, they gathered to celebrate the major feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. The next Mass en español will be at 6:00pm, Saturday, 10 January, 2026, all welcome.

For more information about our Spanish speaking group, please go to their Facebook page.



Nativity Play

What would Christmas be without a Nativity Play? Last Thursday evening, a large group of young children, with our Junior Ministers, put together a contemporary Nativity Play retelling the greatest story ever told! The play focused on the reason for the season—Jesus. With costumes and interactive songs, they told the story of Christ using their cuteness as the greatest weapon in their arsenal. Thanks to Bernie Baillie and her helpers for all the work they put into the play and managing the aspiring young actors!!!



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!



Please take a moment and become a registered member of your Parish

Over two thousand parishioners have already signed up and become registered members of our Sunshine Coast parish – **have you?** It is easy, simply use your phone, and scan this QR code which will take you directly to the parish sign-up page. You will receive a confirmation code, which will allow you to securely enter your family details.

Option two is to go on your computer and follow this link, maroochydore.flocknote.com/register as it will also take you to our Parish Flocknote data page.



Finally, if all else fails, at the entrance to the church, there is a hard copy of the registration form – please complete it and return it to the parish so that we can register you.

However you register, thank you for taking the time and becoming a registered and known member of your Catholic Parish.