

HOLY FAMILY

Weekend of the 27th / 28th December 2025

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

The Year that Was - 2025

We've had a big year in the Parish, building on the solid traditions of our community and we also have had many new things happening. Nothing stays the same, and the challenge, as people of faith, is to see the hand of God in the midst of change. As we look back on the year that was, we have much to be grateful for, we are blessed to live in a beautiful part of God's good creation, surrounded by generous fellow parishioners who make all things possible. As we look forward, with the confidence that comes from being people of faith, we use 2025 as the solid foundation to embrace the challenges and trials that 2026 will present us with here in our Sunshine Coast Catholic Community.

- ◆ Arrival of Dylan Asmus
- ◆ Australia Day BBQ
- ◆ Ministry Recruitment Drive
- ◆ Lenten Mini Mission—Fr Richard Leonard sj
- ◆ Craft Group
- ◆ Men's Retreat Alive
- ◆ Hospitality once a month
- ◆ Young Adults
- ◆ Parish Welcome Nights
- ◆ Completion of the Buderim Cottage
- ◆ Multicultural Mass
- ◆ 10:10 High School Youth Group
- ◆ Catholic Formation Scripture Course
- ◆ NET Team 2025
- ◆ Junior Ministers
- ◆ Dylan's Doughnuts
- ◆ Ignite Youth Conference
- ◆ St Mary's Refurbishment
- ◆ Fun Days With God
- ◆ Footy Tipping Competition
- ◆ Eucharistic Miracles Exhibition
- ◆ Sounds of Celebration Fundraiser
- ◆ Sisterhood Retreat
- ◆ Sisters of Mary Morning Star
- ◆ Parish Nativity Play
- ◆ Christmas Novena
- ◆ Play & Pray
- ◆ Men's Breakfast
- ◆ Sacramental Programme
- ◆ RCIA Groups
- ◆ Children's Church
- ◆ Choirs
- ◆ Theology programme
- ◆ Social media ministry & outreach

Outside of these events, we had our Sacramental Life within the Parish. As of the end of this weekend, we celebrated **743** Masses in the Parish, which is more than double the days of the year. In that time, we have baptised **251** young people. That is not including the **46** adults who were baptised and welcomed into full communion with the church. We had **95** children receive Confirmation this year and, **128** children received First Holy Communion. We've said farewell and prayed for **65** members of our Parish as we celebrated their Funeral Rites. God only knows how many anointings and hours of Confessions we've had over the year. That sacramental energy is reflected in the increase of the number of people sitting on our pews each weekend, making us one of the largest Catholic communities in the state.

It is always hard to measure how you are going as a Parish Family. I suppose statistics can tell part of the story - **but only part**. Hopefully we are heading in the right direction and being faithful to our calling to be an authentic instrument of the Good News here in our Sunshine Coast Community. These figures are also a reflection of the hard work that goes on in the background, which of course, is not something the priests do; these figures are built upon the generosity, passion, commitment and enthusiasm of our Parishioners — members of our community - **you**. So, **Thank You!**

All in all, it's been a wonderful year filled with ups and downs, but we thank God for all of it. Thank you, our amazing parishioners, for journeying with us through it all, it's been a wonderful time. Thank you also to our hard working office staff and volunteers—you make everything work. As we prepare for the challenges of the New Year, we wish you all every blessing for 2026.

Fr Peter Brannelly, Fr Isaac Falzon, Deacon Michael Khoury, Bishop Brian Heenan & Dylan Asmus

Stella Maris Parish Office

Adjacent to the Stella Maris Church
Parish Office reopens on Monday, 12th January
Telephone: 5443 3488
Email: suncoast@bne.catholic.net.au
Website: maroochydoreparish.com.au



At Your Service

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

As we leave 2025 behind and look forward to better days in 2026, we still have many things to be grateful for as a Parish Family. Despite all the financial uncertainty and the constant challenge of the cost of living, we are blessed with many parishioners and friends who generously gave of their time and talent to keep our Parish motoring along – for this, we are eternally grateful. How many ways can a faith community say thank you to so many people?

Sacristans: They arrive early and set up for the liturgy. They are so efficient we hardly notice them, and they clean and close up! Also, for those who support our sacristans - who wash and iron, clean and repair, who quietly, behind the scenes, keep everything ready and working. **Merci**

Music Ministry: Where would our liturgy be without music? If it is true that to sing is to pray twice, then we particularly thank all our musical volunteers for leading us throughout the year. **Danke**

Liturgical Ministers: From those who proclaim the Word of God to those who serve at the Altar of God, we are blessed. Thank you to all who are commissioned from our Sunday Masses to take Holy Communion to those who cannot be with us to celebrate the Eucharist. You powerfully remind us of how big God's family is. **Xie xie**

Church Environment Decorators: We don't take for granted the creative artists/decorators who add colour and verve to the ambience of the liturgical space. They wake us up to the different feel and texture of the liturgy as our senses are alerted to the mystery we are about to celebrate. **Grazie**

Technology & Communication: Our parish has moved with the flow of current technology. From the creation of our new parish website to those who volunteer with our PowerPoints each Sunday - **Gracias**

And you: Who, like St Joseph, quietly support and encourage, who trust enough to build up and not tear down, who are prepared to be part of the great drama of faith and parish life – may the blessings of the Christ Child be with you and yours as together we all embark on the great adventure of 2026.

What should I do if I have a safeguarding concern? At this time of year, pressures on families can increase. You may notice something that causes concern about the safety or wellbeing of a child or a vulnerable person within our Parish community. If you have any safeguarding concerns, please do not ignore them. You are strongly encouraged to report your concerns promptly through the Archdiocese's safeguarding procedures. Reporting concerns helps ensure that appropriate support and protection can be put in place.



STOPline
Ph: 1300 304 550
Em: AOB@stopline.com.au
Web: bnecatholic.stoplinereport.com



Safeguarding Service
Ph: 07 3324 3752
Em: safeguarding@bne.catholic.net.au

This Coming 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, 29th December

No Mass

Tuesday, 30th December

No Mass

Wednesday, 31st December

No Mass

Thursday, 1st January

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

Friday, 2nd January

♦ **Mass** (9:00am, Stella Maris)

Saturday, 3rd January

♦ **First Saturday Mass** (8:00am Stella Maris)

♦ **Reconciliation (8:30 to 9:30am)**, Stella Maris

♦ **Baptisms** (10:00am, St Catherine's Church)

♦ **Mass** (4:30pm, St Peter's Church)

♦ **Mass** (6:00pm, Stella Maris Church)

Sunday, 4th January The Epiphany

♦ **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)

Our Parish Office is closed during these days after Christmas to allow our parish staff the chance to access some well earned family time. The Parish Office reopens on **Monday, 12th January**.

Infant Baptism

The next Baptismal Preparation meeting will be 6:00pm, Thursday, 5th February, at Stella Maris Church. At this short meeting, we explain the significance of the symbols used in the sacrament, answer any questions and complete relevant paperwork. To book in for the meeting and receive the necessary paperwork, please go to the parish webpage maroochydoreparish.com.au

Dates for 2026

As the New Year begins, we invite parents and families who are interested in their children receiving Confirmation and First Holy Communion, to visit our Parish website and mark the dates for the parent meetings, preparation sessions and dates of the ceremonies on your Calendar. Simply follow the links to either Confirmation or First Holy Communion on the Parish website, where the dates for 2026 are displayed. We look forward to celebrating these stages of faith with you this year.

Information

Available at the entrance of all our four 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.



Anointing Mass

Our first Anointing Mass for 2026 will be 9:00am, Friday, 6th February at Stella Maris. Following the Anointing Mass, everyone is invited to morning tea. Please invite your neighbours and friends.

Gluten-free hosts are available. To arrange, simply contact the sacristan or coordinator before Mass. The priest will always distribute the gluten free host at communion.