

THE EPIPHANY of the LORD

Weekend of 3rd/4th January 2026

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.

This Sunday is the Feast of the Epiphany, the arrival of the Three Wise Men at the birth of the child Jesus. It is also my opportunity to thank you all for the wonderful year that I spent on placement. From Dylan's Doughnuts to interring people in the Columbarium, it has been a year full of experiences, learning and embracing the unexpected. I want to say a very big thank you to everyone in the Parish who has made this past year so excellent, You welcomed me into your parish, your homes and your lives in such a loving and generous way that will stay with me forever.

I would also like to thank the schools for being so hospitable and open to me. Whether it was inviting me to lead school liturgies or just being open to me popping in to different classes, I am very grateful for the opportunities that I had at Siena College and Stella Maris Primary. It was wonderful to journey with the students who made their Confirmation or First Communion this year and to see them grow in their faith and take the next step in their journey. Thank you as well to everyone who made it possible for our youth to attend this year's Ignite Conference. It was a privilege to be a part of that journey with them and to see ordinary kids have extraordinary experiences and to hear them telling their friends at school about them.

A big thank you also to Henry, Andrew, Karin, Jacinta and Alek, the leaders of the RCIA groups, for allowing me to be a part of the journey of 35 people into the Catholic Church this year and for giving me the opportunity to help out with the classes. Thank you as well to all the people who went on their RCIA journey this year. Each of you is an inspiration to us all to grow in our faith and a reminder that the Catholic Church is well and truly alive in Stella Maris Parish.

To my Lay Feedback Team and to everyone who has given me advice and encouragement this year, thank you. I have been given countless unique opportunities here at Stella Maris, and your feedback and participation in them have been crucial. From letting me know how a daily reflection went, to inviting me to be a part of Parish events like the Men's Breakfast, I have always felt very loved and at home here at Stella Maris.

While the year has been a lot of learning, it has also been a lot of fun. Stella Maris is at the cutting edge of Social Media outreach with classics such as 'How Not to Receive Communion', which was a lot of fun to be a part of and also helped to teach people in an entertaining way. The Parish's focus on hospitality has also been a lot of fun, from working out the secret doughnut recipe with the NET Team to seeing how excited the kids are for their Snow Cone after Sunday Mass. The hospitality of the Parish has really brought out the community in a fun way. I couldn't go anywhere near Stella Maris Primary School without someone coming up to say hello to "the Doughnut Guy".

Thank you to all the volunteers and everyone who works in the Parish Office. Without you doing what you do, nothing I did this year would have been possible, and Stella Maris Parish is truly blessed to have such wonderful people like you. Thank you to Fr Isaac, you have been an excellent friend, and it has been an honour to have someone like you to guide me and give me advice as well as challenge me to go deeper and make the most of this year.

Finally, thank you to Fr Peter, I couldn't have asked for a better Pastoral Supervisor, and the trust that you placed in me was a huge part of my placement here. The things that I have learned from you will stay with me forever and shape my future ministry. I cannot thank you enough for accepting me as a Pastoral Year Student and taking the time to help form me.

Just as the Wise Men come and go, I too have to leave Stella Maris and return to where I came from. As I return to the Seminary for my final period of study, I will miss you all and wish you a happy and Holy 2026.

Dylan Asmus

Fifth Year Seminarian on placement

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

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, 5th January

- ♦ Benediction (5:15pm, Stella Maris Church)
- ♦ **Mass** (5:30pm, Stella Maris Church)

Tuesday, 6th January

- ♦ **Mass** (9:00am, Stella Maris School Chapel)

Wednesday, 7th January

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

Thursday, 8th January

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

Friday, 9th January

- ♦ **Mass** (9:00am, Stella Maris Church)
- ♦ Community Meal for the Homeless, Vulnerable & Disadvantaged (6:00pm, Stella Maris)

Saturday, 10th January

- ♦ Reconciliation (8:30—9:30am, Stella Maris)
- ♦ Baptisms (10:00am, Stella Maris)
- ♦ Jesus Shine Catholic Charismatic Prayer Group (11:00am, St Catherine's Church)
- ♦ **Spanish Mass** (4:00pm, St Mary's Church)
- ♦ **Vigil Mass** (4:30pm, St Peter's Church)
- ♦ **Vigil Mass** (6:00pm, Stella Maris Church)

Sunday, 11th January

The Baptism of the Lord

- ♦ **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)
- ♦ **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

Men's Rosary

On the first Wednesday of the month the men of our community gather at Stella Maris Church to pray the Rosary. All men, young and not so young are very welcome to join us 6:30pm, Wednesday, 7th January at Stella Maris. Mark in your diary the first Wednesday in February also!

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.

You Are Welcome

We extend a special welcome to those who are single, married, divorced, gay, filthy rich, dirt poor, or *yo no hablo inglés*. We extend a special welcome to those who are crying newborns, skinny as a rail, or could afford to lose a few pounds. We welcome you if you can sing like Andrea Bocelli or, like our Parish Priest, can't hold a note! You're welcome here if you're "just browsing", just woke up, or just got out of jail. We don't care if you're more Catholic than the Pope, or haven't been in church since little Joey's Baptism.

We extend a special welcome to those who are over 60 but not grown up yet, and to teenagers who are growing up too fast. We welcome soccer mums, NRL dads, starving artists, tree-huggers, latte-sippers, vegetarians, and junk-food eaters. We welcome those who are in recovery, or still addicted. We welcome you if you're having problems, or you're down in the dumps, or if you don't like "organised religion". We've been there too. If you blew all your offering money on Sportsbet, work too hard, don't work, can't spell, or because grandma is in town and wanted to go to church, welcome.

We welcome those who are inked, pierced, or both. We offer a special welcome to those who could use a prayer now, had religion shoved down their throat as a kid, or got lost in traffic and wound up here by mistake. **We welcome tourists, seekers and doubters, bleeding hearts...and especially, we welcome *you!***

Have you gone *online* and become a registered member of your Parish? All parishioners are invited to register using **Flocknote**, our church designed, Australia wide data programme. There are three ways for you to register.



By simply using your phone and scanning this QR code, it 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.



When you are sitting in front of your computer, follow this link: maroochydore.flocknote.com/register and it will also take you to our Parish data page.

Feedback tells us that it is a easy process when you are sitting in front of your computer!



If you haven't got a computer or if you have tried and technology has beaten you, then at the entrance to the church you will discover a hard copy of the registration form – please complete it and return it to the parish so that we can register you.

Finally, if you are having trouble or if you have any suggestions, please send us an email, suncoast@bne.catholic.net.au

Flocknote is a work in progress, and every parish is different with unique ministries and needs – only with your feedback and involvement can we continue to refine Flocknote so that it lives up to its full potential as a instrument of the Good News.

Thanks for registering!

Thanks for being a part of your Parish Family!

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**, containing valuable information about your new Parish Family. Please feel free to take an envelope home with you today.

