

NEWSLETTER FOR THE 2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Weekend of the 17th/18th January 2026 Year A

First Reading: **Isaiah 49:3,5-6** Second Reading: **1 Corinthians 1:1-3** Gospel: **John 1:29-34**

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.

Welcome to Ordinary Time 2026, a split liturgical season so designated not because it is dull or boring in comparison with the Advent–Christmas seasons just completed, or the Lent–Easter seasons to come. The word *ordinary* stems from the *ordinal numbers*: Second Sunday in Ordinary Time, Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, and so forth.

Scripturally, Ordinary Time focuses on the words and deeds of Jesus as he proclaims the Kingdom of God to the people of Israel and, through them, to the world. During these weeks, we hear Jesus teach with wisdom and creativity, we witness his effectiveness as a preacher, and we marvel at his miracles. In short, Ordinary Time is an invitation to deepen our relationship with Jesus and fathom what it means to be a follower at this moment in time and in this place.

So in practical terms, Ordinary Time is divided into two parts. The first part begins this weekend and will continue until Ash Wednesday (18th February) and the beginning of Lent. During these weeks the focus will be on the early ministry of Jesus and his teachings. The second part of Ordinary Time begins after Pentecost, following the Easter season, and continues until the beginning of Advent. During this time, the Church reflects on the mission of Christ and the growth of the Church, encouraging us to accept the challenge to authentically live out the teachings of Jesus in daily life.

You might remember last week, Jesus was baptised at the River Jordan. This weekend, we remain on the muddy banks of the Jordan River with the anxious crowds and John the Baptist. There is a great sense of expectation among the people that the One promised, the One foretold by the prophets, the One they were waiting for was close at hand. John the Baptist sees Jesus coming, and pointing toward him, says something that we still hear today every time we celebrate the Eucharist together: **'Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.'**

We usually don't think of John the Baptist having much in common with us but actually, I think we have more in common with John the Baptist than we realise. John and all those milling around the River Jordan that day were searching, on the lookout for the Messiah, the promised One. They all had their own expectation of who the Messiah would be and what he would do. I wonder if we are really that different?

Here we are living in our Sunshine Coast Catholic Parish, facing this same challenge that God gave John. We are supposed to be on the lookout for God's activity, and of course, we have just spent Christmas hearing the stories of how close God wants to be to us. But now Christmas is over, and we want to see God present in our everyday life, even in the middle of our country reeling from acts of terror and a world order that seems to be crumbling before our eyes.

The ordinariness of God can be an obstacle for us. We are hoping for voices from on high and dramatic messages, and instead God communicates through the faces of friends and strangers and the day to day interactions of our lives. Even prayer isn't what people often think it is. Many of the great masters of prayer say that we need to begin by speaking with God, not in exalted language but as one friend to another, a conversation where there is nothing that we can't say and there is nothing we can't ask, and where answers aren't nearly as dramatic as we sometimes want them to be.

So, this week, if you are like John the Baptist and want to get a look at the God you're waiting for, he is not hiding, and is not impossible for us to relate to. Sometimes we are the ones who are keeping that God at a distance. We don't see him where he is, and he is where he needs to be, **including here with us now!**

Wishing you every blessing for the week ahead,

Fr Peter Brannelly

Your continued generous financial commitment makes all our ministries possible – thank you

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: 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, 19th January *St Agnes*

- ♦ Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament (4:30pm Stella Maris Church)
- ♦ Benediction (5:15pm, Stella Maris Church)
- ♦ **Mass** (5:30pm, Stella Maris Church)

Tuesday, 20th January

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

Wednesday, 21st January

- ♦ **Mass** (7:00am, St Mary's Church)
- ♦ **Mass** (9:00am, St Catherine of Siena Church)
- ♦ Scripture Study Group (9:30am, Zoom)

Thursday, 22nd January

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

Friday, 23rd January

- ♦ Stations of the Cross (8:00am, Stella Maris Church)
- ♦ **Mass** (9:00am, Stella Maris Church)

Saturday, 24th January *St Francis de Sales*

- ♦ Reconciliation (8:30am-9:30am, Stella Maris Church)
- ♦ **Vigil Mass** (4:30pm, St Peter's Church)
- ♦ **Vigil Mass** (6:00pm, Stella Maris Church)

Sunday, 25th January

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

- ♦ **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.

HANDING ON THE FAITH

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, and all children in Year 4 or above, who have celebrated their Confirmation, are invited to join our First Holy Communion programme. Parents, please go to our parish web page for more details about when the programmes start this year and to access important information and registration forms. **Before the start of Lent, we will be starting a new RCIA group for adults—watch the newsletter for further details.**

Sometimes we take for granted the incredibly generous community we belong to. Perhaps, because we are constantly surrounded by subtle examples of that generosity, we miss the gift and risk taking it all for granted. I can assure you from my experience, not all Faith Communities are as fortunate. I mean, week in and week out, the liturgical ministries of being a Eucharistic Minister, proclaiming the scriptures at Mass, a welcomer, a sacristan, being part of the music ministry, take place seamlessly through the commitment of fellow parishioners. But so much more goes on behind the scenes that reveals the real fabric of our Parish Family. The windows are washed, children's church takes place, hospitality is offered after Mass, altar linen is laundered, maintenance is carried out, Communion is taken to those who can't join us on Sunday, the church is cleaned, people drive parishioners to Mass, the ministry list goes on and on. Next week, you will once again be invited to recommit to a ministry or consider joining a ministry, some of the opportunities include:

CHILDREN'S CHURCH
COMMUNION MINISTER TO THE SICK
CHURCH CLEANING GROUP
MUSIC MINISTRY
LITURGY OF THE WORD
YOUNG ADULTS
HOSPITALITY
COMMUNION MINISTER
WELCOMING GROUP
BAPTISM SUPPORT GROUP
FUNERAL HOSPITALITY
HE-BREW'S COFFEE VAN

These are just some of the obvious ministries of our Parish Family, more often than not, members of our community simply see a need and respond to it! Next weekend consider how you might play a part in the life of your Catholic Family by either recommitting to a ministry or by joining a ministry. For Readers and Eucharistic Ministers, training will be provided on Saturday, 7th February. **We have all been given unique gifts and talents by God—let's use them!**

NOW IS THE TIME

On the back page of this weekend's newsletter is the 'paper' Flocknote Registration Form for our Parish. This Australia-wide, specifically designed, Church data programme replaces our old, obsolete census. It will allow us to communicate more professionally with our ministry outreach. If you have not had a chance to complete the registration, please take a few moments and return it to us, either by post or popping it on the collection plate next week.

Also, importantly, if you know a neighbour or friend who cannot make it to Mass, then perhaps give the newsletter to them with the invitation to complete the details – once it is returned to the office, we will complete the process.

If you would like to register online, simply scan the QR Code, and follow the prompts. Thank you for becoming a registered member of your Sunshine Coast Parish.

If you have a question or an issue, please send us an email, suncoast@bne.catholic.net.au



WHERE FAITH AND LIFE MEET

As a Parish Family, we welcome into God's family, the Church, **Indiana Brown, Jack Brown, Lucas Brown, Myles Schot** and **Olive Simpson** who will be baptised this weekend in our community.

We prayerfully remember our loved ones who have died, especially this week, we remember **Florence Alison, Bill McLellan, James Montgomery and Pat Nancarrow**.

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.**

WHO IS AT THE END OF THE LINE ?

Our Sunshine Coast Catholic Community has emerged as one of the largest Mass going Parishes in the Archdiocese, and this is reflected, also, in the activity and many ministries that are happening within our community. As a Catholic Parish, we proclaim the Good News, celebrate the Sacraments, and hopefully, by our lives, are a beacon of hope in a sometimes troubled world. **But Parishes are much more than that!** Parishes these days are a complex web of individuals and groups, each with their own unique requirements and requests. Not only does a well-functioning, forward looking and proactive Parish have to meet their needs, it also has to be compliant with the latest legal, financial, safeguarding and workplace, health and safety legislations and guidelines. It is a continuously changing and multifaceted landscape that we negotiate through! So, when you call the Parish Office with a question or a request, the friendly voices at the end of the line will do their best to give you an answer, action your request or point you in the right direction. **Your call could be answered by ~**



Our Parish Office is located adjacent to the Stella Maris Church in Maroochydore.

Office Hours: **Monday to Friday, 9:00– 2:00pm** Telephone us on: **5443 3488** Email us: suncoast@bne.catholic.net.au
For all Parish signups and registration forms visit our webpage: maroochydoreparish.com.au

COMMUNITY MEALS FOR THE DISADVANTAGED, HOMELESS & VULNERABLE

During 2017, in response to the obvious need within our Sunshine Coast community, a ministry was established to provide a meal on a regular basis for those who are vulnerable, homeless or disadvantaged in any way. The vision and mission of this ministry are driven by Jesus' words in Matthew's Gospel: "*Truly I tell you, just as you did it to the least of one of these, who are members of my family, you did it to me.*"

At that time, it was recognized that the importance was not just to give out food but to provide a safe environment where a meal could be shared. Shared meals bring people together, build community, and create a sense of belonging. Everyone deserves a sense of belonging. It was also recognised that any food prepared and shared had to be nutritious and healthy!

So, every Friday evening on the grounds of Stella Maris Church, this ministry takes place. Currently, there are five teams of volunteers - three parish teams and two from our schools, Siena College and Stella Maris Primary, who take it in turns to prepare and serve the meals. These volunteers not only source, cook and serve meals to our friends, numbers of which can reach the 40s, but also sit and chat with them, providing a sense of community. Orange Sky are also in attendance, providing washing and drying facilities for their clothing.

This ministry is also well-supported by parishioners who make regular financial contributions with which the food is purchased. Additionally, many volunteers also provide food items at their own expense. Here, we must acknowledge the support of parishioner, Brenda Wolley, who provides delicious home-made baking *every* week – three containers, often themed, e.g. Christmas, Easter, St Patrick's Day. Thanks also to Woolworths, Cotton Tree Meats and Crust Bakery at Mountain Creek, who are also very generous with donations and discounts.

We currently have a good number of volunteers on all teams, but any parishioners who would like to express their interest in joining a team when the need arises or would like to find out how to support us, please contact the parish office with your name, email address and phone number. **A big thank you to all members of our Sunshine Coast Catholic Parish for your support of this most important ministry—it is appreciated.**



If you have not done so already, please take a few moments to complete the Parish Registration Below and return it—we will do the rest!



Flocknote Registration Form

Parent / Adult Information	Person 1	Person 2
Title		
First Name		
Last Name		
Gender		
D.O.B		
Email Address		
Home Number		
Mobile Number		
Address		
Postcode		
Religion		
Language other than English		

I/WE USUALLY ATTEND MASS AT

Stella Maris Church, Maroochydore	Sat 6:00pm	Sun 6:30am	Sun 9:00am	Sun 5:00pm
St Peter's Church, Coolum Beach	Sat 4:30pm	Sun 7:30am		
St Mary's Church, Buderim	Sun 9:30am	St Catherine of Siena Church, Sippy Downs		Sun 8:00am

Dependent family info	Person 1	Person 2	Person 3	Person 4
First Name				
Last Name				
Gender				
D.O.B				
Religion				
Language other than English				

Would you like to support our Parish Planned Giving Program? Yes / No

Would you like to receive communications from our parish? Yes / No

Date		Signature	
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