

# NEWSLETTER FOR THE 3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Weekend of the 24<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup> January 2026 Year A

First Reading: **Isaiah 8:23-9:3** Second Reading: **1 Corinthians 1:10-13,17** Gospel: **Matthew 4:12-23**

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.



At the start of the year, it is appropriate to dedicate one weekend to invite and encourage all parishioners, both young and old, to reflect upon how you can help build up our parish family by being part of the liturgical and ministerial life of your church. Let's face it, we are who we are as a Parish through the generosity of fellow parishioners! The vibrant, proactive and diverse ministries and outreach of our parish community are a reflection of that generosity and faith.

We call this weekend "Ministry Sunday", and we acknowledge that God has given each one of us unique gifts and talents – and these gifts and talents are meant to be used and shared. For those who are already part of a ministry, I ask you to once again sign up and recommit to your ministry and do so knowing that your Parish is grateful for your time and service.

For those new to our Parish Family or who have taken a break, I ask you to reflect upon and discern what ministry you would like to be part of. Simply complete the details and either place it on the collection plate or hand it into the office. From being involved in our weekly liturgical life to reaching out to our brothers and sisters, who cannot join us on a Sunday, to simply helping ensure that our community runs smoothly and is responsive to the changing challenges we face. ***We all have a role to play.***

So that we follow best practice, and there is uniformity in our liturgical celebrations, all Readers, and Extraordinary Communion Ministers, who recommit or sign up, are asked to attend a short, 45-minute gathering and formation meeting, **9:30am, Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup> February.**

## Mums and Dads - Grandmums and Granddads

Now that school has at last resumed, every Wednesday morning from 9:30am to 11:00am parents with smaller children gather at Stella Maris for our **Pray & Play group**. It is an excellent opportunity for young children to interact with each other while at the same time for adults to share their wisdom and, in the process, have some fun. Grandparents are especially welcome to share their experiences and stories while at the same time enjoying the energy and inquisitiveness of those just starting out on the great adventure of life.

***Please join us this Wednesday!***



This coming Monday is the **Australia Day Public Holiday**, and in thanksgiving for the blessing that God has showered upon us, we will celebrate our **Australia Day Mass 8:00am, this Monday**, followed by pancakes and light refreshments. *Please note that there will be no 5:30pm Mass on Monday, 26<sup>th</sup> January.*

## Hospitality

Next weekend, being the first of the month, hospitality is the focus of our community. After Mass, you are invited to stay and mingle with parishioners and encouraged to make new visitors feel welcome! To help carry the load, why not bring a plate to share? So please, next weekend, let us all enjoy the hospitality of each other and our Parish Family.

## 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](mailto:suncoast@bne.catholic.net.au)  
Website: [maroochydoreparish.com.au](http://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, 26<sup>th</sup> January** *Australia Day*

- ♦ **Mass** (8:00am, Stella Maris Church)
- ♦ **NO Mass** (5:30pm, Stella Maris Church)

## **Tuesday, 27<sup>th</sup> January**

- ♦ **Mass** (9:00am, Stella Maris Primary School Chapel)
- ♦ Craft Group (1:00pm, St Peter's Coolum)

## **Wednesday, 28<sup>th</sup> January**

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

## **Thursday, 29<sup>th</sup> January**

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

## **Friday, 30<sup>th</sup> January**

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

## **Saturday, 31<sup>st</sup> January** *St John Bosco*

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

## **Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> February** *Hospitality Weekend*

### **Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

- ♦ **Mass** (6:30am, Stella Maris Church)
- ♦ **Mass** (7:30am, St Peter's Church)
- ♦ **Mass** (8:00am, St Catherine's Church) (*Children's Church*)
- ♦ **Mass** (9:00am, Stella Maris Church) (*Children's Church*)
- ♦ **Mass** (9:30am, St Mary's Church) (*Children's Church*)
- ♦ **Mass** (5:00pm, Stella Maris Church) (*Children's 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.*

## Home Visitation

Over the past two years, the statue of our Blessed Mother has been welcomed into many homes within our parish community. Every week, a family has taken the statue to their home, and it has provided the focus for the prayers of the family, their neighbours and friends. Can she find a home under your roof for a week? If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Veronica, 0451 593 397, or email, [veronica.baatjes@gmail.com](mailto:veronica.baatjes@gmail.com)

The long summer holidays are quickly becoming a memory, and this long weekend signals the last of the lazy days on the beach before school resumes this week. Welcome back, all our teachers, students and families, as another year of learning begins! To all new families who have moved to the Sunshine Coast over the summer – **welcome** – please collect a “Parish Welcome Pack” at the entrance to the church.

## Announcement Soon

Hopefully, in next week's newsletter, we will be able to announce and name the six young people who will form our NET team for this year. NET stands for National Evangelisation Teams, and the members are young Catholics who volunteer a year or two of their lives in the service of the Church. NET has been operating in Australia for over 30 years, and hundreds of young Catholics have, during that time, been a visible and powerful witness of faith, especially to their peers. The NET teams particular ministry focus during the week will be working with Siena College and then across our parish over the weekends. Currently, this year's NET volunteers are undergoing training at Glendalough Outdoor Education Centre before beginning their ministry. Once again, the funding of this important ministry is made possible only through your continued generous support of our Parish—*Thank you.*

## Young Adults is Back

All Young Adults are invited to gather for a picnic, 11:00am this Sunday, 25<sup>th</sup> at Picnic Point, Maroochydore. Come along, bring a blanket or chair, some snacks to share and a friend! To join our Young Adults WhatsApp group, contact [media.suncoast@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:media.suncoast@bne.catholic.net.au)

## Mass Guide

If you have ever been overseas and attended a Mass in a language other than English, you will immediately know how challenging it is to work out what is going on, let alone how to participate! We are conscious of that also being true for visitors and new parishioners whose first language might not be English. To help bridge that gulf, we have created a Congregational Responses Mass card that gives the main dialogue and responses used in our Sunday Masses. The cards are available at the entrance to the church.

## Children's Church

With school resuming and our weekly routine returning next weekend, Children's Church recommences for another exciting year. Starting next Sunday at our **8:00am Sippy Downs Mass** and at our **9:00am & 5:00pm Maroochydore Masses** and also at the **9:30am Buderim Mass**, all primary-aged children are sent forth with their catechist to celebrate a more age appropriate reflection on the Gospel, before returning to the church towards the end of the Eucharistic prayer. Let your friends know about these exciting Sunday family options. With Ministry Sunday this weekend, what better time to invite you to consider becoming part of our Children's Church team! Thank you.

## Where Faith and Life Meet

Congratulations to **Trent Lecky** and **Carena Lecky** who celebrated their marriage at Stella Maris this weekend. As an Archdiocese we mourn the death of **Fr Peter Casey** who served in parish communities of Lutwyche and Annerley Ekibin as an Assistant Priest, Administrator for Buranda and Parish Priest of Ipswich, Cannon Hill, and Camp Hill.

From 1975 to 1989 Fr Casey was Director of Centacare.

May Fr Peter's soul, and the souls of all our faithfully departed priests, religious, parishioners and friends, through the rich mercy of God.

**Rest in Peace.**



## **BAPTISM SUPPORT GROUP**

During the Rite of Baptism, the Priest or Deacon welcomes the newly baptised child into God's Family, the Church. In doing so also welcomes the child into our local parish family here on the Sunshine Coast. The members of the Baptismal Support Group represent our community and are a welcoming presence on the day of Baptism.

## **CHILDREN'S CHURCH**

Children's Church is when the children leave the congregation to celebrate and reflect on the Sunday Gospel reading in an age-appropriate way. The children are led through prayers, songs and readings that are adapted to their level of understanding.

## **CHURCH CLEANING GROUP**

If cleanliness is next to godliness, then we want all four of our churches to be a reflection of heaven! Each week, teams of fellow parishioners take it in turns to clean our sacred spaces. The truth of the matter is that we can't afford commercial cleaners, so this is a practical ministry that benefits the whole community.

## **COMMUNION MINISTER**

Communion Ministers assist with the distribution of the Holy Body and Blood of Christ at the Eucharist.

## **COMMUNION MINISTER TO THE SICK**

In this Ministry, you are an extension of the worshipping community, bringing Holy Communion to our community members who are sick and housebound, unable to be with the rest of the community at the regular Eucharistic celebration.

## **FUNERAL HOSPITALITY**

Our Funeral Hospitality Group is several teams who volunteer to set up and serve at the post-funeral gathering. All the food is provided, and this ministry is really about being a friendly face; serving the tea, coffee and refreshments; and helping where necessary.

## **HE-BREW'S COFFEE VAN**

Our coffee van is the focus of our community of hospitality, and we would love you to join a team of baristas and servers on a roster. Coffee making courses are available.

## **HOSPITALITY**

On the first weekend of each month, all our communities offer hospitality after Mass. It is a chance for parishioners and new members of our community to gather, share a cuppa and some refreshments. For each community, the form of hospitality is different, but the goal remains the same.

## **LITURGY OF THE WORD**

This ministry is to proclaim the Word in partnership with the Priest. This may include proclaiming the first reading, Psalm, second reading, and the prayers of the faithful. The parish will provide regular training to support readers in the best ways to proclaim God's Word. Your commitment is to go onto your community's roster.

## **MUSIC MINISTRY**

Our Parish family is blessed with musicians and singers who lead our Masses and Liturgical celebrations. If you are a confident musician (pianist, violinist, etc), we welcome you to consider becoming part of this vital ministry.

## **10:10 MAROOCHYDORE (YOUTH MINISTRY)**

Our youth ministry is aimed at helping young people in Years 3-12 grow in faith and connect with our Parish in a fun and friendly environment. This ministry involves assisting current youth leaders and is supported by our NET team.

## **WELCOMING GROUP**

This group creates a sense of welcome by greeting and handing out newsletters. Several times a year they represent the parish at our welcome nights, where we welcome new members of the parish and introduce ourselves in an informal way. A friendly face and a desire to make newcomers feel included are all you need for this ministry.

## **YOUNG ADULTS**

Our YA Ministry enables new adults to journey together in faith. Each event aims to foster an environment of connection and growth through faith formation and social events. We are looking for people to help run events.



Stella Maris Catholic Parish

## Ministry Drive 2026

Full Name:

Phone:

Email:

### Which Mass would you like to minister at?

**St Mary's Church,  
Buderim**

☐ 9:30am Sunday

**St Peter's Church,  
Coolum**

☐ 4:30pm Saturday

☐ 7:30am Sunday

**St Catherine's Church,  
Sippy Downs**

☐ 8:00am Sunday

**Stella Maris Church,  
Maroochydore**

☐ 6:00pm Saturday

☐ 6:30am Sunday

☐ 9:00am Sunday

☐ 5:00pm Sunday

☐ I am joining a ministry

☐ I am recommitting to a ministry

### Select a Ministry

- ☐ Baptism Support Group
- ☐ Children's Church - Blue Card & Training Req
- ☐ Church Cleaning Groups
- ☐ Communion Minister
- ☐ Communion Minister to the Sick - **Police Check & Training Required**
- ☐ Funeral Hospitality
- ☐ HE-brews Coffee Van
- ☐ Hospitality
- ☐ Hymn Operator
- ☐ Junior Minister Helpers
- ☐ Liturgy of the Word
- ☐ Music Ministry
- ☐ Live-streaming Ministry - **Training Required**
- ☐ Sisterhood Ministry Leader
- ☐ 10:10 Youth Group Leader - **Blue Card & Training Required**
- ☐ Young Adults Group Leader - **Blue Card & Training Required**
- ☐ Welcoming Group

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