

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

Weekend of the 28th February and 01st March 2026 Year A

First Reading: **Genesis 12:1-4** Second Reading: **2 Timothy 1:8-10** Gospel: **Matthew 17:1-9**

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.

Stella Maris Parish Office

Adjacent to the Stella Maris Church, Maroochydore
Office Hours
9:00am—2:00pm Weekdays

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Parish Website:

maroochydoreparish.com.au

Parish Clergy

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

ARE YOU LISTENING?

Perhaps you have heard of the man who wanted to test his wife's hearing? He stood some distance behind her and softly said, **"Can you hear me?"** Having received no answer, he moved closer and again whispered, **"Can you hear me?"** Again, having received no answer, he moved right up behind her and softly said, **"Can you hear me?"** Finally, he heard his wife reply somewhat exasperatedly, **"For the third time, yes!"**

In some ways, this story could be comparable to our communication with God. Often, we constantly check to see if he is listening in the hope that he will respond to our deep, heartfelt needs and desires. In reality, not only is he hearing us, but he has spoken definitively if only we would listen to him.

Twice in the Gospels, the Father spoke audibly regarding Jesus. The first time was at Jesus' baptism when the Father said, **"This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."** What greater statement could God have made about his Son? This was a profound validation that Jesus was sent from God.

The second time the Father spoke audibly is recorded in this week's Gospel reading, **"This is my beloved Son; listen to him."** This second audible statement from God the Father clarifies what the Father expects from us, what he sees as our primary responsibility. This message is equally profound in its simplicity. It is not obscured by a list of responsibilities and behavioural expectations, but consists of one simple command, "listen to him". Therein is the essence of spirituality: having our heart, mind, and ears spiritually tuned to hear what he is saying.

These days of Lent should be a listening time for each of us. Could we not begin each day with a moment of quietness, praying Samuel's simple prayer, **"Speak Lord, your servant listens."** Then, as our day progresses, could we not keep our spiritual antenna tuned to his frequency, looking for him and his message in the simple experiences of our day? Would not he speak to us on our bed, in the night, if like Judah, we could devoutly say, **"My heart yearns for you in the night, my spirit earnestly seeks You."** If we are determined to actively develop the art of listening to Jesus, our lives would radically change, for the better.

Sociologists have indicated that it takes approximately fourteen days to break a habit, and approximately another fourteen days to establish a new habit. We have twenty-eight days left in this Lenten Season. If we begin this listening practice today, we can be well on our way to establishing a life-giving habit of fulfilling the Father's intention for us to **listen to his Son!**

Wishing you every blessing as together we begin to live the second week of Lent.

Fr Peter Brannelly

Don't forget to tell your friends—and **don't forget to mark in your own diary**—about our **Parish Mini Mission** with Fr Richard Leonard at 5:00pm—6:00pm on Monday 9th, Tuesday 10th, and Wednesday 11th March, Stella Maris Church. Fr Richard's reflections and insights are an excellent way of entering into the mystery of Lent and the journey to Easter.

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, 2nd March

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

Tuesday, 3rd March

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

Wednesday, 4th March

- ◆ **Mass** (7:00am, St Mary's Church)
- ◆ **Mass** (9:00am, St Catherine's Church)
- ◆ Pray & Play (9:30am, The Annex)
- ◆ Scripture Study Group (9:30am, Zoom)
- ◆ Community Meetings: **Coolum** 12:00pm; **Buderim** 2:30pm; **Sippy Downs** 4:00pm; **Stella Maris** 6:00pm.
- ◆ Latin Prayer Group (6:00pm, Stella Maris)
- ◆ Lenten Prayer Group (6:00pm, St Catherine's Church)
- ◆ Men's Rosary (6:30pm, Caloundra Parish)

Thursday, 5th March

- ◆ **Mass** (8:30am, St Peter's Church)
- ◆ SVDP Coolum Meeting (9:00am, St Peter's Church)
- ◆ Baptismal Preparation (6:00pm, Stella Maris Church)

Friday, 6th March

- ◆ Stations of the Cross (8:30am, Stella Maris Church)
- ◆ **Mass & Anointing** (9:00am, Stella Maris Church)
- ◆ Community Meal for Homeless
- ◆ Stations of the Cross (6:00pm, St Catherine's Church)

Saturday, 7th March

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

Sunday, 8th March

Third Sunday of Lent

- ◆ **Mass** (6:30am, Stella Maris Church)
- ◆ **Mass** (7:30am, St Peter's Church)
- ◆ **Mass** (8:00am, St Catherine's) (Children's Church)
- ◆ **Mass** (9:00am, Stella Maris Church) (Children's Church)
- ◆ **Mass** (9:30am, St Mary's Church) (Children's Church)
- ◆ Junior Ministers (3:00pm, The Annex)
- ◆ 10:10 Youth (3:00pm, The Bliss Room)
- ◆ **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.

HOSPITALITY

On the first weekend of the month, we always have a special emphasis on hospitality. If we want to be a friendly community, we need to also be a welcoming community and providing hospitality is an excellent way of meeting new and old parishioners alike. Please join us after Mass this weekend. Thank you to the different groups who organise our hospitality each month. It will also be our chance to say hello to our NET Team.

FIRST FRIDAY

This coming Friday, we have our monthly Anointing Mass, which is followed by morning tea. Perhaps you could check with a neighbour or friend to see if they need transport?

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

The World Day of Prayer is an international ecumenical Christian initiative that is celebrated annually in over 170 countries on the first Friday in March. This year, St Mary's Buderim, St Peter's Coolum and Faith Church at Millwell Road, Maroochydore, will be hosting the prayer service.

Each year, a country takes responsibility for the Order of Service, and this year, the people of Nigeria invite us to be part of their rich and unique Christian tradition.



Everyone in our Sunshine Coast Parish is warmly invited to attend the World Day of Prayer service and the morning tea that follows on Friday, 6th March.

9:00am, St Peter's Catholic Church, 28 Elizabeth St, Coolum.

10:00am, St Mary's Catholic Church, 7 Main St, Buderim

10:00am, Faith Church Sunshine Coast, Millwell Road, Community Centre, Maroochydore.

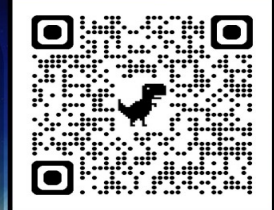
How to Join

Step One: Scan the QR Code and donate \$40

Step Two: Visit iTipFooty.com.au and if you are a new player, create an account. Players returning from last years comp, can log into your old account.

Step Three: New players use Comp #103447 and the password 'Stella25!' to join the competition and returning players click "REJOIN".

Start your Tipping!



Stella Maris
CATHOLIC PARISH

ON THE JOURNEY—WHERE LIFE MEETS FAITH

We welcome into God's Family, the Church,

Stirling Cook

who will be baptised this weekend in our parish.

We pray for all those who have died, especially *Janice Cox*, may her soul and the souls of all our deceased priests, Religious, family members and members of our Parish Community, through the rich mercy of God,

Rest in Peace.

OUR NEW INITIATIVE STARTS TODAY

Our late Pope Francis, through his encyclical, *Laudato Si*, encouraged and challenged us to be more aware of God's good creation and how we can respond more positively to caring for our environment. Sometimes, **that is a lot easier said than done!** One practical way, however, which is a **win / win** for our parish family, is by recycling. Every first weekend of the month, starting this weekend, we will have a trailer parked at Stella Maris where you can leave your bottles and cans – we will take them to **Containers for Change** to be recycled. The proceeds will go towards supporting our youth programme. If you would rather go directly to the Containers for Change depot, you can use our identification number **Scheme ID number C10193859**. However you wish to support this initiative, thank you for doing your part in caring for God's good creation here on the Sunshine Coast, and supporting our youth programme.



The Stations of the Cross are a 14-step Catholic devotion that commemorates Jesus Christ's last day on Earth as a man. The 14 devotions, or stations, focus on specific events of His last day, beginning with His condemnation. The stations are commonly used as a mini pilgrimage as the individual moves from station to station. At each station, the individual recalls and meditates on a specific event from Christ's last day. Specific prayers are recited, then the individual moves to the next station until all 14 are complete. As part of your Lenten journey, why not include the Stations of the Cross journey. Please join us during Lent at 8:30am, each Friday morning at Stella Maris or 6:00pm, each Friday evening, at St Catherine's.

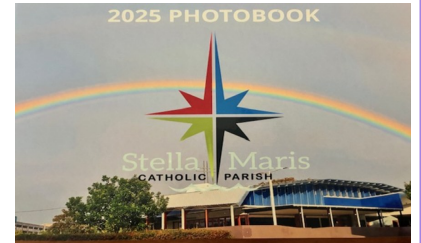


There was standing room only at last Sunday's St Catherine's Family Mass.

Thank you to the staff and students of Siena Primary for helping us celebrate the First Sunday of Lent, and thank you also to the Siena P & F for providing the hospitality after Mass.



In such a diverse and busy Parish Family, so much is going on that sometimes, we can miss some of the good news of our community! At the entrance to the church, you will discover our **Parish Photobook for 2025**, which attempts to capture some of the ministries and events of our journey of faith during the past year. If you get a chance, please take a look at it after Mass today. During the year, if you take any photos of parish events or gatherings, please send them via email to our Digital Manager, Georgia Whiteley, media.suncoast@bne.catholic.net.au.



WHAT A FANTASTIC START TO 10:10

Last Sunday, we launched our parish youth group and welcomed around 30 high school students from across the Sunshine Coast. The afternoon was full of energy — with snow cones, pizza, games, and plenty of laughter. Our new NET team were so much fun and created such a welcoming atmosphere.

We had such a great turnout that we've already had to move into a bigger room! 10:10 is on again at 3:00pm, this Sunday in the Bliss Room — we'd love to see even more young people there.

At the same time, our Junior Ministers program for primary-aged students will be running in the church. There's something for everyone — we can't wait to see our young people growing together in faith and friendship.

When considering your will, thank you for remembering the mission and ministry of your Parish.



At last Sunday evening's Mass, we celebrated the **Rite of Election** for 16 adult catechumens who have been preparing to be received into the Catholic Church at Easter. They have been on the **RCIA** journey, and as their time of preparation quickly draws to a climax, we keep them, their sponsors and their catechists in our prayers. It will be with great joy that we welcome them at the Easter Vigil as our new Catholic brothers and sisters.



Catholic Education in our Sunshine Coast Parish

Siena Catholic Primary School

58 Sippy Downs Drive,
Sippy Downs
psippydowns@bne.catholic.edu.au
Principal: Eric Ellems



Last Tuesday, our Siena school community gathered in the Lord's presence to celebrate Mass, seeking God's abundant blessing and guidance for the coming school year. In 2026, our chosen theme is, **'Reach and Beyond – to be who God calls us to be!'**, We are invited to grow closer to Christ by reaching out to others in words and actions and to go beyond in our academic pursuits.

Each year level prepared a covenant, pledging to reach out to others by mirroring Jesus' love for all and to go beyond in their academic ventures. During the Mass, at the offertory procession, year levels brought forward their covenants for Father Isaac to bless. Each year level pledged to live their promise daily.

Thank you to Fr Isaac for leading our Mass and giving our 2026-year God's blessing.



Stella Maris Primary School

Stella Maris Way,
Maroochydore
pmaroochydore@bne.catholic.edu.au
Principal: Mark Ballam



Year 5 Faith Formation Day Salt & Light

Today, our Year 5 students participated in a Formation Day focused on the theme **'Salt & Light'** from *Matthew 5:13-16*. Through prayer, music, games and reflection, students explored how they are uniquely gifted by God and called to use those gifts to make a positive difference in the lives of others. Working together in team challenges and sharing in prayer, students were encouraged to be leaders who shine God's light through kindness, generosity and service. We thank the staff and NET Team for supporting this special day and ask the parish community to keep our Year 5 students in prayer as they continue to grow in faith.

Celebrating Teaching Excellence at Stella Maris School

Recently, Brisbane Catholic Education recognised Inez Durrer, Music Teacher, and Tegan Burr, Primary Learning Leader, from Stella Maris School, Maroochydore, for achieving Lead Teacher (HALT) certification, a highly rigorous accreditation held by only 72 teachers across BCE. Mrs Durrer was acknowledged for her outstanding work in Music and Performing Arts, particularly the impact of The BEATS program in the early years. Mrs Burr was recognised for her leadership in Literacy and Numeracy, supporting whole-school improvement through coaching and collaboration. The Stella Maris School community is incredibly proud of these teachers and the exceptional contribution they make to our school community.

Siena Catholic College

60 Sippy Downs Drive,
Sippy Downs
ssippydowns@bne.catholic.edu.au
Principal: Sharon Collins



As a College community, we began the sacred season of Lent with a reverent and prayerful Ash Wednesday Liturgy. Students and staff gathered to receive ashes and reflect on the call to prayer, fasting and almsgiving. It was a beautiful moment of stillness and unity as we marked the beginning of this important season in the Church's year.

Throughout Lent, Siena Catholic College is supporting Caritas Australia through Project Compassion. Our students are leading House based fundraising initiatives and awareness activities, responding generously to the call to stand in solidarity with those experiencing poverty and injustice. It has been inspiring to witness our young people living out the Gospel through action and service.

We are also blessed to have the NET Team with us. They have already been actively involved in classrooms, supporting Religious Education lessons, sharing their faith journeys and building meaningful connections with both students and staff. Alongside this, our staff Lenten Prayer Group gathers weekly in reflection and prayer as we journey together towards Easter in faith, community and hope.

Reconciliation Action Plan Networking Workshop – Implementing the RAP

This gathering offers an important opportunity to deepen our understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history, culture, and connection to Country. **Many parishes from across the Archdiocese will be joining us, and we warmly invite all Sunshine Coast Parishioners.** Time: 10:00am for a 10:30am start – 2:30pm Date: Saturday, 14th March Location: Our Lady of the Rosary Church, 61 Edmund Street, Caloundra.

Day of Reparation

On Saturday, 14th March you are invited to join the Nambour community in a day of Reparation, praying for an end to abortions in our country. In a society so rich in resources and support, we pray for an end to the need for abortions. So please join us for a day of fasting and prayer, 8:00am, Saturday, 14th March, at St Joseph's Church, Nambour.



Book and
Plant Sale



The Kawana St Vincent de Paul annual four-day **Book & Plant** sale is on again this year from Thursday, 19th March to Sunday, 22nd March. Come along and grab a bargain, while at the same time helping Vinnies support those in our community who are in the most need. Join us at The Good Shepherd Centre, Nanyima St, Buddina, opposite the Kawana Library.