

SIXTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

Weekend of the 14th and 15th February 2026 Year A

First Reading: **Sirah 15:15-20** Second Reading: **1 Corinthians 2:6-10** Gospel: **Matthew 5:17-37**

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.

MEET THE NEW KIDS ON THE BLOCK



We are delighted to welcome the new NET Team back to our parish for another exciting year of ministry! This is the third year that we have hosted a NET Team, and what a difference they have made to our school and parish community. Since just after Christmas, these young Catholic missionaries have been in training for the year ahead, and last week they began their orientation of our Parish. Most of their weekday work is hidden from our Parish eyes as they minister to the young people in our schools. On weekends, our Parish Family comes alive with the enthusiasm and energy of the many faith-filled activities that the NET team coordinates. Over the next couple of weeks, the NET team will be visiting all our church communities to introduce themselves to you. I am sure that you will make them not just welcome but also supported!

The **National Evangelisation Team "NET" Ministries Australia** is a Catholic youth ministry organisation that has spread the message of the Gospel to more than 500,000 young people across Australia since 1988. Each year, NET accepts 40-50 spirit-filled young adults who have heard a strong call in their lives to proclaim the Gospel to the next generation. They are trained and mentored by NET staff throughout the year. These missionaries, known by many as 'Netters', experience community life in teams, a deepening of their personal faith, and the joy of ministering to other young people.

Young people need to be met where they are at without judgement or expectation. NET Teams are trained to do this through the three areas that form the core of NET's ministry tools. This includes fellowship, proclamation, and invitation, and together they lay the foundation for the effectiveness of NET Teams in their mission fields.

This year's team comes from near and far: **Jacinda (New Zealand), Lourdes (Canada), Bella (Adelaide), Damo (returning from last year), Finn (Texas, USA), and Kayden (Brisbane)**. Fr Isaac has already made sure they've been properly warned about our local *drop bear situation*.

Along with the NET Team, **10:10** is also back for the year! Run by this fantastic team, the first gathering will be at **3:00pm, Sunday 22nd February**, in the **Annex**. Come along to meet the NET Team, enjoy some fun and games, and kick off the year together. **Every Sunday, during the school term, 10:10 Youth is held**, and all young people are warmly invited. We look forward to a great year ahead—please keep the NET Team and our young people in your prayers!

Their ministry and work in our community is only made possible through your continued generous financial support, so I suppose that all of us have a role to play in welcoming these six young Catholic missionaries into our Parish Family.

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, 16th February

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

Tuesday, 17th February

- ◆ **Mass** (9:00am, Stella Maris Primary School Chapel)
- ◆ **Mass** (9:00am, St Catherine's Church—School Mass)

Wednesday, 18th February *Ash Wednesday*

- ◆ **Mass** (7:00am, St Mary's Church)
- ◆ **Mass** (7:30am, St Peter's Church)
- ◆ **Mass** (9:00am, St Catherine's Church)
- ◆ **Mass** (9:00am, Stella Maris Church)
- ◆ Pray & Play (after the 9:00am Mass)
- ◆ Scripture Study Group (9:30am, Zoom)
- ◆ Liturgy of the Word (11:30am, Stella Maris Primary School)
- ◆ **Mass** (5:00pm, Stella Maris Church)
- ◆ Latin Prayer Group (6:00pm, Stella Maris)

Thursday, 19th February

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

Friday, 20th February

- ◆ Stations of the Cross (8:30am, Stella Maris Church)
- ◆ **Mass** (9:00am, Stella Maris Church)
- ◆ Grief Support Meeting (9:45am, Stella Maris)
- ◆ Community Meal for Homeless
- ◆ Stations of the Cross (6:00pm, St Catherine's Church)

Saturday, 21st February

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

Sunday, 22nd February

First Sunday of Lent

- ◆ **Mass** (6:30am, Stella Maris Church)
- ◆ **Mass** (7:30am, St Peter's Church) (*Children'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*)
- ◆ Junior Ministers (3:00pm, Stella Maris)
- ◆ 10:10 Youth (3:00pm, The Annex)
- ◆ **Polish Mass** (4:00pm, St Mary's Buderim)
- ◆ **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.

Get Ready for Wednesday !

On this Wednesday, 18th February, we celebrate Ash Wednesday, the start of the season of Lent: a period of fasting, prayer and almsgiving. You will notice that during Lent, our Liturgical tone will change to be sparser and more penitential.

The Liturgical colour will change to purple or violet; we will all recite the Confiteor at the Penitential Act; there is no sung *Gloria*; there is no sung *Alleluia* before the Gospel; there are longer periods of silence and stillness; there is no *Thanksgiving song*.

The Entrance and Recessional Hymns will also be repeated every two weeks. This repetition defines the Lenten Season as different to Ordinary Time. The texts of the Hymns contain images such as fasting, ashes, being reborn, dying and rising, the Paschal way (just to name a few). The tempo of the music is also slower and more deliberate.

All of these Liturgical nuances invite us to enter into this season of preparation for Easter. However, Lent is not ultimately about focusing inwards on our failures and what we do wrong. In the Synoptic Gospels and the Acts of the Apostles, the Greek word *Metanoia* appears many times. Some English translations refer to *Repentance*, but it is more correctly translated as *Conversion – to turn around*.

The Collects (Opening Prayers) during Lent tell us of a God who does not want us to be burdened, bound and held captive by sin. *‘..... look graciously on this confession of our lowliness, that we, who are bowed down by our conscience, may always be lifted up by your mercy.’* (Collect for the 3rd Sunday of Lent).

We do not turn ourselves around! Lent is about fixing our gaze and inviting God to turn us around, to renew us, move us and shake us out of our complacency, negativity and self-loathing to be lifted up in Mercy. The very desire to do small acts of fasting, prayer and almsgiving means that God's abundant and extravagant Grace is already being poured out.

Lent

The name 'Lent' comes from an old English word meaning 'to lengthen'. It was used to describe the six-week period leading to Easter, because in the northern hemisphere it coincided with the time when the short winter days were gradually growing longer. Lent began as a brief period of preparation for those adults who were to be baptised at Easter. Eventually, the rest of the Community also observed an intense period of prayer and fasting before Easter. When adult baptism became the exception rather than the norm, Lent changed from focusing on preparation for baptism or renewing one's baptismal promises to being an intensely penitential period. The Second Vatican Council restored the balance by describing Lent as being marked by two themes, the baptismal and penitential.

As we pray for those who are in the final stages of preparation and are looking forward to being baptised and welcomed into the Church at Easter, we also look to a deeper conversion of heart for ourselves during the weeks of Lent.

WHERE FAITH AND LIFE MEET

We welcome into God's Family, the Church,
Zyleigh Adame, Evelina Judge-Petrut and Summer Stevens
who will be baptised this weekend in our parish.

We pray for all those who have died, may their souls 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.

And It All Begins on Wednesday!

This Season of Lent is a time of fasting, almsgiving and consciously making room for God in our busy lives. Whatever image comes to your mind, with the distribution of ashes this Wednesday, we begin another Lenten journey together. Once again, there are many opportunities to grasp hold of during these coming 40 days.

FASTING & ABSTINENCE: **Ash Wednesday** is one of two days of fasting and abstinence set down by the Church, the other being **Good Friday**. In current Catholic practice, fasting means having only one full meal a day. At **two other meals, smaller quantities** of food may be eaten, but no food should be consumed at any other time during the day. The law of fasting applies to those who are **18 to 59 years old**. Abstinence is the practice of abstaining from the use of certain kinds of food. Everyone aged 14 years and older is required to **abstain from eating meat on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday**. The spirit of the law may invite us to extend the fast to things other than food – doom-scrolling social media, surfing the net, gambling or gossiping. The minimum fasting requirements make most sense when they are combined with prayer and almsgiving. The Catholic practice of fasting and almsgiving aims at leading us to interior conversion. We fast in order to share our time and our treasure with an attitude of love towards God and others.

DAILY MASS: Throughout the Lenten Season, we have daily Mass opportunities for you to incorporate into your Lenten routine. Why not join us? Please check the Parish Diary for Mass times.

PARISH MINI MISSION: It is important to make time to reflect on our lives and the direction life is taking us. To help us this year, we welcome once again back to our Parish, Fr Richard Leonard, Jesuit theologian, educator and writer. Fr Richard will lead us on **Monday 9th March, Tuesday 10th March, and Wednesday 11th March** at **Stella Maris Church**. Please mark your diary and let your friends and neighbours know. With the Mini Mission as our Parish focus, **Mass** on those three days will be at 4:30pm, the Mini Mission will follow at 5:00pm. Don't let this opportunity slip by!

LITTLE BLACK BOOKS: Available at each church are the Little Black Books, which contain short and appropriate daily reflections. A tremendous companion throughout the days of Lent! A gold coin donation to cover the cost would be appreciated. The daily reflections start today, so hopefully there are still some Little Black Books around!

DO SOMETHING DIFFERENT: This Lent, why not mark in your diary the World Day of Prayer, which is a worldwide gathering of Christians. The World Day of Prayer is a chance for Christians to gather and celebrate our shared faith while praying for Christian communities beyond our shores. Please accept this invitation to join your fellow Christians on Friday, 6th March at:

9:00am, St Peter's Catholic Church, 28 Elizabeth St, Coolumb Beach

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

In Maroochydore, the World Day of Prayer will be hosted by **Faith Church Sunshine Coast**, at the Millwell Road Community Centre and all Stella Maris parishioners are warmly invited.

RECONCILIATION: Forgiveness should be part of everyone's Lenten journey. It is never easy! Reconciliation is offered every Saturday at Stella Maris Church from 8:30am to 9:30am. Our **Communal Rite of Reconciliation** is celebrated 5:00pm, Monday 30th March (Holy Week) at Stella Maris Church.

PROJECT COMPASSION: A practical and life giving aspect of Lent has always been our sacrifices and the ability to financially support, through the Project Compassion Appeal, those who have come off second best. Indeed, Project Compassion is something in which all individuals and families can be involved. Envelopes are available at the entrance to the church.

LENTEN PROGRAM: This year, the Lenten Program is entitled, "**The Journey Home**", reflections by Archbishop Emeritus Mark Coleridge. Our St Catherine's community is coordinating our Lenten Programme this year. All those who have been part of the program during previous Lents have found it a valuable part of their journey – if you are interested in joining a group, please contact the Parish Office before Ash Wednesday or call Helen direct 0403 617 512 .

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: Each week during Lent, you are offered an opportunity to walk the Way of the Cross – *the Via Crucis* – a timely way to contemplate the final journey of Jesus. Please join us on Fridays during Lent, 8:30am (just before 9:00am Mass) at Stella Maris, Maroochydore, or 6:00pm at St Catherine's, Sippy Downs for this time of prayer.

Our journey together begins!

Three weeks ago we asked you to volunteer and be part of the rostered ministries of our Parish, *last week* we held a short training session for all ministers and *this week* across all our Masses we commission our liturgical ministers thanking them for their witness and visible service to our community. A grateful Parish says *thank you*.

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.



JUNIOR MINISTERS IN ACTION

Our Junior Ministers Youth Group meet 3:00pm every Sunday in the Bliss Room. The Junior Ministry is open to all younger members of the parish from Years 3 to 6 who are eager to actively participate in serving our community. Opportunities include training to become an altar server, welcomer, reader, computer operator, collector, or part of the music ministry. As it happens, this Sunday evening our Junior Ministers will be coordinating the Mass! While our primary focus is on serving others, we also ensure there's plenty of fun to be had with friends! We will meet 3:00pm every Sunday during the school term for training, pizza, fun games, and activities. If this sounds like something you'd love to be a part of, don't wait! Register now by visiting the Stella Maris Parish website. For more information, or if you are an adult interested in participating in this ministry, please contact Bernie Baillie at bbaillie811@gmail.com. We can't wait to see you there!

10:10 – OUR HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

Calling all young people, Years 7-12! Join us each Sunday afternoon for **10:10**, our parish youth group here on the Sunshine Coast! 📅 **Date:** Every Sunday, 🕒 **Time:** 3:00pm 📍 **Location:** Stella Maris Church
Come along for an afternoon of fun, faith, and friendship as we kick off this exciting new journey together! Meet the amazing NET team, enjoy delicious slushies, and take part in awesome games! Inspired by John 10:10, "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full", our youth group is a place to grow, explore, and live life to the fullest. Bring your friends and be part of something awesome. See you there!
For more information, please contact maroochydore@netministries.com.au or see Fr Isaac.

FOOTY TIPPING COMP

PROCEEDS SUPPORT TAKING OUR 10:10
YOUTH GROUP TO IGNITE CONFERENCE.
SPECIAL PRIZE FOR FIRST PLACE!

10:10
THROUGHFOUR

FR JOE'S SIGNED UP,
HAVE YOU?!

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 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