

Our readings for this 5th Weekend of Lent comes to a climax with the account of Jesus' raising of his friend Lazarus from the dead. This is the moment, the miracle, the final sign that Jesus would work. This miracle is the last straw, as far as the authorities are concerned, and leads immediately into the plot to arrest him and bring about his death. So for Jesus, the cross will no longer simply be a shadow lurking in the background. The planks are now being cut, the nails sharpened, and the hill made clear.

The Fifth Sunday of our Lenten Journey

Weekend of the 21st & 22nd March 2026 Year A

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

Telephone:
5443 3488

Parish Email:
suncoast@bne.catholic.net.au

Parish Website:
maroochydoreparish.com.au

Planned Giving Enquiries

finance.suncoast@bne.catholic.net.au

Social Media Enquiries

Georgia Whiteley
media.suncoast@bne.catholic.net.au

Sacramental Coordinator

Carrolyn Watt
sacraments.suncoast@bne.catholic.net.au

Parish Clergy

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

Don't forget that we live stream our 9:00am and 5:00pm Mass each Sunday – simply visit our parish web page and click on the **Live Mass link, or visit our YouTube Channel.**

RECONCILIATION

We are getting to the business end of our Lenten journey leading us to Easter. One of the key elements of our journey together during this holy season of Lent is reconciliation. On the Sunshine Coast, we have two opportunities to celebrate a Communal Rite of Reconciliation leading up to Easter. At 9:00am, next Saturday, 28th March at Our Lady of the Rosary Caloundra and at 5:00pm, the following Monday of Holy Week, 30th March at Stella Maris.

Please note that because your priests will be at Caloundra, there will be no individual reconciliation at Maroochydore on next Saturday 28th March.

INVITATION

Blessing of the Food for Easter (**Święconka**) is one of the most enduring Polish traditions. Baskets containing a sampling of Easter food: cold meat, boiled eggs, different kinds of bread/cake and other types of food to be enjoyed on Easter. Families prepare baskets with their chosen foods, often including items they have given up for Lent, and decorate them. They then bring the baskets to church for a blessing service, often with children proudly carrying them. The blessing of Easter food is a way to give thanks for the gift of life and to celebrate the resurrection of Christ. It is a time for families to come together and share in a meaningful tradition. While this is a very Polish/European tradition, it is also one we can all share in. Parishioners and parish families are welcome to bring their own basket of food.

Our Sunshine Coast Parish invites you and your family to bring your unique family baskets to Stella Maris, 10:30am, Holy Saturday, 4th April, for the blessing.

DON'T PROCRASTINATE

Registration for Confirmation 2026 is now open

Registrations are now open for Confirmation. If you have a baptised child in Year 3 or older, please enrol online via our website. Parent information night will be held 5:00pm, at Stella Maris Church, Maroochydore, Wednesday 22nd April. For further information and to register your child please visit: maroochydoreparish.com.au

WE NEED YOU !

This weekend at the entrance of your church, you will discover sign-up sheets for the ceremonies over Holy Week and Easter. While an incredible amount of work on behalf of the musicians and liturgy committee goes into the preparation of the ceremonies, the other half of the equation always depends upon the willingness and generosity of fellow parishioners. Please take a moment and if you see a vacancy that you can fill, don't hesitate to sign-up! *Thank you.*

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, 23rd March

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

Tuesday, 24th March

- ◆ **Communion Service** (9:00am, Stella Maris Primary School Chapel)
- ◆ Craft (1:00pm, St Peter's Church)

Wednesday, 25th March *The Annunciation*

- ◆ **Mass** (7:00am, St Mary's Church)
- ◆ **NO Mass** (9:00am, St Catherine's Church)
- ◆ Pray & Play (9:30am, The Annex)
- ◆ Scripture Study Group (9:30am, Zoom)
- ◆ Latin Prayer Group (6:00pm, Stella Maris)
- ◆ Lenten Prayer Group (6:00pm, St Catherine's Church)

Thursday, 26th March

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

Friday, 27th March

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

Saturday, 28th March

- ◆ **Easter Communal Rite of Reconciliation** (9:00am Our Lady of the Rosary, Caloundra)
- ◆ Shine Jesus Catholic Charismatic Prayer Group (11:00am, Sippy Downs)

- ◆ **Vigil Mass** (4:30pm, St Peter's Church)

- ◆ **Vigil Mass** (6:00pm, Stella Maris Church)

Sunday, 29th March

Palm Sunday

- ◆ **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, Stella Maris)
- ◆ 10:10 Youth (3,00pm, The Annex)
- ◆ **Mass** (5:00pm, Stella Maris Church) (Children's Church)
- ◆ Young Adults Formation (6:00pm, The Annex)

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.

SAFEGUARDING TRAINING

If you're a volunteer in a ministry that requires a Blue Card or Police Check, thank you for all you do! To keep up with the recent changes in Safeguarding Legislation, it is a mandatory requirement for Blue Card and Police Check holders to renew their training every two years. For anyone who isn't able to complete the preferred online training through Arch-learn, the Maroochydore Parish Safeguarding Team is offering face-to-face training, **9:45am, this Friday, 27th March at Stella Maris Church (right after the 9:00am Mass)**. This will take place in the Annex (by Priests' residence) with a duration of approximately one hour.

To register, email, lsr.suncoast@bne.catholic.net.au.

Next weekend, we bless and distribute palms for Passion Sunday. In preparation, 9:30am, **next Saturday** in the Bliss Room, we will be folding palms into crosses for our community. We will start off with a short tutorial on how to make the crosses and then a production line will create them to be blessed at Mass. Would you like to help? We would love you to join us next Saturday morning.



The **craft group's** next get together will be at 9:45am, **Friday 27th March** in the Bliss Room (after the 9:00am Mass). We will be celebrating our 3rd birthday, come and see what we do!

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

at a glance.

Communal Rite of Reconciliation

Next Saturday Morning 28th March

Our Lady of the Rosary, Caloundra – 9:00am

(Please note that there is no confessions at Stella Maris on this day)

Monday evening, 30th March

Stella Maris, Maroochydore – 5:00pm

Holy Thursday – 2nd April.

Mass of the Lord's Supper, Stella Maris - 6:00pm

Good Friday – 3rd April.

Stations of the Cross:

Maroochydore	10:00am
Coolum Beach	10:00am
Sippy Downs	10:00am

Veneration of the Cross:

Maroochydore	3:00pm
Coolum Beach	3:00pm
Buderim	3:00pm

Easter Vigil – 4th April.

Maroochydore 6:00pm Coolum Beach 6:00pm

Normal Sunday Mass times for Easter Sunday

ON THE JOURNEY — WHERE LIFE MEETS FAITH

We welcome into God's Family, the Church,
Millie Green, Airlie Milne, Hart Strout and Holiday Strout
who will be baptised this weekend in our parish.

We pray for all those who have died, especially this week we remember **Patrick Hennessy**.
May his 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.

ONE CATHOLIC CHURCH, MANY TRADITIONS:

Discovering the Eastern Catholic Rites

When most people think of the Catholic Church, they naturally picture the familiar Roman (or Latin) tradition — the Mass, the parish priest, and customs we know well. What many Catholics are surprised to learn is that the Catholic Church is far richer and more diverse than we often realise. In fact, the Catholic Church is a communion of 24 Churches, all united under the Pope, the Bishop of Rome. While the Latin Church is the largest and most familiar, there are also 23 Eastern Catholic Churches, each with their own ancient traditions, forms of worship, and spiritual heritage.

United with the Pope, Diverse in Expression

The Eastern Catholic Churches are fully Catholic. They share the same faith, the same sacraments, and full communion with the Pope. What makes them different is not what they believe, but how they live and celebrate that belief.

These Churches trace their roots back to the earliest centuries of Christianity, developing in regions such as the Middle East, Eastern Europe, and India. Over time, distinct traditions of prayer, theology, music, and church life emerged. While historical divisions separated some Eastern Christian communities from Rome, many later restored full communion with the Pope, choosing unity without giving up their unique identity.

The result is a Church that is truly universal, one faith expressed through many cultures. These include:

- **The Syro-Malabar Catholic Church**, centred in India and tracing its origins to St Thomas the Apostle. It follows the East Syriac tradition and is one of the largest Eastern Catholic Churches in the world.
- **The Maronite Catholic Church** follows the Antiochene (West Syriac) rite and has its spiritual roots in St Maron, a monk and hermit of the 4th and 5th centuries. The Maronite Church is closely associated with Lebanon. Deacon Michael Khoury, who generously helps out around our parish, is a member of the Maronite Catholic Church.
- **The Melkite Greek Catholic Church**, which follows the Byzantine tradition and is found mainly in the Middle East.
- **The Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church**, also Byzantine in tradition, with strong roots in Eastern Europe.
- **The Chaldean Catholic Church**, originating in Mesopotamia and using an ancient form of Syriac in its liturgy.

Each of these Churches is fully Catholic, fully united with the Pope, and contributes its own spiritual riches to the life of the universal Church.

Another difference that often surprises Catholics is the practice surrounding the priesthood. In many Eastern Catholic Churches, married men may be ordained as priests. This does not mean priests can marry after ordination. Rather, a man must be married before he is ordained. Once ordained, a priest cannot marry and Bishops are always chosen from among celibate clergy, usually monks. This reflects an ancient Christian practice preserved in the East. The Church teaches that priestly celibacy is a discipline, not a doctrine, allowing legitimate diversity between Eastern and Western traditions.

A Living Sign of Unity

The Eastern Catholic Churches remind us that the Church has never been meant to look or sound the same everywhere. From the earliest days, Christianity took root in different cultures, languages, and communities, all united by the same Gospel. As Pope St John Paul II beautifully expressed, the Church must *“breathe with two lungs — East and West.”* Together, these traditions enrich the whole Church, deepening our understanding of prayer, sacrament, and the mystery of Christ.

OLDER BAPTISM PREPARATION SESSION

We warmly welcome parents and children aged 7-15 years to attend our upcoming baptism preparation. This session will be held at **10:30am this Sunday, 22nd March** at **Stella Maris Church, Maroochydore**. Registration forms can be completed before the session by visiting our website: maroochydoreparish.com.au



On Good Friday morning, why not join some of your fellow parishioners as they once again walk together their **Good Friday pilgrimage**? Beginning 3:30am at St Peter's Church, Coolum, this is a chance to walk together embracing the spirit of faith, reflection and community. The route and approximate times: 3:30am St Peter's Church, Coolum 3:30am; 4:30am Coolum Beach; 5:30am Point Arkwright Lookout; 5:30am Marcoola Beach; 7:30am Mudjimba Beach; 8:30am Stella Maris. For further information please visit: maroochydoreparish.com.au.

NEW TO THE NEIGHBOURHOOD ?

We live in such a mobile society. Apparently, data from the census revealed that Queenslanders had one of the highest rates of residents, who have changed addresses in the previous five years. Also, the Australian Bureau of Statistics mentioned that Queensland was the most popular destination for Australians to move to from other states.

So, sitting beside or in front of you might be someone new to our parish family – make sure that you make them feel welcome! If you are new to the parish, please pick up a welcome pack at the entrance of the church so that we can formally introduce you to your new community. *On Thursday, 23rd April, we are hosting a “New Parishioners Cocktail Party”,* which is really just a fancy name for a gathering at the presbytery to welcome you.

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



Exciting things are happening at Siena as our Prep students dive wholeheartedly into the Religious Life of the School! With wonder and boundless enthusiasm, our youngest learners have been joining in Masses, liturgies and assemblies, truly becoming part of our vibrant Catholic community. In the classroom, Prep students are discovering how prayer guides us to follow Jesus' teachings and live out God's plan. They're praying together, singing religious songs, and this week, exploring the beauty and peace of our school Labyrinth. Through these rich experiences, our Preps are learning that prayer can take many forms: spoken words, song, gentle actions, quiet reflection, artwork, symbols, and the wonders of nature. With respectful hearts, they're engaging in all sorts of prayer practices—from making the Sign of the Cross and saying "Amen", to meditative moments of silence, stillness, and candle lighting. What an inspiring start to their faith journey!



Stella Maris Primary School

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



Last Friday, our school community took part in the Project Compassion Walk for Water, joining thousands of students across Australia in standing in solidarity with people who walk long distances each day just to collect clean water.

Students walked laps around the oval, learning in a hands-on way how important water is and how challenging it can be for many families around the world to access it. The spirit on the afternoon was wonderful, full of enthusiasm, teamwork, and a genuine desire to help others.

The funds raised will support **Caritas Australia** as they work with communities to improve access to safe water and create healthier, more sustainable futures. We are thrilled with how much we have raised as a school community, but more importantly are proud of the way in which students



Siena Catholic College

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



Project Compassion continues to grow at Siena Catholic College, with our community once again demonstrating incredible generosity. On Tuesday, Ozanam House led a highly successful Oz Ice Cream fundraiser, with all proceeds supporting Caritas Australia and the important work they do with vulnerable communities.

On Thursday, our College paused to acknowledge Close the Gap. Students engaged in meaningful House Group discussions focused on respect for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and the importance of building a more inclusive and just community.

Harmony Week was also celebrated across the College, embracing the theme "Everyone Belongs," as students shared and honoured the rich diversity of cultures that make up our Siena community.

We were blessed to gather with our Year 8 students for Mass at St Catherine's Church, on Wednesday continuing to strengthen their connection with our parish and deepen their faith as a community.



TigerRag and **Hurboo** are setting the pace and are top of the leader board in our parish tipping completion – but it is still early days and with so many upsets, *how long will they retain their top position?*

DON'T BE SHY – LET'S BE FRIENDS!

It has never been so easy to get in touch and keep up to date with the many ministries and activities of our Sunshine Coast Parish. Why not start by visiting our Parish Facebook page? You will receive updates on what's happening within the parish, religious articles and content of interest. It is also a way we contact you with urgent news. **Like** our Facebook page, and you will be kept notified of new posts and help to promote the parish page to more viewers. Our parish Instagram page also offers a wealth of information, while our E-Newsletter delivers our weekly Parish newsletter straight to your inbox!

