



Stella Maris Catholic Parish

The Fourth Sunday of Easter

Weekend of April, 25 & 26, 2026 Year A

First Reading: Acts 2:14, 36-41 Second Reading: 1 Peter 2:20-25 Gospel: John 10:1-10

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 Parish Office

Adjacent to the Stella Maris Church,
Maroochydore

Office Hours:

9:00am—2:00pm Weekdays

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Parish Website:

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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

We are taking a bus to join in the ordination ceremony of Deacon Michael Khoury at St Maroun's Maronite Church, Greenslopes, on Saturday, May 9.

The bus will depart 7:45am from Stella Maris and 8:00am sharp from St Catherine's.

The subsidised cost is \$20 per seat and to reserve your place please telephone the Parish Office this week.

WHERE ARE MY SHEEP ???

Chances are, each time we hear the story of the Good Shepherd, as we will this weekend, we develop images of Jesus in long flowing robes, carrying a staff and walking behind a flock of clean, fluffy, well behaved, sheep. We have seen it on countless holy cards and pictures.

Forget those nice clean images – the truth of the matter is that in Jesus' time, shepherding was a rugged way of life requiring constant care and watchfulness. Shepherds were the lowest of the low – not trusted by villagers, isolated and literally living with their sheep. You could smell a shepherd before you could smell the sheep he was caring for.

Yet for some reason, Jesus used the image of the shepherd, but not just a shepherd, he makes sure we know the difference between a shepherd and a good shepherd. There is a difference between a good shepherd and a hireling, who was more interested in his pay than in the welfare of the flock.

Makes no difference – none of us are shepherds – and the closest thing most of us get to sheep is some lamb chops on the dinner table! What we need to do is to look for a comparison, one which is more familiar to us. While we are not likely to be greeted by a flock of sheep, when we come home and open the door, many of us have been greeted by**A DOG !!!**

Anyone who has shared a home with a dog for a long time will see the parallel immediately. For in that case, YOU are the good shepherd, the one who cares for another totally. Just as we are completely dependent upon God for everything, so too, your dog is totally dependent upon you. A relationship develops that is truly unique. The bond is impossible to describe, but also impossible to deny. In fact, if you want your ego deflated and you want to discover just how important you really are, try calling someone else's dog.

Magnify that many times over and listen carefully to the words of today's gospel, which emphasises the voice of the shepherd and how the sheep recognises and responds to the shepherd's voice.

I would like you to add another element to this equation – develop the image – for the picture of the good shepherd seems to me a little one sided. The good shepherd is doing all the giving, all the caring, all the protecting, the sheep just receive.

Look again at the relationship between you and your faithful dog. If you have not experienced this personally, I am sure that you have heard of many stories of mutual affection. Your dog gives you total, unconditional love, loyalty that cannot be broken, and unequalled devotion. You are the centre of your dogs universe, everything revolves around you, you can do no wrong. Your dog's will is perfectly conformed to yours.

Now is that not the relationship we strive for with God? We have received everything from God; should we not give all in return. Our love, too, must be total and unconditional, our loyalty without compromise, our every thought word and deed in accord with the will of God. If you want to move this theory to reality, think about how it applies practically to the many relationships and encounters this coming week that will define who you are and who you are becoming!

Fr Peter Brannelly

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, April 27

- Adoration (4:30pm, Stella Maris)
- Benediction (5:15pm, Stella Maris)
- **Mass** (5:30pm, Stella Maris)

Tuesday, April 28 *St Peter Chanel*

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

Wednesday, April 29 *St Catherine of Siena*

- **Mass** (7:00am, St Mary's)
- **Mass** (9:00am, St Catherine's)
- Pray & Play (9:30am)
- Scripture Study Group (9:30am, Zoom)
- Confirmation Preparation - Week 1 (5:00pm, Stella Maris)
- Latin Prayer Group (6:00pm, Stella Maris)

Thursday, April 30

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

Friday, May 1

- **Mass & Anointing** (9:00am, Stella Maris)
- Community Meal for Homeless (6:00pm, Stella Maris)

Saturday, May 2 *St Athanasius*

- **First Saturday Mass** (8:00am, Stella Maris)
- Reconciliation (8:30am—9:30am, Stella Maris)
- Jesus Shine Prayer Group (11:00am, St Catherine's)
- Rosary Making Workshop (1:00pm, Stella Maris)
- **Vigil Mass** (4:30pm, St Peter's)
- **Vigil Mass** (6:00pm, Stella Maris)

Sunday, May 3 *Hospitality Sunday*

Fifth Sunday of Easter

- **Mass** (6:30am, Stella Maris)
- **Mass** (7:30am, St Peter's)
- **Mass** (8:00am, St Catherine's) (*Children's Church*)
- **Mass** (9:00am, Stella Maris) (*Children's Church*)
- **Mass** (9:30am, St Mary's)
- Junior Ministers (3:00pm, Stella Maris)
- 10:10 Youth (3:00pm, The Annex)
- **Mass** (5:00pm, Stella Maris) (*Children's Church*)
- Veritas gathering after the 5:00pm Mass

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.

Thank You

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

One of the most important tasks we have as a Catholic Community is handing on the faith to the next generation of believers! As we have been privileged to receive the faith, it is our responsibility to hand it on. Here in our Sunshine Coast Parish, we take this responsibility seriously! From RCIA and older children baptism preparation to our extensive sacramental program, everyone can play a part in handing on the faith. Last Wednesday at Stella Maris, Jesuit priest and theologian Fr Richard Leonard launched our Confirmation Program with the Parent Information gathering. *"If you are going to get your child confirmed in the Catholic Church, it is important to know what the Catholic believes and does"*, Fr Richard challenged the parents. The main content of Fr Richard's presentation was looking at the positive contribution the Catholic Church contributes to Australian society – it is the good news we rarely tell anyone!

ENROLMENT MASSES

At this weekend's Masses, we especially welcome and acknowledge our confirmation candidates and their families. This year 89 candidates will be meeting over the next five weeks, preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on Thursday, May 28. We keep the candidates and their families in our prayers during this journey.

FIRST FRIDAY

On the first Friday of every month, we have an Anointing Mass at Stella Maris. Everyone is invited to our 9:00am Stella Maris Mass this Friday, followed by morning tea. It would be great if you could bring a plate to share and why not check on a neighbour or friend to see if they need transport to Mass.

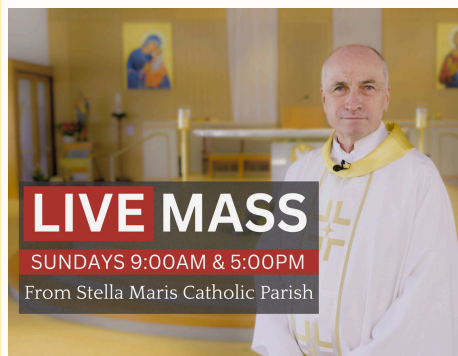
CHILDREN'S CHURCH

With school well and truly back in action for another term, our parish life returns to a familiar routine. This is especially true of our Children's Church ministry. We have children's church at our 8:00am Sippy Downs Mass, our 9:00am and 5:00pm Maroochydore Masses, and also at the 9:30am Buderim Mass. All primary-aged children are invited to go 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. If you would like to be part of this important ministry, simply complete the ministry sign up form and return it. Thank you to all who make this ministry possible.

SEEKING

Our parish office is seeking to employ a qualified bookkeeper part time to assist with the financial recording and management of the parish. For further details and a job description, please contact Bev Nunan at finance.suncoast@bne.catholic.net.au

Don't forget on the first weekend of every month we want your bottles and cans - there will be a trailer at the bottom car park to accept your donation - all proceeds goes to support our youth programme. Thank you



Subscribe to our Parish YouTube Channel: [@stellamariscatholicparish](https://www.youtube.com/@stellamariscatholicparish) to watch our Live Mass streams each Sunday. Or visit our webpage and click on the 'LIVE MASS' link.

MEN OF STELLA MARIS PARISH

You are invited to join us for our regular Men's Breakfast at 7:45am sharp, Saturday, May 9 in the Bliss Room. Our speaker for the morning will be our own Fr Isaac, who will share his faith journey and how God has changed his life. Please note the earlier start to allow Fr Isaac time after his sharing to be in the Church by 8:30am for confessions.

If you have never been to a Men's Breakfast, they provide opportunities for sharing our personal faith experiences and hearing what God is doing in the lives of men in our parish, as well as encouraging each other in our spiritual walk. A light breakfast consisting of cereal, muesli, fruit, yoghurt, toast and spreads is included. Juice, tea and coffee are also provided. To help cover costs, a donation of \$5.00 cash (payable at the door) would be appreciated. Perhaps you could invite a neighbour or another parishioner.

NOTE: Disposable bowls, plates, cutlery and cups are provided, however you are welcome to bring your own. For catering purposes or for further information, please RSVP Rob Hoy on 0401 498 059 by 12:00pm, Friday, May 8.

One of the highlights of our Easter celebrations were the baptisms and the entering into full communion of 16 adults at the Vigil Mass. It was a powerful statement of faith by our new members! For each one of them, for each one of us, the journey of faith is different and normally there are many twists and turns along the journey. For those exploring our Catholic faith and trying to fathom your own journey, perhaps this might be part of your adventure:

INTRODUCING THE VERITAS MINISTRY

If you are exploring the Catholic faith, asking serious questions about Jesus Christ or feeling a growing desire to take the next step in your faith journey, Veritas is here to walk with you. This ministry supports both people discerning RCIA, when faith is growing and conversion is beginning to take shape in real life, as well as our new Catholics (anyone that has come through RCIA in the last couple of years). Any parishioners interested in further faith formation are also welcome to come along. Our hope is to provide a friendly and 'no pressure' space where people with questions can meet.

Veritas will begin immediately after the 5:00pm Mass, **next Sunday, May 3** at Stella Maris and will be held every first and third Sunday of the month throughout the year.

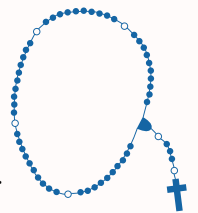
CREATE YOUR OWN ROSARY

In the month of May, devoted to The Most Blessed Virgin Mary, we warmly invite you to join us for a meaningful Rosary Making Workshop.

- All materials provided (beads, crucifix & cord).
- Gentle, step-by-step knotting guidance.
- 2-hour session for all ages.
- Refreshments provided.

Workshop dates: 1:00pm to 3:00pm, Saturday, May 2 and 9:00am to 11:00am, Monday, May 18.

Location: Stella Maris Parish – Bliss Room. Reserve your place, limited spaces available – please book early. For further information and to book, contact Veronica Baatjes 0451 593 397.



YOUNG ADULTS

Last Sunday night, around 30 of our young adults gathered in the Bliss Room for a formation evening. We were blessed to hear from the Director of Vocations Brisbane, who shared his personal journey of discernment and about Vocations. It was a night filled with faith, community and meaningful conversation. Our next Young Adults gathering will be a relaxed social event, 11:00am this Sunday (26th) at Picnic Point. All young adults are warmly invited to come along, connect, and be part of this growing community.



WHAT MAKES COMMUNITY ???

A welcoming community is a hospitable community !!! On the first weekend of every month hospitality is the focus of our Parish Family. Next weekend, being the first weekend of the month, you are invited to bring a plate to share after Mass. At the same time why not invite a friend or neighbour to join you? Hospitality is what makes community.....*a community!!!*

Sunshine Coast Catholic Education

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



Siena Primary students finished Term 1 by completing Laps for Life and Laundry. This event raised funds for Caritas Australia, St Vinnies, Orange Sky Laundry, and the Homeless BBQ. Events like this enable our community to share hope and bring positive change to the lives of the poor and marginalised in our world. Parents joined in the fun and walked with the students, some taking turns in carrying buckets of water. Walking laps raised awareness for our students of how far some children walk each day just to get water to drink. We are grateful for the generous support of our families and community in raising nearly \$5000 to provide essential services and hope to those in need both locally and abroad.

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



As our school community returned for the start of the new term, there was a renewed sense of energy and purpose among students and staff. After a well-earned break, everyone stepped back refreshed, renewed, and ready to embrace the season of Easter, a time of hope, new life, and deep gratitude for the gift of Jesus' resurrection.

To mark this sacred season, the whole school gathered on the first day back for a joyful Resurrection Liturgy. Students prayed together, listened to Scripture, and reflected on the meaning of resurrection in their own lives. The celebration reminded us that Easter is not just a moment in time but a call to live with courage, compassion, and renewed faith.

Later in the week, the community came together once again for a solemn and moving ANZAC Day Liturgy. Students paused to honour the men and women who have served and sacrificed for our nation, reflecting on the values of courage, mateship, and selflessness that continue to shape Australia's identity. We were privileged to welcome Maroochydore RSL President, who spoke to students about the significance of ANZAC Day and why it remains such an important national commemoration. His message encouraged students to understand not only the history of the ANZACs but also the responsibility we carry in keeping their legacy alive through remembrance and gratitude.

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



As we return for Term 2, we do so in the joy and hope of the Easter season, a time that calls us to live with renewed faith, courage and trust in the promise of new life. It is a season that reminds us that even after difficulty and sacrifice, God is always at work bringing renewal, hope and resurrection.

This term offers a valuable opportunity to begin again with intention, deepening our relationships, strengthening our commitment to learning, and continuing to grow as a faith-filled community grounded in the Dominican pillars of Prayer, Study, Community and Service.

Preparations have begun for our ANZAC Day Liturgy, which we will share with our primary school community, as well as for the Buderim ANZAC March. These will be important opportunities for us to come together in remembrance, gratitude and prayer as we honour the service and sacrifice of others.

We also look forward to our College Open Day taking place next Wednesday from 3:45pm, which will be a wonderful opportunity to welcome prospective families into our community and share the spirit and story of Siena.

As Term 2 begins, may the Easter season continue to shape our hearts, drawing us more deeply into lives of hope, compassion and purpose.

MUMS & DADS - GRANDMUMS & GRANDDADS

Now that school is about to resume, 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 enjoy the energy and inquisitiveness of those just starting out on the great adventure of life. Please join us this Wednesday!

JUNIOR MINISTERS

Each Sunday of the school term, around 30 Junior Ministers gather from 3:00pm to 4:30pm to learn and have fun. They receive training so they can serve during Mass (altar servers, reading, managing the PowerPoint, taking up collections and acting as welcomers). This parish ministry not only helps the students develop valuable skills but also enriches our parish community and is specifically designed for children in primary school who have made their Confirmation.

HIGHSCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

Every Sunday afternoon, 3:00pm at Stella Maris, our parish 10:10 High School youth group gathers, and all students are invited. It is an afternoon of fun, faith and friendship, with a bit of food thrown in! Inspired by John 10:10, "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full", why not bring your friends and be part of something awesome? For more info, contact: maroochydore@netministries.com.au