

# Welcome to Palm Sunday

Welcome as together we begin our journey  
to Easter and the Resurrection



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.

## 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, 30<sup>th</sup> March

- ◆ Communal Rite of Reconciliation (5:00pm, Stella Maris Church)

### Tuesday, 31<sup>st</sup> March

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

### Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> April

- ◆ Mass (7:00am, St Mary's Church)
- ◆ Mass (9:00am, St Catherine's Church)
- ◆ Scripture Study Group (9:30am, Zoom)
- ◆ Latin Prayer Group (6:00pm, Stella Maris)

### Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> April

#### *Holy Thursday*

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

### Friday, 3<sup>rd</sup> April

#### *Good Friday*

- ◆ Stations of the Cross (10:00am, Stella Maris)
- ◆ Stations of the Cross (10:00am, St Catherine's)
- ◆ Stations of the Cross (10:00am, St Peter's)
- ◆ Veneration of the Cross (3:00pm, Stella Maris)
- ◆ Veneration of the Cross (3:00pm, St Mary's)
- ◆ Veneration of the Cross (3:00pm, St Peter's)
- ◆ Community Meal for the Homeless, Vulnerable and Disadvantaged (6:00pm, Stella Maris)
- ◆ Young Adults movie night (6:00pm, NET House)

### Saturday, 4<sup>th</sup> April

#### *Holy Saturday*

- ◆ No Reconciliation
- ◆ Blessing of the Easter Baskets (10:30am, Stella Maris)
- ◆ Shine Jesus Catholic Charismatic Prayer Group (11:00am, St Catherine's)
- ◆ Easter Vigil Mass (6:00pm, St Peter's Church)
- ◆ Easter Vigil Mass (6:00pm, Stella Maris)

### Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> April *Easter Sunday*

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

## WHAT IS GOING ON ?

Nothing brings out the crowds more than getting something free and today we all get free palms! We remember Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, which includes the procession of palms. Importantly, this is not intended to be a re-enactment of Christ's entry into Jerusalem.

As Elizabeth Harrington from Liturgy Brisbane reminds us, *our liturgy today does not re-enact past events, but is rather a living encounter with the whole mystery of Jesus' incarnation, ministry, death and resurrection to glory. The proclamation of the story of Christ's triumphant entry into Jerusalem, waving branches and processing together as a pilgrim people are ritual actions, which help us call to mind a key event in our salvation history.*

That is why the readings and prayers set down for Palm Sunday, clearly proclaim that just as there is no cross without the resurrection, there is no resurrection without the cross.

All this sets us up for Holy Week and the Easter Triduum. The term, "Triduum" refers to the period of three days starting on Holy Thursday evening, continuing through Good Friday and Holy Saturday and ending with Mass or evening prayer on Easter Sunday evening. In preparation, we have our **Lenten Communal Rite of Reconciliation** beginning 5:00pm this Monday at Stella Maris. Reconciliation is the perfect way of bringing to completion your preparation for Easter.

Key liturgical celebrations of the Triduum are the **Mass of the Lord's Supper** (6:00pm this Thursday), the **Passion of the Lord on Good Friday** (3:00pm) and the **Easter Vigil** (6:00pm Saturday).

Busy people may be tempted to attend just one of these, perhaps Holy Thursday or Good Friday because of the moving veneration of the cross, or the Easter Vigil because it's the main celebration of the period. To miss any of the three liturgies of the Easter Triduum is like missing one act of a three-act play. The Triduum is really one three-day-long liturgy. This is illustrated clearly when we consider how the liturgies of this period begin and end.

The Mass on Holy Thursday evening begins in the usual way, but there is no blessing or dismissal at the end. Instead, there is a procession of the Blessed Sacrament to the place of reservation. People depart in silence. The Good Friday liturgy begins with a silent procession, a period of silent prayer and the opening prayer. It finishes with the prayer over the people. Again, there is no final blessing or dismissal and people depart in silence.

At the Easter Vigil, we gather around a fire in silent darkness for the blessing of the fire and the lighting of the paschal candle. The liturgy concludes with the joyful paschal dismissal "Go in peace, Alleluia, Alleluia", as we process out to the sounds of the triumphant Easter hymn.

The three-day liturgy, which began with the entrance and greeting on Holy Thursday evening, has moved us from suffering through death to resurrection. The whole Easter mystery is celebrated from a different point of view on each of the three days.

*So please join as we begin this Holy Week.*

You can return your **Project Compassion** envelopes by simply placing them on the collection plate. We will forward your generosity to Caritas which will enable their vital work to continue.

### Parish Clergy

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



### 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

## CONFIRMATION 2026

Registration for our Confirmation program is now open.

Registrations are now open for our Confirmation program. 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, Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April at Stella Maris Church. For further information and to register your child please visit: [maroochydoreparish.com.au](http://maroochydoreparish.com.au)

## 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. We will together celebrate our Lenten Communal Rite of Reconciliation **this Monday**, 5:00pm at Stella Maris. Please join us and ask your fellow parishioners who might be struggling with transport if they need a lift!

On this Good Friday morning, why not join some of your fellow parishioners as they once again walk together their **pilgrimage**? This is a chance to walk together embracing the spirit of faith, reflection and community. **Route and approximate times:** 3:30am St Peter's Church; 4:30am Coolum Beach; 5:30am Point Arkwright Lookout; 6:30am Marcoola Beach; 7:30am Mudjimba Beach; 8:30am Stella Maris. For further information please visit: [maroochydoreparish.com.au](http://maroochydoreparish.com.au).



## HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

*at a glance.*

### Communal Rite of Reconciliation

This Monday evening, 30<sup>th</sup> March  
Stella Maris, Maroochydore

5:00pm

### Holy Thursday – 2<sup>nd</sup> April.

Mass of the Lord's Supper, Stella Maris

6:00pm

### Good Friday – 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 – 4<sup>th</sup> April.

Maroochydore 6:00pm Coolum Beach 6:00pm

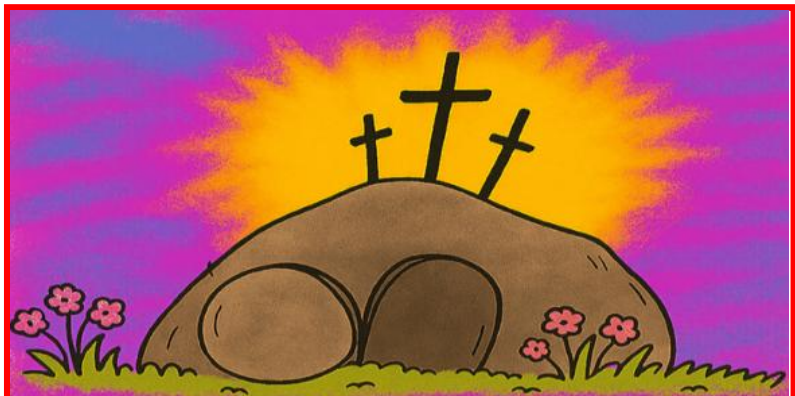
Normal Sunday Mass times for Easter Sunday

## Polskie Świąconka

"Is that Polish for food? No, actually, it is Polish for "Easter basket". "The blessing of the Easter baskets" is one of the most enduring and beloved Polish traditions, dating back to the 7th century. On Holy Saturday morning, people bring to the church decorative and tasteful baskets that contain a sampling of Easter foods that will be shared over the holy season to be blessed. Our Polish community warmly invites you to join them 10:30am next Saturday morning (Holy Saturday) at Stella Maris Church, where Fr Isaac will bless the Easter baskets. Why not bring your own basket of food that you will be sharing over Easter to be blessed? Traditionally, the baskets contain Jajka (eggs), Kielbasa (sausage) and Szynek (ham), but also contain many other goodies. It is good to be grateful for the blessings that are part of our lives at this time of the year.



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.



"Easter Capers" is a Maroochydore Catholic Parish holiday program for the Easter School holidays. It will be an exciting day of fun activities; craft, bible stories, songs, prayer, drama, plays and games, all based around the Church's liturgical season of Easter.

**Date:** Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April from 9:00am -3:00pm. Numbers are limited so registration is essential via this link or QR Code

<https://forms.office.com/r/KSMCi0pPNu?origin=lprLink>



## OUR PILGRIMAGE OF FAITH

We welcome into God's Family, the Church,

**Sienna Stuart, Scarlett Shiels & Sonny Shiels** who will be baptised this weekend.

We pray for all those who have died, especially **Anne Donovan**. May **her** soul and the souls of all our departed priests, religious, family and friends, through the rich mercy of God,

**Rest in Peace.**

# 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 Wednesday we proudly celebrated Harmony Day within our Siena community. It was heart-warming to see the joyful atmosphere this morning as students gathered in a sea of orange and the vibrant colours of their cultural heritage. We were also delighted to welcome many parents who joined their children in this special celebration.

Harmony Day celebrates Australia's rich cultural diversity and is a reminder of the importance of inclusion, respect and appreciation for the stories, traditions and cultures of all people who call Australia home. It provides an opportunity for Australians of all ages to stand together against racism, cultural intolerance and hatred, and to affirm the message: Everyone is welcome. Everyone belongs.

Thank you to all of our families who shared photos of their families coming together in unity—it was wonderful to see our Siena values reflected so strongly across our community.



## Stella Maris Primary School

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



This week, Stella Maris School is welcoming families in for our Term One Parent Teacher Interviews. These conversations are designed to give parents clear insight into the teaching and learning taking place this term, as well as each child's progress, strengths, and areas for growth.

At the heart of these interviews is a belief deeply rooted in our Catholic tradition: parents are the primary educators of their children. Long before a child enters a classroom, it is within the family that they first learn love, faith, values, and the habits that shape their character. Our school's mission is to walk alongside families, supporting and enriching the formation that begins at home.

The teaching staff at Stella Maris hold this partnership with parents in high regard. They recognise that genuine collaboration built on trust, communication, and shared purpose creates the strongest foundation for student success. Parent Teacher Interviews are one of the many ways we nurture this connection, ensuring that every child is surrounded by a team committed to their wellbeing and learning.

Adding to the excitement of the week, Stella Maris also celebrated World Maths Day with a range of engaging and hands on mathematical activities. Students across all year levels explored the beauty, creativity, and problem-solving power of mathematics through games, challenges, and collaborative tasks. A highlight of the day was a special visit from our very own **Mathemagician - our Principal Mr Ballam!**

## Siena Catholic College

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



On Wednesday, we gathered our Year 7 and Year 12 students for a special Buddy Liturgy, celebrating the beginning of a meaningful journey of connection, mentorship, and shared faith.

Throughout the term, our Year 12 students have walked alongside our newest members of the Siena community, offering guidance, encouragement, and a sense of belonging. This liturgy provided a moment to pause and recognise the importance of these relationships.

Together, we reflected on what it means to grow, not only in knowledge, but in character, faith, and community. Students were reminded that growth is not something we do alone, but something we nurture in one another.

The liturgy was followed by the planting of a pandanus palm, a living symbol of this journey. Just as the plant will take time, care, and support to flourish, so too will the relationships formed between our Year 7 and Year 12 students. It stands as a visible reminder that when we are rooted in faith and connected in community, we are able to grow and thrive.

We are grateful for the leadership of our Year 12 students and the openness of our Year 7 students as they embrace all that lies ahead.

On Good Friday at the conclusion of the 3:00pm Veneration of the Cross ceremony, every Catholic Church has a **leaving collection** in support of the **Holy Places in the Holy Land**. With the current conflict unfolding before our eyes, once again, this is our chance to support our Catholic brothers and sisters in the Middle East as they face these uncertain times.

## BOTTLES AND CANS

Last month we launched our recycling program and everyone was encouraged to save their bottles and cans and return them to Stella Maris on the first weekend of the month. Since next weekend is the first weekend of the month and also the Easter long weekend, would you please delay bringing your bottles and cans for a week and bring them on the following weekend (11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> April). **Thank you**. The proceeds from our recycling support our youth programme.

## 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, 23<sup>rd</sup> 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.