

The resurrection of Jesus is more than an event. **It is a wonder !** It is difficult to comprehend it at first. It takes a community – people talking together, questioning, reassuring: *Did you see what I saw? Is it really true? Am I seeing things? What has happened? What does this mean? Is this my destiny?* It is more than one person can handle alone! We join two of Jesus's disciples today on their journey to Emmaus. They were blind to the identity of the risen Lord as he walked with them and only recognise him in the breaking of the bread. They rush back to Jerusalem that night, to the community of the Eleven and others, to share what had happened to them and to learn what happened to the others. Actually, when you think about it, as a community we do the same, so let us gather and together celebrate,

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Embracing the faith communities of **St Mary's Buderim, St Peter's Coolom, 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 JOURNEY TO PRIESTHOOD

We are all on a journey of faith, and God continually surprises us just when we think we have everything worked out! Deacon Michael Khoury and his family are well known in our parish community. His journey of faith and service has once again reminded us that God never ceases to surprise us

Michael Khoury was born and raised in South Africa, where his Lebanese family heritage and Maronite Catholic roots shaped his early faith life. Baptised in the Maronite Church, he grew up attending Maronite liturgies regularly, while also becoming deeply involved in his local Latin Rite parish. There, he joined the youth group, attended weekday Mass, and nurtured a growing love for the Church.



After finishing high school, Michael began discerning a vocation to the priesthood. However, God's plan soon unfolded differently—he met his future wife and together they embraced the vocation of marriage. Over the years, they raised five children and remained active members of both their Maronite parish and their children's Latin Rite school community. Michael generously shared his gifts by teaching catechism, leading the parish choir and participating in various ministries.

In 2013, following a renewed period of discernment and study, Michael was ordained a deacon in South Africa. That same year, he and his family moved to Australia, where they became part of the Stella Maris Parish while also remaining connected to the Maronite community. Michael now serves primarily at St Maroun's Church in Greenslopes, Brisbane. After receiving bi-ritual faculties, he has also faithfully assisted in the Stella Maris Parish for several years. Many of our young parishioners were baptised by him and he continues to support our priests at Masses and liturgies.

Last year, the Maronite Bishop in Sydney invited Michael to undertake further study and formation with the goal of ordination to the priesthood. In the Maronite Rite, married men may be ordained priests, though they cannot marry once ordained. With humility and trust, Michael has accepted this call and begun his formation.

Deacon Michael will be ordained a priest in the Maronite rite at 10:30am, Saturday, 9th May at St Maroun's Maronite Church, 29 Bunya Street, Greenslopes. During these final weeks of preparation, we keep Deacon Michael, his wife Gabby and family in our prayers. An ordination is the church celebrating at its best! **We will be taking a bus down to Brisbane and if you would like to reserve a seat, (\$20 per seat) please call the Parish Office this week (5443 3488).**

Next Saturday, 25th April, is **ANZAC Day**, our national day of commemoration. It will mark the 111th anniversary of the Gallipoli landings and commemorate all Australians who have served in times of peace and war. Next Saturday at 8:00am at Stella Maris, we will celebrate Mass to remember those who have served and those who continue to serve in our armed forces. Especially next Saturday, *lest we forget*.

OUR PILGRIMAGE OF FAITH

We welcome into God's Family, the Church, **Sebastian Davidson, Cali Duck, Cash Duck, Audrey Festa, Archer Goodin, Hunter Goodin, Josiah Isunju, Luke Knowles & Henry Potter**, who will be baptised this weekend.

We remember **Bronwyn Rynne & Kevin Mitchell** who died this past week. May their souls, and the souls of all our departed priests, religious, family and friends, through the rich mercy of God, **Rest in Peace.**

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, 20th April

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

Tuesday, 21st April

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

Wednesday, 22nd April

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

Thursday, 23rd April

- ◆ **Mass** (8:30am, St Peter's)
- ◆ New Parishioner's Night (6:00pm, Stella Maris)

Friday, 24th April

- ◆ **Mass** (9:00am, Stella Maris)
- ◆ Craft Group (following 9:00am Mass)
- ◆ Community Meal for the Homeless, Vulnerable and Disadvantaged (6:00pm, Stella Maris)

Saturday, 25th April

- ◆ **ANZAC Day Mass** (8:00am, Stella Maris)
- ◆ Reconciliation (8:30—9:30am, Stella Maris)
- ◆ Shine Jesus Prayer Group (11:00am, St Catherine's)

- ◆ **Vigil Mass** (4:30pm, St Peter's)
- ◆ **Vigil Mass** (6:00pm, Stella Maris)

Sunday, 26th April *Fourth 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*)
- ◆ Young Adults Picnic—after 9:00am Mass
- ◆ **Mass** (9:30am, St Mary's) (*Children's Church*)
- ◆ Junior Ministers (3:00pm, Stella Maris)
- ◆ 10/10 High School Youth Group (3:00pm, Stella Maris)
- ◆ **Polish Mass** (4:00pm, St Mary's)
- ◆ **Mass** (5:00pm, Stella Maris) (*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.



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.**

Parish Clergy

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

BOTTLES AND CANS

Thank you to everyone who saved up your bottles and cans to give them to the trailer at Stella Maris last weekend. We raised \$178, which will go towards subsidising our youth attending the Ignite Youth Conference later in the year. Once again, on the first weekend of next month (2nd/3rd May), we will have the trailer at Stella Maris for you to leave your bottles and cans. To help the organisers it would really make a big difference if you could place your bottles and cans into a sturdy bag that can be tied and will not tear. If you would rather go directly to the Containers for Change depot, you can use our **Scheme ID number C10193859**.

A STICH IN TIME

Twice a month, our energetic and creative Stella Maris Craft Group gathers at 9:45am, just after the 9:00am Stella Maris Friday Mass. They will be meeting this Friday and extend a warm invitation to join them and be part of the creative fun! The St Peter's Coolum Craft Group gathers at 1:00pm, 28th April and likewise extends a warm welcome to new members.

INVITATION

Every week, there are new faces sitting in our pews! So, in-between all those familiar smiling faces you see and acknowledge each week, there is a good chance that *sitting beside or in front of you might be someone new to our parish – 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.

A DEAD CERTAINTY

I am afraid that death is one of the most certain events in our lives and when you think of it, one of the most personal – no one can do it for you! With that in mind, we have created a **"Funeral Pack"** that will help you think about some aspects of your funeral and give your family some guidelines as they gather to prepare to celebrate your life. The end result is that by completing the information, when the time comes, it will give some guidance to those you love the most! The challenge is to sit down and talk about the different options, complete the details and return the envelope to the parish where it will be securely stored. Hopefully, a long, long time from now, the content of your envelope will give some direction and reassurance to your family as they prepare to celebrate your life.

PROJECT COMPASSION

During Lent, many of us supported the annual Project Compassion appeal. 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.

If you have ever been overseas and attended a Mass in a language other than English, you will immediately know how challenging it is to work out what is going on, let alone how to participate! We are conscious of that also being true for visitors and new parishioners whose first language might not be English. To help bridge that gulf, we have created a **Congregational Responses for Mass** card that gives the main dialogue and responses used in our Masses. The cards are available at the entrance to the church.



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

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 Sunday Mass at Stella Maris on 3rd May**, and will be held every first and third Sunday of the month throughout the year.



Hearing is a sense we all rely on in some way, but we cannot assume that everyone hears the same way, or equally as well. For people with hearing loss, the ability to hear speech and important sounds is diminished. At Stella Maris church, we have an Assistive Listening System that transmits audio directly from the source to the listener's ear without amplifying ambient noise. If you would like to access the system or find out more about the system, please contact a Mass coordinator or one of the sacristans.

HANDING ON THE FAITH

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 adult RCIA and older children baptism preparation to our extensive sacramental program, everyone can play a part in handing on the faith. 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, 22nd April** at Stella Maris Church. For further information and to register your child, please visit: maroochydoreparish.com.au



We are off and running eager for another exciting term.....

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 You can't miss the enthusiastic and eager members of our **junior ministers group!** 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. For more information, contact Bernie - bbaillie811@gmail.com

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? See you there! For more info, contact: maroochydore@netministries.com.au

Young Adults—This Sunday Night!: Calling all **Young Adults** (ages 18-30)! Join us at **6:00pm** for our formation session, which will be given by a very special guest speaker: **Nick Kelly** from **Vocation Brisbane**. The session is titled, **Called by Name: The great gift of your Vocation**. This formation night will focus on what it means to live the vocation God has called us to. Join us immediately after the 5:00pm Mass this weekend. For more information, please contact Georgia: media.suncoast@bne.catholic.net.au

Available at the entrance of all four of our churches we have new information envelopes containing details about our **Parish Planned Giving** program and the many ways you can support your parish and our **Endowment Fund**, which will provide your parish family with financial security into the future. For new and returning members of our parish there is a **Welcome Pack**. It contains valuable information about your new community. Please feel free to take an envelope home with you. You will also find at the entrance to the church our **Funeral Preparation Pack** which is free for you to take.

JOIN THE FAMILY ?

Have you gone *online* and become a registered member of your parish? All parishioners are invited to register using **Flocknote**, our new, church designed, Australia-wide data program. There are three ways for you to register.



By simply using your phone and scanning the QR code, it will take you directly to the sign up page. You will receive a confirmation code, which will allow you to securely enter your family details.



When you are sitting in front of your computer, follow this link: maroochydore.flocknote.com/register and it will

also take you to our parish data page.



Feedback tells us that it is an easy process when you are sitting in front of your computer.

If you haven't got a computer or if you have tried and technology has beaten you, then at the entrance to the church, you will discover a hard copy of the registration form – please complete it and return it to the parish so that we can register you.



Finally, if you are having trouble or if you have any suggestions, please send us an email. suncoast@bne.catholic.net.au

Flocknote is a work in progress and every parish is different with unique ministries and needs – only with your feedback and involvement can we continue to refine Flocknote so that it lives up to its full potential as an instrument of the Good News!

Thanks for being a part of your parish family!

FAMILY PRAYER

Individual and family prayer is so important and is something in our increasingly busy lives that can get left in the slipstream! **We are just too busy!** Yet, we all have memories of family prayer. We all remember the importance of consciously gathering as family and friends for prayer. One of the traditional ways of focusing our family prayer is by our pilgrim state of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Travelling throughout our Sunshine Coast Parish will be the pilgrim statue. Families are invited to welcome the pilgrim statue into their homes for a week and allow the presence of the statue to be the centre of family prayer. Perhaps, you can invite your Catholic neighbours and friends to join you one night, and together pray the rosary or prayer ritual? Veronica Baatjes is the contact and if you would like to host the pilgrim statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary, simply email Veronica C/- the parish office suncoast@bne.catholic.net.au Please put "pilgrim statue" in the subject line. There are brochures at the entrance to all our churches.



WHAT'S FOR DINNER ?

Every year, the Archbishop hosts a dinner at *Wynberg*, his residence in Brisbane, for those who are discerning a vocation to the priesthood or religious life. This year, Archbishop Shane will host a dinner for women on 30th April and for men on 11th June. If you would like to receive an invitation to join Archbishop Shane, please email the Parish Office, suncoast@bne.catholic.net.au

Only your financial commitment makes all our parish ministries and outreach possible. Thank you for your support and trust.

IMPORTANT NOTE - THE CATHOLIC LEADER NEWSPAPER IS NOW EXCLUSIVELY AVAILABLE VIA SUBSCRIPTION AND DELIVERED BY MAIL TO YOUR HOME OR OFFICE.



The Catholic Leader newspaper - our official archdiocesan newspaper has ceased bulk deliveries. ***The Catholic Leader newspaper is no longer available for purchase at a church (nor online) but will be sent by mail to individual subscribers.***

To support the ongoing benefit of this beautiful Catholic Brisbane newspaper, published since 1929 - and to ensure that everyone who wants a copy will have their own copy - it will now be conveniently posted to your address each month. **Please consider purchasing a gift subscription for someone special.**

Thanks. Simply subscribe by visiting www.catholicleader.com.au/subscribe

The next Men's Breakfast is on Saturday morning, 7:45am, May 9 at Stella Maris — invite a friend !