



Stella Maris Catholic Parish

The Ascension of the Lord

Weekend of May 16 & 17, 2026 Year A

First Reading: Acts 1:1-11, Second Reading: Ephesians 1:17-23 Gospel: Matthew 28:16-20

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

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9:00am—2:00pm Weekdays

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Parish Clergy

Fr Peter Brannelly

Fr Isaac Falzon

Bishop Brian Heenan

Bishop Emeritus

TO SERVE THE CHURCH

To serve the church where we are needed most is part and parcel of being a diocesan priest. We know that throughout our priesthood, we will be continually on the move, being welcomed into new communities, facing new challenges and experiencing new ministries. As priests, that is how we grow, by being prepared to change, let go, move on and embrace new possibilities.

During the week, I received word from the Archbishop that Fr Isaac is to be transferred to St Mary's Parish, Ipswich. Naturally, it was not the call I wanted to receive, but we all knew that sooner or later Fr Isaac would need to leave us here, on the Sunshine Coast and embrace new challenges.

Isaac joined us as a Deacon just before Christmas 2022 and after his Ordination to the Priesthood on June 29, 2023, he was reappointed to serve here in our Sunshine Coast Parish.

Since then, our parish family has grown and been enriched by Fr Isaac's ministry, dedication and youthful insight. He has taken responsibility for supervising our NET Team, working with our Young Adults, is chaplain to our Catholic Schools and directs our flourishing youth program. Additionally, he is involved in our RCIA program, coordinates our men's retreat, and is the face of our social media outreach – *although his selections in our parish tipping competition have a lot to be desired!* I can vouch for the amount of time and effort Fr Isaac puts into preparing all his homilies and liturgies.

Over the last three and a half years, the drive, diversity of ministries and proactive outlook of our parish family has certainly changed through the dynamism and pastoral initiatives of Fr Isaac.

Actually all of Fr Isaac's classmates are on the move: while Fr Isaac moves to Ipswich, Fr Minje Kim, who is currently at Ipswich, moves to Caloundra, and Fr Gerard Lai will move from Caloundra and travel up the Nicklin Way to join us here at Stella Maris. Fr Isaac's last weekend with us will be on May 30/31, which gives each community a chance to thank him as he prepares to take up his new appointment.

With every blessing,

Fr Peter Brannelly

Next weekend is the great celebration of Pentecost – the coming of the Holy Spirit. As a challenge and to prepare for this great feast why not wear something RED –the colour of the Holy Spirit – to Mass next Sunday?

WHERE FAITH AND LIFE MEET

We welcome into God's Family, the Church, *Matthew Berkley, Laylah Blee, Madelyn Blee,*

Charlie Emms, Arlia Fox, Cruz Fox, Matilda Greig, Boh Keegan, Nashua Keegan, Dakota Reich & Dean Smith.

We pray for all those who have died, especially this week we pray for *Margaret Clifford*, whose Requiem funeral Mass will be at St Peters Coolum on Tuesday May 19, at 11:00am. We also pray for *Meryl Berry*. 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.

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, May 18

- Rosary Making Workshop (9:00am, Stella Maris, Bliss Room)
- Adoration (4:30pm, Stella Maris)
- Benediction (5:15pm, Stella Maris)
- **Mass** (5:30pm, Stella Maris)

Tuesday, May 19

- **Mass** (9:00am, Stella Maris School Chapel)
- Funeral of Margaret Clifford (11:00am, St Peters)
- Craft Group (1:00pm St Peter's)
- Sisterhood Meeting (6:00pm, Stella Maris)

Wednesday, May 20

- **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 4 (5:00pm, Stella Maris)
- Latin Prayer Group (6:00pm, Stella Maris)

Thursday, May 21

- **Mass** (8:30am, St Peter's)
- SVDP Coolom Meeting (9:00am, St Peters)

Friday, May 22

- **Mass** (9:00am, Stella Maris)
- Craft Group (9.45am, Stella Maris)
- Community Meal for Homeless (6:00pm, Stella Maris)

Saturday, May 23

- Reconciliation (8:30am—9:30am, Stella Maris)
- Jesus Shine Prayer Group (11:00am, St Catherine's)
- Baptisms (10:00am, Stella Maris)
- Rosary Making Workshop (1:00pm - 3:00pm Stella Maris, Bliss Room)
- **Vigil Mass** (4:30pm, St Peter's)
- **Vigil Mass** (6:00pm, Stella Maris)

Sunday, May 24 Pentecost

- **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) (Children's Church)
- Junior Ministers (3:00pm, Stella Maris)
- 10:10 Youth (3:00pm, The Annex)
- **Mass** (5:00pm, Stella Maris) (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.

COME AND SPIN A YARN !

The Stella Maris Craft Group's next get together is Friday, May 22 at 9:45am in the Bliss Room (following the 9:00am Mass). All crafts and skill levels welcome - even just come along and have a cuppa.



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.

Congratulations to Michael Khoury, who last weekend was ordained to the priesthood at St Maroun's Maronite Church in Greenslopes.



Sunshine Coast parishioners gather with the newly ordained Fr Michael Khoury outside St Maroun's Maronite Church last Saturday.

The Maronite Church is an Eastern Rite church in full communion with the Pope and the worldwide Catholic Church. The Maronites have their own hierarchy and clergy, operate under the Code of Canons of the Eastern Churches and much of their liturgy is in Aramaic, the language spoken by Jesus Christ.

GETTING READY

One of the big events in the life of our Sunshine Coast Catholic family is our annual Multicultural Mass and the delicious festivities that follow. This year, the Multicultural Mass will be **Sunday, June 21**, at 11:00am and the celebrant will be Archbishop Emeritus Mark Coleridge. We are already working on the liturgy. Now is the time for all the different cultural communities of our Parish to start preparing and talking about the day. On **Saturday, May 30 at 9:30am** in the Bliss Room, there will be a short planning meeting for all coordinators and anyone who would like to be involved.

YOU ARE MOST WELCOME

Every week across our parish family, we welcome so many people to our Eucharistic celebrations – some are baptised Catholics returning to Mass after a time away – welcome back! For some who join us this weekend, this has been part of a journey of faith, trying to put the pieces of the jigsaw puzzle into place – we hope you find in our community what you are searching for! Others who join us this weekend are simply responding to an invitation and have decided to spend an hour with us this weekend – thank you for being part of our celebration today. For us, the Eucharist is a sign of unity and the source and summit of our faith life, which helps explain our reverence for receiving Holy Communion and why we have guidelines around the receiving of Holy Communion. There may be many reasons why a baptised Catholic will not receive Holy Communion before celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation, but that does not preclude them from coming forward and receiving a blessing. **Simply cross your arms over your chest as you approach the minister to receive a blessing.**

Likewise, if you have not been baptised or welcomed liturgically in the Catholic Church, we also invite you to come forward for a blessing at Holy Communion time. The journey to become part of our parish family is through the RCIA programme. In the meantime, if you want to discover a little more about who we are and what we believe, why not join us tonight for **Veritas** after the 5pm Sunday Mass ?

SISTERHOOD THIS TUESDAY

Preparations are well underway for our annual women's retreat day on Saturday, August 29. We are excited and hope to be able to announce our guest who will provide the reflections on the day - *stay tuned!*

In preparation for the retreat day, all women of our community are invited to our next gathering of Sisterhood on **this Tuesday**, May 19 at 6:00pm at Stella Maris. We welcome **Dr Mary Murphy** to guide us on the night. Mary is an educator who has worked predominantly within Catholic Education and Ecumenical schools. Currently, her focus is on the formation, professional supervision and faith development of senior and middle leaders within schools.

In today's busy and often disconnected world, Mary will share inspiring insights on living with wisdom, hope, and faith, while building stronger connections with one another and our community. With her warm and engaging style, Mary draws on her rich experience in Catholic education, leadership, retreats, and spiritual development.

Come along for an uplifting evening of reflection, friendship, and encouragement. *We would love to see you there!*

MUMS & DADS - GRANDMUMS & GRANDDADS

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: maroochydoe@netministries.com.au

YOUNG ADULTS

This Sunday Night: Calling all Young Adults (ages 18-30) Join us at 6:00pm for our formation session. We will be having dinner and formation with Fr Isaac immediately after the 5:00pm Stella Maris Mass. Why not bring a friend? To join our YA WhatsApp group, contact: media.suncoast@bne.catatholic.net.au with your name and number. *See you there!*

VERITAS

Our new ministry, Veritas, meets this Sunday immediately after the 5:00pm Mass. Veritas is simply Latin for truth. Faith and truth are inseparable! 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 who 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 gathers immediately after the 5:00pm Sunday evening Mass on the first and third Sundays of the month.

DON'T FORGET TO SAVE YOUR BOTTLES AND CANS FOR THE FIRST WEEKEND OF THE MONTH !

WINTER APPEAL

The St Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal will be held on next weekend across our parish family. The St Vincent de Paul Society was founded in Paris in 1833 by Frédéric Ozanam. The Society was established by like-minded people who wanted to put their Catholic faith into action. Vinnies provide support to people living in poverty or seeking assistance through more than 200 programs and services across the country. Our Parish has two very busy Vinnies Conferences at Maroochydoe and Coolum, and it is through your generous support that enables them to reach out and assist those who are in need in our local community.



SUNSHINE COAST CATHOLIC EDUCATION

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



Last Friday, our Siena community came together to honour all mums with a special Mother's Day breakfast. The dads rolled up their sleeves and put on a fantastic spread, serving up bacon and egg rolls, croissants, muffins and freshly brewed coffee. The delicious scents brought families together and set the tone for a joyful morning filled with conversation and laughter. It was truly heartwarming to see the dads take centre stage in the kitchen. Following the breakfast, the Prep students led a touching Mother's Day liturgy in the Daintree. They shared heartfelt songs, readings, and prayers in gratitude for our mothers. Together, we asked for God's blessings on all mums, both present and those dearly remembered. To finish the festivities, our Preps hosted a pampering session for their mums, adding a special touch to a memorable celebration.



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



Our Year 6 students were fortunate to attend their annual Adventure Camp at Noosa North Shore from Wednesday to Friday this week, an experience that continues to be a highlight of their final year at Stella Maris. Across the three days, students participated in a wide range of activities designed to challenge and support their growth, with a strong focus on developing personal and social skills. Through teamwork, problem-solving and stepping outside of their comfort zones, students demonstrated resilience, courage and a willingness to encourage one another. The camp provided valuable opportunities for students to strengthen friendships, build independence and grow in confidence as young leaders of our school. It was wonderful to see students embracing each experience with enthusiasm and positivity. We thank the staff who supported the camp and accompanied our students, ensuring a safe and enriching experience for all. Please keep our Year 6 students in your prayers as they continue their final year of primary schooling and grow into the young people God calls them to be.



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



Last week, our Year 12 students gathered at Camp Somerset for their annual Year 12 Retreat, centred around St Catherine of Siena's words, "Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire." Across the three days, students were invited to pause from the busyness of everyday life and reflect on the relationships, experiences and moments that have shaped their journey at Siena. The retreat provided opportunities for prayer, conversation, laughter and challenge, while encouraging students to deepen their understanding of what it means to belong to a community grounded in faith, compassion and connection. Through small group discussions, activities, reflection experiences and time together, students were reminded that community is built through presence, support and genuine care for one another. One of the most powerful aspects of the retreat was witnessing students step outside their comfort zones, affirm one another and recognise the impact they have on the people around them. As our Year 12 students move into their final months at Siena, the retreat served as an important reminder that they do not walk this journey alone. We thank all staff who supported the retreat and continue to hold our Year 12 students in prayer as they lead our community throughout the year.

WE ARE UP TO OUR THIRD WEEK OF PREPARATION

This week in our Confirmation program, our candidates are learning about the important role of anointing in the life of the Church. Throughout Scripture and Church tradition, oil has been used as a sign of God's blessing, healing, strength, and the presence of the Holy Spirit. The candidates are discovering the three sacred oils used in the Church: the Oil of Catechumens used in Baptism, the Oil of the Sick used in the Sacrament of Anointing, and the Sacred Chrism used in Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Orders. During the Sacrament of Confirmation, the Bishop, or his delegate, will anoint each candidate on the forehead with the Oil of Chrism. This anointing is a powerful sign of the gift of the Holy Spirit being sealed within them. Historically, kings and queens were also anointed with chrism at their coronation so they would rule with wisdom and goodness. In the same way, our candidates are being called to live as faithful disciples of Christ, guided by the Holy Spirit in their daily lives. The class will also be exploring the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit: wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord. These gifts strengthen us to live holy lives, make good choices, and grow closer to God. As we learn to use these gifts in our lives, we can experience the peace, strength, and guidance that come from the Holy Spirit. Please continue to keep our Confirmation candidates in your prayers as they prepare to receive this special sacrament.

