



# Stella Maris Catholic Parish

## The Fifth Sunday of Easter

Weekend of May 2 & 3, 2026 Year A

First Reading: Acts 6:1-7 Second Reading: 1 Peter 2:4-9 Gospel: John 14:1-12

**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

#### Telephone:

5443 3488

#### Parish Email:

[suncoast@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:suncoast@bne.catholic.net.au)

#### Parish Website:

[maroochyshoreparish.com.au](http://maroochyshoreparish.com.au)

### Planned Giving Enquiries

[finance.suncoast@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:finance.suncoast@bne.catholic.net.au)

### Social Media Enquiries

#### Georgia Whiteley

[media.suncoast@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:media.suncoast@bne.catholic.net.au)

### Sacramental Coordinator

#### Carrolyn Watt

[sacraments.suncoast@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:sacraments.suncoast@bne.catholic.net.au)

### Safeguarding Team

[lsr.suncoast@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:lsr.suncoast@bne.catholic.net.au)

### Parish Clergy

Fr Peter Brannelly

Fr Isaac Falzon

Deacon Michael Khoury

Bishop Brian Heenan

*Bishop Emeritus*

**We keep Deacon Michael Khoury in our prayers during this final week of preparation leading up to his ordination to the priesthood next Saturday, May 9, at St Maroun's Maronite Church, Greenslopes.**

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

**The bus will leave Stella Maris at 7:45am sharp and St Catherine's at 8:00am to be on time for the ordination.**

One of the most personal journeys we are all on is our walk of faith. Each one of us come to Mass today with a faith story that is both unique and terribly personal. For some who are cradle Catholics the journey seems straightforward and understandable. For others celebrating today the journey has been a bumpy, uneven, unpredictable path full of dead ends, risky choices and stumbles along the way. The great thing about faith, is that it does not matter where you start, the important thing is *where you finish up!*

It would be impossible not to notice the Holy Spirit working in our parish family over the past couple of years through the number of adults being baptised and joining the Catholic Church. Their story and their journey is not only unique but also provides us with a profound challenge never to take our own gift of faith for granted.

One of the great mysteries is what leads someone to walk through the doors of our church for the first time! Maybe a bigger question is what makes them come back a second time! What are they searching for? What was their experience with us? What are their questions?

The formal journey that leads a person to full communion in the Catholic Church is through the **The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults** program. RCIA is a 14-week program where in a group we explore some of the big questions of faith and what we believe as Catholics. Before we start a new RCIA group later in the year, we want to provide a opportunity to explore some of the basic aspects of our Catholic faith.

## Introducing Veritas

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

How quickly a month comes around! This weekend, being the first of the month, the trailer is at the lower carpark to receive your bottles and cans. Last month we raised \$328 which will support our youth program and enable them to attend the Ignite Conference. A better way to support this initiative is to take your bottles and cans directly to one of the local **Containers for Change** centres and quote our number **C10193859**. Every little bit helps! *Thanks for your continued thirsty support.*

# 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 4 Labour Day Holiday

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

## Tuesday, May 5

- **Mass** (9:00am, Stella Maris School Chapel)

## Wednesday, May 6

- **Mass** (7:00am, St Mary's)
- **Communion Service** (9:00am, St Catherine's)
- Pray & Play (9:30am)
- Scripture Study Group (9:30am, Zoom)
- Community Teams Meeting:  
**Coolum:** 12:00pm; **Buderim:** 2:30pm;  
**Sippy Downs:** 4:00pm;  
**Maroochydore:** 6:00pm
- Confirmation Preparation - Week 2 (5:00pm, Stella Maris)
- Latin Prayer Group (6:00pm, Stella Maris)

## Thursday, May 7

- **Mass** (8:30am, St Peter's)
- SVDP Coolum Meeting (9:00am, St Peter's)
- Baptism Preparation (6:00pm, Stella Maris)

## Friday, May 8

- **Mass** (9:00am, Stella Maris)
- Craft Group (Stella Maris, 9:45am)
- Community Meal for Homeless (6:00pm, Stella Maris)

## Saturday, May 9

- Men's Breakfast (7:45am, Stella Maris)
- Reconciliation (8:30am—9:30am, Stella Maris)
- Ordination of Deacon Michael Khoury
- Jesus Shine Prayer Group (11:00am, St Catherine's)
- **Vigil Mass** (4:30pm, St Peter's)
- **Vigil Mass** (6:00pm, Stella Maris)
- **Spanish Mass** (6:00pm, St Mary's)

## Sunday, May 10

### *Sixth Sunday of Easter Mother's Day*

- **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)

*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.

## Hospitality

A welcoming community is a hospitable community. On the first weekend of the month across our parish family, hospitality is the focus and everyone is invited to spend a little time after Mass and enjoy the company of fellow parishioners and visitors. A big thank you to the organisers and to all those who bought a plate along to share. Please accept this invitation to join us after Mass today.

## Infant Baptism

On the first Thursday of every month, we host a baptismal preparation meeting for all parents with infant children. At this short meeting that begins, 6:00pm at Stella Maris, we simply look at some of the symbols used in celebrating the sacrament, answer any questions and confirm dates and times. Please go to our parish web page and download the registration form before attending the meeting.

## Let's get crafty !

The craft group's next get together will be, 9:45am Friday, May 8 in the Bliss Room (following the 9:00am Mass). We'll be having an early Mother's Day - all are welcome (men too!). Also, join in the fun of getting ready for our June winter stall. The Coolum Craft Group meets, 1:00pm, Tuesday May 12.

## 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. Two-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 information and to book, contact Veronica Baatjes on 0451 593 397.

## 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](mailto:finance.suncoast@bne.catholic.net.au)

## Local Groups

On the first week of each month, the members of the local groups meet. This Wednesday the Coolum Beach group meets at 12noon, Buderim meets at 2:30pm, Sippy Downs at 4:00pm and the Maroochydore group meets at 6:00pm. As a parish family, we are grateful to our fellow parishioners who serve on these committees and help coordinate the many activities and ministries of our faith community.

## Getting Closer!

A reminder that one of the big celebrations of our parish family is our annual Multicultural Mass and cultural extravaganza - make sure you mark your diary 11:00am Sunday, June 21. Our Multicultural Mass is a great reminder of the diversity of our Catholic Faith and the bonds that unite us. Don't forget to invite your neighbours!

## NEWS FROM OUR NEW TEAM

Hi parishioners, it's the NET team with an update from the months of March & April. Our second and third month here has been just as amazing as our first. We have officially been to all four of your lovely churches and met so many friendly faces.

We popped into the Friday community meal with staff from Siena Catholic College and met many of those experiencing hardship and it was so inspiring hearing their stories, talking with them and just having a meal together. It was incredible to see the generosity of those serving and the wider community that donates each week and how that can change someone's night. We also went to Fr Richards Leonard Lenten mini mission and got so much wisdom, laughs and joy from hearing him speak and share his story and message.

We also had some young adults over for a worship night at Saint Mary's and it was incredible to see so many young hearts on fire for Jesus. Also to hear the countless testimonies come from that event of how they wanted to give more to Jesus and dive deeper into him and his love. We also had the pleasure of taking some young adults down to Brisbane to watch Fr Isaac give a talk at an Ignite YA worship night where we were with 20-30 other young adults from across the archdiocese.

The youth space is growing larger every week with the headline and highlight for many being Reco Rally. The Reco Rally is an event run by the archdiocese for high school age kids for a night of worship, fun and an opportunity to receive the sacrament of reconciliation from one of over 10 volunteer priests including our very own archbishop.

On the school front we have run year level masses for the students, helped run a whole school stations of the cross and attempted to run a 3km cross country. We also had a year 7 formation session where we encouraged students to ask themselves who is Jesus and where can they see him each day. With holidays now over we are keen to get back into school and pick up where we left off.

As a team we have loved hanging out with young adults over dinner, having team sport days at the park or just chilling out and exploring all the sunshine coast has to offer. We have also acquired a new member being a blue and yellow pet Budgie named Rico! He loves his mirror and his cage. He sometimes comes out and has just begun to sit on our shoulders.

We are so grateful for what the months of March & April has brought us and can't wait to see what blessing and adventures the month of May will bring. That's all from us for this month! If you see us around come say hi, we would love to get to know you and hear your story! *God Bless*



## MEN OF STELLA MARIS PARISH

You are invited to join us for our regular Men's Breakfast on Saturday, 8:00am sharp May 9 in the Bliss Room. Our speaker for the morning will be Robbie Amhaz who will share his faith journey from Islam, to being in a Pentecostal Church, to finding his home in the Catholic Church here at Stella Maris. *Please note Fr Isaac is unable to attend this Month's Men's Breakfast, as he will be at Deacon Michael Houry's ordination to the Priesthood in Brisbane and will share at a later date.* 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.

The leader of our parish Tipping Competition has come back to the field with *BroncosGirls77* just ahead of *Water into Wine, Carms & Can. BroncoBabe1234* has dropped back into fifth place with Rabbitrap rounding out the top six places. The proceeds of our friendly tipping competition will support our youth attending the Ignite Youth Conference later in the year.

## WHERE FAITH AND LIFE MEET

We pray for all those who have died, especially this week we pray for Warren "Jim" Priora. May Jim's 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.*

# Sunshine Coast Catholic Education

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



Siena Primary celebrated the feast day of St Catherine. We gathered as a school community for a liturgy led by Fr Isaac, where students shared what they had learned about St Catherine.

“St Catherine was born in a town called Siena. She had 23 brothers and sisters.” Melodee (Prep). “St Catherine said, ‘Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire.’” Molly (Year 1). “We are learning that St Catherine loved God, and cared for people in need.” Benny (Year 2). “St Catherine is special to us because she teaches us to pray, to care, and to be the best people God made us to be.” Lorena (Year 3). “St Catherine was born on March 25th in 1347 and when she was 7, she made a vow that she wouldn’t get married.” Seychelle (Year 4). “St Catherine was a role model and leader; a selfless young woman.” Edie (Year 5).



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



At Stella Maris School, we are committed to the ongoing growth of our teaching staff. Each year, our teachers participate in ongoing professional development to strengthen their professional knowledge and ensure their teaching reflects the most current, evidence-based educational practices. Alongside professional learning, staff also engage in faith formation, a key dimension of Catholic Education. Formation in a Catholic school goes beyond skill development; it is a process of personal and spiritual growth that invites staff to reflect on who they are, how God is at work in their lives, and how their faith and gifts shape their relationships and vocation as educators.

This year, staff have been exploring the Enneagram through the lens of the Presentation Charism and the story of Nano Nagle. The Enneagram has its roots in the wisdom of the ancient Desert Fathers and early Christian scholars, offering a reflective framework for understanding human personality, motivation and growth. Used thoughtfully, it aligns strongly with the Presentation tradition, inviting deep self-awareness, compassion and conscious action in service of others.

Through these shared formation experiences, staff are building a deeper understanding of their God-given gifts and talents, how these enrich their teams, and how they can more intentionally support the diverse needs of students.

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



ANZAC Day is a significant moment in the life of our nation and a meaningful opportunity for us as a faith community to pause, remember and give thanks. Each year on 25 April, we honour the courage, sacrifice and service of the men and women who have served our country in times of war, conflict and peacekeeping. This year, Amelia Mackie and Riley Paul, our Siena College Captains, together with our Campus Minister Joan Prasser and Assistant Principal Mission and Identity, Larissa Struik, had the privilege of attending the Bellfower Dawn Service and the Buderim March, representing our community in a moving and respectful commemoration. Their presence was a powerful reminder of the importance of young people engaging with and carrying forward the ANZAC spirit. As a Catholic community, we are called not only to remember, but to reflect on the deeper values of courage, selflessness and love of neighbour that ANZAC Day represents.

We also hold in prayer those who continue to serve, their families, and all who are affected by the impacts of war. May we be inspired by their example to be people of peace, compassion and service in our everyday lives.



Last Sunday across our parish family we officially enrolled over 120 young boys and girls from our community to begin the journey of preparation that will lead to the celebration of the **Sacrament of Confirmation** on Thursday, May 28. Last Wednesday at Stella Maris the first of the preparation sessions was held and the focus of the gathering was on the meaning and importance of baptism. The aim was to reinforce that baptism is not just a special moment in the past, but the beginning of a lifelong journey of faith. The children learned that through Baptism, they become part of a very special group of people: Christians. This means they belong to a wider Catholic Christian community—one that gathers, celebrates, and supports one another in faith. Within this community, we are called to live as followers of Christ. We do this in many ways, including coming together for Mass, praying, and showing love and kindness to others in our daily lives.

A key focus of our learning has been understanding that being part of this community is also a call to action. As Christians, we are invited to follow the teachings of Jesus, especially in the way we love one another—with compassion, forgiveness, and generosity. As the children continue their preparation, we are helping them see how Confirmation is deeply connected to Baptism. Confirmation strengthens and deepens the grace first received at Baptism. It confirms them in their identity as members of the Christian community and empowers them to live out their faith more fully. We keep our candidates in our prayers as they grow in understanding and continue their journey toward Confirmation.



*Last Sunday Bishop Brian Heenan enroles and commissions the candidates for Confirmation at St Catherine’s, Sippy Downs.*