



Stella Maris Catholic Parish Pentecost

Weekend of May 23 & 24, 2026 Year A

First Reading: Acts 2:1-11 Second Reading: St Paul to Corinthians 12:3-7, 12-13 Gospel: John 20:19-23

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

COME HOLY SPIRIT

Arriving at a definitive description of the Holy Spirit or how the Holy Spirit works is like trying to herd cats, *its near on impossible!* It would be good to be able to describe it because then we could predict and control it, therefore eliminating any surprises. Sometimes we want to be able to describe precisely what the Holy Spirit does and how it does it because when we can do that, we are in control. The Holy Spirit is much more uncontrollable and unpredictable than that – as Jesus says early in John's Gospel, **“The Spirit blows where it will”**.

While we might not be able to precisely see the Holy Spirit, we can sometimes feel it. A bit like the wind – we can't see it, but we certainly can feel it and be impacted by it. I think that is true of our parish family here on the Sunshine Coast. It is hard to put a finger on it, and it is harder still to describe and define it, but the Holy Spirit is at work in our community.

Ignatius of Laodicea, a Greek Orthodox Patriarch who lived in the fifth century, described the presence and absence of the Holy Spirit in this way:

Without the Holy Spirit, God is distant, Christ is merely a historical figure, the Gospel is a dead letter, the Church is just an organisation, authority is domination, mission is propaganda, liturgy is only nostalgia, and the work of Christians is slave labour.

But with the Holy Spirit, Christ is risen and present, the Gospel is a living force, the Church is a communion in the life of the Trinity, authority is a service that sets people free, mission is Pentecost, the liturgy is memory and anticipation, and the labour of Christians is divinised.

So on this Pentecost, may we be a community of faith with the eyes to see the Holy Spirit at work in our midst. Like the wind, even though we can't see it, this week may we feel the presence of the Holy Spirit, sometimes guiding us, sometimes challenging us, but always pushing us in directions we might not necessarily want to go. Propelled forward with the courage of the Holy Spirit to go there - may we be eloquent and visible witnesses of the Good News along the journey of these next seven days!

With every blessing,

Fr Peter Brannelly

After five weeks of prayer and preparation, 120 of the younger members of our parish family will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation this Thursday at Stella Maris - please keep them and their families in your prayers.

WHERE FAITH AND LIFE MEET

We welcome into full communion with the Catholic Church, **Schalk & Marlene Pienaar** who, after the RCIA journey, will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation and receive their First Holy Communion at the 5:00pm Mass this Sunday night. We also congratulate **Denis & Maureen Hayes** who are celebrating their 70th wedding anniversary at St Mary's this weekend.

We welcome into God's Family, the Church, **Archie Auriac, Sandy Auriac, Charlie Douglas, Lily Douglas, Myles Henson-Dutney, Joey Hooper & Leni Hooper.**

We pray for all those who have died, especially this week we pray for **Gregory Matlock & Marian Schmidt**. 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 25

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

Tuesday, May 26

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

Wednesday, May 27

- **Mass** (7:00am, St Mary's)
- **Mass** (9:00am, St Catherine's)
- Pray & Play (9:30am)
- Scripture Study Group (9:30am, Zoom)
- Confirmation Practice (4:00pm & 6:00pm, Stella Maris)
- Latin Prayer Group (6:00pm, Stella Maris)

Thursday, May 28

- **Mass** (8:30am, St Peter's)
- SVDP Coolum Meeting (9:00am, St Peters)
- Confirmation (4:00pm & 6:00pm, Stella Maris)

Friday, May 29

- **Mass** (9:00am, Stella Maris)
- Craft Group (9:45am, Stella Maris)
- Funeral of Gregory Matlock (1:00pm Stella Maris)
- Community Meal for Homeless (6:00pm, Stella Maris)

Saturday, May 30

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

Sunday, May 31 Most Holy Trinity

- **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)
- Young Adults BBQ (10:00am, Stella Maris)
- 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.

It is a crowded leader board in our Parish Tipping Competition with **Cams** and **Tim1970** leading the field with an impressive 63 points closely followed by **Rabbitrap** on 61 and **BroncosGirls77** falling back to fourth place on 60. Close on their heels on 59 points are **Tolka Rovers**, **Sutto67**, **Michael Dwan & AFLFan7**. All of them have used their joker – *have they used it too early?* The proceeds of our friendly Parish Foty Tipping Competition goes directly to support some of our youth attending this year's Ignite Youth Conference in Brisbane.

For Those Who Are Searching

For cradle, lifelong Catholics, we take so much for granted! We are so used to our liturgy, the symbols, the colours, when to stand, what to say, all those little things that we do each time we gather and celebrate Mass. Have you ever thought how much courage it takes for someone to come through our doors for the first time? Have you ever considered how much more courage they must have to come back the next weekend?

On the first and third Sunday of every month, just after the 5:00pm Stella Maris Mass, our Veritas group meets. Veritas is simply Latin for truth. Faith and truth are inseparable! There are many who want to find out more about what we believe and how we celebrate and live out of faith. The formal process for that journey is through the RCIA (**R**ite of **C**hristian **I**nitiation for **A**dults). Through this process, over a couple of months, we explore the major building blocks of our faith.

Leading up to the RCIA journey commencing in a couple of months' time we have our Veritas gatherings. It is meant to be just a chance to explore some of the quirky things we do as Catholics, questions like why the candles, who are those statues, why do we kneel, whats with the Holy Water? – all legitimate questions and questions that lifelong Catholics often take for granted! So, if you want to discover more, **please join us next Sunday after the 5:00pm Mass.**

Great When it Works !

We all know that technology is great when it works and frustrating when it does not! A component that allows us to live stream has suddenly decided to stop working, and we are in the process of getting a replacement part – so until then, unfortunately, we will be unable to live stream our Sunday Masses. We also have to replace the outside speakers at Stella Maris once again, because of technology issues with the large numbers attending our Sunday Masses at Maroochydore getting the outside speakers working is a priority.

A Special Birthday

An important member of our parish family is Kieran Gallagher. Kieran, and his parents, Maureen and Bevan, are members of our Saturday Vigil Mass at Stella Maris. Kieran is celebrating a significant birthday – one that ends with a **big 0** and next weekend, after Mass, everyone is invited to help Kieran cut the cake & wish him all the best.

In our Parish Family there is a Place for Everyone !

Mums & Dads - Grandmums & Granddads. Every Wednesday morning 9:30am to 11:00am, parents with smaller children gather at Stella Maris for our Pray & Play group. It is a great chance for young children to interact with each other while parents share the joys and challenges of parenthood!

Junior Ministers: Every Sunday, 3:00pm at Stella Maris all primary school children who have made their Confirmation are invited to join our Junior Ministers where the focus is on fun but also on service.

For more details please contact Bernie: bbaillie811@gmail.com

High School Youth Group: Every Sunday afternoon, 3:00pm at Stella Maris, our parish 10:10 high school youth group gathers, and all students are invited. For more info, contact: maroochydore@netministries.com.au

Young Adults: Our vibrant Young Adults group meets regularly with social and faith formation activities. To join our YA WhatsApp group, contact: media.suncoast@bne.catholic.net.au with your name and number. Meeting for BBQ after 9:00am Mass next Sunday May 31.

Bon Voyage

The French phrase *Bon Voyage* is simply an expression of good wishes when someone leaves on a journey, and we wish Fr Isaac every best wish as his journey of priesthood continues. As mentioned in last weekend's newsletter, the Archbishop has appointed Fr Isaac to St Mary's Parish, Ipswich. For the past three and a half years, we have all grown as a community through Fr Isaac's pastoral care, insight and energy. And while there is a measure of sadness at Isaac moving from our parish family, we have much to be grateful for.

In a busy parish like ours it is difficult to find the right time to gather and thank Fr Isaac, and in the end, we decided on **Saturday May 30, 8:00am, at Stella Maris**. We'll have a sausage sizzle and make a presentation to Fr Isaac. If you would like to contribute to that presentation, simply leave an envelope on the collection plate marked "Fr Isaac" or drop it off to the Parish Office.

The News from NET

Hi parishioners, it's the NET team with an update from the month of April and into May. April was so fun with many team birthdays, Easter, Baptisms, School Holidays and many more ministry events. At Siena College, early in the month, we led Stations of the Cross with Joan and students, which we played music for and participated in. After that, we had school holidays for two weeks, which was a nice break, but we missed school and engaging with the lovely students at Siena.

With a break from school ministry, our ministry at the parish was the focus. We helped out with the Easter program at Stella Maris, where we were able to participate in the Easter Thursday Mass, the Veneration of the Cross on Friday and the Easter Vigil on Saturday, where we had the pleasure of witnessing the catechumens for this year receive their sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and First Holy Communion, and then of course the Easter Sunday Mass.

We also had the pleasure of helping out with the Fun Days with God program led by Bernie Ballie, which had over 50 kids - a space to learn more about God, the Easter story and the importance of Jesus's life, death and resurrection.

Moving over to the slightly older peeps, our Young Adults scene has been exploding recently with new faces and regulars. The month kicked off with a movie night watching *The Passion of Christ*, which is a movie recounting Jesus's passion to the Cross. We also had another Open House, which was focused on board games. Even though, as a NET Team we lost more games than the Young Adults, we can still say we all had fun! To wrap up the month, we had Nick Kelly, the Vocations Director of the Archdiocese of Brisbane, give an amazing talk about the difference in vocations and learning about the process of discernment.

10:10 has been back and running for Term two and in our first week, we had so many new faces eager to make some biscuits, celebrating Good Shepherd Sunday. If you have a child in high school or are one yourself, please come along on Sundays to Stella Maris from 3:00pm-5:00pm.

As a team, we had the opportunity to have more team time and expand our ministry into other avenues. One such was the two days we spent at UniSC (University of the Sunshine Coast) ministering to students, praying with them and making the most of the Orientation Day stalls they had set up. We had birthdays on the team - plus Fr Isaac - which involved a few beach trips, lots of cake and a few too many balloons. ***If you are interested in any events, including joining the Young Adults group or 10:10 Youth, please reach out to us via our email or come say hi to us at any of the regular masses we attend.***



Across our parish this weekend, the St Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal will be held. You will discover the appeal envelopes at the entrance to the church. If you would like to support this appeal, please return the appeal envelopes next weekend and place them on the collection plate at Mass. The money raised through this appeal stays within our community and allows the men and women of our two Vinnies Conferences to reach out and assist those who are on the fringe of our community and in most need. Thank you once again for your prayers and support.

Undoubtedly, one of the yearly highlights of our parish family is our annual **Multicultural Mass** and the culinary festivities that follow. It is a testament to the faith and generosity that we can celebrate our diverse faith through the Eucharist and then enjoy the tastes and flavours of the many different cultures that call our parish home! **Now is the time for all the different cultural communities of our parish to start preparing and talking about the day and how we can all work together to make the day a great occasion.** 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.

Sunshine Coast Catholic Education

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



Our school's Breakfast Club is a wonderful way for students to begin the day well. Held each Tuesday and Thursday morning before school, the club offers children a piece of toast, a cup of milk and some fruit to help top up from the night before and fuel them for a positive start to learning. Just as importantly, it provides a calm and welcoming space where children can enjoy a chat, share a smile and ease into the day. We are especially grateful to our Year 6 leadership group, who are rostered on to assist, and to the generous parent helpers who work alongside the teachers who run the club. Their kindness, encouragement and willingness to serve help make Breakfast Club such a great success for our school community. Through a friendly smile, warm conversation and delicious food, they help our children start the day in a happy and positive way.



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



During Laudato Si' Week, Stella Maris School proudly celebrates its commitment to caring for our common home through faith, learning, and action. Guided by Pope Francis' call, our community embraces its role as stewards of creation, integrating sustainability across school life. Our students actively engage in ecological education through curriculum connections, gardening, recycling, and energy-saving practices, helping reduce our environmental footprint while fostering responsibility and hope. Grounded in the Presentation charism of Nano Nagle, we nurture compassion and courage, encouraging students to advocate for the Earth and support those most impacted by environmental challenges. Through prayer, outdoor learning, and liturgical celebrations, we deepen our ecological spirituality and connection with God's creation. At Stella Maris School, Laudato Si' is not just a focus for one week, it is a lived commitment to justice, sustainability, and hope for future generations.

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



This week, our Siena community joins with the wider Brisbane Catholic Education community in mourning the sad passing of BCE Executive Leader, Sally Towns. We give thanks for Sally's leadership, service and deep commitment to Catholic education. Her contribution to our schools and communities has been greatly valued, and we hold her family, friends, colleagues and all those who worked closely with her in our prayers during this difficult time. In moments of sadness, we are reminded of the importance of community, connection and care for one another. This was also reflected in our extended Homeroom this week, where students had the opportunity to spend time building connections with one another through conversation, activities and shared reflection. These moments encouraged students to strengthen their sense of belonging and recognise the value of the relationships they share within their year levels and across the College. As a Catholic community, we continue to be called to walk alongside one another with compassion, hope and care.

Don't forget to save your bottles and cans for the first weekend of the month

Getting Ready for this Thursday

In last week's Confirmation lessons, we explored the Fruits of the Spirit. Together we learned that when the Holy Spirit is at work in our lives, it produces fruit such as love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. We discussed how, as followers of Jesus, we are called to think, talk, and act like Him in our everyday lives. The Fruits of the Spirit help guide the way we treat others and show God's love in the world around us.

Our candidates also reflect on ways we can help the Spirit grow in our lives. We learned that our faith becomes stronger when we serve others by helping the sick and poor, speak to others about Jesus, and spend time in prayer for ourselves and for those around us. It has been encouraging to see our Confirmation students growing in faith and learning how the Holy Spirit can shape their hearts and actions each day. We look forward to celebrating the Sacrament next week on Thursday.

