



Stella Maris Catholic Parish

THE MOST HOLY BODY & BLOOD OF CHRIST

Weekend of June 06 & 07, 2026 Year A

First Reading: Deuteronomy 8:2-3, 14-16 Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 10:16-17 Gospel: John 6:51-58

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

Parish Website:

maroochyshoreparish.com.au

Planned Giving Enquiries

finance.suncoast@
bne.catholic.net.au

Media Enquiries

Georgia Whiteley
media.suncoast@
bne.catholic.net.au

Sacramental Enquiries

Carrolyn Watt
sacraments.suncoast@
bne.catholic.net.au

Safeguarding Enquiries

Isr.suncoast@
bne.catholic.net.au

At Your Service

Fr Peter Brannelly
Fr Gerard Lai
Bishop Brian Heenan
Bishop Emeritus

**Our Multicultural Mass
is on in two week's
time !**

**Join us on Sunday,
June 21, 11:00am, at
Stella Maris for a
celebration of our
Universal Faith and
the diverse cultural
expressions that unify
us as one big, happy
Catholic family.**

INTRODUCING

G'day Stella Maris Parish! My name is Fr Gerard Lai, and I look forward to meeting many of you as Associate Pastor alongside your Parish Priest, Fr Peter. Out of all the 94 parishes in the Brisbane Archdiocese, I was blessed enough to be sent right next door; I come to you after spending the past three years at Our Lady of the Rosary Parish in Caloundra.

I hail from Logan, south of Brisbane, and come from a Malaysian-Chinese family. Growing up, faith, family, food, hospitality, and extra-curricular activities were all important parts of life.

After it became painfully obvious that I was never going to play for the Socceros, I considered becoming a police officer and later a teacher before eventually settling on the prospect of becoming a scientist. These ideas never eventuated, and after high-school, I completed two years of youth ministry with NET Ministries and then pursued studies in Science, majoring in Biology at QUT. I wanted to save the planet and be a researcher for renewable energies or in biofortification (finding ways to optimise plants and crops i.e. drought tolerance, greater nutritional yield etc).

So, after completing my science degree, I took the leap of faith and joined the seminary in 2017. Interesting how God was calling me to help save the planet but in a different way! Looking back, I can honestly say it has been the greatest adventure of my life.

One of the things I love most about being a priest is that no two days are ever the same. One day I might be celebrating a baptism, the next visiting someone in hospital, teaching in a classroom, blessing a home, helping prepare a couple for marriage, celebrating Mass, or sharing a coffee with a parishioner. Priesthood places you right in the middle of people's lives, and it is a privilege I never take for granted. At the heart of everything I do is a simple desire: **helping people encounter Jesus.**

Outside of ministry, I love being outdoors. If I am not in a church, office, school, or parish meeting, there is a reasonable chance I am somewhere near the water with a fishing rod in hand. Fishing has taught me many important spiritual lessons, including patience, perseverance, and more often than I'd like to admit, *humility when the fish are smarter than I am !*

I also enjoy the great outdoors. Whether it be surfing, hiking, playing badminton, ultimate frisbee, or running, I enjoy keeping active. Last year, I completed my first half-triathlon, which was equal parts exciting, exhausting and slightly crazy. I enjoy a challenge and am always looking for new ways to push myself physically and mentally.

As I begin ministry here at Maroochydore, I am excited about what God has in store for our parish. I look forward to meeting you, hearing your stories, celebrating life's milestones with you and joining you in the mission of helping others encounter Christ.

If you see me around the parish, please come and say hello. Whether you're a lifelong parishioner, new to the area, returning to the Church, or simply curious about faith, I would love to meet you (extra brownie points if you know any good fishing locations!). I am looking forward to this next chapter and to becoming part of the Maroochydore family.



Fr Gerard Lai

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, June 8

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

Tuesday, June 9

- **Mass** (9:00am, Stella Maris School Chapel)
- Craft Group (1:00pm, St Peter's)
- Knight of the Southern Cross Meeting (7:00pm, Stella Maris)

Wednesday, June 10

- **Mass** (7:00am, St Mary's)
- **Mass** (9:00am, St Catherine's)
- Pray & Play (9:30am)
- Scripture Study Group (9:30am, Zoom)
- SVDP Meeting, (Maroochydore)
- Latin Prayer Group (6:00pm, Stella Maris)
- Men's Rosary Group (6:30pm, Stella Maris)

Thursday, June 11

- **Mass** (8:30am, St Peter's)

Friday, June 12

Parish Office Closed due to Nambour Show

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

Saturday, June 13

- Reconciliation (8:30—9:30am, Stella Maris)
- 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, June 14 11th Sunday in Ordinary Time

- **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 Picnic (11:00am)
- **Maronite Mass** (11:00am, St Mary's)
- Junior Ministers (3:00pm, Stella Maris)
- 10:10 Youth (3:00pm, Stella Maris)
- **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.

If you are in Grade 4 or older and have received your Confirmation, you are now eligible to join our First Holy Communion program – visit our webpage to register and discover more details about the program which is starting soon.

The Maronite Church is one of the ancient Eastern churches in union with the Bishop of Rome. A warm invitation is extended to all Maronite Catholics and friends on the Sunshine Coast to join us for our first **Maronite Mass** 11:00am, next Sunday, June 14 at St Mary's Church, Buderim. Please let your Maronite friends know about this Mass.

THE FUTURE

Across the Archdiocese during the first four weeks of May we had the annual Mass count to ascertain the number of people going to Mass and the geographical areas where they are located. In the big picture this helps us understand the demographics of the Archdiocese and ultimately with the shaping and staffing of our parishes. **You might like to know that we have now, on average, more than 2000 people attending our Masses, which probably makes us the biggest Mass going parish in the state.** Those numbers are also a reflection of the activity, ministry, liturgy and generosity of parishioners whose commitment and energy bring everything together each and every weekend. Thank you!

While the crowds and the excitement of parish life make our community a great place to belong – the drawback is that it is becoming increasingly harder to find a carpark on a Sunday. The reality is that once the St Vincent's carpark is full we have to utilise every available space in our neighbourhood. A lot of that carpark space is on adjoining private property (and we are grateful to be able to use this space at the moment).

Stella Maris is in a strategic position located centrally in what will increasingly become a major urban centre. If we are to continue to grow and be a centre of Catholic faith here on the Sunshine Coast the Finance Committee believes we should actively pursue land purchases around Stella Maris that will give us options in the future. **It will mean going into substantial debt and no doubt make us relook at our priorities and make sacrifices accordingly.** In the end, however, it will probably be all those kids who rush off to children's church each weekend who will thank us in the future for having the vision and making the tough choices now that guarantee a viable future with possibilities!

HOSPITALITY

This weekend, being the first weekend of the month, hospitality is the focus of our parish family. Please accept this invitation to stay after Mass and enjoy the hospitality of your community – it is also a great chance to welcome Fr Gerard on this his first weekend with us! Thank you to the coordinators and all who brought a plate along to share – it is much appreciated.

SAFEGUARDING

To assist everyone who needs to keep up to date with your Blue Cards, Police Check, and latest training our Parish Safeguarding team will be holding training after the 8:30am Thursday Mass at Coolum on June 25. If you have any questions, please call a member of our Safeguarding Team who are in the Parish Office every Monday from 9:00am to 1:00pm.

VERITAS

On the first and third Sunday after the 5:00pm evening Mass our Veritas group meets to reflect and learn about an aspect of our Catholic faith. Veritas is Latin for "truth" and at our meeting we simply look at some aspect of what we believe as Catholics – the customs, the rituals, the things most Catholics take for granted! The formal process for anyone who wants to discern whether or not to join our Catholic faith is through the RCIA (*Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults*) journey. Our Veritas gatherings are meant to answer some of those basic questions before RCIA. So, please, if you are searching or discerning – **feel welcome to join us this Sunday evening.**

Don't forget to pick up something warm and cosy from the **Stella Maris Craft Group**. This weekend they are having a stall after Mass and proceeds support local initiatives. *Thanks for your support.*

We hope to get the livestreaming of our Sunday 9:00am and 5:00pm Masses back up and running by next weekend.

Sunday, June 21 is now only two weeks away, and the plans for our **Multicultural Mass** are all falling into place. The final meeting of all coordinators is at **9:30am, next Saturday**, (June 13) **in the Bliss Room**. This year, our main celebrant will be Archbishop Emeritus Mark Coleridge. The day will certainly be a colourful and exciting celebration of our **Universal Faith!**

With the big day getting closer, there is an urgency to support the people organising and coordinating the various food stalls after Mass. If you are able to assist, **please make contact with one of the names below to be involved:**

Australia: Barbara - barbaradrake.jfa@outlook.com

Brazil: Helenise - h.c_almeida@hotmail.com

Colombia: Patricia - patriciazg_1@hotmail.com

Croatia: Ljiljana - ljilje85@gmail.com

Germany: Stefan - sandedobosch@gmail.com

Hungary: Peter & Lorraine - rainek47@gmail.com

India: Vimet - vimetpreethie@gmail.com

Indonesia: Fina - fina.haryono@gmail.com

Iraq-Kurdish: Lorena - happyfacesfdc@gmail.com

Ireland: Patricia - patriciasweeneyfawcett@yahoo.com.uk

KSC: John - john.legg51@gmail.com

Lebanon: Robbie - robbieamhaz@iprimus.com.au

Malta: Edith - edithvillablanck@outlook.com

Mauritius: Christine - vanillacar@aol.com

Mexico: Lorena - happyfacesfdc@gmail.com

Myanmar: Joy - ungersj@bigpond.com

New Zealand Maori: Stan - hirastan29@gmail.com

Peru: Mila - milasims15@gmail.com

Philippines: Rayllyne - alicayarayllyne@gmail.com

Poland: Ursula - ursulariggio58@gmail.com

Samoa: John - ajioane65@gmail.com

Scotland: Kenneth - kfmalloy@gmail.com

South Africa: Cheryl - dickens.mandc@gmail.com

South Korea: Sophie - sophie_hyejeong@hotmail.com

USA: Christine - vanillacar@aol.com

Vietnam: Trinh - morgannguyen.qld@gmail.com

Can't see your group and would like to help coordinate a table? Contact Olga Girle - olgagirle@hotmail.com . Our Multicultural Mass is inclusive of everyone in our parish family. If you cannot see a group that you fit into, then perhaps you might like to join in the celebrations by bringing something Australian (ANZAC biscuits, lamingtons, jam drops, etc).



MEN'S MONTHLY ROSARY THIS WEDNESDAY – 6:30PM AT STELLA MARIS – PLEASE JOIN US.

This is the weekend to bring in those empty bottles of Moët or Veuve Clicquot ! On the first weekend of every month, we have a trailer at the lower carpark accepting all your empty bottles and cans. It would make a big difference if you could separate bottles and cans into different bags! We take your empties to the local **Containers for Change**, and the process supports our youth program. Alternatively, 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.*



BAPTISM FOR OLDER CHILDREN

Children aged between 7 and 15 years



Families are warmly invited to attend a Baptism Preparation Session on 5:00pm Tuesday, June 16 at Stella Maris Church, Maroochydore. This session is for children aged 7 to 15 years who are preparing to receive the Sacrament of Baptism. The session will run for approximately 40 minutes. During this time, families will be guided through the preparation process. Children will then be able to complete their workbook and Mass passport in their own time. The candidate and one parent are required to attend the session. We look forward to sharing this special step in faith with you and your family. Please contact Carrolyn for more details: sacraments.suncoast@bne.catholic.net.au

WHERE FAITH AND LIFE MEET

We welcome into God's Family, the Church, *Violet Hopson, Athena Perez, Anne Scott, Aerabella Clough, Roman Clough, Alyssa Skinns, Jasper Skinns, Alex Stowe and Adelyn Wallace* who will be baptised this weekend.

As they start the great adventure of marriage we pray for and support *Desmond Ferreira* and *Janet James* who will publicly declare their love for each other at Stella Maris this weekend.

We pray for all those who have died, especially *Rebecca Mellifont* and *Theresa Zielinski*. May their 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



Last week, our school community gathered to farewell Father Isaac as he prepares to begin a new chapter of ministry at St Mary's Parish, Ipswich. This special occasion was a time of gratitude and celebration as we gave thanks for the many ways Father Isaac has supported Siena through his ministry, guidance and friendship. Over the years, he has walked alongside us in faith, celebrated our joys, supported us in challenges, and helped plant seeds of faith, hope and love in the hearts of our students and staff.

Father Isaac has been much more than a parish priest to our community — he has been a teacher, guide and friend. Through the celebration of Masses and liturgies, the blessing of important milestones, and his warm presence among us, he has continually reminded us that God is always close. We thank Father Isaac for his faithful service, his gentle humour and his wise words, and we assure him of our prayers and best wishes as he begins this new journey. May God continue to bless him richly in his ministry at St Mary's Parish.



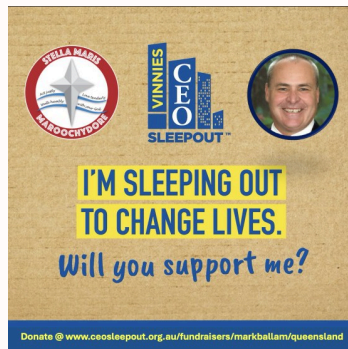
Stella Maris Primary School

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



By spending a night sleeping outdoors, Mr Ballam joins leaders from across the country in standing in solidarity with those who face the daily reality of homelessness. This event is not only about raising funds, but also about promoting empathy, understanding, and a commitment to building a more just and compassionate community.

As a school community grounded in faith and inspired by the works of Nano Nagle, this is a wonderful opportunity for us to come together in support of Mr Ballam and the important work of St Vincent de Paul Society. To donate, please visit:
<https://www.ceosleepout.org.au/fundraisers/markballam>



Siena Catholic College

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



During Reconciliation Week, our College community came together to reflect on the importance of respect, truth telling, unity and walking together with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. This year's theme, All In, reminded us that reconciliation is something we are all called to take part in through our words, actions and relationships.

A special highlight of the week was the Buroinjin Battle with Flinders at lunchtime on Tuesday. Buroinjin is a traditional Aboriginal ball game connected to the Kabi Kabi people of south Queensland. Students entered into the spirit of the game with energy, teamwork and good humour, while also learning more about the richness of First Nations culture through play and participation.

At our College assembly, we also took time to farewell Fr Isaac and thank him for the generous way he has supported our school and parish community. His presence, faith and care have been deeply appreciated, and we wish him every blessing as he begins the next part of his journey.

Reconciliation Week was a meaningful opportunity for our community to pause, learn, celebrate and recommit ourselves to building relationships grounded in respect, understanding and hope.

MEN OF STELLA MARIS PARISH - SAVE THE DATE

You are invited to join us for our regular Men's Breakfast at 8:00am - 9:15am, on Saturday, June 20, in the Bliss Room. Please note the new starting time of 8:00am.

If you've 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. Our speaker for the morning will be Seminarian and former St Peter's Coolum parishioner Oskar Borough, who will share his faith journey from a non-Christian upbringing, to his conversion to the Catholic faith, and his journey to the seminary. A light breakfast consisting of cereal, muesli, fruit, yoghurt, toast and spreads is included. Juice, Tea and Coffee are also provided. *Perhaps you could invite a neighbour or another parishioner?*

Calling all Young Adults (ages 18-35): Join us at 11:00am, next Sunday, June 14, at Picnic Point, Maroochydore for beach games, food and great chats. Please bring a picnic snack to share, your own drinks, a chair or rug to sit on, and if you feel like it; a game, activity or swimming clothes. **All young adults are welcome, so invite a friend!** To join our Young Adults WhatsApp group and receive regular updates on upcoming YA events, send us an email to media.suncoast@bne.catholic.net.au with your name and number. *Looking forward to seeing you next Sunday.*