

Stella Maris Catholic Parish

Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Weekend of July 04 and 05, 2026 Year A

First Reading: Zechariah 9:9-10; Second Reading: Romans 8:9,11-13 Gospel: Matthew 11:25-30

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

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At Your Service

Fr Peter Brannelly
Fr Gerard Lai
Bishop Brian Heenan
Bishop Emeritus

The Start of a Journey

Sacraments are central for our parish life as Catholics. They are outward signs of inward grace, instituted by Christ to help us in our spiritual life and to grow in holiness. Sacraments are mysteries; they are signs of the sacred presence of our God in our midst today. Yet they are more than mere signs, for through them Jesus remains with His people, strengthening, healing, feeding, and forgiving us along the journey of life.

This weekend in the parish, we are celebrating with the 243 who have been Baptised over the past twelve months. Baptism is the gateway to the sacraments, and by Baptism a person becomes a “member of Christ and coheir with him, and a temple of the Holy Spirit”. Baptism is the foundation that the rest of the Christian life is built upon, because without entering into the life, death and resurrection of Christ, we cannot live in Him and He in us. It is the act of being washed from sin, of being cleansed and being adopted as a child of God to live in the fullness of life and of the truth.

Just as when a child is born, they don't come into the world all alone, they are born into a family, so too is a child of God not born into their spiritual life alone, but into a spiritual family. When Paul and Suzie bring home little Johnny from the hospital, he is already part of something much larger than just the people he can see, he has family all over the world. Nan and Pop live in Cairns, Ma and Pa live in London, and all of them are still part of his family. Even the people no longer alive are part of little Johnny's family; his uncle Toby, who died before he was born, is still a part of the family and Johnny will grow up hearing stories about him.

The spiritual birth of Baptism is very much the same. When Johnny is baptised, he doesn't just become brothers and sisters with those who live and worship in his Parish but with the entire community of the baptised all over the world. The same is also true of those who have died; Jonny is just as much a brother of St Paul or St Francis as he is a brother to all of us who are still alive. Just as his family will help him to grow, be healthy, do his best and thrive in life, so too will the spiritual family help him to grow spiritually, celebrate the Sacraments with him, support him in prayer and enable him to thrive as a child of God.

In baptism, we all become a child of God, we take on the family of God as our own, as St Paul writes in his letter to the Galatians. “For all of you who were baptised into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free person, there is not male and female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”

Whether it is your first time here or your five thousandth, know that you are most welcome here because through our baptism, we have all become part of the one family of God.

The first weekend of the month is also the time when we have the trailer at the lower carpark at Stella Maris to accept your empty bottles and cans. We take your empties to the local Containers for Change, and the process supports our youth program. There are orange Containers for Change bags at the entrance to the church to assist you but bringing your bottles and cans in any container will work just as well. Thank you to Knights of the Southern Cross, who completed the process by taking the trailer full of bottles and cans to the local Containers for Change depot. *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.



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, July 06

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

Tuesday, July 07

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

Wednesday, July 08

- **Mass** (7:00am, St Mary's)
- **Mass** (9:00am, St Catherine's)
- Scripture Study Group (9:30am, Zoom)
- Community Meetings: **Coolum:** 12:00pm;
Buderim: 2:30pm; **Sippy Downs:** 4:00pm
Maroochydore: 6:00pm
- Latin Prayer Group (6:00pm, Stella Maris)
- Men's Rosary Group (6:30pm, Stella Maris)

Thursday, July 09

- **Mass** (8:30am, St Peter's)
- Fun Days with God (9:00am, Stella Maris)

Friday, July 10

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

Saturday, July 11

- 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 Marys)

Sunday, July 12 *15th Sunday in Ordinary Time*

- **Mass** (6:30am, Stella Maris)
- **Mass** (7:30am, St Peter's)
- **Mass** (8:00am, St Catherine's)
- **Mass** (9:00am, Stella Maris) (Children's Church)
- **Mass** (9:30am, St Mary's) (Children's Church)
- **Maronite Mass** (11:00am, St Marys'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.



An assisted hearing loop has been installed at Stella Maris – please contact the Mass coordinator or sacristan to access the system.

Half way through the school holidays we especially welcome all families who are joining us as we celebrate the Fourteenth Sunday of the Church's year. This being the first weekend of the month means for our parish family **hospitality** is the special focus and everyone, especially visitors, are invited at the end of mass to enjoy the hospitality of our parish community. A special thank you to the coordinators and their helpers for organizing this weekend's hospitality and for all those who brought a plate along to share.

Your Envelopes have Arrived!

With the new financial year off and running last week, we had available the weekly envelopes for those who use them to financially support the ministry and mission of the parish. If you usually use the weekly planned giving envelopes but could not locate them please give the parish office a call during the week. Since Covid there has been a dramatic increase in people utilising direct debit and other forms of electronic banking to support the parish, however you decide to support the parish your generosity, commitment and real sacrifices are appreciated.

At the entrance to the church you will discover a planned giving pack if you would like to find out more about how you can financially support the parish.

Live Streaming

The live streaming of our 9:00am and 5:00pm Sunday Masses is back up and running – simply go to our parish web page and click on “live Mass” and follow the links to our YouTube page. This outreach is valued especially by our brothers and sisters who for many reasons cannot join us physically to celebrate the Eucharist. We are in the process of upgrading our camera system, so in a couple of weeks' time you should see a marked difference in quality.

Feeling Crafty?

The Stella Maris Craft Group's next get together is on Friday, July 10, at 9:45am in the Bliss room (after the 9:00am Mass). We have a variety of crafts throughout the year, or you can bring your own project. You will be warmly welcomed. At Coolum the St Peter's craft group gather on Tuesday July 14 at 1:00pm.

Snuggle Up

Our pews are meant to be shared, even more so during winter! Please be conscious of fellow parishioners and visitors looking for a place to sit by making room for them. There is nothing more reassuring than a welcoming smile to a visitor or a family who is just trying to find a seat! This is especially true if you sit at the end of a pew by either moving in or making it easy for others to pass. Thank you also for those with mobility issues for sitting in the front rows of the church. We appreciate it because it assists with the reverent and safe distribution of Holy Communion while ensuring that we remain an inclusive Catholic Community.

Monthly Men's Rosary is on this Wednesday, 6:30pm to 7:30pm at Stella Maris – all men, young and wise, are most welcome

Where Faith and Life Meet

We welcome into God's Family, the Church **Max Miller-Nicolas & Sophia Neilsen** who will be baptised into our Catholic Family this weekend.

Congratulations to **Kale Jelley & Stefanie Dujela** who celebrated their marriage at Stella Maris this week. We also congratulate **Alessio Barbieri & Rita Ghersetti** who will publicly declare their love for each other at Stella Maris this weekend.

We pray for all those who have died, especially **Frederika Zavnik**. 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**

Sisterhood – Our Parish Ministry for Women

As we look forward to our annual Women's retreat in August, this month we are excited to welcome Sarah Coleman as the July Sisterhood guest speaker. Sarah has a masters in Neuroscience and speaks regularly on behavioural neuroscience and Christian theology. She is a gifted speaker and teacher and presents an engaging presentation on practising peace. Combining scripture and neuro science she outlines key spiritual practices for mental health, guarding your heart and mind and understanding wholeness. So mark in your diary **6:00pm, Tuesday, July 21.** *Why not invite a friend?*

Discover Your Call to Mission: Upcoming Module 4

Have you ever stopped to wonder about the true purpose of the Church, and how your unique gifts fit into God's plan? Starting the week of August 17, the Archdiocesan Centre for Catholic Formation is launching Module 4: *A People on Mission*. This inspiring nine-week course runs on Monday nights from 7:00pm to 9:00pm. It is designed to help you move your faith from the pews and into your everyday life. **How to Participate?** We are looking to gather a local group to experience this module together. If you are interested in attending or want to learn more, please get in touch with Carolyn Watt at sacraments.suncoast@bne.catholic.net.au to indicate your interest.

First Holy Communion Enrolment Now Open

Enrolments for First Communion are now open for children in Year 4 or older who have completed the Sacrament of Confirmation. The form can be completed online at maroochydoreparish.com.au. A Parent Information Night will be held at 5:00pm, Wednesday, July 15, in Stella Maris Church, Maroochydore. Please note: parents only are required to attend this evening. We look forward to supporting your child on this special step in their faith journey.

Misa en Español

On the second Saturday of every month, our Spanish chaplain, Fr Luis, celebrates Mass in Spanish at St Mary's, Buderim. The next Mass in Spanish will be 6:00pm, next Saturday, July 11 at St Mary's. Their Facebook page is Comunidad Catolica Latina de Sunshine Coast. Also, 6:00pm every Wednesday in the Duffy Room, our Spanish-speaking prayer group members meet.

Następna polska Msza św

On the Fourth Sunday of every month, Mass is celebrated in Polish. The next Mass in Polish will be 4:00pm, Sunday, July 26 at St Mary's - tell your Polish friends—all welcome.

Brasileiros Católicos em Sunshine Coast

On the first Sunday of every month at 11:30am, Our Lady of the Rosary Church, Edmund Street, Caloundra, Mass is celebrated in Portuguese. The Brazilian Catholic Community's email address is bcsc.contato@gmail.com

Maronite Mass

On the second Sunday of every month, the Maronite community on the Sunshine Coast gathers to celebrate their liturgy. 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 and our next Mass will be at 11:00am on next Sunday, July 12.

menALIVE MAX2026 – OCEANS:

A National Catholic Gathering for Men

This is Good News for all men and women in our parish. After 22 years touring Australia and NZ, menALIVE to the MAX returns to QLD for a limited time. Very soon, MAX26 will be on the Sunshine Coast for the first time and the theme is Oceans. This is a weekend faith experience for men. Some call it a Gathering, others call it a modern Retreat, but all call it a memorable experience. You can stay on site, or you can come in the day and sleep in your own bed. The choice is yours, and there are multiple choices of workshops. Many women want this experience for their men/sons'/ nephews'/uncles and pray for the men. Men, be curious. Come along. Bring someone/s too. This is a ticketed event so register now by scanning the QR code below or go to <https://tinyurl.com/2aanuust> before 23rd July. Thankyou.

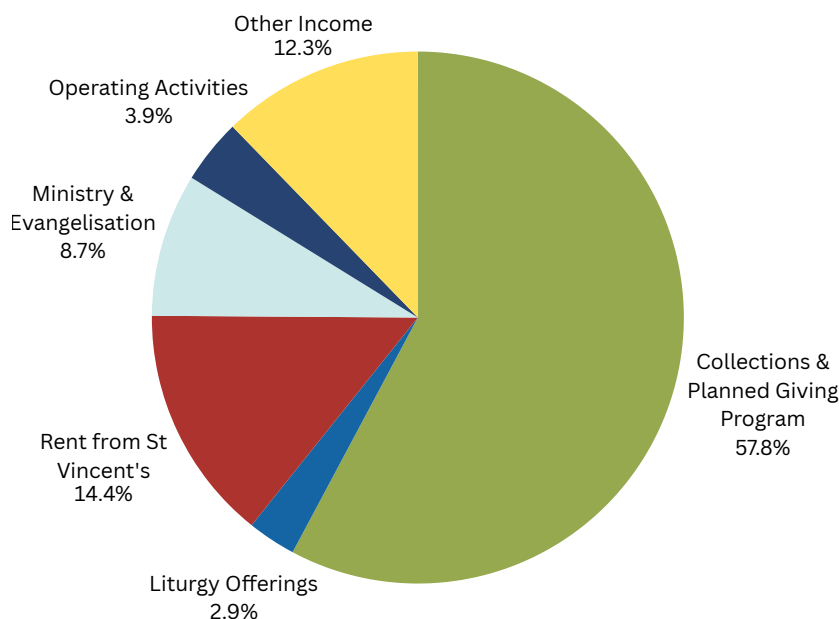


“Fun Days with God”

A reminder that our Parish holiday programme has been fully booked and is on this Thursday, July 9 at Stella Maris starting at 9:00am. The theme this holidays is “*Alive in the Spirit*” and it promises to be an exciting day of fun activities, craft, bible stories, songs, prayer, drama, plays and games all based around the Holy Spirit. Parents are invited to join us for the closing ritual at 2:45pm. Children are to wear comfortable “SunSmart” clothing and need to bring their own water bottle, morning tea, lunch and hat.



Income



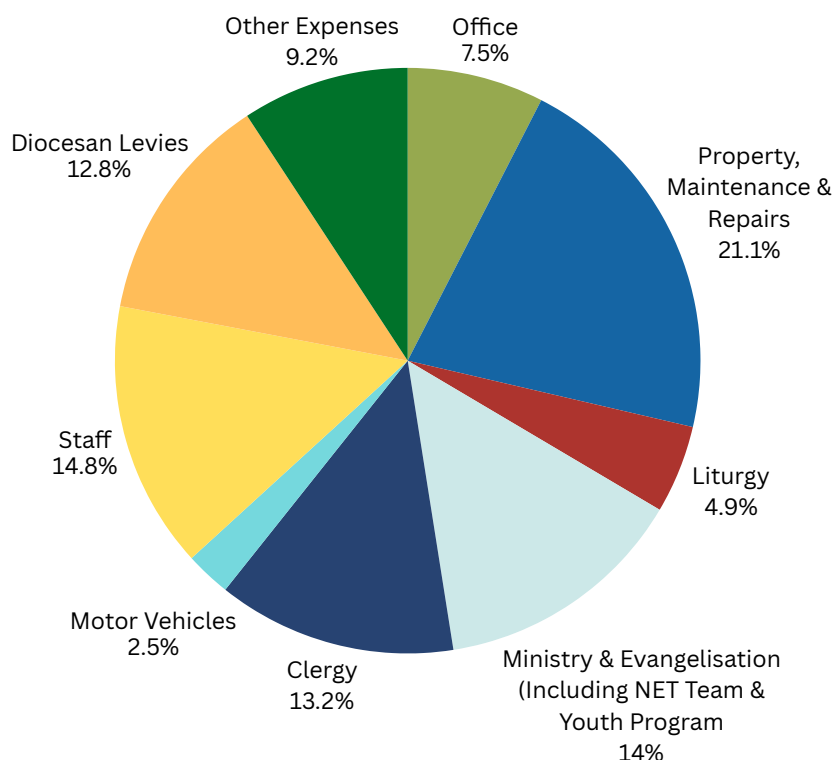
We have received back from our auditors last year's financial figures. These graphs help explain our financial position. Our parish income last year was \$1,232,650; the majority of which was your financial contribution through the planned giving program and weekly collections (\$712,510). **Thank you.** Our expenses for the year ending December 31, 2025 were \$939,077. Included in this figure is the continual maintenance across our parish churches (\$198,148). Keeping on top of the maintenance will always be a constant challenge for our parish community. At the same time we have to keep repairing and upgrading our audio-visual and amplification systems across all four churches.

Once again we have balanced the parish priorities of funding our youth program (NET team and youth activities), sacramental program and outreach (Lenten retreat, men's and women's retreats, etc), with the competing demand of drawing down our Parish debt. We have successfully reduced our debt from \$1,443,309 to \$1,270,447, during the course of the year. The parish has made a conscious decision to invest in our social media footprint as part of our ministry outreach, while at the same time being very careful to ensure that our administrative expenses remain within the budget.

Thank you to our Office Admin Trish Kelly and Lee Coghlan, our Sacramental Coordinator Carolyn Watt and Social Media Manager Georgia Whiteley for all the work undertaken throughout the year. A special thank you to all our volunteers across our parish family whose generosity ensures that our parish life has a vibrancy and richness that no money can buy.

The auditors report for the Stella Maris Parish has been posted on our parish website.

Expenses



If you would like more information about how you can financially support the mission and ministry of the parish, there are Planned Giving Packs available at the entrance to the church. There you will discover information about our parish endowment fund that will provide a secure financial future into the future. Alternatively you can talk to any member of the Parish Finance Committee (Fr Peter Brannelly, Bev Nunan, Peter Donelan, Kieran Fawcett, Tim Hishon, Fr Gerard Lai, Lorraine Nolan). However you decide to support your parish, we are grateful and we don't take your commitment or sacrifice for granted.