

Stella Maris Catholic Parish

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Weekend of July 19 and 20, 2026 Year A

First Reading: Wisdom 12:13,16-19; Second Reading: Romans 8:26-27 Gospel: Matthew 13:24-43

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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At Your Service

Fr Peter Brannelly

Fr Gerard Lai

Bishop Brian Heenan

Bishop Emeritus

Seeds of Renewal to Cultivate Our Parish Family

As a parish community, it is essential that we know where we are headed. Without clear direction and intentionality, our efforts can become scattered and less effective. *"Where there is no vision, the people perish"* Proverbs 29:18. Knowing our goals helps us unite our energy and resources towards meaningful growth and renewal. Each year, our parish leadership team selects a few key areas of focus to renew and grow our parish family. Through these intentional efforts, we aim to deepen our faith, strengthen community bonds, and invite everyone to participate more fully in the life of our Church. It is important to remember that building a vibrant parish is not the role of the priest alone. It is a shared responsibility of every member of our community. Each of us is called to actively foster faith and contribute to the ministries that make Stella Maris Catholic Parish a welcoming spiritual home.



Good Liturgy: Our community rightly expects that the Word of God will be proclaimed clearly and meaningfully, with musicians and priests well-prepared, and that our liturgical space reflects the sacredness of our worship. This commitment ensures every celebration of the Mass is a powerful encounter with Christ for all who gather. When our ministers and volunteers meet these standards, it honours the tradition of our faith and nurtures reverence among parishioners. This pillar is important because the quality of our liturgy shapes our communal worship, inspiring and strengthening our faith journey together.

Youth and Young Adults: Creating welcoming spaces for young people to gather, serve, and belong is vital to the life and future of our community. Opportunities for youth involvement nurture their faith and leadership, empowering them as active disciples of Christ. Engagement with local schools, 10:10 youth group, Junior Ministers, Young Adults Ministry, with the help of the NET Team supports young people as they navigate their faith journeys. This pillar is important because youth are the heartbeat of our parish's future, and investing in them sustains our community's vitality.

Hospitality: Making hospitality the norm at Sunday Mass means offering a warm and open-hearted welcome to all: lifelong parishioners, visitors, and those returning after time away. Simple acts of kindness create an inviting atmosphere where everyone feels valued and part of the parish family. Hospitality supports parish growth by encouraging connections and fostering belonging. This pillar is important because a welcoming community reflects Christ's love, inviting others to experience His presence through us.

Social Media: In an increasingly digital world, embracing and innovating with social media helps us engage parishioners and reach the wider community. Using digital platforms enables effective communication, keeping people informed and connected beyond the Mass. It broadens our mission's reach, sharing the Good News in accessible and creative ways. This pillar is important because it helps us live out our call as missionary disciples, spreading Christ's message far and wide. If we are not out there, then we simply don't exist to those who utilise these platforms.

Here at Stella Maris Parish we incorporate four worshipping communities St Mary's Buderim, St Peter's Coolum, Stella Maris Maroochydore, and St Catherine's Sippy Downs across eight weekend Masses. With over 2000 worshipping parishioners we are one of the largest parishes in Queensland! Our aim is to provide meaningful opportunities for people to encounter Christ and live out His gospel. Our vision is to be a thriving, engaged community where faith inspires action, reflected in a welcoming environment and opportunities for all to contribute through ministry and mission. Together as Church in 2026, let's nurture the seeds of faith in fertile soil and grow a vibrant, flourishing community.

With every blessing, *Fr Gerard Lai*



PARISH WORSHIP NIGHT

Eucharistic Adoration

NIGHT OF PRAISE AND WORSHIP,
ADORATION AND ENCOUNTER

6:00 - 7:30 PM STELLA MARIS CHURCH JULY 30TH 2026

ALL AGES WELCOME!

<https://maroochydoreparish.com.au/>

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 20

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

Tuesday, July 21

- **Mass** (9:00am, Stella Maris School Chapel)
- Sisterhood Meeting (6:00pm, Stella Maris)

Wednesday, July 22

- **Communion Service** (7:00am, St Mary's)
- **Communion Service** (9:00am, St Catherine's)
- Pray & Play (9:30am, The Annex)
- Scripture Study Group (9:30am, Zoom)
- Latin Prayer Group (6:00pm, Stella Maris)
- Young Adults (6:00pm, St Mary's)

Thursday, July 23

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

Friday, July 24

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

Saturday, July 25

- Men's Breakfast (8:00am, Bliss Room)
- Reconciliation (8:30—9:30am, Stella Maris)
- Funeral of Tom Rickards (11:00am, St Mary's)
- Jesus Shine Prayer Group (11:00am, St Catherine's)
- **Vigil Mass** (4:30pm, St Peter's)
- **Vigil Mass** (6:00pm, Stella Maris)

Sunday, July 26 *17th 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)
- **Mass** (9:30am, St Mary's) (*Children's Church*)
- Junior Minister's (3:00pm Stella Maris)
- 10:10 (3:00pm, Stella Maris)
- Polish Mass (4:00pm, St Mary'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.

UNAUTHORISED ORDINATIONS

*Within our Parish boundary, there is a street sign that says **CATHOLIC CHURCH** and points to a building that is not one of our churches! Many parishioners mistakenly think that this is simply a Catholic Church that celebrates the Mass in Latin – **it is not!** There has been quite a bit of media coverage about the decision of this group to ordain four bishops and the consequences of excommunication that automatically followed. The following article from *Liturgy News* might help explain how we got to this moment.*

The traditionalist Society of St Pius X, established by Archbishop Lefebvre, in reaction to Vatican Council II and its liturgical reform, went ahead to ordain four bishops without a papal mandate. This has been judged to be a schismatic act, which puts the society outside communion with the Catholic Church. It is an injury to the unity of the Body of Christ.

The Vatican has declared that not only the bishops who took part in the ordination but their priests, as well as any lay person who 'adheres' to the SSPX, are in schism and are automatically excommunicated. When the priests celebrate penance or marriage, these sacraments are invalid. The ordained however do have valid orders; therefore, the Masses they celebrate are valid but illicit. There are some 1500 formal members of SSPX with perhaps 600,000 people who attend their liturgy world-wide.

The SSPX is maintaining that they are the only ones upholding the true Catholic faith; their statement indicated that they could not accept 'errors' which gravely harm the salvation of souls. Examples of such errors were ecumenism, which recognised the work of the Holy Spirit in other Churches or, by extension, the idea that non-Christian religions (including Judaism) might contain some good and provide a path to salvation. The SSPX rejected ideas of religious freedom and the new developments of synodality, which they maintained would make the Church a consultative, parliamentary democracy.

Over the last fifty years, the Vatican has tried every conceivable strategy to reconcile the SSPX – making allowance for the Tridentine Mass, lifting earlier decrees of excommunication, establishing a special agency *Ecclesia Dei* to dialogue with the group – all to no avail. Sadly, the SSPX has not moved an inch from their fixed ideas. It has become increasingly clear that it is not just a matter of celebrating the traditional Latin liturgy but of accepting the fundamental teaching of Vatican Council II. For the Catholic Church, this is not negotiable. That is why Pope Leo noted before the ordinations took place: ***Certainly, division among Christians is always a painful point. But they [the SSPX] refuse to accept certain fundamental elements of the Church, starting with several points from the Second Vatican Council. If they make that choice, I am sorry, but we must move forward.***

The rhetoric of the SSPX maintains that they are the real Catholic Church. Now the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith in Rome has made it perfectly clear that they are not; they are outside the Catholic Church. In addition, the Dicastery has outlined a five-step procedure for the reinstatement of any cleric who wishes to affirm their unity with the Catholic Church. The Vatican remains open to dialogue.

WHERE FAITH AND LIFE MEET

We welcome into God's Family, the Church *Theodore Reyno* who will be baptised this weekend.

We pray for all those who have died, especially *Tom Rickards* and *Kerry Lockyer*.

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

BAPTISM | CONFIRMATION | COMMUNION FOR HIGH-SCHOOLERS

Are you a high school student interested in becoming Catholic or completing your Sacraments? The Rite of Christian Initiation of Youth (RCIY) is a welcoming space designed just for teens to explore faith, ask big questions, and grow closer to God.

How to Join: Ready to take the next step? Please fill out the registration form today on our website at <https://maroochyshoreparish.com.au/adolescent-baptism-enrolment-form-16-17-years/>

- Start Date: Monday, 27 July 2026
- Time: 4:00pm – 5:00pm
- Frequency: Fortnightly
- Location: The Annex
- Celebration of the Sacraments:
- Feast of Christ the King (22 November 2026)

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?*

A MESSAGE FROM PROJECT COMPASSION

Thank you to the entire Maroochyshore Parish community for being a part of Caritas Australia's Project Compassion 2026. Your parish has stood hand in hand with thousands across the country to raise **\$10.28 million** in support of vulnerable communities around the world. We couldn't be more grateful to you for choosing to *Unite Against Poverty*. Your generosity this year will support our neighbours worldwide, empowering the most vulnerable people to build a just future for themselves, their families and communities. Thank you so much once again for standing alongside us this Lent.



MEN OF STELLA MARIS PARISH

menALIVE MAX Weekend

After 22 years of reaching men across Australia and New Zealand, **menALIVE to the MAX** is returning to Queensland for a limited time and for the very first time, coming to the Sunshine Coast! **MAX26 OCEANS** is a **powerful faith experience** for men. Some describe it as a gathering, others as a modern retreat but all agree it is a memorable and life-giving experience. Men can choose to stay on site for the full weekend or attend during the day and return home in the evening. With a range of engaging and practical workshops, **there is something for everyone**. Many women already pray for and encourage the men in their lives - husbands, sons, nephews, and friends - to take up opportunities like this.

MAX2026 is an opportunity to **step away from the demands of everyday life**, reconnect with God, and journey alongside other men seeking purpose, faith, and authentic brotherhood. Together, we will explore what it means to navigate the "oceans" of our lives with courage, trust, and hope. Whether you are sailing through calm waters or navigating a storm, MAX2026 offers an opportunity to be renewed in faith, strengthened in brotherhood, and encouraged for the journey ahead.

If you're a man, why not be curious? Come along and treat yourself an early Father's Day present!

Registrations will close July 23, this is an event not to be missed! Scan the QR Code for more info.

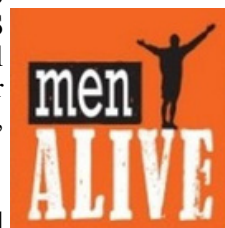
Men's Breakfast

You're invited to the Men's Breakfast on Saturday, July 25, from 8:00am to 9:15am in the Bliss Room (new start time).

Join us for faith sharing and encouragement. Our guest speaker, Ryan Darlington, will share his journey from atheism to becoming Catholic.

A light breakfast (cereal, fruit, yoghurt, toast) plus tea, coffee, and juice is included. A \$5 donation at the door is appreciated.

RSVP to Rob Hoy by 12:00pm, Wednesday, July 22, at 0401498059. Feel free to bring a mate! Disposable or personal tableware welcome.



The Stella Maris Craft Group

next get together is at 9:45am, Friday, July 24 in the Bliss room (after the 9:00am Mass). Come and meet fellow crafters and learn something new. Or just come along for a cuppa and a chat. All welcome.

Sunshine Coast Marathon

Please Note road closures on **Sunday, August 02** for the Sunshine Coast Marathon; please plan your travel accordingly.

<https://sunshinecoastmarathon.com.au/changed-traffic-conditions>

Parish Worship Night

On Thursday, July 30, 6:00pm - 7:30pm, join us for our first Parish Worship Night at Stella Maris Church, led by the NET Team. This family-friendly event begins with a shared dinner, followed by adoration, praise, and worship. Inspired by Acts 4:20 "*For we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard*", this event is a chance to deepen your relationship with Jesus and be renewed by His call. Please bring a plate to share and consider inviting a friend. Arrival at 5:30pm for a 6:00pm start. We look forward to seeing you there.

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 Carrolyn Watt at sacraments.suncoast@bne.catholic.net.au to indicate your interest.

Sisterhood

Each year, Sisterhood, our parish women's ministry, organises a one-day retreat for women here on the Sunshine Coast. It is a chance to break away from our everyday routine and reflect upon our journey of faith here on the Sunshine Coast. It is a day of prayer, reflection and a celebration of unique spirituality. The theme of this year's retreat is: *Bloom where you are planted*, and we are excited that **Geraldine Doogue** has accepted our invitation to share some of her reflections with us on what it means to be a Catholic woman here at the start of the 21st Century.



Born and raised in Perth, Geraldine Doogue is a Catholic woman and renowned Australian journalist and broadcaster with a long-career experience in print, television and radio. She is well respected for her work reporting on religious and social affairs and on Australia's place in the world. While initially planning to forego a career as a schoolteacher, Geraldine decided to apply for a journalism cadetship with **The West Australian** on impulse and later moved onto working at **The Australian**, **2UE** and **Channel 10 Eyewitness News**. She hosted the long-standing religious affairs program **Compass** from 1998 to 2017 and continued in various roles on **ABC Radio News**. During her career with both the ABC and commercial media, she won two *Penguin Awards* for excellence in broadcasting from the **Television Society of Australia** and a *United Nations Media Peace Prize*. In 2000, Geraldine was awarded a *Churchill Fellowship* for social and cultural reporting and in 2003, she was recognised with an *Officer in the Order of Australia* for services to the community and media. In 2014, she released her book "The Climb: Conversations with Australian Women in Power" where she interviewed a variety of women from all political persuasions and examined women in leadership roles. She has also received several Honorary Doctorates of Letters from various universities and was admitted to the *Australian Media Hall of Fame* in 2018. She is now a wife, mother and grandmother, spending a lot of time with family and friends.

All women are invited to join us for our annual Sisterhood retreat on August 29, 2026 at Stella Maris Primary School. The cost is \$40, and you can register online by scanning the QR code.

