

Stella Maris Catholic Parish

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Weekend of August 01 and 02, 2026 Year A

First Reading: Isaiah 55:1-3; Second Reading: Romans 8:35, 37-39 Gospel: Matthew 14:13-21

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

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Sacramental Enquiries

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lrs.suncoast@bne.catholic.net.au

At Your Service

Fr Peter Brannelly

Fr Gerard Lai

Bishop Brian Heenan

Bishop Emeritus

ANSWERING THE CALL

God calls each of us to a particular way of life. The Church recognises four main ways of living out that calling: Some are called to **marriage**, others to **consecrated religious life as sisters or brothers**, others to the **priesthood or diaconate** and some are called to the **single life**, each living faithfully according to God's will. The words "vocation" and "discernment" usually go hand in hand when we seek to discover the unique path God has prepared for us. Vocation comes from the Latin word "vocare" meaning to call. Sometimes, when I'm feeling a little cheeky while preaching about vocations, I'll ask the congregation for a show of hands: "Who's married? Who's single? Who's a religious brother or sister or priest?" Then I'll say, "Did you see all those hands? We don't have a vocation crisis at all...we have a priestly and religious vocation crisis!"

Research consistently shows that many young people never consider the priesthood or religious life simply because no one has ever asked them. Encouraging vocations is not the responsibility of priests alone, it is the mission of every baptised person. Sometimes, all it takes is the simple question: "**Have you ever thought God might be calling you?**", "**Have you ever considered the Priesthood/religious life?**"

Every baptised person has a vocation: first and foremost the universal call is to holiness and to become a saint. From that common calling, God then invites each of us to a particular way of life: Marriage, Consecrated, Ordained or Single. The challenge is helping each person discover and generously embrace the particular calling God has for them, and we do this through discernment.

Discernment comes from the Latin discernere, meaning "to distinguish" or "to separate." As we discern, we begin to separate one possibility from another. We prayerfully eliminate options to seek the one path God is inviting us to follow. Discernment is less-so about choosing between good and evil, and more-so about choosing between several good options and asking, "Lord, which one are You calling me to?"

Through my own discernment journey, I remember one day kneeling in prayer and saying, "Lord, I believe I could make a good husband and father, and I believe I could make a good priest. Which path are You calling me to?" I expected a clear answer. Instead, what I sensed was something quite unexpected. Like a good rabbi, the Lord seemed to turn the question back on me: "Gerard, I have given you free will. I want you to choose." At first that surprised me. Overtime, I realised that God wasn't playing a game of hide-and-seek with His will. He had placed two beautiful and life-giving vocations and was inviting me to respond with love and prayerfully discover where I could best love God and serve others. There were signs pointing towards both vocations but the discernment process led me to the Priesthood. I eventually learnt that in every major life-decision, even after thorough discernment, there is always an element of uncertainty where a leap of faith is required.

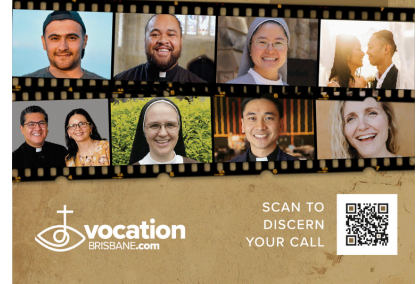
Vocations Awareness Week intentionally encompasses the Feast of the Transfiguration, celebrated on August 6, where we hear the Father's words: "**This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.**" (Matt 17:5) Every vocation begins there. Before we can answer God's call, we must first learn to listen to His voice. My prayer this week is that each of us, whatever our stage of life, may rediscover our universal call to holiness. May we have the courage to listen to the voice of Jesus, the generosity to respond and the confidence to invite others to prayerfully discern God's call in their own lives.

Discern well, *Fr Gerard Lai*

Called by Name

National Vocation Awareness Week

2-9 August 2026



FAITH GROWS THROUGH FRIENDSHIP

Hospitality is at the heart of every parish and every Mass. It begins with simple gestures: making room in the pew, greeting someone new, introducing yourself to a visitor, bringing a plate to share, or simply participating wholeheartedly in the liturgy. A welcoming parish is built by active disciples. While hospitality is important every Sunday, on the first Sunday of each month we make a special effort to foster community. Thank you for your smiles, your generosity, and the plate you have brought to share today. We hope you'll meet someone new and help make our parish a place where everyone feels welcome.

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, August 03

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

Tuesday, August 04

- **Mass** (9:00am, Stella Maris School Chapel)
- Funeral of Carmel Evans (11:00am, Stella Maris)

Wednesday, August 05

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

Thursday, August 06

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

Friday, August 07

- **Mass & Anointing** (9:00am, Stella Maris)
- Community Meal (6:00pm, Stella Maris)

Saturday, August 08

- 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, August 09 *19th 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)
- **Maronite Mass** (11:00am, St Mary's)
- Junior Minister's (3:00pm Stella Maris)
- 10:10 (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.

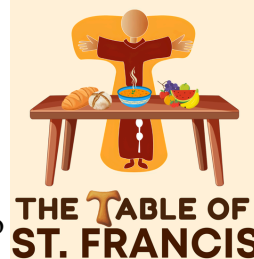


An assisted hearing loop has been installed at Stella Maris – please contact the Mass coordinator or sacristan to access the system.

THE TABLE OF ST FRANCIS

We are a grassroots Catholic outreach ministry serving people experiencing homelessness, hardship, and social isolation across the Sunshine Coast. Each week, our volunteers from various parishes provide freshly cooked meals, hot drinks, clothing, and friendship. Our goal is to raise \$50,000 to purchase and fit out a mobile food truck, helping us reach more people and serve more communities. Kieran & Patricia Fawcett are even running the marathon next weekend to raise much needed funds. Can you help? Email us for more info: thetableofstfrancis@gmail.com God bless you!

The Table of St. Francis | BSB 633-000 | Account: 244 459 665



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.

A DEAD CERTAINTY

Our parish Funeral Packs are located at the entrance of our church. These packs are intended for you to complete the information so that when the time comes, it will give some guidance to those you love most! The challenge is to sit down and talk about the different options, complete the details and return the envelope to the parish where it will be securely stored. Hopefully, a long, long time from now, the content of your envelope will give some direction and reassurance to your family as they prepare to celebrate your life.

BEST PRACTICE

The protocol for all our Eucharistic Ministers who take Communion to our sisters and brothers who are sick, housebound, in hospital or nursing homes is that before you place your pyx on the offertory table, please record your name and the names of those whom you are going to see (the folder is at the entrance of each church). This important ministry always takes place on the day, ideally following when commissioned at the end of Mass, and only commissioned Eucharistic Ministers are allowed to take the Blessed Sacrament from the church.

PLAY & PRAY

Every Wednesday morning from 9:30 to 11:00am parents with pre-school age children gather at Stella Maris for our Pray & Play group. It is an excellent opportunity for young children to interact with each other while at the same time for adults to share the wisdom for experience and in the process have some fun! Grandparents are especially welcome to share your experience and stories while at the same time enjoying the energy and inquisitiveness of those just starting out on the great adventure of life. Please join us this Wednesday!

WHERE FAITH AND LIFE MEET

We pray for all those who have died, especially **Carmel Evans and Helena Kubik**. May her 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

ANNUAL CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN 22/23 AUGUST

Your prayerful and financial support on 22/23 August is greatly appreciated. Please give generously.

22-23 August 2026



Empower a child to dream

Your gift to the Mary Mackillop Bursary Fund means the world to a child in need. Your gift helps struggling families and ensures children can access a holistic Catholic Education.

2026 ANNUAL CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN
Our Church - Our Mission - Our Community

WEB: catholiccampaign.com.au PHONE: 07 3324 3200
EMAIL: giving@bne.catholic.net.au

22-23 August 2026



Help Rebuild Lives

Your generosity helps to protect some of the most vulnerable people in our community. Through Centacare, you provide safe refuge, practical support and hope to families and individuals at the moment they need our care most.

2026 ANNUAL CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN
Our Church - Our Mission - Our Community

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EMAIL: giving@bne.catholic.net.au

22-23 August 2026



Help form tomorrow's priests

With your gift, you help prepare future priests for ministry, fostering faith, humility, collaboration and service, at a time when leadership in the Church matters deeply.

2026 ANNUAL CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN
Our Church - Our Mission - Our Community

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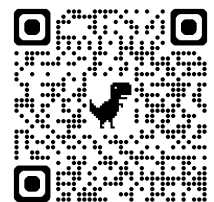
RCIA - BECOMING CATHOLIC

Are you considering becoming Catholic or completing your Sacraments of Initiation? We warmly invite you to join our Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) program.

RCIA is for adults who wish to become fully initiated into the Catholic Church through the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Communion, or who have already been baptised and would like to receive Confirmation and/or Communion. The weekly gatherings will assist participants to grow in their relationship with Christ and deepen their understanding of the Catholic faith. Beginning on Wednesday, August 5, RCIA will run for 16 weeks, concluding on November 18. Sessions are held each Wednesday from 6:00-7:30pm in the Bliss Room, next to Stella Maris Church. If you feel God may be calling you to take this next step, we warmly encourage you to register your interest by visiting our parish website or scanning the QR code.

If you would like more information, please contact Jacinta at elksj@bne.catholic.net.au.

We would be delighted to accompany you on your journey of faith.



SISTERHOOD RETREAT DAY!

All women of the parish are warmly invited to our Sisterhood Retreat Day on Saturday, August 29 at Stella Maris Primary School. We're delighted to welcome Geraldine Doogue as our guest speaker for this special day of inspiration, reflection, and fellowship. Tickets are limited and selling fast!

Cost: \$40 per person. Please register by scanning the QR code to secure your place.



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, August 8 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, August 23 at St Mary's - tell your Polish friends, all are welcome.

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. Our next Mass will be at 11:00am, Sunday, August 9.

VIETNAMESE SPEAKERS

Any Vietnamese parishioners who would like to catch up with Fr Joseph Hien are warmly invited to attend First Saturday of the Month, Reconciliations at 8:30-9:30am or Monday evening Mass at 5:30pm.

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. Livestream available on the *Brasileiros Católicos em Sunshine Coast* YouTube page.

You are also welcome to join us for the first gathering of our new Prayer Group 'Prontos para a Batalha' on Monday, August 3, at Our Lady of the Rosary Church, Caloundra. We will gather from 6:00pm, pray the Holy Rosary at 6:30pm, and begin our Prayer Group meeting at 7:00pm. Whether you have been part of a prayer group before or are simply looking to grow in your faith, everyone is warmly welcome. We look forward to praying with you.

For more information contact: bcsc.contato@gmail.com

Sunshine Coast Catholic Education

Siena Catholic Primary School

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



Last Wednesday evening, 77 of our Year 3–6 students shone on stage in their Wakakirri performance. Wakakirri is a nationwide festival for schools that gives students the opportunity to share their thoughts, ideas and aspirations through storytelling and dance.

Throughout Term 2 and 3, our students dedicated almost every lunch break to learning the wonderful choreography created by Mrs Sussman, with support from Ms Ryan and Mrs Wells. Mr Campbell, together with a Year 5 student, also created an iMovie that provided the visual backdrop for the performance. The students' dancing, acting and energy came together beautifully, resulting in a polished and memorable performance at the Events Centre, Caloundra.

This year's theme, 'A Hero Lies in You', explored the idea that while life can present many challenges, recognising our own potential and gifts can help us rise above them and flourish. This message also connects beautifully with our Catholic Education Week theme, 'Let your light shine, inspire others!'



Stella Maris Primary School

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



Last Friday our Prep students at Stella Maris School celebrated a very special milestone, 100 Days of Prep. The day was filled with excitement as students immersed themselves in activities celebrating all things 100. From counting challenges to imaginative dress-ups and hands-on learning experiences, the children explored the many ways the number 100 appears in our world. Just as our Prep students started the year with one day of school, one classroom, and new friendships waiting to be formed, they have now reached an important milestone in their learning journey. We congratulate all of our Prep students and thank our dedicated teachers and families for supporting them as they continue to learn, grow, and shine.

This week Stella Maris proudly celebrated Catholic Education Week, embracing the theme Share Your Light, Inspire Others. Inspired by our Presentation charism and the example of Nano Nagle, students reflected on how their unique gifts can bring hope, compassion and kindness to others. As part of the celebrations, Fr Gerard joined our school community for a special Liturgy of the Word, where we gave thanks for the gift of Catholic education and the opportunities it provides for faith, learning and service. Following the liturgy, buddy classes came together to celebrate what makes Catholic schooling unique. Through shared activities, prayer and conversation, students strengthened connections across year levels and explored how they can be a light for others in their school community.

Siena Catholic College

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



This week we celebrated Catholic Education Week, guided by the theme "Share your light, inspire others". In Wednesday's combined liturgy with Siena Primary, we reflected on how we can grow and thrive - academically, personally and spiritually - and how we might let our light shine for the good of others. A quiz on all things Siena, a lunch on the lawn while listening to our talented musicians, a fun NET activity and a sausage sizzle rounded out the week's events.

At the assembly, we also acknowledged those members of the community who, without fanfare or expectation, embody what it means to be a person who is motivated by the Catholic Education Week theme. Congratulations to our worthy student and staff recipients, Mannel, Grace, Mia, Ava, Summer, Jordan and Mr Chris Wall.

On Wednesday afternoon, parents and students joined Ms Collins for a Principal's Tour. This was an opportunity for prospective parents to view the College and hear more about what have on offer. If you have a student in Year 5 who has not yet submitted an online enrolment application, please check the College Website for relevant information.

DON'T BE SHY — LET'S BE FRIENDS !

It has never been so easy to get in touch and keep up to date with the many ministries and activities of our parish. Why not start by visiting our Facebook page? You will receive updates on what's happening within the parish, religious articles and content of interest. Our Instagram page also offers a wealth of information, while our eNewsletter delivers our weekly newsletter straight to your inbox!

