

Stella Maris Catholic Parish

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Weekend of August 08 and 09, 2026 Year A

First Reading: 1 Kings 19:9, 11-13; Second Reading: Romans 9:1-5 Gospel: Matthew 14:22-33

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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bne.catholic.net.au

At Your Service

Fr Peter Brannelly

Fr Gerard Lai

Bishop Brian Heenan

Bishop Emeritus

REFLECTING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

Here at Stella Maris Parish, we proudly place ourselves under the patronage of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Throughout history, Mary has been honoured with many beautiful titles, one of the oldest and most beloved being Stella Maris, Star of the Sea. Popularised during the medieval period, this title became especially cherished by sailors who sought Mary's protection on dangerous voyages. Just as the stars guided navigators, sailors and fishermen safely home, Mary continues to guide all people through the turbulent waters of life to her Son, Jesus Christ.



Image used with permission.
Leadlight window from Star of the Sea Parish, Cleveland

This coming Saturday, August 15, we celebrate the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This feast reminds us that Mary never points to herself, but just like the stars that guide a ship, Mary always leads us to Jesus. If Jesus is like the sun, then Mary is like the moon. The moon has no light of its own but shines only because it reflects the light of the sun. In the same way Mary possesses no glory apart from Christ. Everything that makes her beautiful and worthy of honour comes from Him. Like the moon, Mary is not the source of the light, but reflects the light of Christ into our lives, especially in times of uncertainty and suffering. Her whole mission is to lead us to Jesus.

The Assumption reminds us that at the end of her earthly life, Mary was taken body and soul into heaven. Unlike Jesus, who ascended by His own divine power, Mary was assumed by God's grace. As Catholics, we venerate the relics of the saints as reminders of holy lives. Yet no relic of Mary has ever been found. Her Assumption proclaims that she already shares fully in the resurrection won by Christ.

Mary was not divine. She experienced life as we do. She knew hardship, misunderstanding and sorrow, and stood faithfully at the foot of the Cross. She called herself the "handmaid of the Lord", placing her whole life at God's disposal with a heart completely open to His will.

That is why the Church calls Mary the New Eve. Where Eve reached out to grasp what was not hers, Mary opened her hands to receive everything as God's gift. Where Eve's answer was disobedience, Mary's answer was, "Let it be done to me according to your word" (Lk 1:38). Just as Jesus is the New Adam, restoring what Adam had lost through sin, Mary, the New Eve, shares uniquely in God's plan of salvation through her faithful "yes". Together they reverse the tragedy of Eden and reopen the way to eternal life.

Mary's Assumption is therefore a promise held out to each one of us. She is the first disciple to receive fully what Christ desires for all who follow Him. In Mary we see our future. God did not create us merely for this world; He created us for heaven to be in perfect union with Him. Today's feast boldly proclaims that death is not the end of the story. The last word belongs to God, and His final word is eternal life.

Mary has already reached the destination toward which we are all travelling. As the Church gathered at Stella Maris, may we allow her to guide us through the stormy seas of life. Illuminated by Mary's example, she invites us to keep our eyes fixed on Christ. Where Jesus has ascended and Mary has been assumed, we are called to follow with faithful obedience and our daily "yes" to God. May Stella Maris Our Lady Star of the Sea, guide us safely home. Pilgrim well!

Fr Gerard Lai

Our Assumption Day Masses are: Saturday August 15, 7:30am St Peter's Coolum & 8:00am Stella Maris, Maroochydore (preceding reconciliations).



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.



WEB: catholiccampaign.com.au PHONE: 07 3324 3200
EMAIL: giving@bne.catholic.net.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, August 10

- RCIY (4:00pm, The Annex)
- Adoration (4:30pm, Stella Maris)
- Benediction (5:15pm, Stella Maris)
- **Mass** (5:30pm, Stella Maris)

Tuesday, August 11

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

Wednesday, August 12

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

Thursday, August 13

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

Friday, August 14

- **Mass** (9:00am, Stella Maris)
- Craft Group (9:45am, Stella Maris)
- Funeral of Helena Kubik (12:00pm, St Peter's)
- Community Meal (6:00pm, Stella Maris)

Saturday, August 15 *Feast of the Assumption*

- Mass (7:30am, St Peter's) *(Holy Day of Obligation)*
- Mass (8:00am, Stella Maris) *(Holy Day of Obligation)*
- 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)

Sunday, August 16 *20th Sunday in Ordinary Time*

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

HEARING THE CALL

National Vocation Awareness Week (August, 2 - 9) is an opportunity to pray for vocations and discernment in the Church, helping all the faithful to explore their calling, and to take the next step in responding to God's call. *How will you respond to God's call this week? How will you encourage others in their call?*

SIMPLICITY SEPTEMBER

This September, why not simplify one aspect of your life and discover what truly matters?

Inspired by the Gospel call to live simply, **Simplicity September** invites you to support **PALMS International Volunteering**, Australia's Catholic lay mission organisation working in partnership with communities across the Asia-Pacific through long-term international volunteering.

You can sponsor yourself, your family or a friend to take part in the challenge, helping to raise funds that support PALMS' life-changing work of formation, development and service. Join Catholics and communities across Australia in making a difference.

For more information, visit:

www.simplicityseptember.org.au or contact PALMS on (02) 9560 5333 or 0422 472 567.

Palms



YOUNG ADULTS

Young Adults ages 18-35 - join us, 11:00am this Sunday for a Picnic after Mass. We will be meeting at Picnic Point Maroochydore. Bring a snack to share, a chair or blanket and a friend!

For more information or to join our WhatsApp group, contact: media.suncoast@bne.catholic.net.au.



PARISH NEWS

Did you know? We have a new page on our website where we share regular parish news stories of interest.

To read our latest articles visit:

<https://maroochydoreparish.com.au/parish-news/>



CHILDREN & YOUTH

- **Pray & Play (Infants):** Wednesdays, 9:30am (The Annex)
- **Children's Church:** Most Sundays across Coolum, Sippy Downs, Buderim & Maroochydore (See 'The Week Ahead')
- **Junior Ministers (Years 3-6):** Sundays, 3:00-5:00pm (Stella Maris)
- **Fun Days with God (Prep-Year 6):** School Holidays
- **10:10 Youth (Years 7-12):** Sundays, 3:00-5:00pm (Stella Maris)

CRAFT GROUP

Feeling Crafty? Stella Maris Craft Group's next get together is on Friday, August 14 at 9:45am in the Bliss room (after the 9:00am Mass). Come along and meet fellow crafters and learn a new craft. Or just come for a cuppa and a chat. No loose ends here, just great company. All are welcome.



WHERE FAITH AND LIFE MEET

We welcome into God's Family, the Church **Bowie Cronk, Florence Cronk, Rome Nicol, Maverick Perry & Sofia Zumbo** who will be baptised this weekend.

We pray for all those who have died, especially **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

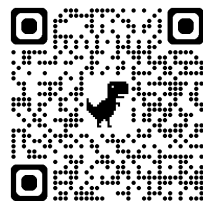
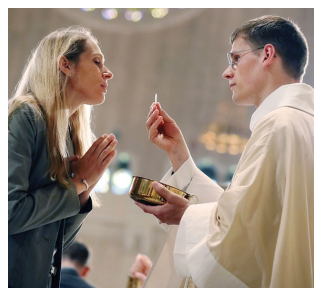
RCIA - BECOMING CATHOLIC

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. **Our sessions have already begun, and registrations will close after this week's session, so if you have been considering taking this step, now is the time to join us.** Sessions are held each Wednesday from 6:00–7:30pm in the Bliss Room, next to Stella Maris Church spanning 16 weeks and concluding November 18. 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: elksj@bne.catholic.net.au.

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



WRITING A LOVE LETTER

When you think of it, writing a will is a bit like writing a legal letter of love.

It gives you the freedom to pass on what is important to you to the people that matter to you. When the time is right for you to write your will or update your will, please also consider remembering your parish family. Having just purchased 22 Maroochydore Road as phase one of our strategic plan, which has plunged us into serious debt, your parish family needs a lot of love! Before we can embrace the second phase of our strategic plan, we need to reduce our debt. Getting legal guidance and professional financial advice and talking to your family is important when you contemplate writing your legal love letter. As we together embrace the challenges we face, however you support your parish family, we are grateful.



SAFEGUARDING TRAINING FOR VOLUNTEERS

Safeguarding Training is an Archdiocesan requirement for those volunteers who need a Blue Card or Police Check for their ministries. The Parish Safeguarding Team will be holding face to face training at 10:00am, Monday, September 7, in the Bliss Room at Stella Maris Church for those who have not completed their online training. 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. Please register your attendance by emailing: lsr.suncoast@bne.catholic.net.au



Safeguarding Commitment

The Archdiocese has **zero tolerance** for all forms of abuse and is committed to safeguarding everyone involved in its activities, ministries and services. The safety and wellbeing of children and adults-at-risk is paramount.

IGNITE CONFERENCE BRISBANE

Looking to grow deeper in your faith? Ignite Conference 2026 is a powerful Catholic gathering for people of all ages, featuring inspiring speakers, uplifting praise and worship, engaging workshops, the Sacraments, and opportunities to encounter Christ in a profound way.

Whether you're a young adult, part of a family, or simply seeking to be renewed in your faith, Ignite Conference offers something for everyone. Save the date September, 24-27 and watch this space. For more information visit: igniteconference.com.au.

The parish is now looking for expressions of interest for Adult Chaperones and Leaders for the Youth delegation. Please send your expression of interest to the parish office, we would love to hear from you.



YOUNG ADULTS COORDINATOR - EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Do you have a heart for young adults and a desire to help others grow in their faith? We are seeking expressions of interest for a volunteer Young Adults Coordinator to assist in building a welcoming and vibrant young adult community within our parish. If you feel called to accompany others in their journey with Christ, we'd love to hear from you. Please contact the Parish Office for more information.



Sunshine Coast Catholic Education

Siena Catholic Primary School

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



Last Wednesday, we joined 313 Catholic schools across Queensland to celebrate Catholic Education Week and reflect on the unique mission of Catholic education.

We reflected on how Catholic education transformed lives by inspiring students to live the message of Jesus and become compassionate, contributing members of society. The theme, "Shine your light, inspire others!", captured the heart of our shared mission.

Our college and primary campuses came together for a special liturgy, affirming our commitment to being witnesses of Christ through word and action. The Gospel from Matthew reminded us to let our light shine and share hope, kindness and faith with others.

Fr Gerard and College Principal, Sharon Collins encouraged us to inspire others by letting our light shine. Fr Gerard reminded us that ordinary people could do extraordinary things through simple, faithful actions. Our Year 5 and 6 choir also performed beautifully.

We also presented Spirit of Catholic Education awards to one student from each year level and to a staff member or team. The recipients inspired our community through their faith, service, kindness and commitment. It was a meaningful celebration of our faith-filled community.

Stella Maris Primary School

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



Last week, our Maroochy Mob, made up of Stella Maris' First Nations students, recently had the privilege of working alongside local Aboriginal artist Uncle Mack Muckan as he began painting newly erected totem poles outside our Art rooms.

Drawing on stories connected to our school house colours, students painted animal designs representing important places, stories and connections to Country. Uncle Mack shared elements of his artistic traditions, teaching techniques inspired by nature and the local environment.

The totem poles form a outdoor learning space where students can deepen their understanding of Aboriginal cultures, traditions and storytelling while strengthening their connection to Country. Once completed, plaques will explain the meaning and significance of the animals, symbols and stories featured in each design.

This inspiring collaboration reflects Stella Maris' commitment to reconciliation, respect and learning from the wisdom of First Nations peoples.

Siena Catholic College

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



At the end of Week 4, with the holidays a distant memory, we continue to be busy and to offer students many different opportunities for learning and community building.

Our Year 11s attended the St Catherine's Community Mass on Wednesday and had the opportunity to explore their theme of "belong, believe and become". Fr Gerard broke open the readings for us challenging us to be open to the possibility of God, to trust in God and to do good with our lives.

In addition, the Year 7s travelled to Wildlife HQ where they explored ecological themes, while enjoying the chance to meet some seriously cute animals. The Year 12s took time out to complete their final pathway conversations - an opportunity to consider their progress and their plans for their post-school lives.

On the sporting field, we can report that our AFLQ Schools Cup teams competed in semi-finals on Tuesday. The girls were valiant in what was a closely fought game, while the boys won their game and now move through to the next round.

Next week we reach the half way point of term and it will be time to move our focus to working on assessment.

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!

