

Stella Maris Catholic Parish

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Weekend of July 25 and 26, 2026 Year A

First Reading: 1 Kings 3:5, 7-12; Second Reading: Romans 8:28-30 Gospel: Matthew 13:44-52

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:

maroochydoreparish.com.au

Planned Giving Enquiries

[finance.suncoast@](mailto:finance.suncoast@bne.catholic.net.au)

bne.catholic.net.au

Media Enquiries

Georgia Whiteley

[media.suncoast@](mailto:media.suncoast@bne.catholic.net.au)

bne.catholic.net.au

Sacramental Enquiries

Carrolyn Watt

[sacraments.suncoast@](mailto:sacraments.suncoast@bne.catholic.net.au)

bne.catholic.net.au

Safeguarding Enquiries

[lsl.suncoast@](mailto:lsl.suncoast@bne.catholic.net.au)

bne.catholic.net.au

At Your Service

Fr Peter Brannelly

Fr Gerard Lai

Bishop Brian Heenan

Bishop Emeritus

THE GIFT OF GRANDPARENTS

26 July marks the Feast of Saints Joachim and Anne, the parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the grandparents of Jesus. Rather fittingly, is also the World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly and this feast day reminds us of the priceless gift that older generations are to our families, our parishes and our world.

Grandparents hold a unique place in our lives. They are often the keepers of family stories, the voices of wisdom, and the examples of perseverance through life's joys and hardships. Many of us can remember a grandparent who taught us to pray, took us to Mass, encouraged us in difficult times, or simply loved us with a generosity that asked for nothing in return.

For me personally, I have been blessed with four wonderful grandparents. My (maternal grandparents) Gong Gong and Po Po have always been a source of joy, my Po Po through her endless patience and incredible cooking, and my Gong Gong through his hilarious stories and sage advice; their back-and-forth banter is oh so entertaining. My Mah Mah and Yeh Yeh (paternal grandparents), who came from very humble beginnings, were shining examples of perseverance, hard work and faith. My Mah Mah taught me patience and optimism, through the quiet way she lovingly cared for my Yeh Yeh during his years of declining health. Her tireless care showed me what love truly looks like. Through their words, songs, unwavering service and example, I am incredibly grateful for all four of my grandparents who have had a profound influence on my life and have helped pass on the gift of faith to me and my siblings from a young age.

I know my story is not unique. Many of us can point to a grandparent, an aunt, an uncle, or an elderly neighbour whose gentle witness shaped the people we have become. As I reflect on my own grandparents, I realise that the greatest inheritance they gave me was spiritual. Through their prayers, faithful example, quiet acts of service and steadfast love, they taught me that faith is not simply something we believe it is something we live. Looking back, I can see that they helped me discover the greatest treasure of all, the Kingdom of Heaven, and for that I will always be grateful.

In a special way, we celebrate the treasures the elderly impart to our world as beautiful examples of patience and wisdom. Their lives are a testament to God's faithfulness across the decades. Their prayers sustain families and experiences help to guide younger generations reminding us that every stage of life has dignity and purpose.

Pope Leo XIV has continued this beautiful tradition, begun by Pope Francis, encouraging us to ensure that no elderly person feels forgotten or alone. One of the greatest gifts we can offer is not something money can buy, it is our time. A visit, a phone call, a shared meal, writing a letter (does anyone do that anymore? Perhaps that's all the more reason to do it, it would certainly be a lovely surprise!), or simply listening to their stories can become a profound act of love. Ask yourself this week, Who is an elderly person that I can reach out to? It may be a grandparent, a neighbour, a parishioner, or someone in an aged care home. Your visit could brighten their entire week.

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To all the grandparents in our parish family: Thank you! Thank you for your faith, your sacrifices, your wisdom and your love. Your witness has helped shape generations, and your prayers continue to strengthen the Church in ways that often go unseen.

May Saints Joachim and Anne intercede for all grandparents and the elderly, and may our parish always be a place where every generation is welcomed, valued and loved.

God bless, *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/>

Don't get caught out! Sunshine Coast Marathon next weekend

Please note road closures on **Sunday, August 02** and plan your travel accordingly.

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

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 27

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

Tuesday, July 28

- **Mass** (9:00am, Stella Maris School Chapel)
- Craft Group (1:00pm, St Peter's)

Wednesday, July 29

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

Thursday, July 30

- **Mass** (8:30am, St Peter's)
- Parish Worship Night (6:00pm, Stella Maris)

Friday, July 31

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

Saturday, August 01

- **Mass** (8:00am, Stella Maris)
- Reconciliation (8:30—9:30am, Stella Maris)
- Rosary Making Group (9:30am, Bliss Room)
- Jesus Shine Prayer Group (11:00am, St Catherine's)
- **Vigil Mass** (4:30pm, St Peter's)
- **Vigil Mass** (6:00pm, Stella Maris)

Sunday, August 02 *18th 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)
- Junior Minister's (3:00pm Stella Maris)
- 10:10 (3:00pm, Stella Maris)
- **Mass** (5:00pm, Stella Maris) *(Children's Church)*
- Veritas (following Mass)

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.

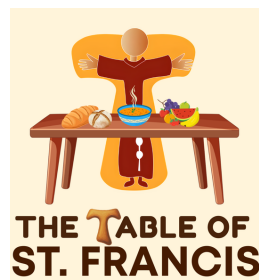
RCTY - CATHOLIC INITIATION FOR TEENS

Are you a secondary school student interested in becoming Catholic or learning more about the Catholic faith? We're hoping to gather a group of young people to begin this journey together. Our first session will be held on Monday 27 July at 4:00 pm in The Annex, with meetings continuing fortnightly. If you'd like to join us, we'd love to welcome you!

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



HOSPITALITY

On the first weekend of the month, we always have a special emphasis on hospitality. If we want to be a friendly community, we need to also be a welcoming community and providing hospitality is an excellent way of meeting new and old parishioners alike. Please join us after Mass next weekend. Thank you to the different groups who organise our hospitality each month.

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.

CHILDREN, YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS

- **Pray & Play (Infants):** Wednesdays, 9:30am (Annex)
- **Children's Liturgy:** Most Sundays – Buderim (9:30am), Sippy Downs (8:00am), and Stella Maris (9:00am & 5:00pm)
- **Junior Ministers:** Years 3–6 (Sundays)
- **Fun Days with God:** Prep–Year 6 (School Holidays)
- **10:10 Youth Group:** Years 7–12 (Sundays)
- **Young Adults:** Ages 18–30 (Fortnightly, various locations)

CRAFT GROUP

Feeling Crafty? Join the Coolum Crafters for their monthly crafternoon gathering. July 28, at 1:00pm at the Coolum Church. No loose ends here, just great company.

ROSARY MAKING GROUP

The next Rosary Making Ministry Group will be gathering on Saturday, August 01 from 9:30 to 11:30am in the Bliss Room.

WHERE FAITH AND LIFE MEET

We welcome into God's Family, the Church *Teddy Davidson, Xander Moore, Jasper Pham & Janella Reyes Young* who will be baptised this weekend.



We pray for all those who have died, especially Thomas Rickards and Carmel Evans. 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

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.

For more information visit igniteconference.com.au. The parish hopes to take a delegation of youth (and adult chaparones), young adults, adult parishioners to the conference. Save the date **24-27 September** and watch this space.



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, 5 August, 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:

www.maroochydoreparish.com.au/the-rite-of-christian-initiation-of-adults-rcia/

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.



RECYCLING TO HELP THE PARISH AND THE PLANET

The first weekend of the month (NEXT WEEK!) 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 complete 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.



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.

Sunshine Coast Catholic Education

Siena Catholic Primary School

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



On Tuesday, our Prep students joyfully celebrated a very special milestone — 100 days of Prep! It was a wonderful opportunity to pause and recognise just how much our youngest learners have grown since beginning their school journey. The children marked the day with a range of fun and meaningful activities connected to the number 100, including counting, creating, sharing and reflecting on all they have learned so far.

The highlight of the celebration was seeing many of the children and staff dressed up as 100-year-olds, complete with plenty of grey hair, glasses, walking sticks and wonderful expressions! The celebration was filled with smiles, laughter and a real sense of achievement as students enjoyed being “100 days smarter.” We are grateful to our Prep teachers, school officers and families for helping make this milestone such a memorable one. It was a beautiful reminder of the joy, curiosity and wonder that our Prep students bring to our Siena community each day — although by the end of all the excitement, it is fair to say that everyone needed a little nap!



Stella Maris Primary School

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



The Stella Maris School community is excited to be preparing for its 2026 school musical, Shrek Jr in October. Students and staff have been hard at work throughout the year, dedicating countless hours to rehearsals, music, choreography, costumes, props, and set preparation to bring this much-loved story to life.

Based on the popular DreamWorks story, Shrek Jr. is a fun-filled musical celebrating friendship, belonging, courage and accepting others for who they are. The production will showcase the talents of a large cast of Stella Maris students, supported by dedicated staff and volunteers from our school community. It promises to be a wonderful celebration of creativity, teamwork and the Performing Arts at Stella Maris School.



Siena Catholic College

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



We're just two weeks into Term Three and already staff and students have engaged in a wide range of activities. Over the holidays, our Netball and Rugby League teams played in the QISSN and Confraternity Carnivals. They acquitted themselves very well, with the boys finishing in third place in their division. Additionally, several students used the holidays to participate in Honours Music Ensembles hosted by Griffith University – this is always a great learning experience for our talented musicians.

Since school returned, we have had both Year 11 Geography and Year 12 Biology Excursions, the Year 10s have participated in the RYDA road safety education program, and our AFL boys and girls travelled to Hervey Bay for the regional finals of the AFLQ Cup. We also welcomed the parents and carers of our Year 7 students, as they presented a Showcase of their learnings from Term Two. Last weekend, we also welcomed 35 staff and students from our sister school in Cesena, Italy. They will be hosted by our families for the next few weeks, and we are looking forward to what is always a very valuable cultural exchange.

Next week we move into Catholic Education Week, which this year has the theme ‘Share your light, inspire others’. It will be a time for us to celebrate what it means to belong to this and the wider Catholic Education community.

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!

