

Stella Maris Catholic Parish

Twenty Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Weekend of September 19 and 20, 2026 Year A

First Reading: Isaiah 55:6-9 Second Reading: Philippians 1:20-24,27 Gospel: Matthew: 20:1-16

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

Planned Giving Enquiries

finance.suncoast@

bne.catholic.net.au

Media Enquiries

Georgia Whiteley

media.suncoast@

bne.catholic.net.au

Sacramental Enquiries

Carrolyn Watt

sacraments.suncoast@

bne.catholic.net.au

Safeguarding Enquiries

lsr.suncoast@

bne.catholic.net.au

Maroochydore NET Team

Maroochyshore@netministries.com.au

At Your Service

Fr Peter Brannelly

Fr Gerard Lai

Bishop Brian Heenan

Bishop Emeritus

It's Just Not Fair !

This weekend's Gospel reading is the all too familiar story of the workers in the vineyard and the ridiculously generous vineyard owner. Workers go out at different times of the day and at the end of the day they all get the same amount of pay. No matter how many times I read and re-read it at the back of my mind, deep in my heart, **I can't help thinking that It's just not fair!** We think of justice in terms of what is fair, of what people deserve. So we would say that the people who worked longer deserved more. But God doesn't see it that way. God thinks of justice in terms of people's dignity, their right to a decent life.

The people who came late had the same right to a decent life as those who had worked all day, so they are all treated equally. Nothing is taken from anyone, but all are treated in accord with their dignity, their right to a decent life. Such is God's justice. That all sounds fine in theory but to me it still **just does not seem fair!**

Perhaps my reluctance to embrace God's notion of justice is that there are times when I think others are not worthy of it or do not deserve it. *After all, surely justice is also a reward for doing good, doing one's duty, resisting temptation, staying pure, staying the course, bearing the heat of the day in fidelity, going to Mass, doing what is right.* It is not easy to accept that God's love does not discriminate and his forgiveness and love is given to those I deem to be less worthy of it, who don't seem to have done their duty. Whichever way I look at it - **it does not seem to be fair !**

If you are a bit like me then perhaps, in the end, we need to forgive God. It's hard to accept that God loves everyone equally - even our enemies, even those who hate us, even those who don't work as hard as we do, even those who reject duty for selfishness, and even those who give in to all the temptations we resist.

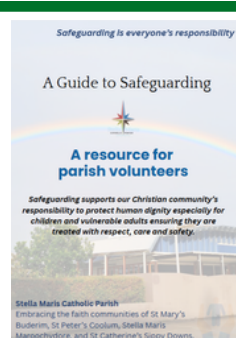
Although deep down we know that God has been more than fair with us, God's lavish generosity to others is something which we find hard to accept. Like the workers in this weekend's Parable of the Vineyard, who toiled the whole day and then saw those who had worked just one hour get the same wage as theirs, we often let God's generosity to others warp both our joy and our eyesight.

Perhaps at this weekend's Mass, instead of focusing on what we think everyone else is getting away with we should instead recognize and give thanks for our own capacity to love, forgive, resist temptations, work hard and the ability to do one's duty. In fact, maybe that is the very point of this weekend's parable; *that the vineyard workers were so obsessed by what others had been given that they failed to realise what they had received themselves.*

We are already planning for 2027!

Orders are now being taken for next year's **Ordo, Break Open the Word Daily Mass Books and God's Word** – please go to the Parish Office to place your order.

Safeguarding Sunday was last weekend and our local Safeguarding Team launched a booklet they had compiled titled A Guide to Safeguarding – A Resource for Parish Volunteers. It is available at the entrance to the church. The Archdiocese and our Parish has zero tolerance for all forms of abuse and is committed to safeguarding everyone involved in our activities, ministries, and services. Ultimately for our in our Sunshine Coast Catholic Parish the safety and wellbeing of all children and adults-at-risk is paramount. We are fortunate that our Safeguarding Team provide assistance and training to ensure that we meet our safeguarding obligations. If you have a question or concern please do not hesitate to contact them lsr.suncoast@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, September 21

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

Tuesday, September 22

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

Wednesday, September 23

- **Mass** (7:00am, St Mary's)
- **Mass** (9:00am, St Catherine's)
- Funeral of Margaret McMahon (11:00am, Stella Maris)
- Scripture Study Group (9:30am, Zoom)

Thursday, September 24

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

Friday, September 25

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

Saturday, September 26

- 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, September 27 *26th 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) *(Children's Church)*
- **Mass** (9:30am, 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.

Tell your neighbours and friends that we Live Stream our 9:00am & 5:00pm Sunday Mass – simply go to our parish webpage and click onto “Mass Livestream” for all our Masses and videos.



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

At the start of the school holidays we welcome many families to our Sunshine Coast Catholic Family. When we welcome visitors to our home, we normally tidy the house, greet guests at the door, and make sure that all are comfortable and included. This hospitable behaviour applies also to the communities that faithfully gathers each weekend at Stella Maris, St Mary's, St Catherine's and St Peter's. It is amazing how first impressions can sometimes leave a lasting impression!

Some parishes have designated ministers of hospitality whose job it is to make visitors welcome. But everyone at Mass has a ministry of welcome and warmth to others as fellow members of the Body of Christ.

This isn't just a **'feel-good'** fad or part of some trendy push to be inclusive. The General Instruction of the Roman Missal clearly calls on the faithful to share charity toward all who share with them in the celebration. *They, therefore, are to shun any appearance of individualism or division, keeping before their mind that they are all brothers and sisters to each other. They should become one body... There is a beautiful expression of this unity when the faithful maintain uniformity in their actions and in standing, sitting or kneeling.*

In other words, going to Mass is not a time for **'doing my own thing'** or **'my time with God'**. *We're all in this together!* It is up to each one of us to **'pay attention'** to those who are with us at Mass and to make everyone welcome. With the start of school holidays this weekend and influx of families on holidays, it is timely for us locals who call the Sunshine Coast home to smile, be aware of the visitors in our midst and not be afraid to make the first gesture of welcome. *After all, we are all in this together!*

New to the Neighbourhood ?

Welcome! We live in an extremely mobile society and especially here on the Sunshine Coast there are always people coming and going. It is too easy to get lost in all the activity of our Parish community. If you are new to our Parish, or if you are reconnecting with the Church, we would love to welcome you more formally to our Parish Family. You will find “welcome packs” at the entrance of all our churches, and if you complete and return the forms, we will be in contact with you. Once again, welcome.

Craft Group

The Stella Maris Craft Group's next get together is on Friday 25 September at 9:45am in the Bliss room (after the 9.00am Mass). Come and share a cuppa with a very friendly group of crafty people. If you are up Coolum way the St Peter's Craft Group's next meeting is at 1:00pm, Tuesday, September 22.

School Holidays

Our Junior Ministers Group (children from grade 3 to 6) and 10:10, our high school youth group now have two weeks off during school holidays. They resume at 3:00pm on Sunday, October 6 at Stella Maris. Also taking a break over the holidays is our Play & Pray group that caters for parents with smaller children. In the meantime, our school holiday programme “Fun Days with God” is on Tuesday, September 22.

Where Faith and Life Meet

We welcome into God's Family, the Church *Brooklyn Bellingham, Lucia Edginton* and *Winslet McGough* who will be baptised this weekend.

We pray for all those who have died especially *Margaret McMahon* and *Phillip Trovatello*. Margaret's funeral will be held at 11:00am, Wednesday, September 23 at Stella Maris. Phillip's funeral will be held at 12:00pm, Friday, September 25 at St Mary's. 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



Members of our Latin American Community would like to thank fellow parishioners for supporting last Sunday's Food Fair in support of the earthquake victims in Colombia. The entire proceeds of over \$6,000 will be directed to the ÁBACO Food Bank located across Colombia. Thanks once again for your generous support



Did you know that.....

the holy water with which we bless ourselves as we enter church is a reminder of our baptism? This blessing, or sacramental, echoes the first sacrament we receive in our journey of faith. As we enter the church building, the holy water also marks the transition from daily life into sacred space, an echo of God's instruction to Moses to make a bronze basin for water to cleanse the hands of the priests before they entered the holiest place (Exodus 30). The early Church Fathers noted that Christians used holy water for healing and protection and by the fourth century receptacles of holy water appeared at some church entrances. In the ninth century Pope Leo IV mandated that every church should have a holy water font, a practice we still see today.

For most of us who are born and bred Catholics, the holy water font and blessing ourselves as we enter the church is just part of our Catholic life.

But for someone joining us for the first time the ritual, like so many we take for granted, might confuse. On the first and third weekends of the month, after the 5:00pm Sunday night Mass, we have **Veratis**, a short, friendly gathering for anyone who wants to discover a little more about what we believe, how we celebrate our faith and the reasons behind some of our rituals and symbols – *please feel free to join us after the 5:00pm Mass this Sunday evening.*



At the start of the school holidays we understand that there are many visitors joining us who are not Catholic – *you are most welcome*. When it comes time for Holy Communion you are welcome to come forward and cross your arms to receive a blessing. Thank you for being with us today.

Visit our **Facebook** page! There is just too much happening in our Parish to fit into our weekly newsletter! You will receive updates on what's happening within the parish, religious articles and content of interest. It is also a way we contact you with urgent news. "Like" our Facebook page, and you will be kept notified of new posts and help to promote the Parish page to more viewers. Just go to www.facebook.com/mission.stella/ and click on the "thumbs up" under any of our posts.

Please keep in your prayers the 40 youth and young adults along with their chaperones who are in the final stages of preparation for this year's Ignite Conference. The annual Ignite Conference 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. Once again this year the conference, which attracts participants from all around Australia, will be held at St Laurence's College, South Brisbane. The countless fundraising endeavours held throughout the year and your generosity, has enabled our parish to send this year's group to the conference.



Introduction to Preventing Burnout

Burnout doesn't announce itself, it creeps in. Are you feeling exhaustion? Mental overload? Constantly pushing but never able to catch up? You may be experiencing signs of burnout. If you are running on caffeine, out of energy and in survival-mode this free two-hour session might just be for you!

Join parishioner and psychologist with 25+ years of experience, Brad Everton for a powerful yet practical introduction to understanding and preventing burnout, where you will have the opportunity to learn about:

- The **early signs** that burnout is already affecting you or someone you know.
- The **real causes** behind burnout and why it strikes high-achievers, caregivers, volunteers.
- **Simple and effective** strategies to help prevent, manage and recover from burnout.

This presentation will take place at Stella Maris Church on Tuesday, October 20 from 6:30 to 8:30pm.

Please scan the QR code to register. Everyone is welcome.



Sunshine Coast Catholic Education

Siena Catholic Primary School

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



On Thursday 10 September, our Siena community recognised R U OK? Day, an important reminder of the power of meaningful conversations and genuine connection. During morning circles, classes explored what it means to check in on others and shared examples of times when someone had asked them, "Are you OK?" or when they had shown care for a friend, family member, or classmate. These conversations highlighted the importance of kindness, empathy, and looking out for one another, not just on R U OK? Day, but every day. Students proudly wore their R U OK? wristbands, creating a sea of yellow and helping to spread this important message across the school. Staff also embraced the spirit of the day with a yellow-themed morning tea, taking time to connect and check in with one another. Thank you to everyone who helped make R U OK? Day such a meaningful occasion as we continue to build a caring and supportive community where everyone knows they matter.

Stella Maris Primary School

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



The Year 5 students recently ventured to QCCC Mapleton for three unforgettable days of challenge, teamwork and adventure. From soaring through the air on the giant swing and flying fox to balancing carefully atop crate towers, students discovered that courage often begins just outside their comfort zone. Canoeing tested teamwork and communication, while archery and rock climbing revealed hidden talents, determination and resilience. The camp provided countless opportunities for students to support one another, celebrate successes and learn the value of working together. Friendships were strengthened, confidence grew and plenty of memories were made along the way. While the students returned home buzzing with energy and stories to tell, the teachers returned with something slightly different... a lack of sleep! Apparently, ensuring Year 5 students actually go to sleep is a challenge worthy of its own camp activity. We are incredibly proud of the way our students represented Stella Maris, embracing every opportunity with enthusiasm, courage and good humour. God was certainly at work throughout this wonderful adventure.

Siena Catholic College

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



What has been another busy term has now concluded, although our teachers enter the holiday period with lots of marking and reports to be completed. During the week, our Year 10s were on their outdoor expedition at Kenilworth. There they had the opportunity to enjoy mountain biking and hiking, as well as the chance to camp out and appreciate one another's company. While the activities were challenging, the opportunity to share the experience with others was uplifting. While our 10s were enjoying some down-time, the Year 11s had their first taste of an exam block, with most facing a full schedule of exams across the week. For the Year 12s, it's been the end of their final term of classes and, when they return next term, they will be fully engaged in final preparations for their external exams. On Friday, we farewelled long term staff member, Bruce Fitzgerald, who passed away following a short illness. We remember Bruce as a man of great integrity and humility, a fabulous Maths teacher and talented Basketball coach. He had the capacity to meet young people where they were at and to ensure that they were equipped with all they needed to achieve their very best – in the classroom, on the court and in life. We extend our condolences to Bruce's wife, children and grandchildren at this difficult time.

On this weekend, the start of the school holidays, we remember and celebrate the diversity of our Catholic Faith - it is great to remember also some of the important and unique "communities within our community".

Misa en Español

On the second Saturday of every month, our Spanish chaplain, Fr Luis, celebrates Mass in Spanish at St Mary's, Buderim. It is a great celebration with hospitality and a warm welcome to new faces. The next Mass in Spanish will be 6:00pm, Saturday, October 10 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, and all Spanish speakers are invited.

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.

Następną polską Msza św

On the Fourth Sunday of every month, Mass is celebrated in Polish. The next Mass in Polish will be 4:00pm, Sunday, September 27 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 besc.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 Sunday, October 18.