

Stella Maris Catholic Parish

Twenty Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Weekend of September 26 and 27, 2026 Year A

First Reading: Ezekiel 18:25-28 Second Reading: Philippians 2:1-11 Gospel: Matthew: 21:28-32

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

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Maroochydore NET Team

Maroochydoor@netministries.com.au

At Your Service

Fr Peter Brannelly

Fr Gerard Lai

Bishop Brian Heenan

Bishop Emeritus

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. We will be placing our bulk order in two weeks time.

IT IS NEVER TOO LATE !!!

What's your choice for a favourite Gospel parable? The Good Samaritan? The Vineyard Workers? The Good Shepherd? I'm sure that you can add to the list. Might I suggest you consider this weekend's Gospel story as also worthy of your favourites!

It comes from the Gospel of Matthew and it concerns a father and his two sons – you're right, *there is a second story about a father and his two sons!* Their father asks each of them to go and work in the family vineyard. One says no, but later changes his mind and complies. The other says yes but doesn't go out to the vineyard. Jesus' conclusion: The first son, the one who thought better of his refusal and eventually went to work, was the son who truly carried out his father's will. The point our Lord wants to make is clear: Those who sin can change. Sinners who repent are welcome in the Kingdom.

And that's what makes this parable one of my favourites. In little ways and in big ways I have said no to God. I've done this through bad choices, neglecting obvious opportunities to do good, taking for granted God's good creation, not appreciating the blessings of my life, falling for the trap of only thinking about **"me"** first. I am sure we can all make our list.

Fortunately, we believe in a God who is always prepared to give us a second chance and leaves the door of the Kingdom open. Lots of times, through God's help and the challenge and patience of other Christians, I've been given that second chance and have been motivated to re-consider my decision.

When that happens I hope that makes me like the first son, capable of changing my mind and reconsidering God's will and God's way. Appreciating this reality is a great way to face the challenges and struggles of this coming week!

Wishing you every blessing for the next seven days,

Fr Peter Brannelly

This weekend 45 of our younger parishioners will join 1,200 other young Catholics at the Ignite conference in Brisbane. This yearly event attracts Catholics from all over Australia and is coordinated by Ignite Youth. Over the four days, through engaging speakers, workshops and praise & worship, participants are invited to envisage a bold vision for the future of the Church. On Thursday Fr Gerard and three mini buses headed off to St Laurence's College, South Brisbane, where the Ignite Conference is being held. **Thank you to everyone over the past nine months who have supported the fundraising that has made our participation in the Ignite Conference possible.** While Fr Gerard is attending the Conference we welcome to our Parish Family Fr Neil Muir, the Rector of Holy Spirit Seminary.



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 28

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

Tuesday, September 29

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

Wednesday, September 30

- **Mass** (7:00am, St Mary's)
- **Mass** (9:00am, St Catherine's)
- Scripture Study Group (9:30am, Zoom)

Thursday, October 01

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

Friday, October 02

- **First Friday Mass & Anointing** (9:00am, Stella Maris)

Saturday, October 03

- **First Saturday Mass** (8:00am, Stella Maris)
- 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, October 04 *Hospitality Weekend* *Twenty Seventh 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) (*Children's Church*)
- **Mass** (9:30am, St Mary's)
- **Mass** (5:00pm, Stella Maris) (*Children's Church*)
- Veritas (6:00pm, Stella Maris)

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.

Half way through the school holidays, we especially welcome all families enjoying the school vacation on the Sunshine Coast. Thank you for celebrating the Eucharist with us this weekend.

So whether you are up here on the weekend or for the following week or if you are simply stopping on your travel around Australia

welcome.

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.

INFANT BAPTISM

Those parents with new born babies wishing for them to be baptised are reminded of the short preparation meeting, which takes place at Stella Maris Church on the first Thursday of every month. At this short preparation meeting, we outline some of the symbols used at the ceremony, answer any questions and confirm dates. The next baptismal preparation meeting will be at 6:00pm, this Thursday, October 1.

Please register and complete the paperwork by going to our parish

website: maroochydoreparish.com.au

FIRST FRIDAY

On the first Friday of every month, we celebrate a special healing Mass at our 9:00am Stella Maris Mass. Please let your neighbours and friends know about this Special Mass, especially if transport is an issue!

HOSPITALITY

Don't forget that next weekend, being the first of the month, hospitality is the focus of our Parish Family. Please spend a few moments after Mass to catch up with fellow parishioners and make welcome visitors.

Thank you also for bring along a plate to share.



Last Tuesday 60 young members of our Parish Family descended on Stella Maris for our holiday programme “**Fun Days With God**” thank you as always for Bernie Ballie for coordinating the day and for the NET team for being part of the fun!

Where Faith and Life Meet

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

Congratulations to *Douglas McCarthy* and *Angela Brown* who celebrated their marriage at Stella Maris this weekend.

We pray for all those who have died especially *Margaret McMahon* and *Phillip Trovatiello* whose funeral rites were celebrated last week. We also remember *Rita Condon* who recently died. 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

A IMPORTANT UPDATE FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Our four church communities, St Catherine's, St Mary's, St Peter's and Stella Maris, are the fruits of the faith, sacrifice and generosity of those who came before us. Those pioneering parishioners dreamed, worked, saved and prayed so that future generations would have a place to encounter Christ and grow in faith. They entrusted to us a precious legacy, and through their vision we have grown to become the largest parish in the state. We are deeply blessed by what they have handed on to us, and we continue to build upon the strong foundations they laid with such dedication and love.

As each generation receives the gift of faith, so too it is called to discern how best to pass that gift on. It would be easy to maintain what we have and leave future challenges to those who come after us. Yet from time to time, God places before us opportunities that invite courage, faith and a willingness to think beyond ourselves.

Over recent months, we have been presented with such an opportunity. Together with the Parish Finance Committee and in consultation with the Archdiocese, we have developed a strategy that has the potential to secure the future of Stella Maris and create possibilities for generations of parishioners still to come. Central to this vision is the acquisition of land adjoining our Maroochydore church.

In July, the corner property on Maroochydore Road became available, and we were successful in purchasing it for \$3.9 million. At that stage, our hope was to focus on reducing that debt before considering any further acquisitions. Unexpectedly, however, the adjacent Radiography Centre and car park property came onto the market in August. After careful discussion with the Archdiocese, we submitted a successful offer of \$8.8 million. Under our agreement with the Archdiocese, we have three years to significantly reduce the parish debt; otherwise, the property will need to be sold. Together with the remaining \$1.1 million debt from the St Vincent's project, this brings our total parish debt to \$13.8 million.

I am very conscious of the size of that figure and the responsibility it places upon our parish community. At the same time, I am equally aware of the extraordinary opportunity before us. Opportunities like this rarely come along, especially so close to our church. If we are able to retain these properties and reduce our debt over the coming years, we will be placing our parish in a remarkably strong position to continue its mission and ministry long into the future.

This will require commitment, sacrifice and careful stewardship from all of us.



Thankfully, our Parish has always been built on generosity. While the parish office employs only four part-time staff members, Lee Coghlan, Trish Kelly, Carolyn Watt and Georgia Whiteley, the life of our Parish Family is sustained by an extraordinary network of volunteers. Week after week, countless people quietly give of their time, talents and energy in service of others. Their generosity is one of the great blessings of our parish and a powerful expression of our shared faith.

In the coming weeks, we will be launching a Planned Giving Campaign. This will provide every parishioner with an opportunity, if they are able, to contribute towards the future of our parish by helping to reduce this debt. Every gift, regardless of its size, will be an important part of our collective effort.

Naturally, there will also be consequences for some of our planned projects. Initiatives such as the refurbishment of St Peter's and the proposed meeting room at Sippy Downs will need to be postponed until our financial position becomes clearer or additional funding is secured. These projects remain important and they will happen in time, but prudence requires that we focus first on meeting our current commitments. Plans for the St Peter's refurbishment have already been completed, and we continue to explore ways in which the works may be delivered in stages.

Similarly, some ministries, including the NET Team, fall outside next year's budget. There is no doubt that the NET Teams have made a wonderful contribution to the life and faith of our parish over recent years. Should we wish to welcome another team next year, additional fundraising will be required. Encouragingly, a dedicated committee is already preparing a major Parish Lunch fundraiser at Siena on Sunday, November 22, drawing together the talents of local chefs and the generosity of businesses within our community. Further details will be shared soon.

I want to speak personally for a moment. At this stage of my priesthood, it would certainly be easier for me to leave these challenges and opportunities to my successors. But I believe we have a responsibility to act when the future wellbeing of our parish is at stake. We have been entrusted with much by those who came before us, and in turn we have a responsibility to think of those who will come after us. The generations before us made sacrifices so that we could inherit the parish we know and love today. Perhaps now it is our turn to make sacrifices for those who will one day follow us.

I am deeply grateful for your trust, your generosity and your continued support. Please keep this endeavour in your prayers. Together, with faith in God's providence and a shared commitment to our Parish Family, I am confident that we can meet this challenge and help secure a strong and vibrant future for our parish.

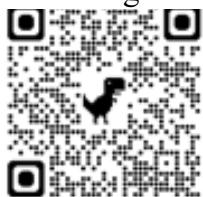
On behalf of the Parish Finance Committee,

Fr Peter Brannelly

(Fr Peter Brannelly, Bev Nunan, Peter Donelan, Kieran Fawcett, Tim Hishon, Fr Gerard Lai, Lorraine Nolan)

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!



Sounds of Celebration - Waves of Harmony

On Sunday, October 25, the Sounds of Celebration fundraiser will take place at St Peter's Church Coolom. There will be performances by Waves of Harmony and special guests. Afterwards afternoon tea will be available. The ticket price is \$20 (payable at the door). All proceeds go towards supporting the local outreach programs of St Vincent de Paul Society. All are welcome.

Create Your Own Rosary Using Beads and Cord

The month of October is traditionally dedicated to the Holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary. You are warmly invited to join in a meaningful Rosary Making Workshop. Experience the beauty of faith through creativity.

- All materials provided (beads, crucifix & cord)
- Gentle, step-by-step knotting guidance
- Two and a half-hour session for all ages
- Morning tea provided

Date: 9:00am to 11:30am, Saturday, October 10

Location: Stella Maris Parish – Bliss Room

Limited spaces available – please book early

\$5.00 cash fee to cover the cost of materials (payable on the date of the workshop).

For further information and to book, contact

Veronica 0451 593 397 or Angelina 0410 660 890.



Introduction to Preventing Burnout - Free Event

Join Brad Everton, parishioner and psychologist with 25+ years of experience, for a powerful, practical introduction to understanding and preventing burnout. **In this presentation, you'll learn:**

- The early signs burnout is already affecting you or someone you care about.
- The real causes behind burnout and why it strikes high-achievers, caregivers, volunteers, parents, business owners, tradesmen, professionals and many more.
- Simple, effective strategies to help prevent, manage and recover from burnout.

Reserve your seat now. Register at: www.bradeverton.com/stella

On this weekend, in the middle 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. Mass in Polish will be at 4:00pm, this 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 bscsc.contato@gmail.com

Maronite Mass

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.

Who will come out on top in our parish tipping completion ???