



Stella Maris Catholic Parish

Twenty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Weekend of September 05 and 06, 2026 Year A

First Reading: Ezekiel 33:7-9 Second Reading: Romans 13:8-10 Gospel: Matthew 18:15-20

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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At Your Service

Fr Peter Brannelly

Fr Gerard Lai

Bishop Brian Heenan

Bishop Emeritus

Jesus didn't wait for perfect people in holy places. He started His mission in ordinary Galilee, calling fishermen with rough hands and simple lives. *He meets us exactly where we are*—in school drop-off lines, messy kitchens, taking kids to sport on a weekend and sitting in front of the TV after a busy day—*and invites us into something extraordinary*. And sometimes the extraordinary is right in our midst – we just need to recognize it!

All of us walk through the doors of our Sunshine Coast churches this Father's Day with different experiences, memories and realities. But one thing is for sure, we all have fathers – whether very present, present but distant, or long-time absent, long gone but still remembered! Some within the walls of our churches this weekend are fathers; some may look forward to one day being fathers. Others may, for many different reasons, never be fathers. Whatever the case, where ever you fit in the kaleidoscope of possibilities, today, as a community we celebrate:

Father's Day

But importantly, hopefully surrounding all of us this day are the examples of good and positive fatherhood role models – the nurturing, reliable, dependable, reassuring and ultimately forgiving presence that give all our lives the stability and confidence to embrace all the challenges of a rapidly changing and unpredictable world.

The funny thing is that preaching about mothers is fairly easy! Preaching about fathers is a greater challenge. A challenge not because they do less but because what they do often goes unnoticed, and many times, unappreciated.

There is a wonderful story in the Gospel. Jesus needs to be alone. He goes off to pray. His disciples do what they always do.....*they go fishing*. Now Scripture tells us that the sea grew violent and the disciples were being tossed about. And imbedded in this story is a simple line that portrays Jesus, standing on the shore, looking on at his disciples as they struggled. In the distance, not seen by those in the boat yet totally concerned with their safety, Christ gives us a perfect image of what being a father is all about !

I think that fathers and good role models have it difficult because they are often the ones who stand in the distance. They are the ones who watch over us even when we are not aware of their concern. Fathers look on, wanting to protect us and yet knowing that we cannot grow and move forward unless we learn to struggle and to grow on our own. A father's love is often a silent love.....always present, most often hushed and in the background, yet never without total concern, care and inner strength.

God bless today all our fathers and all our indispensable role models.

Fr Peter Brannelly

Negotiations

The parish is still in dialogue with the Archdiocese regarding the possible purchase of the adjoining property to Stella Maris Church. As already mentioned, this is a multimillion dollar acquisition which will require the parish going into substantial debt. It is also a statement of trust and confidence in the future. When we do pay off that debt, in 10 or 15 years time, those who we have *handed on the faith* to will have many options. **If you think it will only be used for parking, you are mistaken!** Parking will always be an obvious issue but we imagine that the property could also be redeveloped to include meeting rooms, perhaps childcare, maybe offices for Centacare, a vibrant hub for our youth ministry, perhaps even emergency accommodation or why not disability support facilities ?—the options will only be limited by our vision! Thank you to those who have already pledged your financial support. *As the negotiations continue please keep you parish in your prayers.*

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 07

- Safeguarding Meeting (10:00am, Stella Maris)
- RCIY (4:30pm, Stella Maris)
- Adoration (4:30pm, Stella Maris)
- Benediction (5:15pm, Stella Maris)
- **Mass** (5:30pm, Stella Maris)

Tuesday, September 08

- **Mass** (9:00am, Stella Maris School Chapel)
- Craft Group (1:00pm, St Peter's)
- Baptism Preparation Older Children (5:00pm, Stella Maris)
- Knights of the Southern Cross Meeting (7:00pm, Stella Maris)

Wednesday, September 09

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

Thursday, September 10

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

Friday, September 11

- **Mass** (9:00am, Stella Maris)
- Craft Group (9:45am, Stella Maris)
- Funeral of Ferdi Sedhoff (1:00pm, Stella Maris)
- Community Meal (6:00pm, Stella Maris)

Saturday, September 12

- 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, September 13 *24th 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) *(Children's Church)*
- Junior Ministers (3:00pm, Stella Maris)
- 10:10 Youth Group (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.

On the first weekend of the month the special focus of our community is hospitality. So if you have joined us today after driving up the Bruce highway or have just popped in for the first time or maybe you are a weekly regular – whatever the case, you are

Welcome

and we hope that you join us after Mass for light refreshments and a chance to connect.

Feeling Crafty ?

The Stella Maris Craft Group's next get together is on at 9:45am, Friday, September 11 in the Bliss room (after the 9.00am Mass). Kick start those forgotten and hidden skills, or just come along for a cuppa and a friendly chat. Why not bring a friend ?

Thank You

Last week we celebrated the annual **Catholic Campaign** which supports among other things, the care of sick and unwell priests, families in need through Centacare, training of future priests and Catholic education for families who are facing financial hardship. On behalf of those you support, thank you. If you did not get a chance to support the appeal and would like to there are still appeal envelopes at the door and you are welcome to return your donation next week.

Veritas

Veritas, meets this Sunday immediately after the 5:00pm Mass. Veritas is simply *Latin* for *truth*. Faith and truth are inseparable! If you are exploring the Catholic faith, asking serious questions about Jesus Christ, or feeling a growing desire to take the next step in your faith journey, Veritas is here to walk with you. This ministry supports both people discerning RCIA, when faith is growing, and conversion is beginning to take shape in real life, as well as our new Catholics (anyone who has come through RCIA in the last couple of years). Any parishioners interested in further faith formation are also welcome to come along. Our hope is to provide a friendly and 'no pressure' space where people with questions can meet. Veritas gathers immediately after the 5:00pm Sunday evening Mass on the first and third Sundays of the month.

New to the Neighbourhood ?

In our highly mobile society parishioners downsize, pack up and move to greener pastures! But the reverse is also true – each week new members arrive and join us. In a large parish like ours, with so much going on, it is easy to get lost in the crowd and the busyness of parish life. We don't want that to happen! Several times a year we host a **"cocktail party"** on the balcony of the presbytery to welcome new and returning parishioners. If you are new to our Parish Family or if you are reconnected with the church after some time away, you are most welcome. At the entrance to the church you will discover a **"Welcome Envelope"** which contains information about your new Parish Family – please complete the details and return the information so that we can invite you to the next "Welcome Cocktail Party". Once again, welcome - *we're glad you share your Sunday with us.*

Don't forget that we live stream our 9:00am & 5:00pm Sunday Masses - simply go to our parish web page and click on Mass Livestream - and it will take you to our YouTube channel.

Where Faith and Life Meet

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

We pray for all those who have died especially *Ferdi Sedhoff*, whose funeral will be at Stella Maris at 1:00pm on this Friday, September 11. May his 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

Please Make Welcome

This Sunday at the 9:00am Mass, we welcome members of our local **Order of St. John of Jerusalem Knights Hospitaller**, Sunshine Coast Priory. The Grand Priory of Australasia is part of the ancient Order of Chivalry, the Order of Saint John of Jerusalem, Knights Hospitaller. With a history dating back over 900 years, as an ecumenical Order members come from mainly the Anglican, Roman Catholic, Uniting Church and Lutheran churches. Their focus is on charitable and humanitarian service, particularly serving the sick, the poor and those in need.

Safeguarding

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, this 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

Practical Support

Because of modern media the vivid images of natural disasters confront us as quickly as the events happen! Who can forget the images of the flood waters in Nepal or the collapsed buildings in Colombia after the earthquake last month. Our local Latino Catholic Community will be holding a **Disaster Relief Food Fair**, next Sunday, September 13, following the 9:00am Mass at Stella Maris. The intention is to raise funds to support relief efforts currently underway in Colombia. The Food Fair will include a sausage sizzle and the sale of Colombian and Latino food. Funds raised will be provided directly to Father Luis Antonio, chaplain to the Spanish Community, who will direct the funds to the ÁBACO Food Bank located across Colombia.

Every Bit Helps

The first weekend of the month (**THIS 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.



Bloom Where You Are Planted

Congratulations to the organising group who coordinated last Saturday's Sisterhood Retreat. Sisterhood is our parish ministry for women and it supports, strengthens and celebrates the unique spirituality of women here in our Sunshine Coast Parish. Just under 200 women gathered last Saturday and the journalist and commentator, Geraldine Doogue shared some of her faith story and her insights into being a woman of faith.

The theme of the day was **"Bloom Where You Are Planted"**. Thank you also to all those who helped make the experience so uplifting, especially the Knights of the Southern Cross for providing and serving lunch and the NET team for all work behind the scenes. The organizing committee would love to get some feedback from all those who attended the retreat – could you please click onto the QR code and give us some feedback. There are plenty of photos of the day on our parish webpage.



Mums & Dads Grandmums & Granddads

Every Wednesday morning from 9:30am to 11:00am, parents with smaller 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 their wisdom and, in the process, have some fun. Grandparents are especially welcome to share their experiences and stories while, at the same time, enjoy the energy and inquisitiveness of those just starting out on the great adventure of life.

Sunshine Coast Catholic Education

Siena Catholic Primary School

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



Daffodil Day

Cancer has touched many members of our staff, families and wider school community. On Thursday, August 20, Siena Primary marked Daffodil Day with a simple but meaningful community initiative at the Heart of Hope. Although the rain dampened proceedings, it did not lessen the sincerity or willingness of our community to pause, remember and offer support.

Staff, families and students wrote names, messages and intentions on yellow cardboard hearts and flowers, placing them at the Heart of Hope beside a small banner, candle and prayer. Many also took a quiet moment for reflection and prayer, while yellow ribbons were worn in support of those affected by cancer. The heartfelt participation of our community was a beautiful expression of remembrance, compassion and hope.



Stella Maris Primary School

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



At our recent Class Mass with Year 3, members of our Stella Maris faith community were invited to reflect on a simple yet thought-provoking question: "The world needs more..." The response was both generous and inspiring. Parishioners, parents, students and even Fr Gerard took a moment to share the qualities they believe our world needs most.

The contributions painted a beautiful picture of hope and compassion. Words such as kindness, grace, honesty, love, nature, and good people were recurring themes, highlighting the importance of the everyday choices we make in caring for one another. Our students offered particularly heartfelt responses, suggesting the world needs more friendship, fairness, caring, hugs, kisses and, of course, plenty of dogs and babies! There may even have been a cheeky suggestion for more Broncos supporters!

This shared reflection reminded us that the values at the heart of our faith continue to unite us. Through love of God and neighbour, we can each play a part in creating a more compassionate and hope-filled world.

Siena Catholic College

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



We can't believe that it's already September, and with holidays fast approaching students in all year levels were working on assignments and preparing for both internal and external exams. It was a short week, as Friday was a Student Free Day that provided teachers with time to make important judgements about student progress.

It was also Science Week and our Science Staff and Year 11 Science Ambassadors were very busy preparing a week of events that engaged us in all things scientific. WOW demonstrations, an Escape Room challenge, an exploding watermelon and a House Quiz all encouraged students to get involved and to understand how enjoyable Science can be!

Students continued to represent the College in Sport and two of our teams – our Senior AFL boys and our Year 7 and 8 Bush to Beach Rugby League team – made great progress in their respective competitions.

September 5 was the Feast Day of one of our Patrons, St Mother Teresa of Calcutta. As we give thanks for her faith, courage and commitment to serving those in need, we strive to follow her example by showing kindness, treating others with dignity and responding generously to those who need our care.

When considering the future please remember your Parish when writing or updating your will - thank you.

In Faith we Serve

The **Knights of the Southern Cross** is a national organisation of Catholic laymen who operate in parishes across Australia. It strives to serve the wider community and support those in need. We relieve poverty and distress for families through financial assistance, and have funded Catholic educational scholarships, both here and overseas. We support independent living units through Southern Cross Care, supported living apartments, nursing homes, hostels and special care cottages for our senior community. We also support religious vocation and develop leadership potential in young Catholics. Our local branch of the Knights are very busy and could be seen in action last Saturday as they cooked and served lunch for the just under 200 women who attended the Sisterhood retreat day. The next meeting of the Knights of the Southern Cross is on

This Tuesday, September 8
7:00pm in the Duffy Room at Stella Maris
Church St, Maroochydore

If you're a Catholic man keen to give back and join a likeminded community of friendly faces, we'd love to chat more about becoming a Knight of the Southern Cross. We're looking for dependable men with the same values, faith and commitment, as well as different skills and talents. Talk to us today about what's involved in becoming a member and all the different ways you can help give back.