Stella Maris Catholic Parish

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Weekend of October 24 and 25, 2026 Year A

First Reading: Exodus 22:20-26 **Second Reading:** 1 Thessalonians 1:5-10 **Gospel:** Matthew: 22:34-40

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
Maroochydore@netministries.com.au

At Your Service
Fr Peter Brannelly
Fr Gerard Lai
Bishop Brian Heenan
Bishop Emeritus

A **scam email** has been making the rounds disguised as Fr Peter. Your Parish Priest will never contact you using a private email and will only use an email ending in bne.catholic.net.au. If you receive a request relating to our parish that seems unusual, reach out to our friendly staff. We're happy to help you verify.

LIVE

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.

Love Moves Us to Action



Sometimes we fall into one of two extremes when it comes to understanding God's love. On one hand, we might believe we need to get our lives together before God will love us. *"Once I become a better person, overcome my weaknesses and stop making mistakes, then I'll be worthy of God's love."* But that's not how God works! God's love is not a reward for good behaviour. It is a gift freely given. He loves us in our messiness, imperfections and struggles. A newborn baby doesn't have to earn their parents' love, neither do we have to earn God's.

On the other hand, we can fall into the opposite trap: believing that because God loves us unconditionally and therefore, we don't need to change. Yes, God's love is unconditional, but unconditional love doesn't mean God is indifferent. He meets us with mercy, and then calls us to maturity.

In today's Gospel (Matthew 22:34–40), Jesus reminds us that the greatest commandments are to love God and to love our neighbour and we see this exemplified in Jesus' very own interactions. Think about Jesus' encounter with the woman caught in adultery. He didn't condemn her, but neither did He leave her unchanged: "Neither do I condemn you. Go, and sin no more". Or consider Zacchaeus, the tax collector. Jesus didn't wait for Zacchaeus to change his ways before inviting Himself into his home. He welcomed him as he was, and it was this encounter with Christ's love that inspired Zacchaeus to give half his possessions to the poor and repay those he had cheated. In both encounters, rather than demanding perfection, love came first, and transformation followed. That's the beauty of God's love: He accepts us as we are but loves us too much to leave us unchanged. Compassion AND conversion. Acceptance AND action. Mercy AND maturity.

Herein lies our challenge this week. *Are we allowing God's love simply to comfort us, or also to change us?* Holiness is about becoming more fully the person God already loves and created us to be.

Fr Gerard Lai

Next Sunday after all our Masses we will be selling tickets for our **Flavours of the World** event coming up in November to help us **fundraise of a new NET Team in 2027**.

How to Secure Your Seat at the Best Lunch on the Sunshine Coast

At this event you will be able to enjoy a fantastic three-course meal, featuring traditional dishes from around the globe, cooked by local chefs, all while supporting a good cause.

WHEN: 12:00pm, Sunday, November 22
WHERE: Daintree Building at Siena Primary School,
(60 Sippy Downs Dr, Sippy Downs 4556)
COST: $100

Planning for this event is well underway and tickets are selling out fast! There a limited spaces available so if you would like to secure your seat ASAP, you can **register now by:**

- Scanning the QR Code and paying online using the BPOINT Portal **OR**
- Calling the Parish Office 5443 3488 and paying over the phone **OR**
- Buying a ticket from one the sales tables after any of our Masses next weekend.

If you have any dietary requirements, please let us know so that we can cater for you.

Want to reserve a table for eight?
Email suncoast@bne.catholic.net.au with your group list and we will seat you together.

Flavours of the World

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, October 26
- RCIY (4:00pm, Stella Maris)
- Adoration (4:30pm, Stella Maris)
- Benediction (5:15pm, Stella Maris)
- **Mass** (5:30pm, Stella Maris)

Tuesday, October 27
- **NO Mass** (9:00am, Stella Maris School Chapel)
- Craft Group (1:00pm, St Peter's)

Wednesday, October 28
- **Mass** (7:00am, St Mary's)
- **Mass** (9:00am, St Catherine's)
- Play and Pray (9:30am, Stella Maris)
- Scripture Study Group (9:30am, Zoom)

Thursday, October 29
- **Mass** (8:30am, St Peter's)

Friday, October 30
- **Mass** (9:00am, Stella Maris)
- Community Meal (6:00pm, Stella Maris)

Saturday, October 31
- 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, November 1 *All Saints Day*

Hospitality Sunday
- **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
- 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.



Each weekend 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.

We Remember

On All Souls Day our Sunshine Coast Parish Family has a special tradition to remember and pray for all those whose funeral rites we have celebrated during the past 12 months. We also gather as a parish to be with and support the families who grieve. This year All Souls' Day falls on Monday, November 2 and we will have our special All Souls' Mass, **5:00pm** at Stella Maris Church. November is a month when we do remember all our loved ones who have died and you will discover at each of our churches our **Parish Book of Remembrance** – you are invited to take a few moments to record the names of your loved ones and they will be the focus of our prayers during the month – may they all rest in the peace of Christ.

Waiting For You

If you placed an order for one of the annual Archdiocesan publications – **Break Open the Word, Daily Mass Book, Ordo or God's Word Daily Diary** – they are available for collection at the Parish Office. If you would like to purchase one of those publications please go to the Liturgy Brisbane website or visit St Paul's Bookshop at the Cathedral in Brisbane.

Older Children Baptism

There will be an upcoming Baptism Preparation Session specifically tailored for older children between the ages of 7 and 15 who wish to join our Catholic faith community. If your child has expressed a desire to be baptised, or if you have been waiting for the right time to take this beautiful step together, we invite you to join us.

Location: Stella Maris Catholic Church, Maroochydore
Day: Tuesday, November 10
Time: 5:00pm

Please note that both the parent and the child are required to attend this session together. This ensures that you can support your child through this meaningful spiritual milestone and understand the next steps in their sacramental journey. We look forward to welcoming you and your family as we share in this special time of preparation.

Hospitality

How quickly the start of a new month comes around. In our Sunshine Coast Parish Family the first weekend of every month has a special focus on hospitality. Everyone is invited to bring a plate to share and we are grateful to the hospitality coordinators for their ministry. So next weekend why not plan to join your fellow parishioners and visitors after Mass – why not invite a neighbour or friend to join you?

Youth & Children's Ministry

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)
10:10 Youth (Years 7-12): Sundays, 3:00-5:00pm (Stella Maris)

Christmas will be upon us before we know it and once again on the nine days leading up to Christmas we will have our **Christmas Novena**. Each morning we will have our Christmas Novena Mass at 6:00am – what a great way for all of us to prepare for the birth of the Christ Child!

Where Faith and Life Meet

Congratulations to ***Obinna Nwokeke*** and ***Taneesha Adhar*** who will celebrate their marriage at Stella Maris this weekkend.

We pray for all those who have died especially ***Irene Moodie***, ***Zdena MacDonald***, ***Anthony Bianco*** and ***Robert Oxley***. 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

Parish News

Did you know? We have a new page on our website where we share regular parish news and stories of interest. There is always something happening! Why not check it out? To read our latest articles visit: *https://maroochydoreparish.com.au/parish-news/*



Last Thursday evening at Stella Maris our NET team coordinated a Parish Worship Night where we were invited to gather, and in prayer, song and adoration before the Blessed Sacrament, we came together as a community to encounter Jesus anew and grow deeper in our faith. Thank you to all those who contributed to the success of the night





The goal of our Community is that all young people and vulnerable adults feel safe in our Parish Family. Our Parish Safeguarding Team has produced a **Safeguarding Guide**, which is an essential resource and reference manual for all parish volunteers. It is available at the entrance to the church – all volunteers, please take a copy home today.



Last Monday the wine and cheese certainly set the foundation for a great community gathering in preparation for the early release of the next season of **The Chosen**. This series has brought the people and places of the Gospels to life in a remarkable way, inviting millions to encounter the stories of Scripture. We are up to series six but it is not too late to go back and watch it from the beginning. You can catch up now by visiting *https://watch.thechosen.tv/* and creating a free account.

Sisterhood Celebrates a Wonderful Year of Faith and Fellowship

Sisterhood

Despite the inclement weather, 40 women gathered at St Mary's, Buderim, last Saturday for our final Sisterhood gathering of the year. It was a truly wonderful morning filled with faith, fellowship and inspiration, and a beautiful way to bring another memorable year of Sisterhood to a close. We were blessed to welcome Jainta Elks, who shared her heartfelt testimony of faith and spoke about her remarkable pilgrimage journeys. Jainta's inspirational and engaging presentation was warmly received by all who attended. Her personal stories and reflections offered a meaningful opportunity to deepen our faith and appreciate the many ways God works in our lives and journeys of faith.

As we look back on the year, we give thanks for all that Sisterhood has experienced and achieved together. From hosting the wonderful Geraldine Doogue at our retreat day to our regular Tuesday evening gatherings, this year has been filled with opportunities for prayer, learning, friendship and spiritual growth. A heartfelt thank you to all the women who have attended, participated in and supported our Sisterhood ministry throughout the year. Your enthusiasm, generosity and willingness to come together in faith are what make this community so special. Each gathering reminds us of the importance of nurturing our faith, supporting one another, and building meaningful connections within our parish. Although our gatherings are taking a break over the coming months, planning is already well underway for an even more exciting and enriching program in 2027. We look forward to welcoming both familiar faces and new members as we continue to grow this wonderful ministry.

We warmly invite all women of the parish to join us for our first Sisterhood gathering of the new year to be held at 6:00pm, Tuesday, 9 March 2027 at Stella Maris Church. We look forward to another year of inspiration, fellowship and spiritual growth, and we hope to see many more women join us in 2027.

With gratitude and blessings, ***The Sisterhood Team***



Don't Procrastinate ! ! !

Christmas is a time when we traditionally accumulate plenty of great, but sometimes not so practical gifts. Christmas is also a time when we come face to face with how much "stuff" we have accumulated over the year. It can be depressing and it can weigh us down but the good news is that we have a solution to your **"unwanted or un loved treasures"**. Three weeks into the new year, on the weekend of January 16 and 17, we are going to have our "Christmas Cleanout" garage sale. It is your chance to downsize, declutter and pass on those preloved or not quite loved items for a good cause. We will utilise the vacant Kawaski building on the corner of Baden Powell Street and Maroochydore Road and we will be able to accept you donations of furniture and pre loved treasures during the week before the sale. **Mind you, we only want your good treasures!!!** Stay tuned for more information. The proceeds will help us fund a new NET team for 2027. If you would like to be involved and help make this event a success please contact Angelina via email: *angelinajacobs48@gmail.com*

the INCREDIBLE JOURNEY of FAITH



Quietly, behind the scenes, week in and week out, two groups of enquirers have been meeting as they discern their response to God's invitation. Perhaps you are sitting beside one of them! Over these past months they have been on a journey of discovery trying to unpack what we believe as Catholics and the rituals and symbols we use to express our faith. On the feast of Christ the King, which brings the church's liturgical year to a conclusion, we will baptise and fully welcome into the Church those who have discerned that God is calling them to join us on the great pilgrimage of faith. We keep our **RCIA** candidates in our prayers during these weeks ahead.

Coinciding with their journey has been our Veritas gatherings on the first and third Sundays of the month. These very semiformal meetings after the 5:00pm Sunday Mass have provided a space to ask and answer some of the basic questions of what we believe as Catholics and how we express our beliefs. Early in the New Year we will form a new **RCIA** group for those wanting to explore in more detail our Catholic Faith and perhaps discern if God is calling them to join us.

Next weekend, being the first of the month, the trailer will be in the lower car park ready and eager to accept your **empty bottle and cans** – all the proceeds will go to support next year's NET team – ***keep up your thirsty work!!!***

St Peter's Coolum Beach Vinnies Conference Report 2026

Our Mission

The mission of the St Vincent de Paul Society is to be the voice of the voiceless and the forgotten. We speak on behalf of those facing/experiencing homelessness in our community, a number that continues to grow at an alarming rate. Too many people are living in situations where they have no money for alternative accommodation, no family to turn to, and no safe options. Many are faced with the heartbreaking decision of remaining in or returning to unsafe housing. Our Conference serves the community from the Peregian water tower, west to Mt Ninderry, and south to the Maroochy River.

Our History and Commitment

The St Peter's Coolum Conference of SVDP was established 44 years ago. Since then, we have been proud to remain fully self-funded, not relying on financial support from head office. Every dollar raised or donated stays here in our local community, helping families and individuals in need. Our guiding principle is simple: **"a hand up, not a hand out."**

How Your Support Helped in 2025–2026

Over the past 12 months, our Conference made 236 visits to homes and safe meeting points, supporting 667 adults and children who sought emergency assistance. Together, we provided $41,847 in essential support, including:

- Food and basic essentials Travel assistance (Go Cards and fuel vouchers)
- Emergency accommodation, and assisting keeping people housed
- Education support for families doing it tough



Education Assistance Program

Education can be life-changing, This year, we provided $32,200 in assistance to 80 students. This included:

- Grants to cover back-to-school costs
- Six bursaries for deserving students in Years 6–12
- Support for the purchase of student computers

We are deeply grateful to the Guidance Officers at each of the State Schools in our area for their invaluable support and guidance in supporting these students. Thank you to Coolum Park Shopping Centre for support with 'Operation Backpack' supplying school items for underprivileged children within the classroom.

Christmas Hampers: Sharing the Spirit of the Season

Thanks to the generosity of so many parishioners, Coolum Primary School and donors, we were able to distribute 28 Christmas Hampers to our Companions and their families last year. A special thank you to Seminarian, Dylan Asmus for blessing the hampers and helping us bring the true spirit of Christmas to those we serve.

Sounds of Celebration Concert

Under the wonderful direction of Linda Gefken, our Sounds of Celebration Concert has once again brought music, joy, and community spirit to Coolum. Featuring performances by the Waves of Harmony community choir, this uplifting event raised $3,023 to support our local initiatives. We look forward to making this event an ongoing tradition.

Membership and Involvement

Our St Peter's Conference is made up of a dedicated, warm, and committed group of volunteers. Like many parish groups, we welcome and urgently need new members to help us continue this vital work. The experience of supporting vulnerable people in our community is both meaningful and rewarding. If you'd like to learn more, please speak to one of our members or email us at sp4573@svdpqld.org.au. If you are considering supporting our conference in the future, donations are always gratefully accepted through the Church Poor Box or direct debit to - BSB 064786 Account 100027007.

Thank You.

On behalf of everyone at St Peter's Coolum Beach Conference,
thank you for your kindness, generosity, and continued support.

It has never been so easy to get in touch and keep up to date with the many ministries and activities of our Parish.

Become a registered parishioner of your parish – simply follow the Flocknote QR link.