

Stella Maris Catholic Parish

Twenty Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Weekend of October 10 and 11, 2026 Year A

First Reading: Isaiah 25:6-10 Second Reading: Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20 Gospel: Matthew: 22:1-14

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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Maroochydore NET Team

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At Your Service

Fr Peter Brannelly

Fr Gerard Lai

Bishop Brian Heenan

Bishop Emeritus

WHAT'S WRITTEN ON OUR FACES ?

Growing up, when making a face to show my disapproval or some other emotion, I remember my mother saying to me *"If the wind changes your face will stay like that"*. I quickly changed my expression! Our faces reveal so much about ourselves and the longer we are on this journey called life the more our faces mirror who we are or who we have become. Think about it!

We are pretty much born without a face. When a baby is born, cute and adorable as the child may be, the newborn's face exhibits very little in the way of individuality. A baby's face tells little about the child's personality and gives no indication of the kind of character the child will develop into. A baby's beauty depends entirely on its genetic endowment.

But with each day and week and year of the child's life, the face changes. It takes on its own "look," reflecting the child's growth and development and emerging personality. Don't just take my word for it, look at some of your old photos of yourself! It all culminates around the age of forty when, finally, a person has the essential lines of his or her "own" face. From forty onward, our faces manifest individuality, character, and a beauty-beyond-genes.

What is important about all of this is what, in the end, forms our faces. Up until the age of forty, genetics is dominant in how we look. The sad truth is that we can be the meanest, most small-minded person on the Sunshine Coast and still look beautiful! But from middle-age on, we look like what we believe in: if I am anxious, petty, selfish, bitter, narrow minded and self-centred, my face will show it. Conversely, if I am warm, gracious, humble, and other-centred, my face will also show it.

The reason why I mention this is that this weekend's Gospel is the parable of the wedding garment, where I think Jesus suggests the same idea. Our lives are composed of pieces of fabric that we struggle to sew and piece together to make a garment fitting to wear at God's wedding banquet. This garment, like the making of our own faces, is "fitted" from our hurts, our fears and our pain. This garment mirrors our joys, our triumphs and the re-discovery of how loved we are by God.

Whether we are still on that journey heading towards that middle age point or whether we have passed it, the fact remains that we have all been invited to the wedding feast - *perhaps our response to God's invitation is written on our faces!*

Wishing you and yours every blessing for the coming week,

Fr Peter Brannelly

 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.

SISTERHOOD = OUR PARISH WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Following on from our annual Sisterhood Retreat in August, all women of our Parish Family are invited to catch up and gather for an end of year brunch **next Saturday** October 17. Our guest speaker will be Jacinta Elks, who will continue sharing her faith journey and testimony from our Retreat Day. Jacinta will also speak about her experiences of pilgrimage, including walking the Camino de Santiago and the St Francis Way, and how these journeys have enriched her faith.

Come along for a beautiful morning of faith, friendship, fellowship and a delicious brunch. Please mark in your diary **Saturday, October 17, 9:30am at St Mary's Church, Buderim**. Please check with your friends to see if they need transport. All women are warmly welcome!



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 12

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

Tuesday, October 13

- **Mass** (9:00am, Stella Maris School Chapel)
- Craft (1:00pm, St Peter's)
- Knights of the Southern Cross (7:00pm, Stella Maris)
- Marian Valley Pilgrimage with Fr Gerard

Wednesday, October 14

- **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)
- Men's Rosary (6:30pm, Stella Maris)

Thursday, October 15

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

Friday, October 16

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

Saturday, October 17

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

Sunday, October 18

Twenty Ninth 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) (*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*)
- Young Adults (After 5:00pm 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.



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.

MEN'S ROSARY

October is the month of the Rosary. All men of our Parish Community – young and not so young – are invited to the monthly Men's Rosary this Wednesday, 6:30pm at Stella Maris. Why not invite a friend or colleague?

WAVES OF HARMONY

At 2:00pm, on Sunday, October 25, the Sounds of Celebration fundraiser will take place at St Peter's Church Cooloom. There will be performances by Waves of Harmony and special guests. Afternoon tea will be available following the concert. The ticket price is \$20.00 (payable at the door). All proceeds go towards supporting the local outreach programs of St Vincent de Paul Society. All are welcome.

IN FAITH WE SERVE

The Knights of the Southern Cross is a national organisation of Catholic laymen who operate in parishes across Australia. The Knights support the Church at a local level and the wider community by supporting those in need. They relieve poverty and distress for families through financial assistance, and have funded Catholic educational scholarships, both here and overseas. Their local branch of the Knights are very busy and would love to welcome any men to join them for their next meeting, this Tuesday, October 13, 7:00pm in the Duffy Room at Stella Maris. For more information please contact John Legg on 0434 587 491.

PILGRIMAGE

Fr Gerard will be leading a pilgrimage to Marian Valley this Tuesday. The bus will leave Our Lady of the Rosary, Caloundra at 7:30am. It is essential that you book to reserve your seat by calling 5430 9390 first thing on Monday morning to ensure that you have a seat otherwise you will be waving the bus goodbye!!!

MISSIONS

The annual Missions Appeal will be held next weekend across our Parish Family – thank you for your generous support

YOU ARE INVITED

Children & Youth Ministries across our Parish

- Pray & Play (Infants): Wednesdays, 9:30am (The Annex)
- Children's Church: Each Sunday across 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)

YOUNG ADULTS

Next Sunday, October 18 after the 5:00pm Mass, there will be a night of worship and adoration for all young adults. Dinner will be provided, so please, stick around for a few hours after the 5:00pm Mass next Sunday to enjoy some food and fellowship before taking some time to encounter Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. All young adults are welcome, don't forget to invite a friend. See you there! For more information or to join the YA WhatsApp chat, please contact Dahli: dahlisc@gmail.com

WHERE FAITH AND LIFE MEET

We welcome into God's Family, the Church *Hudson Johnson, Eva Loft* and *Goldie Wineberg* who will be baptised this weekend.

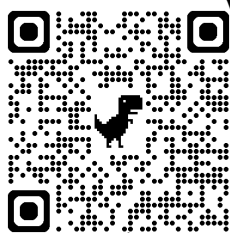
We pray for all those who have died especially *Ian Meddows, Rita Condon* and *Shane Bradshaw*. May their souls and the souls of all our deceased priests, Religious, family members and members of our parish community, through the rich mercy of God,

Rest in Peace

Your Parish Finance Committee is still in discussions with the Archdiocese as we navigate our way through finalising our loan repayments to cover the debts of the two recently purchased properties at Maroochydore. Over the next couple of weeks our financial position will become clearer and the implications of our loan repayments will become a stark reality. However, if we want another NET team next year, we will have to raise the **\$120,000** to cover the costs of the six young Catholic missionaries that will fill the shoes of this year's team. Without their valuable help, many important ministries in our Parish would not function the same. **The first step to achieve this goal is to invite you to lunch!**

WELCOME ABOARD **Flavours of the World**

Are you ready for an incredible culinary adventure? Then please, join us on **Sunday, November 22**, starting at **12:00pm** for our parish luncheon fundraiser: **Flavours of the World**. Sit back, relax and enjoy a fantastic three-course meal, featuring traditional dishes from around the globe, cooked by local chefs, all while supporting a good cause. **Did we mention?** All proceeds for this event will go towards funding a new **Maroochydore NET Team for 2027**.



The ticket price for this event is \$100, registration options are below.

Online: Scan the QR Code and pay using the **BPOINT Portal**

Over the Phone: Call the Parish Office **5443 3488** and pay over the phone

In Person: Visit the Parish Office between 9:00am-2:00pm and pay using cash or card.

Another way you can support this initiative is through our upcoming **Parish Raffle**. **We are seeking prize donations to be included in our multi-draw raffle** and we will be selling tickets in the next couple of weeks. More information about this raffle to come but in the meantime, if you are able to donate a prize, please contact the parish office. *We are grateful for your generous support in helping us fund this very important ministry.*

THE CHOSEN — SEASON 6, EPISODE 1 | EARLY ACCESS EVENT

We will be hosting an exclusive early-access screening of **The Chosen Season 6, Episode 1** — before it begins streaming to the public.

DATE: Monday, October 19 **TIME:** 6:00-7:30pm **PLACE:** Stella Maris Church

We ask that you would consider bringing a **Gold Coin Donation to help cover the costs of light refreshments available before the screening and resource materials.*

The Chosen has brought the people and places of the Gospels to life in a remarkable way, inviting millions to encounter the stories of Scripture. After **five seasons** of following Jesus and His disciples, the story is moving toward the very heart of our faith. **Season 6 is the Crucifixion season.** We know where this journey is heading. It won't always be easy to watch but we also know the cross is central to the hope we have in Jesus.

Come and join us as we begin this journey toward the cross together — and be among the first to see what happens next!

To register please contact: **5443 3488** or media.suncoast@bne.catholic.net.au

Haven't watched seasons 1-5? You can catch up now by visiting <https://watch.thechosen.tv/> and creating a free account.



AND THE WINNER IS.....

Congratulations to Bart Carmody (**Tiger Bart**) for coming on top of our friendly parish tipping competition. It was a close run thing Bart just scraped home with 156 points followed by **Khill** (154 points), with **Tolka Rovers**, **BBe** and **Murdoch1956** all on 152 points. Rounding off the leaders table on 151 points were **TimH1970**, **Kocattips**, **Mick Tanzer** and **Casey Dee**. All up 121 parishioners were involved in this year's NRL tipping competition and their participation donation of \$40 all went to support our youth programme. For the rest of us who didn't quite make the winners list, **better luck next year!**



After a long wait, last week four metre pews arrived at St Peter's, Coolumb Beach.

They were from the soon to be demolished Holy Rosary Church at Windsor where a new coeducational Catholic school is being built and a new chapel will be incorporated into the development. We are currently pricing the different stages of the refurbishment of St Peter's and hope to be able to have some realistic costings in the near future.



30 September 2026



TO THE PEOPLE OF GOD

WORKING TOGETHER IN THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

Across our Archdiocese I see so much goodwill, engagement and commitment as people in our parishes, schools, and healthcare and social services are living the Gospel in ways that build up our communities and one another. In order to continue to work more closely together, I am pleased to announce the introduction of a renewed leadership model for the Archdiocese of Brisbane that will strengthen relationships among Catholic organisations and elevate our combined capacity to serve the mission of the Church and respond to the needs of our communities. Central to this enhanced model is a new Council of Vicars. Its members will be skilled and knowledgeable leaders across the areas of Health, Social Services, Education, Pastoral Mission, Clergy, Religious and Administration who will coordinate and encourage information sharing, advocacy and stewardship across Catholic agencies in their respective fields.

The Council of Vicars will advise and assist me as Archbishop. Its members will work with, and respect the responsibilities of, the boards and leaders of Catholic organisations across south-east Queensland. The aim is to strengthen how we serve together.

This collaborative leadership model, which has been designed in consultation with leaders across our Catholic network, will make a major contribution to ensuring we realise the goals set by the 2024 Archdiocesan Synod. It will also allow us to draw more widely from the gifts and expertise of the faithful in our Archdiocese.

The Vicar General and Vicar for Clergy will continue to be filled by priests and the Vicar for Religious will be member of a religious institute, but the other vicar roles will be open to lay people. This mirrors recent Vatican reforms where lay people now lead several dicasteries in the Holy See. It also reflects the global Synod for a Synodal Church called by Pope Francis, which focused on participation, communion and mission.

Recruitment will commence this week for the Vicars of Education, Health and Social Services, which will be part-time roles. Vicars will be appointed initially for an 18-month period allowing us to shape the ongoing roles thoughtfully.

We are seeking people with expertise in their fields, a grounding in Catholic teaching and a commitment to the Church's mission. Just as important will be their capacity for respectful listening and collaborative discernment. A Chief of Staff role will serve as a key coordination point for the Vicars and my office. Recruitment for that role is also underway.

Individuals interested in learning more about any of the new roles are encouraged to contact vicarrecruitment@bne.catholic.net.au or call Ruth Buchanan on 0448 241 521 for more information or a confidential discussion.

As these new roles are filled, the Council of Vicars will assist me in establishing an ongoing Archdiocesan Pastoral Mission Council. This Council will use the goals and mission priorities discerned by the 2024 Archdiocesan Synod, and future Synods, to help parishes and agencies plan how to put them into practice in their own communities. I look forward to sharing regular updates as this model takes shape. Please pray for all those who will serve in these roles, and for our whole Archdiocese as we continue to listen to the Holy Spirit and walk together in Christ's mission.

Yours sincerely, *+ Shane Mackinlay*

MOST REVEREND SHANE MACKINLAY
Archbishop of Brisbane