

Stella Maris Catholic Parish

Twenty Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Weekend of October 03 and 04, 2026 Year A

First Reading: **Isaiah 5:1-7** Second Reading: **Philippians 4:6-9** Gospel: **Matthew: 21:33-43**

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

IGNITE CONFERENCE



Last Thursday afternoon, 45 bright-eyed and bushy-tailed delegates (25 youth and 20 youth & adult leaders) set off to St Laurence's College in Brisbane for the annual Ignite Conference. This was my 12th Ignite and all I can say is that it keeps getting better and better each year. The talks were inspiring, the praise and worship was powerful and the multitude of workshops were informative and practical. I came away from Ignite feeling physically exhausted yet, spiritually recharged and genuinely content with life. Here's what some participants had to say:



I came away feeling called to serve the Church in a greater capacity, whether in the parish or perhaps as a missionary with NET. I arrived excited; I left discerning the next step.
-Jordan, Yr 12



I realised that I'm always talking to God, but I need to let God speak to me too. I came away with a real sense of connection to the community.
-Lara, Yr 10



Ignite changed me from simply being a follower of Christ to being a lover of Christ, not following him out of obligation, but out of love. Adoration, prayer teams and seeing thousands of young people praising God showed me that I'm not alone. It set my heart on fire to serve the Lord, perhaps even through NET next year.
-Luca, Young Adult Leader



Being surrounded by people who love Jesus made me feel like I had found my home. After a stressful month, Ignite gave me the chance to let go of everything I was carrying and walk with Jesus. I left with peace and confidence in his plans for me, and it strengthened my desire to give a year of my life to serving God through NET in 2027.
-Dahlia, Young Adult Leader



At first I felt uncomfortable and self-conscious worshipping, but by the last couple of days I didn't really care what people thought. You could sing and worship God without anyone looking at me like you were different. I went in barely knowing anyone and came out knowing all the boys. I hope I can go again next year!
-Mannel, Yr 7



There was such joy in watching these young people open their hearts and make room for Jesus. Also, seeing my daughters deepen their faith was incredibly moving. I went carrying questions about what God wanted next; I didn't necessarily receive the answer I expected, but I left with peace, lightness and joy. Perhaps the answer was simply to keep seeking him beyond Ignite.
-Joan, Siena College Campus Minister

If you've ever looked around at Mass and sometimes wondered, "Where are all the young people?" you're certainly not alone. Young people are indeed around, but sometimes they simply need the right environment and encouragement for that faith to catch fire. These testimonials are evidence that events such as Ignite Conference can spark a faith revival within the hearts of our youth. So thank you for your prayerful and financial giving to initiatives like 10:10 Youth Group, NET and Ignite Conference. It really does make a positive impact in the faith-life of the youth within the parish. What started at Pentecost 2000 years ago is well and truly alive today!

Fr Gerard Lai



VERITAS Faith Formation - All Are Welcome!

Lighting a votive candle as we pray for a particular intention or person is a sign of our faith in Jesus, the Light of the world, the Light which darkness cannot overcome (John 1:4-5), and a sign of our unity with our brothers and sisters in faith. Using candles as a symbol of faith in Jesus, of reverence for the Blessed Sacrament, and of reverence and respect for the saints can be traced back to the second century, as attested to by St Jerome (whose feast we celebrated on Sept 30). Today, when we light a votive candle in church, it remains a visible representation of our prayer, recalling the light of the Paschal Candle and the lit candle we received at baptism. **Sometimes as Catholics we take elements of our faith for granted, while others, who are exploring faith, get confused by some of our religious practices, customs and rituals.** On the first and third Sunday after the 5:00pm evening Mass, our **Veritas** group meets to reflect and learn about an aspect of our Catholic faith. **Veritas** is Latin for "truth", and at our meeting, we simply look at some aspect of what we believe as Catholics — the customs, the rituals, the things most Catholics take for granted! So if you are exploring what we believe as Catholics please join us after the 5:00pm Mass this weekend.

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 05 **Parish Office Closed**

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

Tuesday, October 06

- **Mass** (9:00am, Stella Maris School Chapel)

Wednesday, October 07

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

Thursday, October 08

- **Mass** (8:30am, St Peter's)
- Funeral, Rita Condon (11:00am, Stella Maris)

Friday, October 09

- **Mass** (9:00am, Stella Maris)
- Craft (9:30am, Stella Maris)
- Grief Support Group (9:30am Stella Maris)

Saturday, October 10

- Reconciliation (8:30—9:30am, Stella Maris)
- Rosary Workshop (9:00am, 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, Buderim)

Sunday, October 11

Twenty Eighth 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.



PILGRIMAGE



Join Fr Gerard for a full-day pilgrimage to Marian Valley, the Brisbane Archdiocesan Shrine and Prayer Centre, on **Tuesday, 13 October**. In collaboration with Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, Caloundra, a bus will depart from OLR at 7:30am, giving us the opportunity to spend the day together in prayer and pilgrimage at this beautiful Marian shrine.

The pilgrimage will coincide with the anniversary of the final apparition of Our Lady of Fatima, providing a special opportunity to mark this significant day together. There will be some walking involved throughout the day, so please keep this in mind when deciding whether the pilgrimage is suitable for you.

Morning tea and lunch will be provided, and the cost of the pilgrimage is \$40 per person. The bus will return to Caloundra in the late afternoon/evening, depending on traffic.

Places on the bus are limited, so please register via Caloundra Parish's Linktree: linktr.ee/olrcatholicparish and include payment to secure your seat. Alternatively, please call the OLR Parish Office: 5430 9390.

As the school holidays come to a close and on this King's Birthday long weekend, a warm welcome to everyone joining us today!

Whether you are traveling from across the street, up the Bruce Highway or roving around the country, thank you for choosing to be part of our community today as we celebrate the

27th Sunday of the Church's year.

THIS WEEKEND

On the first weekend of the month, we always have a special emphasis on hospitality. If we want to be a friendly community, we need to also be a welcoming community and providing hospitality is an excellent way of meeting new and old parishioners alike. Please join us after Mass next weekend. Thank you to the different groups who organise our hospitality each month.

82 SHOPPING DAYS TIL' CHRISTMAS

Stella Maris Craft Group's next get together is on this Friday, October 9, at 9:45am in the Bliss Room (after the 9:00am Mass). We are getting ready for our Mega Christmas Stall – so come along and meet fellow crafters and learn something new. Or just come for a cuppa and a chat. No loose ends here, just great company. All are welcome.

WAVES OF HARMONY

At 2:00pm, on Sunday, October 25, the Sounds of Celebration fundraiser will take place at St Peter's Church Coolumb. 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.

IT'S NOT TOO LATE

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 this Friday, so don't procrastinate!

THIRSTY WORK

The first weekend of the month is also the time when we have a trailer at the lower carpark of Stella Maris to accept your empty bottles and cans. The proceeds support our youth program. There are orange bags at the entrance of the church to assist you, but bringing your containers in a strong bag or box works just as well. Thank you to Knights of the Southern Cross, who will complete the process by taking the full trailer to Containers for Change early Tuesday morning, **this allows you to bring your NRL Grand Final bottles and cans on Monday!** 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**.

CREATE YOUR OWN ROSARY

The month of October is traditionally dedicated to the Holy Rosary and you are warmly invited to join in a meaningful Rosary Making Workshop next Saturday, October 10 (9:00am to 11:00am) at the Bliss Room. We ask a \$5:00 donation to cover the costs of the materials.

For further information and to book your place please contact either Veronica 0451 593 397 or Angelina 0410 660 890

Where Faith and Life Meet

We welcome into God's Family, the Church **Jaxon Best** and **Tilly Best** who will be baptised this weekend.

We pray for all those who have died especially **Ian Meddows** whose funeral rites were celebrated at 1:00pm, Wednesday, October 07 and **Rita Condon** whose funeral rites will be celebrated at 11:00am, Thursday, October 08. Both funerals will be held at Stella Maris Church. 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

Thank you for your messages of support and encouragement after last weekend's announcement of the purchase of the adjoining property at Stella Maris. Our Parish debt is daunting but the vision this purchase encompasses is for the big picture - ***we are preparing for what our Parish will look like in ten, twenty, fifty years time!***

Your Parish Finance Committee, with the assistance of the Archdiocese, is navigating through the financial implications and reality that confronts us now with a 13.8-million-dollar debt. Naturally, our budget must be reimagined with every saving captured and every expenditure re-examined. Over the next couple of weeks, we hope to share what that will look like and the opportunities that our new financial position presents us with.

One of the ministries that falls outside of our budget for 2027 is a new NET team. Without a doubt they have brought life and vitality to our parish family and have reinvigorated not just our youth ministry but have touched every aspect of our parish life with their witness and youthful energy! There are so many ministries that could not operate the same without their valuable help, such as: Our 10:10 Youth Group, Young Adults Group, Sacramental Programs, Music Ministries and so much more. Their presence is incredibly important in our busy parish. The annual cost for a NET Team sits at around \$20,000 per NET member, which when you think of it, is ridiculously inexpensive for what they bring to our Parish Family!

A committee has already started planning a giant Parish Lunch on Sunday, November 22 at Siena College and Primary School, Sippy Downs. The theme of this luncheon is "Flavours of the World", tapping into the talented chefs and restaurants of our community and the generosity of our parishioners. The money raised will go towards a new NET team for 2027. More details to come next weekend but for now – book the date in your diary! Thank you again for your on going and generous support.



Our Parish safeguarding team have compiled a booklet titled **A Guide to Safeguarding – A Resource for Parish Volunteers**. It is available at the entrance to the church and is intended as a resource for all volunteers. 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. If you have a question or concern please do not hesitate to contact them lsr.suncoast@bne.catholic.net.au.

With school holidays coming to an end, our parish life returns to its normal routine

A Place for Everyone to Belong **PRAY & PLAY**

Mums and dads, granddads and grandmas, perhaps this fun gathering is calling you? From 9:30am to 11:00am every Wednesday morning, 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 and 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 enjoying the energy and inquisitiveness of those just starting out on the great adventure of life.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Every Sunday 8:00am Sippy Downs, 9:30am Buderim and 9:00am & 5:00pm Maroochydore we have Children's Church. All our younger children, at the start of Mass, are sent forth with their catechist to celebrate a more age appropriate reflection on the Gospel before returning to the church towards the end of the Eucharistic Prayer. From little things great things grow!

JUNIOR MINISTERS IN ACTION

Our Junior Ministers Youth Group meet 3:00pm every Sunday in the Bliss Room. The Junior Ministry is open to all younger members of the parish from Years 3 to 6 who are eager to actively participate in serving our community. Opportunities include training to become an altar server, welcomer, reader, computer operator, collector, or part of the music ministry. They are busy preparing to lead our Sunday night Mass next weekend. While our primary focus is on serving others, we also ensure there's plenty of fun to be had with friends!

10:10 YOUTH GROUP

Calling all young people, Years 7-12! Join us each Sunday afternoon for 10:10, our parish youth group here on the Sunshine Coast. 🕒 Time: 3:00pm Location: Stella Maris Church Come along for an afternoon of fun, faith, and friendship as we kick off this exciting new journey together. Meet the amazing NET team, enjoy delicious slushies, and take part in awesome games.

Inspired by John 10:10, "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full", our youth group is a place to grow, explore, and live life to the fullest. Bring your friends and be part of something awesome. See you there!

For more information, please contact maroochydore@netministries.com.au or see Fr Gerard.

Coming into Grand Final weekend **Tiger Bart** on 154 points has just pulled ahead of **BBee** and **KHill** both on 152 points – who did they back to win the Grand Final could decide who takes home the top prize in our Parish Tipping competition. Right behind them were **TimH1970**, **Mick Tanzer** & **Casey Dee** all on 151 points and **Tolka Rovers** and **Murdock1956** on 150. *Fr Peter is sure that he would be in contention for the top prize if he had tipped with his head and not with his heart – in other words, if he had not religiously backed the Broncos all season!!!* The proceeds raised through our friendly parish tipping competition supports our youth programme.



This year, **All Souls Day** falls on Monday, November 02. Traditionally our parish Grief Support Team coordinates the All Souls Mass with a special concern for those who have lost a loved one during the year. Mass will be at 5:00pm at Stella Maris and everyone is invited to come together as a parish family and remember those who have gone before us and handed on the faith to us. Please note the change in Mass time – there will be no Adoration on All Souls Day. *May all our deceased Priests, Religious, family members and fellow parishioners, through the rich mercy of God, rest in peace.*



2026 St Gerard Majella, Maroochydore Report to Parish.

Mission Statement: We are a lay Catholic organisation dedicated to serving those in need while fostering spiritual growth among its members. Its mission emphasises person-to-person service, creating meaningful relationships rather than simply providing transactional aid, and is inspired by the Gospel values and the example of its founder, Blessed Frédéric Ozanam, and patron, St. Vincent de Paul.

Our Conference was founded in 1982 and over the past year we have welcomed 812 Companions and their families, supporting a total of 1680 people. Companion is the name we give people seeking our help. This support takes many forms including:

- Food parcels and digital food vouchers
- Pharmacy vouchers for prescriptions
- Emergency fuel cards
- Donated food, Urban Angels frozen meals
- Vinnies cards for use in our shops
- Furniture when needed

Everyone who comes to us is welcomed and listened to carefully, as we look to individual circumstances and respond appropriately. For the financial year ending 30 June 2026, the total value of assistance provided was \$90,916.17

Supporting Education

The St Gerard Majella Conference supported families with school-related expenses through the **Smart Start for Students and Conference funds** to the extent of \$8715.00. Donations to this fund can be made by specifying education. Our bank details are **BSB: 064-786 Account Number 100027048**

The **Children's Education Fund Qld** helps students from low-income families with the cost of schooling. Through this fund, our Conference administered \$9433.00.

Interviewing:

When interviewing people, they all have a story to tell. New Vincentians spend three months sitting in with interviews before working alongside an experienced Vincentian. All must complete a Police Check, hold a Blue Card and finish the required training. We refer homeless young people aged 16–25 to Dean, Youth Homelessness Support Worker, women mainly in their 50s to Sally the Homelessness Support Worker and Sarah, Tenancy Sustainment support Worker. All people needing help with housing must be registered with Qld Housing.

Appeals and Community Support

Our Winter and Christmas Appeals were generously supported by our parishioners and the wider community. If you wish to donate online to either of these appeals our bank details are **BSB 064-786. Account number 100027046**. Siena Primary School generously gave many toiletries, food and a monetary donation to this year's Winter Appeal. Our three Catholic schools contributed toiletries, dry food and financial support to our Christmas Appeal. 97 Christmas hampers were prepared by us.

Student Bursaries

We awarded St Gerard Majella Bursaries to students who showed compassion, care, empathy and respect for people in need, while also encouraging others to do the same.

- **Siena Catholic College** – Tertiary Bursary: Mischa Judd
- **Siena Catholic Primary School** – Secondary Bursary: Chris Soby
- **Stella Maris Catholic Primary School** – Secondary Bursary: Alyssa Eichhorn

We also honour one of our deceased members by providing the **Maxwell Lennox Bursary** which was won by Jake Symmons from Siena Catholic College for achieving Academic Excellence in Business.

Join Us

We warmly welcome new members. If you would like to learn more, please speak with a Vincentian after Mass or email us at sgm4558@svdpqld.org.au.

Thank You

Your generosity and support make this work possible. We sincerely thank you for your kindness, prayers and commitment to helping those in need. May God bless you. With heartfelt thanks,

Carmel Barbagallo

President



Carmel with President elect Shamus Conway