Stella Maris Catholic Parish

Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

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First Reading: Wisdom 6:12-16 **Second Reading:** 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 **Gospel:** Matthew: 25:1-13

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

Telephone:
5443 3488

Parish Email:
suncoast@bne.catholic.net.au

Parish Website:
maroochydoreparish.com.au

Planned Giving Enquiries
finance.suncoast@
bne.catholic.net.au

Media Enquiries
Georgia Whiteley
media.suncoast@
bne.catholic.net.au

Sacramental Enquiries
Carrolyn Watt
sacraments.suncoast@
bne.catholic.net.au

Safeguarding Enquiries
lsr.suncoast@
bne.catholic.net.au

Maroochydore NET Team
Maroochydore@netministries.com.au

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

● 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.

In April, 1988, at the Franklin County Sport Parachute Centre in North Carolina, 35 year old Ivan McGuire was making his third jump of the day. Ivan was a photographer and an experienced skydiver with over 800 jumps to his credit. What Ivan specialised in was videoing instructors and their students as they jumped from the plane and descended, opening their parachute, and gracefully ascending to earth.

The plane reached 10,000 feet, and one by one the nervous skydivers and their instructors jumped from the plane as Ivan videoed them. You can sense the anxious and apprehensive moments as the first timers prepared to take the "leap of faith". When the last one had jumped, Ivan, loaded with his heavy video camera, quickly followed them through the hatch.

Ivan was keen to get into position and capture the moment when the skydivers' parachutes opened. The video shows the skydivers pulling on their ripcord so that their parachute opened to the wind. It is classic aerial photography and Ivan had taken hundreds of these videos before.

The final skydiver opened his chute, jerking him upwards as his chute filled with air. It was beautifully captured on the video. Then, suddenly, the picture seemed to spiral out of control.

You see, Ivan McGuire had jumped out of the plane without his parachute! It was not until he reached for the ripcord that he realised he was plummeting towards earth, taking pictures without a parachute. If you are macabre, you can still see the video on YouTube.

It did not matter how many times he had done it before or what skill he had, Ivan was in freefall! While he was in the plane, ***his parachute sat reassuringly beside him***. While others checked their equipment and prepared to jump, ***his parachute sat reassuringly beside him***. As the skydivers one by one jumped, ***Ivan's parachute sat reassuringly beside him***! He had taken the parachute for granted! Nothing could save him, because his faith was in a parachute which he had never taken the trouble to buckle on.

Ivan's story has echoes of this weekend's gospel account of the wise and not so wise bridesmaids. Taking enough oil for their lamps would seem the obvious thing to do, just as making sure that you had your parachute attached and checked would seem the obvious thing to do! Yet so often the most obvious thing to do is sometimes the thing that gets neglected! I wonder, if we stand back and have a honest look at our lives, if we are very much different? Sometimes we take the most obvious things around us for granted!

We assume that things will always be there. Obvious things like family, relationships, health, the ability to make a difference, the chance to forgive, the sudden appreciation of the beauty of creation. I'll always have enough time to get more oil – I will always have enough time to check and attach my parachute. I'll always have enough time to say the things that need to be said and to do the things that need to be done.

Being ready and being prepared for Jesus is not about sitting around in silence waiting for something to happen. ***Waiting is never passive!*** Being ready and prepared means living out the present moment consciously, fully entering into the great drama of life. The accessories of life – the parachutes, the oil for our lamps – are there to be used and not taken for granted. So strap on your parachute, fill up your lamps and don't be afraid to embrace the opportunities and challenges of this coming week.

Fr Peter Brannelly



Last week, being the first weekend of the month, the trailer was at the lower carpark at Stella Maris eagerly accepting your empty bottles and cans. We take your empties to the local Containers for Change, and the process supports getting a new NET team for 2027. 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 completed the process by taking the trailer full of bottles and cans to the local Containers for Change depot. Our latest trailer load **deposited 2119 bottles and cans and raised $219.** 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.*

CONTAINERS FOR CHANGE

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, November 09
- Adoration (4:30pm, Stella Maris)
- Benediction (5:15pm, Stella Maris)
- **Mass** (5:30pm, Stella Maris)

Tuesday, November 10
- **Mass** (9:00am, Stella Maris School Chapel)
- Craft Group (1:00pm, St Peter's)
- Older Children Baptism Preparation (5:00pm, Stella Maris)
- Knights of the Southern Cross (7:00pm, Stella Maris)

Wednesday, November 11
- **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, November 12
- **Mass** (8:30am, St Peter's)
- Welcome Night New Parishioners (6:00pm, Stella Maris

Friday, November 13
- **Mass** (9:00am, Stella Maris)
- Craft (9:45am, Stella Maris)
- Community Meal (6:00pm, Stella Maris)

Saturday, November 14
- 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 15 ***33rd 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
- 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.

Feeling Crafty?

The Stella Maris Craft Group's next get together is on at 9:45am, this Friday November 13, in the Bliss room (after the 9:00am Mass). We are getting everything ready for our great Christmas Sale! Everyone is welcome - come and meet our friendly group, see what we do, or even just have a cuppa and a chat. We are a welcoming and friendly group!!!

Why Not ?

It is true that many hands make light work! Certainly we are blessed in our Sunshine Coast Parish to have generous parishioners who quietly, behind the scenes, each week clean our churches – your ministry is very much appreciated. At Stella Maris we are looking for a couple more generous hands to join the team – if you are interested please contact the parish office: suncoast@bne.catholic.net.au

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 life. If you are new to our Parish, or if you are reconnecting with the Church, we would love to welcome you more formally to the 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. Several times a year we host a "Welcome Night" where we invite new parishioners for light refreshments on the presbytery balcony – our next one is on this Thursday, November 12. If you are new to the parish please complete the details and return them to thee parish office or simply call the office so that we can send you an invitation. ***Once again, welcome.***

Reportable Conduct Scheme Training

It's Qld Law! Volunteers who require either Blue Card or Police Check are required to complete Reportable Conduct Scheme Training. This training takes approx.. 20mins. To assist the Safeguarding Team are providing face to face training at Stella Maris Church on this
Monday 10:00am, November 9 and November 16
Training can also be completed online - archelearnvolunteer.brisbanecatholic.org.au. Please email lsr.suncoast@bne.catholic.net.au or phone the parish office 5443 3488.

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.

Where Faith and Life Meet

Congratulations to ***Leo Averbeck, Luca Averbeck, Nyler Buenacosa, Henry Oxenham, Hendrix Gray, Bentley Gray, Landon Gray*** and ***Zephyr Gray*** who will celebrate their baptisms at Stella Maris this weekend.

We pray for all those who have died especially ***Maria Pell***.
May her 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

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 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 enjoying the energy and inquisitiveness of those just starting out on the great adventure of life.

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, or part of the music ministry.

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. Date: Every Sunday 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. Don't forget to bring your friends!

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 Monday, **All Souls Day**, we gathered at Stella Maris for our annual Mass of Commemoration. It was our chance to remember and pray for all those who have died, especially during the past 12 months, and with gratitude give thanks for their example and enduring faith legacy. Thank you to the members of our Parish Grief Support Team for coordinating the Mass and to Holy Cross Funerals for sponsoring the refreshments after Mass.

November is the month that we remember all our deceased relatives, friends and fellow parishioners and at the base of the Altar you will discover our parish Book of Remembrance, containing the names of our deceased loved ones – they will be the focus of our prayers during this month of Remembrance.

Holy Cross FUNERALS

RCIA
A JOURNEY IN FAITH

Please keep in your prayers the 30 members of our community who are preparing to be baptised and be fully welcomed into the Catholic Church. For the past 20 weeks, each week they have gathered to reflect upon the some aspect of what we believe as Catholics. It has certainly been a journey of discernment and trust. On the Feast of Christ the King, which brings the liturgical year to a close, we will celebrate their great leap of faith as they join us as members of the Catholic Church. During these next two weeks please keep our RCIA candidates, their sponsors and the catechists in your prayers.

The journey for any adult wanting to discover more about what we believe is called the **RCIA journey**. The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults is a journey of discernment, prayer and reflection that allows a person the freedom to explore what we believe as Catholics and where God is calling them – hopefully it is a positive time to reflect upon some of the most fundamental questions of life. Early in the New Year we will begin a new RCIA journey for anyone who is interested and if you would like to register your interest please contact us via email *suncoast@bne.catholic.net.au*.

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 unloved 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 your 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*

Flavours of the World

Our menu has officially been decided for our upcoming NET Team fundraiser: **Flavours of the World** and we are super excited to share it with you all!

Thank you to everyone who purchased a ticket last weekend and to all those who helped with selling the tickets after Mass. We sold almost 70 tickets over the weekend and are now almost completely sold out!!!

This event would not be made possible with our the help of our sponsors: **Siena Catholic College and Primary**, **Grandma Đặng Maroochydore**, **Chef Carlo Soriano from Caloundra RSL**, **SG Bakery**, **Adobo Corner**, **Pam Singson**, **Maria Fry**, **Phillipino Sunshine Coast Community** and many more!

Can't make it to this event but would still like to financially support us to secure a NET Team in 2027? **You can now make a direct deposit using the details below:**

Account Name:	ADF - Stella Maris Parish
BSB:	064 786
Account Number:	100 000 037
Payment Reference:	NET27 Donation

CANAPÉ

Prawn Vietnamese Spring Roll
Chicken and Avocado French Vol au Vent
Traditional Asian Spring Roll
Colombian Empanadas

ENTRÉE

Scallop in Mediterranean Sauce
Quiche Lorraine (Vegetarian)
Pork Siomai

MAIN COURSE

Beef Caldereta
Five Spice Grilled Chicken
Lemon Buttered Fish

DESSERT

Cream Cheese Leche Flan (top with berries)
French Lemon Tart
Sticky Date Pudding

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, November 10, 7:00pm in the Duffy Room at Stella Maris. For more information contact John Legg on 0434 587 491.

Home Visitation

Over the past two years, the statue of our Blessed Mother has been welcomed into many homes within our parish community. Every week, a family has taken the statue to their home, and it has provided the focus for the prayers of the family, their neighbours and friends. Can she find a home under your roof for a week? If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Veronica, 0451 593 397, or email, *veronica.baatjes@gmail.com*

I know that Christmas seems a long way off but actually there are only 47 shopping day left till Christmas! Leading up to Christmas, here in our Sunshine Coast Catholic Family, one of the rich traditions to prepare for the birth of the Christ Child is the **Christmas Novena**. A Novena, from the Latin ***novem*** which basically means nine, is an ancient tradition of devotional praying in the Catholic Church consisting of private or public prayers repeated for nine successive days or weeks. Many of us grew up remembering the importance of attending nine First Fridays! For the nine mornings leading up to Christmas – beginning on Tuesday, December 15, we celebrate Mass at 6:00am at Stella Maris. What has become our tradition, at the end of Mass each morning different groups have prepared a light breakfast so that we begin our day nourished both spiritually and physically prepared. It all comes to a great conclusion of Wednesday, December 23 with our final Mass and a truly worthy breakfast celebration. Make sure you make our Christmas Novena part of your preparation to welcome the Christ Child this year.



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.