Stella Maris Catholic Parish

THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Weekend of November 14 and 15, 2026

First Reading: Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31 **Second Reading:** 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6 **Gospel:** Matthew: 25:14-30

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

TIME TO SAY GOODBYE

2026 has been a year filled with deeper connection, joy, and a touch of bitter sweetness as it draws to a close. Our time in Maroochydore has been occupied by many forms of ministry including discipleship with students at Siena College, music ministry at various parish Masses, running the 10:10 youth group, attending and hosting young adult events, assisting at community meals, and fellowship with parishioners at shared dinners.

This year, our NET cohort has been journeying with the theme scripture: "For we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard" Acts 4:20. This scripture could not be more true for our team in what we have experienced. We have witnessed God's faithfulness in both the big and little moments, from seeing young people encounter Jesus in the simple conversation, to multitudes of hearts being transformed through adoration at Ignite Conference. These moments have reminded us why we said yes to this mission in the first place and answered the Lord's call.

As we come to the close of this year, we have learnt that our mission starts in the team by loving one another first, so that we can then go out and spread the love of Jesus to those we minister to. We have experienced the beauty of growing together, learning to rely on one another and being challenged to live out our faith every day. No matter who we were and what we brought with us at the beginning of the year, we have been transformed by each other's witness and by all those who we have encountered through Jesus. This community has not only become an important part of our lives, but has become family.

We have witnessed students grow in confidence, build friendships, become more open to faith and discover that they are known, seen and loved by Jesus. It has been a privilege to walk alongside them, listen to their questions, and celebrate their growth as they take steps in their own relationship with Jesus.

Throughout our time at Siena College, we have been blessed to witness many victories, both big and small, as God continues to work in the lives of the young people we encounter. One particularly special story is that of a Year 10 student who had grown up with very little exposure to faith. Our team began building a relationship with him through simple conversations and spending time together between classes and during breaks, allowing trust and friendship to grow.

One day, during a break time, Damian gave him a small New Testament Bible and encouraged him to read it and remain open to what Jesus might be inviting him into. While he wasn't immediately drawn to the faith, we continued to journey alongside him, trusting that God was at work even when we couldn't see it. More recently, this student shared with us that he had said yes to Jesus and accepted Him as the Saviour of his life.

What a beautiful reminder that mission is often found in the smallest moments of showing up, building relationships and planting seeds of faith. We may never know the full impact of a conversation, an invitation or a simple act of kindness, but God does. This student's yes is a true gift and a powerful reminder that all Jesus needs is a willing heart to begin something extraordinary. We are so grateful to have played even a small part in his journey towards Him.



It's been a year rich in connection, reflection, and faith. While we're sad to say goodbye, our hearts are overflowing with gratitude and joy for all that God has done this year.

Thank You

Jacinda , Damian Lourdes , Finn , Kayden, Bella

2026 Stella Maris NET team

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 16
- Safeguarding Training (10:00am, Stella Maris)
- Adoration (4:30pm, Stella Maris)
- Benediction (5:15pm, Stella Maris)
- **Mass** (5:30pm, Stella Maris)

Tuesday, November 17
- **Mass** (9:00am, Stella Maris School Chapel)
- Funeral of Maria Pell (1:00pm, Stella Maris)

Wednesday, November 18
- **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 19
- **Mass** (8:30am, St Peter's)

Friday, November 20
- **Mass** (9:00am, Stella Maris)
- Grief Support Meeting (9:45am, Stella Maris)
- Community Meal (6:00pm, Stella Maris)

Saturday, November 21
- 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 22 *Christ the King*
- **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
- Flavours of the World (12:00pm, Siena Primary)
- 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.

RCIA NEWS



Every year, men and women from different walks of life take a step towards **deepening their relationship with God**, expressing a desire to be received into the Catholic Church or to complete their journey of Christian initiation. Some have grown up without religion, others have been searching for deeper meaning and purpose, while others have felt a compelling invitation to explore this "faith thing" a little further, perhaps sparked by a "God moment" that has transformed their lives.

Over the past 16 weeks through the RCIA sessions (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults), we have explored the richness of our Catholic faith and been on the journey of exploring what it means to belong to the Church. They are reminded that ultimately it is **moreso a 'heart journey' rather than and intellectual 'head journey**'.

At our **5:00pm Sunday Mass this week, we will celebrate the Rite of Election,** a special moment in their faith journey as they publicly express their desire and readiness to receive the sacraments. It is also an opportunity for the congregation to witness their commitment and pledge our prayers, and support for our **30 aspiring Catholics.**

As our candidates prepare to receive the sacraments next **Sunday, November 22 at the 5:00pm Mass**, please accompany them with your prayers and encouragement. St Augustine beautifully reminds us, "*Our hearts are restless until they rest in you, O Lord.*"

WHY NOT ?

We are still seeking new members of our Monday morning Stella Maris church cleaning team – if you would like to join this practical and invaluable ministry please contact the parish office. Also, at Sippy Downs, our local Holy Communion to the sick and housebound team are looking for new members to join the roster and visit Regis Aged care – once again, if you are interested and would like more information please contact us at the Parish Office: *suncoast@bne.catholic.net.au*

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 approximately 20 minutes. To assist, the Safeguarding Team are providing face to face training at Stella Maris Church on this **Monday 10:00am, 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.

Wishing our former Parish Priest, Fr Joe Duffy, every best wish on his birthday this Monday.

WHERE FAITH AND LIFE MEET

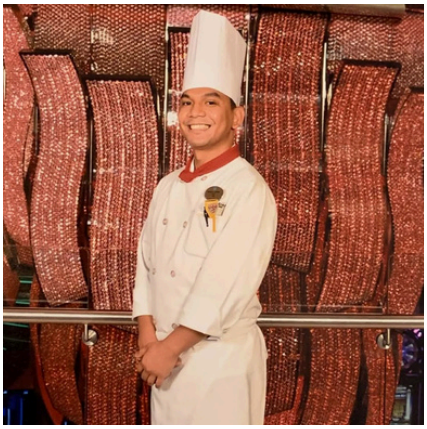
We welcome into God's Family, the Church ***Alice Meehan, Lovina Thurston, Nalu Goulevitch*** and ***Lucy Meehan*** who will be baptised into our Catholic Family this weekend.

We pray for all those who have died especially ***Maria Pell*** whose funeral rites are this Tuesday.
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 busy and energetic parish depends upon willing parishioners to "make things happen"! Planning is already underway for several major pastoral and faith development moments planned for 2027. We have applied for funding and received grants to enable next year's annual **Women's and Men's Retreat** and have secured guest speakers for both ministries – more news to follow. Additionally, our **Young Adults** have secured part funding that will enable them to host a live-in weekend retreat and plans are progressing to finalize the details. Also, once again we will host a **Lenten Mini Mission** in the first week of Lent and we are delighted that Archbishop Emeritus Mark Coleridge will lead our Lenten reflection. So, already, there are many good things to look forward to in 2027!

Meet the Chefs



Meet Chef Carlo Soriano Lazaga. Known for cooking the best meals Caloundra RSL has to offer. Carlo is also the Kitchen Manager for Italianni's Restaurant and Chef for the Norwegian Cruise Line. Outside of the kitchen, Carlo enjoys spending time exploring the outdoors and volunteers for The Table of St. Francis. Recently Carlo has been road testing the Scallops in Mediterranean Sauce, one of the delicious entrees that will be served at Flavours of the World. His wealth of international kitchen experience is sure to make our upcoming lunch one we won't forget!



Meet Chef Luke Le, the founder and head chef of Grandma Đặng Maroochydore. Luke is best known for his Signature Egg Noodles tossed in 'Grandma's special sauce', balancing Vietnamese heritage techniques with vibrant presentation. Luke started his restaurant in honour of his grandmother who ran a humble eatery to raise her nine kids, "her kitchen was filled with love, hard work, and recipes that have become the heart of our restaurant". For Luke, every dish has a story and every flavour has a memory! We look forward to trying some of his cuisines on November 22.



Together, along with **SG Bakery**, **Adobo Corner**, **The Filipino Sunshine Coast Community**, **Maria Fry**, **Pam Singson** and the **Student Chefs at Siena College**, Luke and Carlo are bringing this incredible four-course menu to our fundraising lunch: **Flavours of the World**. All proceeds for this event are going towards funding a Maroochydore NET Team in 2027. Tickets for this event are just about sold out! But if you would still like to support us to secure a NET Team next year, you can now make a direct deposit donation using the following details -
Account Name: ADF - Stella Maris Parish **BSB:** 064 786 **Account Number:** 100 000 037 **Reference:** NET27 Donation

MEN'S Breakfast!

SAVE THE DATE

MEN OF OUR SUNSHINE COAST PARISH

You are invited to join us for our last Men's Breakfast for the year on Saturday, November 28, at 8:00am sharp in the Bliss Room. Our speaker for the morning will be parishioner Elijah Gonzalez. "From a childhood marked by abuse to a life of addiction and deep mental health struggles, Elijah never imagined his journey would lead him to the Catholic Church. He shares how, during one of the darkest periods of his life, an unexpected encounter with Jesus Christ challenged everything he believed and ultimately transformed the direction of his life".

The purpose of our Men's Breakfasts is to provide an opportunity for us as men to come and hear from fellow parishioners, (who might sit next to you in the pews each Sunday), about how Jesus has made a difference in their lives. It is also an opportunity to share our own personal faith experiences as well as encouraging each other in our spiritual walk.
A light breakfast consisting of cereal, muesli, fruit, yoghurt, toast and spreads is included. Juice, Tea and Coffee are also provided.
To help cover costs, a donation of $5.00 cash (payable at the door) would be appreciated.
Perhaps you could invite a neighbour or another parishioner.
NOTE: Disposable bowls, plates cutlery and cups are provided, however you are welcome to bring your own.
For catering purposes or for further information please RSVP Rob Hoy on 0401 498 059 by 12:00pm Friday November, 27.

Did you know that... parishes all over the world hear the same readings proclaimed at Sunday Mass? The pattern of readings in the lectionary, the liturgical book containing all of the Church's readings, was a rich fruit of Vatican II. The intent of the Council Fathers was for us to hear more of the Bible throughout the year. It follows a three-year cycle: we are currently in the last week of Year A which has a focus on Matthew's Gospel. Next weekend, the Feast of Christ the King will complete the church's liturgical year and the following weekend we will begin Year B and the start of Advent.

In Year B the focus is the Gospel of St Mark while Year C the focus in on the Gospel of Luke. In all years we hear St John's Gospel read from Easter through Pentecost.

The first reading is usually from the Old Testament and links with the Gospel of the day. The responsorial psalm is a prayerful response to the first reading. The second reading (Sundays and solemnities) is from one of the Epistles or from Acts of the Apostles during the Easter Season. The lectionary is available to everyone online through such websites as Universalis.

There are so many aspects of our Catholic Faith that either we take for granted or have never really appreciated. For someone on the outside looking in at us and trying to understand some of our rituals and beliefs, our Catholic Faith can be confusing. **On the first and third Sunday of the month, after the 5:00pm Sunday evening Mass, our Veritas Group meets in the Bliss Room.** The goal of our Veritas ministry is simply to help answer some of the basic questions people might have and explain the reasons why we do the things we do as Catholics – if you have any questions please feel free to join us after the 5:00pm Mass this Sunday.



WE ARE WHO WE ARE BECAUSE OF YOU !

Our Parish Family is blessed with an extraordinary number of volunteers who keep everything bouncing along – they are literally the mortar that holds us all to gather! Quietly, behind the scenes, fellow parishioners clean our churches, put their hand up to be part of the music ministry, lead our children's church, take Holy Communion to those who can't join us for Mass, coordinate our celebrations, are part of different groups and ministries – the list goes on and on! Every year, before the craziness of the holiday season really kicks in, we try and gather all volunteers for a **Christmas Thank You Party**. So, if you are a faithful volunteer, up front or behind the scenes, whether your ministry is either easy or time consuming, a grateful Parish would like to extend to all volunteers a warm invitation to this year's Christmas Thank You party on Tuesday, November 24, from 6:00pm to 7:30pm. ***Everyone is invited!***

Planning Ahead: As a community that also has to welcome many holiday makers and visitors ,we have to plan ahead. For your information, our Christmas schedule is as follows:
Communal Rite of Reconciliation, Caloundra Saturday morning December 19, **9am**
Communal Rite of Reconciliation, Maroochydore Monday evening December 21, **5pm**
Christmas Eve: Maroochydore **4pm**, Coolum **5pm**, Sippy Downs **5pm**, Maroochydore **6pm**, Maroochydore, **Midnight**
Christmas Day: Maroochydore **6:30am**, Coolum **7:30am**, Maroochydore **9am**, Buderim **9:30am**



Last Thursday evening on the balcony of the Stella Maris presbytery, our Parish Welcome Team hosted a **"Welcome Night"** cocktail party. In our highly mobile society there are always new parishioners joining our community and our "Welcome Night" functions is one way we hope to make welcome new and returning members of our diverse parish. If you are new to our Sunshine Coast Catholic Family, at the entrance to the church you will discover a "Welcome Pack" which contains contact details and information about our Parish.

MAKE THE MOST OF ADVENT

Advent Starts in two weeks' time and it is a short, focused season of expectation – waiting for Emmanuel – God is with us! A great way to help prepare is by spending a little time reflecting on the approaching birth of the Christ Child as part of an Advent programme. Each Wednesday during the four weeks of Advent, commencing at 6:00pm on Wednesday, December 2, and you are invited to join our Advent programme at St Catherine's. Please call Helen Matchett on 0403 617 512 for more details.

Please plan to join us for our **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 on 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.