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TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME, Year C, 16 October 2022

From Fr Peter...

Since March 2020 the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted our lives in multiple ways, including at church. Many churches had to discontinue in-person services for lengthy periods or adjust ways of conducting their services. Some churches embraced live streaming, while others met in small groups or via Zoom. The National Church Life Survey (NCLS) is looking at what long term impact COVID has had on church attendance patterns. There are some initial clues!

In wider Australian society, based on the Australian Community Survey run by NCLS Research, there was a drop in religious service attendance in 2020. However, by November 2021 Australians reported that they attended religious services at pre-pandemic levels (21%). The NCLS Research team will continue to check these attendance patterns over time.

NCLS collected information from churches on the patterns of their churchgoers, we have heard anecdotes that indicate that COVID has disrupted the 'rusted on' attenders.

In states impacted by long lockdowns, the long-term habits of many churchgoers were tested. People spoke of having a break from church life. Others spoke of 'visiting' other churches online, whether these were city cathedrals and megachurches overseas, or small gatherings in a paddock in rural Australia.

To test these ideas of disruption they asked church attenders this question in the 2021 National Church Life Survey: "Compared to 2019 (before COVID), are you more or less involved at this local church?" Six in 10 church attenders reported that they have not changed their level of involvement with their church. The remaining 4 in 10 have changed their engagement, but not all in the same direction: two in 10 are more involved post-COVID, while two in 10 are less involved.

Another new question in the 2021 NCLS was, "Do you attend church services elsewhere?" (People could select both in person and/or online). The answers reveal that around six in

10 attenders only attend one church. However, four in 10 say they also attend elsewhere, whether in person (26%) or online (17%). These results vary significantly by denomination, with more than half of Catholics attending Mass at more than one place. However, around a quarter of Protestants also reported attending other churches (15% attending in person, and 15% online).

Rather than talking about who is in or out of church life, it may be more helpful to think in terms of those are part of a core group and those who are 'orbiting'.

Firstly, there is a very stable core of attenders who have maintained their same level of involvement since COVID-19. 'Smaller but strong' might be the theme for this core. Around this core there is a fringe group 'orbiting' on the periphery. People who may fit this group are those who are changing their levels of involvement, or who are visiting other churches.

As churches navigate the next phase of a COVID-affected church life, these results highlight a strong core of regular attenders; the positive potential of some being more involved; as well as the opportunity to reconnect with some who have become less involved at church. Whether rates of online attendance change or remain, will need to be seen in the future.

This research has relevance for our Parish Family. It is obvious that across all 4 of our churches there has been a very significant drop in the numbers celebrating the Eucharist. While they might not be sitting in the pews they have not left the parish. Other Parishes are slowly returning to their pre-covid numbers. But this just does not happen—you have to work at it! The question for us is...how are we making it easier for our sisters and brothers to reconnect?

Each member of our Parish Family has the responsibility to invite back and then welcome back our absent sisters and brothers. *Perhaps that is our homework for this week!*

Fr Peter Brannelly

Proper of the Mass

First Reading: Ex 17:8-13
Second Reading: 2 Tim 3:14-4:2
Gospel: Luke 18:1-8

Waves of Harmony and the St Vincent de Paul Coolum Conference warmly invite all parishioners to their **Sounds of Celebration** fundraiser concert on Sunday, November 6th at 2pm at St Peter's, Coolum. Music performances by the Waves of Harmony, Coolum Voices (from the Coolum State High School) and special guests. All proceeds go to Vinnies Homelessness programs and your admission of \$15 also includes afternoon tea.

WELCOME

Thank you to all visitors and friends who are joining us this weekend as we celebrate together the 29th Sunday of the Church's year. Persistence in prayer is the theme of this weekend's scripture and the reason we faithfully gather once again around the altar to celebrate the Eucharist.

Welcome - thanks for your persistence!

Parish Book of Remembrance

November is the month that we traditionally remember and pray for our deceased loved ones and those who have gone before us marked by the sign of faith. We start the month with the two great feasts – All Saints on November 1st, immediately followed by All Souls the following day. At the entrance to all our churches this weekend you will discover our **Parish Book of Remembrance**. In preparation for November you are invited to inscribe in the Book of Remembrance the names of your deceased family members and friends and during the month they will be the focus of our prayers.

Clear Vision

The completed maintenance work on the exterior of Stella Maris has highlighted the magnificent woodwork on the glass doors. Unfortunately the more you notice the glass doors the more you notice that the glass needs a clean! With so many doors it is obvious that many hands make light work! Next Saturday, October 22nd, a small group of parishioners are going to clean the glass – would you like to join them? Let us know at the parish office if you can.

Knights

A reminder that the next meeting of the Knights of the Southern Cross is on Tuesday 18 October at 7.00pm. The meeting will take place at the SVdP Meeting Room, Norval Court, Maroochydore. Further information please contact john.legg51@gmail.com

Sounds of Celebration

GEN Y Social Night

Come and join us in the Maroochydore Presbytery for drinks and nibbles. We welcome all young adults on Friday 21st of October for a night of bad karaoke and good memories. See you there!

Alpha Conference

Springfield Catholic Parish will be hosting an Alpha Catholic Conference for those interested in personal and parish renewal. To find out more scan this QR code.



Altar Servers Please

Calling all the young parishioners of the area. If you've completed your Sacrament of First Holy Communion then we want you! We're looking for young altar servers to participate in our Masses around the Parish. Training will be held on 23rd of October after the 9am Mass in Maroochydore. Come along and join the team.

Mission Appeal Next Weekend Across our Parish Family

Craft Group

Every second Tuesday the Coolum craft group meets at St Peter's Church. A warm invitation is extended to all

parishioners to join them. The next time they gather is Tuesday, 25 October. For additional information please chat with Mary Priddy.



The Week Ahead

Don't Delay!

The Parish Office will be placing orders for the annual liturgical publications in the next couple of weeks.

DAILY MASS BOOK 2023 contains all the texts for Sunday and weekday Mass, including the chants for parts of the Mass. Published in a compact format; the Daily Mass Book is convenient and economical. Printed in two colours throughout, its layout is easy to follow. Runs from Advent to Advent. Price same as last year \$27.

ORDO 2023 is an indispensable reference for liturgy planning and is the only official ORDO for Australia and New Zealand. The spiral-bound B5 size includes reading references and taglines, responsorial psalms and gospel acclamations. Printed in two colours for clarity. Also available as a digital flipbook. Price \$20.

BREAK OPEN THE WORD 2023 YEAR A contains readings and psalms for each Sunday with NEW commentary providing fresh and insightful background to the text and assistance on how to read it, along with a section entitled "The Ministry of Reader". The popular pronunciation guide is also included. Break Open the Word is a vital publication for readers. The parish will subsidise the cost of Break Open the Word for parishioners reducing the cost to \$10.

If you would like to order any of the above liturgical items simply place your name, contact details and your order on the outside of a envelope with the corresponding money inside and place it on the collection plate. Alternatively pop into the Parish Office and finalize your order.

Going Deeper Podcast

There's so much to know about the Catholic faith that it's easy to get caught up in catechising ourselves while we forget about what it means to implement the faith in our daily lives. In this new Catholic podcast, join Shane Dwyer and a special guest in an organic discussion about Catholicism, theology and life. If you are interested in learning more, experiencing more or just getting some perspective on Catholicism, tune in for a weekly chat!

Find out more via this link or scan the QR code:

<https://goingdeeperpodcast.buzzsprout.com/>

THE WEEK AHEAD

*We acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which our communities celebrate our 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, 17 October

- Adoration 4.30pm, Benediction at 5.15pm
- **Mass** (5.30pm, Stella Maris Church)

Upgrade of AV system at St Catherine's and St Peter's

Tuesday, 18 October

- **Mass** (9.00am, Stella Maris Church)
- Christ Catholic Community (9.30am, Maroochydore)

Upgrade of AV system at St Catherine's and St Peter's

Wednesday, 19 October

- **Mass** (7.00am, St Mary's Church)
- Scripture Study Group (9.30am, Zoom gathering)
- Latin American prayer group meets every Wednesday in the Maroochydore Parish function room 6-8pm.

Upgrade of AV system at St Catherine's and St Peter's

Thursday, 20 October

- **No Mass** at St Peter's Church today - upgrade to AV system taking place.
- 2pm Rosary & Divine Mercy—Stella Maris
- **No Mass** at St Catherine's Church today - upgrade to AV system taking place.

Upgrade of AV system at St Catherine's and St Peter's

Friday, 21 October

- **Mass** (9.00am, Stella Maris Church)
- 2pm Stations of the Cross, Stella Maris
- Gen Y Fridays – the young adult group meets on
- Friday at the Stella Maris chapel at 6pm followed by dinner. All young adults welcome.
- Community Meal for the Homeless, Vulnerable and Disadvantaged (6.00pm, Stella Maris).

Upgrade of AV system at St Catherine's and St Peter's

Saturday, 22 October

- Reconciliation **8:30 to 9:30am**, Stella Maris.
- 11am Baptism of infants, Stella Maris
- 11am El Shaddai group meets at Sippy Downs Church.
- Baptism of infant following 6.00pm Mass (Stella Maris Church)

Sunday, 23 October

- **Polish Mass** (4.00pm, St Mary's Church)

In Transition

We welcome into God's Family, the Church, *Ryder Hachey, Darcy O'Dwyer, Margaux Hooke & Sophia Wolski* who will be baptised this weekend in our Parish.

We pray for all those who have died, especially *John Mutjanko*, whose funeral rites will be celebrated at the G&W Chapel this Monday at 10:30am. May John's soul and the souls of all our departed priests, religious, parishioners and family members, through the rich mercy of God.

Rest in Peace

Catholic Education in our Stella Maris Parish Family



Siena Catholic Primary School
 58 Sippy Downs Drive, Sippy Downs
 psippydowns@bne.catholic.edu.au
 Principal: Glen Bucklar

Each year at Siena Catholic Primary, we are united through a symbol and story. In 2022 our theme is "Carry the flame." The Pentecost story in the book of Acts where tongues of fire rested on the heads of all those gathered has been used as our focus story. Initially we needed to unpack what is our flame and how do we carry it? We have



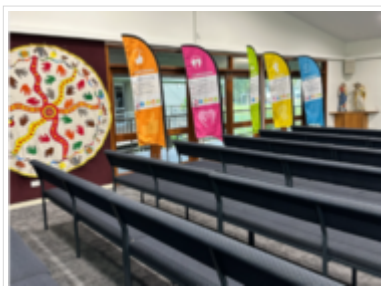
discussed how being entrusted to carry the flame is both a privilege and a responsibility. We have also reflected that there are times in our lives when our flame is burning bright, but also times when our flame is very low or perhaps even extinguished. Children have brainstormed how they might share their flame with others and be a flame of hope that lights the way for others when they are struggling to carry their flame. It is our hope that the flame that has been nurtured in our Year Six students along their primary school journey will be carried with them as they venture into high school next year.



Stella Maris Primary School
 Stella Maris Way, Maroochydore
 pmaroochydore@bne.catholic.edu.au
 Principal: Nicole de Vries

Stella Maris Chapel

Our Stella Maris Chapel is back open after multiple renovations due to storm damage. We look forward to welcoming everyone into this space.



Prep's Chapel Visit

This week our Prep students got to meet with Fr Peter in our Children's Chapel. This was our Prep students first chance to meet and interact with Fr Peter and learn a little bit about who Fr Peter is and his role in the Stella Maris Parish.

As part of the Prep's RE learning for the term they have been exploring why believers attend church and the significant celebrations that happen in the Church throughout the year.



Siena College
 60 Sippy Downs Drive, Sippy Downs
 ssippydowns@bne.catholic.edu.au
 Principal: Michael McCarthy

Last term we saw the wrap up of the Girls' rugby Season with the grand finals... Siena as the only school with two teams in the division 1 finals. Congratulations to Mr Shayne Boyd, Mr Cameron Millach and all our u14 girls on being this year's Sarah Ridgewell Plate champions! Unfortunately, our u18 First X girls were unable to make it a double celebration. Thank to our grade 12 female students for your enthusiasm, your skill, your perseverance, and the passion you brought to every game this season and every season you pulled on a Siena jersey. We will miss you!

Part of the Senior program at Siena is the opportunity to volunteer at the Community Meal for the Homeless, Vulnerable and Disadvantaged' at Stella Maris each Friday evening. One student commented they were surprised to see a crowd of over 30 as they said..."I have only ever seen one or two homeless people in Maroochydore...". The students came to see that this community meal embraces people who are lonely, elderly, disengaged with the community, economically challenged, experience mental ill-health; all are welcome. Students were gracious at the serving table and engaged in positive banter with the attendees. It is a pleasure to see students involved in this ministry on Friday night.

On Thursday evening, Siena staff, students, parents and community joined together for annual Awards Night. This evening is about recognising and celebrating the hard work and talent of the Siena student body in all areas of College life. Whether it's excellence in the classroom, on the sporting field, in The Arts or serving the local and broader community, Siena students are a gifted group of young people with much to offer. Congratulations to all our award recipients.