

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 CATHOLIC PARISH

Our Parish has zero tolerance for all forms of abuse and is committed to safeguarding everyone involved in its activities, ministries and services. The safety and wellbeing of children and adults-at-risk is paramount.

Advent Reflection

As we approach the second week of Advent, it is worthwhile to pause and consider the importance of this time of preparation and watchful waiting. Too often, the season of Advent is overshadowed by the "holiday season" as we move too quickly into celebrating Christmas. By the time that the actual solemnity of Christmas arrives, many of us are burned out. We are already tired of all the "Christmas hype."

As we draw close to the end of the school year, this week, many families set off for holidays that were planned over the past months. We wait in eager anticipation of that special trip or outing and catching up with friends and family. Whatever it is that we will be doing takes careful planning. We don't just book a last-minute flight to some place we've heard is good, without planning or preparing in some way. We do some research on accommodation options, look up places of interest in the area, make advance bookings and look at images of the place we will be visiting (How did we survive without Google?). If we are staying home, we may be making other plans of things to do, menus for Christmas lunch or people to catch up with. While this can lead to Christmas burnout, if done right, we can get as much out of the planning or anticipation as the arrival of the actual event.

The word advent comes from the Latin for "coming" or "arrival". What is the arrival we are awaiting? It is a time of preparation for Christmas, the first coming of God's Son. It is also a season when we are directed to Christ's second coming at the end of time. It is a season of joyful hope, a time of preparation and waiting. This season is not just about preparing for the birth of Christ at Christmas, but for the Christ who is continually being born in our lives and in the church every day.

As we step into the holiday season, let us focus on the coming of Christ and slow down to appreciate the time of preparation and anticipation that Advent provides. While the preparation for family events and holidays is good, we also need to prepare ourselves spiritually for the coming of Christ. The liturgies of the four Sundays of Advent help to guide and focus our attention on Christ's coming. It is an enormous challenge to remain faithful to the Advent season when we are surrounded by a society which does not take the time to reflect and prepare as the Church calls us to do. As followers of Christ, we need to do things a bit differently. I encourage families and individuals to make Advent a time of prayer and eager anticipation of the coming of Jesus into our lives, homes and hearts.

Let us pray that Advent season will renew us and help us to be an example of patience, silence, and joy to our hurried society.

Dcn Michael Khoury

CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS 2022

Christmas Eve - Saturday, 24 December

Maroochydore 4.00pm & 6.00pm
Buderim 7.30pm (carols from 7.00pm)
Coolum Beach 5.00pm & 7.00pm
Maroochydore Midnight (carols from 11.30am)
Sippy Downs 5.00pm (carols from 4.30pm)

Christmas Day - Sunday, 25 December

Maroochydore 6.30am & 9.00am
Coolum Beach 7.30am
Buderim 9.30am

PARISH NEWSLETTER for the SECOND SUNDAY of ADVENT Year A
WEEKEND OF 3 / 4 DECEMBER 2022

Proper of the Mass

First Reading: Is 11:1-10 Second Reading: Rom 15:4-9 Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12

Parish Priests

Fr Peter Brannelly PP
Fr William Aupito Iuliano

Deacon

Rev Michael Khoury

Parish Office

Church Street, Maroochydore
(adjoins the Stella Maris Church)

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Parish Mass Times from 26 November

WEEKEND MASSES

Maroochydore
Saturday 6.00pm
Sunday 6.30am,
9am & 5pm

Coolum Beach
Saturday 4.30pm
Sunday 7.30am

Buderim
Sunday 9.30am

Sippy Downs
Sunday 8.00am

WEEKDAY MASSES

Monday 5.30pm
Maroochydore

Tuesday 9.00am
*Stella Maris School,
Maroochydore*

Wednesday 7.00am
Buderim

Wednesday 9.00am
Sippy Downs

Thursday 8.30am
Coolum Beach

Friday 9.00am
Maroochydore

Last week our scripture for the 1st Sunday of Advent revolved around God's promise to bring Israel out of exile, the readings for this weekend focus more specifically on the Messiah and what his coming will look like. John the Baptist bursts onto the scene and is the voice we hear! So, whether you have come from near or far, on this 2nd weekend of Advent journey together,

WELCOME

The Best Christmas Present Ever!

For the believer, the road to Bethlehem and the birth of the Christ Child is also a journey of reconciliation. This year there are two important opportunities to celebrate the transformative power of God's mercy and forgiveness. On Saturday morning, **December 17th at 9am** at Our Lady of the Rosary, Caloundra we will have the opportunity to celebrate a **Communal Rite of Reconciliation**. Then on Monday, **December 19th at 5pm** at Stella Maris there will be also a Communal Rite of Reconciliation celebrated and everyone is invited to attend. Please tell your Catholic neighbours and friends! (Please note that because your priests will be assisting at the Rite of Reconciliation at Caloundra on Saturday, December 17th there will be no confessions at Stella Maris that morning).

A Change of Colour

Next weekend, the Third Sunday of Advent, is also called Gaudete Sunday and we light the rose coloured candle on our Advent Wreath. To add to the solemnity of this weekend our Stella Maris Liturgical environment group are looking for some help. Do you have any pink flowers for our church's arrangements? If you can help at all, please call Maricel (0418 726 777) or Mirjana (0426 737 789). Thank you



On Tuesday evening the 4 local community leadership teams gathered at the Stella Maris function room to reflect on the past 3 months and the different initiatives of each community. The emphasis upon being a welcoming and hospital Parish Family was a common theme across all communities. Looking forward, discussion evolved around how to build on this foundation into the New Year. Also discussed were the new weekly and Christmas Mass times, the ministry of communion to the sick and housebound, the appointment of Deacon Isaac Falzon, the Liturgy Committee and the 2023 Parish Lenten Mini Mission. After the meeting all the members enjoyed a BBQ dinner expertly cooked by Fr William.



We welcome back Fr Geoff Barron to our community which happily coincided with his birthday that was celebrated on last Tuesday.

At the Tuesday morning Mass at Stella Maris School Chapel Fr Geoff asked the grade 3 students to guess his age – *unfortunately none of them were even close!!!*



Lift Your Voices!

The entire Coolum Beach community are gathering at St Peter's Church for their annual Ecumenical Christmas Carols which begin at 5:30pm on Tuesday, December 13. The music will be led by the local group, "Sounds of Harmony" and hospitality will follow the carols. A warm invitation is extended to the Parish Family to join the Coolum community in this pre-Christmas celebration.

Cleanliness is next to Godliness

We are inviting members of the community to assist with the cleaning of the Stella Maris church. The church is cleaned each fortnight on a Monday morning between 8.30am and 10.30am and we have 2 cleaning teams who are rostered on alternate fortnights – averages once a month per team. Why not get together with a couple of your friends and form a team? For more information please contact Olga Girle 0417 792 616 or Judy Glasson 0419 757 069.

Misa de Gallo

Sunrise these days is before 5am so it is not too much of a challenge to get up a bit earlier and come to Stella Maris for our annual Misa de Gallo on Friday, December 23rd. The Misa de Gallo translates as "Rooster Mass" and as the first cockcrows are heard at dawn on Friday, December 24, you are invited to join us for Mass and then a fantastic breakfast. The Misa de Gallo tradition is strong in predominately Spanish speaking countries and our local vibrant Filipino community coordinates this celebration – all are welcome – tell your friends.

Christmas Rosters

Christmas is a busy time and we will welcome many families and visitors to our community over the next couple of weeks. So much work goes on behind the scenes to ensure that everything is covered and runs smoothly. It all depends upon your generosity of time and service. If you are involved in any Mass ministries and will be joining us for any Christmas Masses, please record your names on the rosters forms at the entrance to the church which will help us ensure all the ministry roles are filled.

Why Not?

With schools breaking up for the long summer holidays and Advent well underway why not integrate one of our daily Masses into your routine? Could there be a better way of preparing for the birth of the Christ Child and keeping you both grounded and focused than incorporating the celebration of the Eucharist into your journey this week.

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.

Saturday, 3 December

- ◆ Reconciliation **8:30 to 9:30am** - Stella Maris.
- ◆ 10am Baptism of infants - Stella Maris.
- ◆ 11am El Shaddai group meets - Sippy Downs.
- ◆ **Mass** (4.30pm, St Peter's Church)
- ◆ **Mass** (6.00pm, Stella Maris Church)

Sunday, 4 December

- ◆ **Mass** (6.30am, Stella Maris Church)
- ◆ **Mass** (7.30am, St Peter's Church) including Childrens Liturgy during Mass
- ◆ **Mass** (8am, St Catherine of Siena Church)
- ◆ **Mass** (9am, Stella Maris Church)
- ◆ **Mass** (9.30am, St Mary's Church)
- ◆ 10am Baptism of infant - Stella Maris.
- ◆ **Mass** (5pm, Stella Maris Church)

Monday, 5 December

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

Tuesday, 6 December

- ◆ **Parish Mass** (9.00am, *Stella Maris School*)
- ◆ Christ Catholic Community (9.30am, Maroochydore)

Wednesday, 7 December

- ◆ **Mass** (7am, St Mary's Church)
- ◆ **Mass** (9am, St Catherine of Siena Church)
- ◆ St Vincent de Paul Society meeting (Maroochydore conference)
- ◆ Scripture Study Group (9.30am, Zoom)
- ◆ Communion Service and carols by St Peter's Choir (St Mary's Aged Care)
- ◆ Latin American prayer group meets every Wednesday in the Maroochydore Parish function room 6-8pm.

Thursday, 8 December

- ◆ **Mass** (8.30am, St Peter's Church).
- ◆ St Vincent de Paul meeting (Coolum)
- ◆ Holy Hour of Grace (11.30-1.30pm, Stella Maris Church)
- ◆ 2pm Rosary & Divine Mercy - Stella Maris.

Friday, 9 December

- ◆ **Mass** (9am, Stella Maris)
- ◆ 2pm Stations of the Cross - Stella Maris.
- ◆ Community Meal for the Homeless, Vulnerable and Disadvantaged (6pm, Stella Maris).

Saturday, 10 December

- ◆ Reconciliation **8:30 to 9:30am**, Stella Maris.
- ◆ 10am Baptism of infants - Stella Maris.
- ◆ 11am El Shaddai group meets - Sippy Downs.
- ◆ **Mass** (4.30pm, St Peter's Church)
- ◆ **Mass** (6.00pm, Stella Maris Church)

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



For the past few weeks Siena Catholic Primary has been collecting donated items from our families for the St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal. Initially we were concerned that we may not get as many donations this year due to rises in interest rates and general living costs. However, our community has astounded us with the mound of donations received. Stories from Sunshine Coast people who had been helped by a Christmas hamper in the past were shared with the community to connect to. Families were asked to donate items that would make another family's Christmas special and a variety of donations were received, from bon bons to books and tuna to toys! The gift of giving has been truly embraced by Siena Catholic Primary families.



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



It has been a pleasure being the APRE this year and I would like to thank everyone in the community for their kindness, compassion and support. I feel truly blessed.

In 2023 we welcome our new leadership team.
Principal: Mark Ballam
Assistant Principal Religious Education: Jenny Davissen
Assistant Principal: Nicole de Vries

Stella Maris Primary School would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas, filled with love, peace and joy. May you all take care of each other, and we look forward to everyone returning in 2023.

Chloe O'Reilly



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



This week, students tied a ribbon around the Advent wreath symbolising their place in the preparation of our hearts and minds for the anniversary of the Lord's birth. Students reflected on the circular shape of the wreath, without beginning or end, symbolising God's complete and unending love for us—a love that sent his Son into the world to redeem us from the curse of sin. As we ignited the flame of the first Advent Candle, we were reminded, as Christians, we're meant to shine the light of Christ in this world. As Jesus tells us, you are the light of the world ... let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.



Thank you for your continued generous support of the mission of your Catholic Parish

Celebrating and Remembering

We welcome into God's Family, the Church, **Jude Morgensen, Dusty Morgensen, Ari Carmine and Mila Carmine** who will be baptised this weekend in our Parish.

We pray for all those who have died, especially **Barry Oakenfull**, whose funeral rites will be celebrated at the G&W Chapel this Monday at 1.00pm, and **Jodi Johnson**, whose ashes will be interred this weekend. May their soul's and the souls of all our departed priests, religious,