

PARISH NEWSLETTER FOR THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Weekend of the 10/11th of December, 2022

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.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice.

These are the words of our Entrance Antiphon for Mass this weekend. It's fitting, then, that we commonly know this Sunday as Gaudete Sunday, or Rejoice Sunday.

We light the rose-coloured candle and don the appropriate vestments to mark this occasion.

Outside of these physical markers, and pink... I mean **rose-coloured** items (because some priests don't like wearing pink), we're told to rejoice. It sounds nice, but what is it that we rejoice about?

Our main task is to rejoice **in** the Lord. We're told to rejoice, not just on Sundays, or during Mass, but **always**. The antiphon also has no doubt about our task. We're to rejoice as we ought, not just as a "maybe" or "when you feel like it," but **Rejoice**, here, is an imperative.

Another important question is "why do we rejoice?". We rejoice because, as it says in our first reading, "Courage, do not be afraid. Look, your God is coming... God is coming to save you." Hopefully, we rejoice because we realise that God has chosen to save us and set us free from negativity, darkness, and damnation. Now that's worth rejoicing!

God has physically come to us in the child Jesus. We look upon the face of God whenever we look at Jesus. Our God loves us enough to "swim out into the rip" and save us. Thank you, Lord, that we are worthy enough of your effort.

Rejoicing is the most appropriate response to God's goodness.

But what does that look like? Do we have to walk around with a smile all the time? Are we meant to be happy-go-lucky Christians?

Thankfully, rejoicing in the Lord is more than just an insincere smile. It's "doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you (Phil 4:9)." We're encouraged to strive for a Christian life even in the midst of the ups and downs of this world.

Life will continue to bruise and batter us; but our peace, comfort, and joy will come from Christ. In this, the third week of Advent, we are called to persevere. The Lord's coming is soon. Through our lives, may we **actively** rejoice in the Lord, that by our **actions** God may be present again in the world living deeply and truly through us.

Fr William

CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS 2022

Christmas Eve - Saturday, 24 December

Maroochydore 4.00pm (carols from 3.30pm)
Maroochydore 6.00pm (carols from 5.30pm)
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

Celebrating and Remembering

We welcome into God's Family, the Church, *Oceanah Perrett, Harry McHugh, Arayah Parvin, Lucas Medida and Mackenzie Gordon* who will be baptised this weekend in our Parish.

We pray for all those who have died, especially *Stanley Plichta* and *Pauline Coolican* whose funeral will be celebrated in the coming week. May their souls and the souls of all our departed priests, religious, parishioners and family members, through the rich mercy of God, **Rest in Peace**

Parish Priests

Fr Peter Brannelly PP
Fr William Aupito Iuliano

Deacon

Rev Michael Khoury

Parish Office

Church Street, Maroochydore
(adjoins the Stella Maris Church)

Postal Address

Post Office Box 449
Maroochydore 4558 QLD

Office Hours

Monday to Friday
8:30am to 1.30pm

Phone: 5443 3488

Email: suncoast@bne.catholic.net.au

Webpage: saintsonwaves.com.au

Facebook: Facebook @mission.stella

Parish Staff

Pauline Leahy & Challis Boland

Sacramental Coordinator & Youth Coordinator

Carrolyn Watt
cspy.suncoast@bne.catholic.net.au

Director of Communications

Bernadette Bain
bainb@bne.catholic.net.au

Safeguarding

Robyn Jewry
stellam.suncoast@bne.catholic.net.au

Knights of the Southern Cross

john.legg51@gmail.com
0434 587 491

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

The school holidays have certainly started and we welcome to our Parish Community & the Sunshine Coast visitors and families who join us this weekend. Whether you are new to our Parish or visiting while on holidays,

WELCOME

as we celebrate the 3rd Sunday of Advent.

We are over halfway there!

We have already passed the halfway mark on our journey towards the birth of the Christ Child! *How time flies!* During our Advent journey, to highlight the significance of this important, compact liturgical season, we have done a couple of things differently. Obviously the change in liturgical colours to purple and the lighting of the Advent Wreath at the start of Mass sets the scene. But also, our deliberate pausing and use of silence at the start of Mass and after the readings hopefully gives us a chance to reflect in the midst of the busyness of this time of the year. The scripture for the next two weeks shifts from the focus on the end times to the joy of anticipation at the approach of the nativity. To emphasise this the recessional hymn for the 3rd and 4th weekends of Advent will be "Wait for the Lord".

Prepare the Way

Reconciliation should be part of everyone's journey towards the birth of the Christ Child. This Advent there are two opportunities to celebrate God's mercy and forgiveness.

On Saturday morning, **17 December at 9.00am** at Our Lady of the Rosary, Caloundra we will have the opportunity to celebrate a **Communal Rite of Reconciliation**. Then on Monday, **19 December at 5.00pm** at Stella Maris Church, there will also be a Communal Rite of Reconciliation 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 17 December, there will be no confessions at Stella Maris Church that morning).*

Carols this Tuesday

Everyone is invited to join the Coolum Beach community at St Peter's Church for their annual Ecumenical Christmas Carols this Tuesday, December 13th, beginning at 5:30pm. The carols will be led by the local group, "Waves of Harmony", followed by hospitality. A warm invitation is extended to the Parish Family to join the Coolum community in this pre-Christmas celebration.

We Need You

With families and holiday makers descending on our community we need as much help as we can get to ensure our Christmas Masses run smoothly and are celebrated with solemnity and joy. If you are involved in any Mass ministries and will be joining us for any Christmas Masses, please record your names on the roster forms at the entrance to the church which will help us ensure all the ministry roles are filled.

Misa de Gallo

Don't forget to mark in your calendar the annual Misa de Gallo which begins with Mass at 4am on Friday, December 23rd followed by a fantastic breakfast. Tell your friends! Everyone is welcome!

Speak like an Italian!!!

It is never too late to learn a language. Have you ever wanted to learn Italian or have you learnt Italian years ago and would like to refresh your memory? Early next year we will be starting an Italian group and it is open to everyone from learners to those who want a refresher course. The Italian classes will be led by a qualified Italian teacher. It will be a great way to exercise the mind and have a bit of fun as we learn a new language – watch the newsletter early in the New Year for more details.

New to the Neighbourhood?

We live in such a mobile society. Apparently, data from the census revealed that Queensland has one of the highest percentages of residents who have changed address in the previous 5 years. Also, the Australian Bureau of Statistics mentioned that Queensland was the most popular destination for Australians moving from other states. So, sitting beside or in front of you might be someone new to our Parish Family – make sure that you make them feel welcome! If you are new to the Parish could you pick up a welcome pack at the entrance of the church so that we can formally welcome you to your new Parish family.

Hola !



Last Wednesday night at Stella Maris the Latin American Prayer Group gathered to celebrate the Vigil of the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. Each Wednesday evening the group meets at 6pm for prayer and fellowship and all Spanish speakers are warmly invited to join them – *tell your Spanish speaking friends!* Our Latin American Prayer Group highlights once again how diverse our community is and next year our plan is to celebrate our diversity and Catholic unity with a Multicultural Mass at Stella Maris – if you are interested in being part of the steering committee for our Multicultural Mass please contact Fr Brannelly.

Tangled in our Web!

We are continuing to work on our new Parish webpage and during the week more improvements were made. You are invited to log on and check it out! It is a work in progress, and over the coming months you will notice new additions. The important thing is that it now gives us a solid platform to utilise social media; and we are grateful to Fr William and Bernie Bain for all their hard work in getting our new website up and running.

Thank You

This Monday the Parish Finance Committee has its scheduled meeting and it is in the process of preparing our annual budget for 2023. Also we are preparing our accounts and documentation for the annual audit which takes place in the first quarter of the New Year. The members of the Finance Committee - Bev Nunan (Chair), John Legg (Secretary), Tim Hishon, Peter Donelan, Lorraine Nolan - would like to acknowledge and thank each member of the Parish for your continued generous financial support which enables the committee to pay down our Parish debt and budget for the future. Thank you.

2023

Our Parish Calendar for 2023 is now available and you can collect one at the entrance to the church. The calendars are also meant to be a tool of evangelization so perhaps if you have a neighbour or family friend who, for whatever reason, since Covid has drifted from our community perhaps you might present them with a Parish Calendar accompanied with a warm invitation to reconnect with their Parish Family.

Gen Y Christmas Breakup

Join us for our Christmas break up on the 15 December at the Presbytery. We kick off at 5pm. Bring a plate. See you there!

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, 10 December

- ◆ 10am Baptism of infants (Stella Maris)
- ◆ **Vigil Mass** (4.30pm, St Peter's Church)
- ◆ **Vigil Mass** (6.00pm, Stella Maris Church)

Sunday, 11 December

- ◆ **Mass** (6.30am, Stella Maris Church)
- ◆ **Mass** (7.30am, St Peter's Church)
- ◆ **Mass** (8am, St Catherine of Siena Church)
- ◆ **Mass** (9am, Stella Maris Church)
- ◆ **Mass** (9.30am, St Mary's Church)
- ◆ 11am Baptism of infants - Stella Maris
- ◆ **Mass** (5pm, Stella Maris Church)

Monday, 12 December

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

Tuesday, 13 December

- ◆ **Mass** (9.00am, Stella Maris School Chapel)
- ◆ Mass (10.30am, St Vincent's Care Services, Maroochydore)
- ◆ Christ Catholic Community (9.30am)
- ◆ Craft Group (1.00pm, St Peter's Church)
- ◆ **Ecumenical Christmas Carols** (5.30pm, St Peter's Church, Coolum)

Wednesday, 14 December

- ◆ **Mass** (7am, St Mary's Church)
- ◆ **Mass** (9am, St Catherine of Siena Church)
- ◆ Scripture Study Group (9.30am, Zoom)
- ◆ Community Team meeting (5.30pm, St Mary's Church)
- ◆ Community Team meeting (6.00pm, Stella Maris Church)
- ◆ Latin American prayer group meets every Wednesday in the Maroochydore Parish function room 6-8pm.

Thursday, 15 December

- ◆ **Mass** (8.30am, St Peter's Church)
- ◆ St Vincent de Paul meeting (Coolum)
- ◆ 2pm Rosary & Divine Mercy (Stella Maris)

Friday, 16 December

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

Saturday, 17 December

- ◆ No Individual reconciliation this Saturday. Instead you are invited to the Communal Rite of Reconciliation at Caloundra at 9am or on Monday, 19 December 5pm at Stella Maris.
- ◆ 10am Baptism of infants (Stella Maris)
- ◆ 11am El Shaddai group meets (Sippy Downs)
- ◆ **Vigil Mass** (4.30pm, St Peter's Church)
- ◆ **Vigil Mass** (6.00pm, Stella Maris Church)

Thank you for remembering your parish in your will.

During the season of Advent, we await the celebration of Christ's birth and His coming again at the end of time. Over four weeks, we prepare our hearts and our lives for Christmas in penitential reflection. But in the middle of the season, Gaudete Sunday calls us to rejoice in hope! Gaudete simply means "rejoice" in Latin and is pronounced in three syllables: *Gow-day-tay*. One of the candles on our Advent Wreath is rose or pink. We light it today, the third Sunday in Advent, to represent joy and the anticipation of Christmas.

LITURGICAL COLORS

AND WHAT THEY MEAN



Appointments

His Grace, The Archbishop has made the following appointments: **Fr Harry Chan** appointed Administrator of St Therese & St Anthony Parish, Kedron effective 1 Nov 2022 until Jan 2023. **Fr John Hong Xuan Nguyen** appointed Associate Pastor of Guardian Angels Parish, Southport effective 7 Jan 2023. **Fr Raju Kanjirathinal Joseph** appointed Parish Priest of All Saints Parish, Boonah effective 7 Jan 2023. **Fr Stephen Camiolo** appointed Chaplain of Princess Alexandra Hospital & St Vincent's Hospital & Care Services, Kangaroo Point. He has also been appointed Priest in residence at St Luke's Parish, Buranda effective 7 Jan 2023. **Fr Stephen Bliss** appointed Dean of South Country Deanery effective 7 Jan 2023. **Fr Adrian Sharp** appointed Dean of Brisbane South Deanery effective 7 Jan 2023. **Fr Marce Singson** appointed to Sacramental Ministry within the Gold Coast Deanery effective 7 Jan 2023. **Fr Francisco Evangelista** appointed Chaplain to the Brazilian Community and Associate Pastor to our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Sunnybank effective immediately.

The season of Advent developed in the Church over time. Here are 10 facts that you may not know about the roots and meanings of Advent:

1. Advent is a time of expectation and preparation for the birth of the Lord. The word "Advent" derives from the Latin word "adventus," which means "coming," and is associated with the four weeks of preparation for Christmas.
2. Advent has a changing start date, but it always contains four Sundays. It starts on the Sunday closest to the feast of St. Andrew the Apostle (Nov. 30). It can begin as early as Nov. 27th or as late as Dec. 3.
3. Advent marks the beginning of the liturgical year. Advent was chosen to begin the year as representative of the time in history that Christ was not known to us. With His birth the beginning of our faith was founded. The liturgical year ends with the feast of Christ the King, His reign over the universe.
4. The Advent season has two meanings. It emphasizes both the celebration of Christ coming into the world as a man and also the Second Coming when the Lord will return again. It blends together a penitential spirit, very similar to Lent, a liturgical theme of preparation for the Second and Final Coming of the Lord, called the Parousia, and a joyful theme of getting ready for the Bethlehem event. The traditional colour of Advent is purple or violet, which symbolizes the penitential spirit. Religious traditions associated with Advent express all these themes.
5. Hope is a predominant theme of Advent. The Israelites hoped for a Messiah to come, and Christ entered the world. We are hopeful for the arrival of Christ again into the world.
6. Advent is a reminder of the Old Testament promises of the coming of the Messiah. The Advent tradition of the Jesse Tree consists of symbols of the Messiah coming from the line of Jesse (Lk 3: 23-38). Isaiah is often read during this season to remember that we are waiting for the day when the Messiah will come again.
7. Advent focuses on light as opposed to darkness. Christ enters our dark world and casts away the darkness of sin to redeem us. He will come again as the light of the world.
8. Advent has two parts. The first portion, the First Sunday of Advent until December 16, is preparation for the Second Coming of Christ. The second portion, from December 17 to 24, directly prepares us for the commemoration of the first coming of Christ, Christmas.
9. The origins of Advent can be traced back to the Church in France. In the 4th Century, the Church in France used the period before Epiphany as a time of preparation for baptism.
10. Advent as we know today was developed in Rome. Pope Gregory I in the late 6th or early 7th Century composed many of the prayers, antiphons and psalm responses. Many themes and ideas we now know can be traced to the Roman Advent season.