

# PARISH NEWSLETTER FOR THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Weekend of the 7/8 January 2023

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.

There is a famous job interview question that asks a would-be employee a tricky question. What would you do if you were driving along in your car on a wild, stormy night - it's raining cats and dogs, and the windscreen wipers are straining to keep up with the constant, heavy rain. All of a sudden, you pass by a bus stop that has no shelter from the torrential rain.

There are three people waiting for the bus.

1. An old lady who looks like she's about to die.
2. An old friend who once saved your life.
3. The person of your dreams - the perfect man (or woman) you have been dreaming of meeting and making your life partner. The problem is that you have only room in your car for one passenger.

Which one of the three would you choose to offer a ride to? **You can't offer a lift to all three, so which one would you stop and give a ride to?**

The old lady, who I suppose represents the stranger in need?

Your old friend, to whom you owed your life?

The woman or man you were sure to spend the rest of your life with?

**Would need, loyalty or love ultimately make the choice?**

Any one of the three you could justify stopping for, and offering the ride. But if you were *really* clever you would give the car keys to your best friend and ask him to drive the old lady to the hospital. Meanwhile, you would stay there in the stormy night holding closely the love of your life and probably neither of you would notice how wet you were as you waited for the bus.

**The solution to the problem was initially not the most obvious. It takes ability to see the problem differently!**

Likewise, on this feast of the Epiphany, I suspect it took an ability to see the star differently for the wise ones who find Jesus in the middle of nowhere. In the year ahead, we're called to see differently - to be able to see Jesus where he couldn't possibly be. To make choices that lead us closer to God.

We'll have to do some things differently than we have before - and that's hard for us. Usually we like to sit back and just follow the pattern. But the Lord calls each one of us forward in one direction, as the three wise ones were, and then just as suddenly, sends us back another way.

What I do know is that sometimes it does take courage and trust to follow the star and walk humbly with God into the great adventure of 2023. What was true for the Three Wise Men is just as true for us today. To view each moment and each challenge differently is what it means to be a person of faith.

In the midst of all our lives God is making himself manifest – that's what "epiphany" means. **The stars will be out again tonight leading us somewhere!**

Wishing you and yours every blessing for the coming week and coming year,

*Fr Peter Brannelly*

### **Celebrating and Remembering**

We welcome into God's Family, the Church, *Kian Mendes, Thomas Ford, Zara Griffiths, Banjo de Bekker, Elliott Henderson and Kaj Altermatt* who will be baptised this weekend in our Parish.

We pray for all those who have died. 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 Isaac Falzon  
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 4.30pm

Phone: 5443 3488

Email: [suncoast@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:suncoast@bne.catholic.net.au)

Website: [maroochyidoreparish.com.au](http://maroochyidoreparish.com.au)

Facebook: [facebook@mission.stella](https://www.facebook.com/mission.stella)

Emergency Phone: 0455 325 098

### Parish Staff

Pauline Leahy & Challis Boland

### Sacramental Coordinator

### & Youth Coordinator

Carrolyn Watt  
[cspy.suncoast@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:cspy.suncoast@bne.catholic.net.au)

### Director of Communications

Bernadette Bain  
[bainb@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:bainb@bne.catholic.net.au)

### Safeguarding

Robyn Jewry  
[stellam.suncoast@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:stellam.suncoast@bne.catholic.net.au)

### Knights of the Southern Cross

[john.legg51@gmail.com](mailto:john.legg51@gmail.com)  
0434 587 491

## Parish Mass Times

### 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*

## WELCOME

We extend a special welcome to those who are single, married, divorced, gay, filthy rich, dirt poor, or *yo no hablo inglés*. We extend a special welcome to those who are crying newborns, skinny as a rail, or could afford to lose a few pounds. We welcome you if you can sing like Andrea Bocelli or, like our parish priest, can't hold a note! You're welcome here if you're "just browsing", just woke up, or just got out of jail. We don't care if you're more Catholic than the Pope, or haven't been in church since little Joey's Baptism.

We extend a special welcome to those who are over 60 but not grown up yet, and to teenagers who are growing up too fast. We welcome soccer mums, NRL dads, starving artists, tree-huggers, latte-sippers, vegetarians, and junk-food eaters. We welcome those who are in recovery, or still addicted. We welcome you if you're having problems, or you're down in the dumps, or if you don't like "organised religion". We've been there too. If you blew all your offering money on Sportsbet, work too hard, don't work, can't spell, or because grandma is in town and wanted to go to church.

We welcome those who are inked, pierced, or both. We offer a special welcome to those who could use a prayer now, had religion shoved down your throat as a kid, or got lost in traffic and wound up here by mistake. **We welcome tourists, seekers and doubters, bleeding hearts...and especially, *you!***

### Back to Work

The Christmas decorations are coming down and the post Christmas sales have lost their sparkle, which means life is slowly regaining its normal rhythm. From Monday our Parish Office reopens. Please note the new office hours – Monday to Friday 8:30am to 4:30pm.

### Hola – Calling all Spanish Speakers

Every Wednesday at 6pm all Spanish speakers are invited to gather in the Stella Maris function room for prayer and hospitality. The evening is coordinated by the Latin American Prayer Group. Please let your Spanish speaking friends know about the gathering.

### Liturgy

Members of the Liturgy Committee are invited to the next meeting at the Stella Maris meeting room on Saturday morning, 10am on February 4<sup>th</sup>. At this meeting we will review our Lenten liturgies and Easter ceremonies. We also want to plan our liturgy workshops for the coming year.

### New to the Neighbourhood?

We live in an extremely mobile society, and especially here on the Sunshine Coast there are always people coming and going. If you are new to our Parish, or if you are reconnecting with the Church, we would love to welcome you more formally to our Parish Family. At the entrance to our churches are "welcome packs" and if you complete and return the form we will be in contact with you. Once again, *welcome*.

### Get Tangled in our Web

The best way to keep up-to-date with what is going on in your parish family and to access information and upcoming events is by visiting our parish website (just go to [maroochyidoreparish.com.au](http://maroochyidoreparish.com.au)). You can also subscribe to our electronic parish newsletter through our website (under the heading *News & Events*).

### 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. These 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.