

PARISH NEWSLETTER FOR 2ND SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

Weekend of the 14/15 January 2023

First Reading: Is 49:3, 5-6 Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:1-3 Gospel: John 1:29-34

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.

Dear Parishioners,

As you may have read in the short biography that was posted in an earlier parish newsletter, I have done a variety of different things in my life before I entered the Seminary. In the past I have worked for many different bosses and CEOs. I did this ultimately in the pursuit of happiness. I thought that having the right job, getting the latest gadgets, having a nice car, relationships, a bigger pay slip... would satisfy my search and deep longing for joy. I later realised that all this was doing was serving myself and my own wants.

Today we hear in the beautiful first reading from Isaiah that "you are my servant... who formed me in the womb to be his servant." Furthermore, these words are echoed, in a more nuanced way in the Gospel reading from John. John the Baptist was serving God through his particular calling and in his particular way. John was a man who went about the countryside boldly serving God through his preaching, teaching his own disciples, Baptising, and always pointing towards God.

This leaves us with the question "how we are serving God?". Serving God can look many different ways and take place in many different spaces. Often the most important ways to serve God take place outside the walls of our Church. That is not to say that serving our parish community is not necessary and essential. I am simply saying that our parish community is where we can fill up our gas tanks to then go forth and make other disciples.

Therefore, our activities and service must, like John in today's Gospel, always point towards God. The way we look after and treat ourselves in a positive way serves God. The way we act towards our family members, especially the ones that are difficult to deal with, serves God. Who we are and the way we act when we are around our friends serves God. It is only when we serve God with freedom and love that we will find what our hearts so deeply desire.

Deacon Isaac Falzon

Parish Clergy

Fr Peter Brannelly
Fr William Aupito Iuliano
Deacon Isaac Falzon
Deacon Michael Khoury



Stella Maris Parish Office

Adjacent to the Stella Maris Church
Office Hours 8:30am - 4:30pm Weekdays
Telephone: 5443 3488
Email: suncoast@bne.catholic.net.au
Website: maroochydoreparish.com.au

Celebrating and Remembering

We welcome into God's Family, the Church,
Archie King, Odin Johnson and Wyatt Johnson
who will be baptised this weekend in our Parish.

We pray for all those who have died, especially *Juanita Hartkopf* whose funeral rites were celebrated at St Mary's, Buderim, last Friday. May Juanita's soul and the souls of all our departed priests, religious, parishioners and family members, through the rich mercy of God,

Rest in Peace.

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, 16 January

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

Tuesday, 17 January

- ◆ **School staff & Parish Mass** (9.00am, Stella Maris School Chapel). All Welcome.

Wednesday, 18 January

- ◆ **Mass** (7am, St Mary's Church)
- ◆ **School Staff & Parish Mass** (9am, St Catherine of Siena Church). All Welcome.
- ◆ SVdP Maroochydore Conference meeting.
- ◆ Scripture Study Group (9.30am, Zoom).
- ◆ Latin American prayer group meets every Wednesday at Maroochydore 6-8pm.

Thursday, 19 January

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

Friday, 20 January

- ◆ **Mass** (9am, Stella Maris)
- ◆ Grief Support Team meeting (9.30am)
- ◆ 2pm Stations of the Cross (Stella Maris)
- ◆ Community Meal for the Homeless, Vulnerable and Disadvantaged (6pm, Stella Maris)

Saturday, 21 January

- ◆ Reconciliation **8.30 to 9.30am** (Stella Maris)
- ◆ 10am Baptism of Harriet & Bowie Norris at St Peter's, Coolum Beach.
- ◆ 10am Baptism of Thomas Finnegan, Rayna Ramalingam & Hudson Scanlan at Stella Maris.
- ◆ 11am El Shaddai group meets (Sippy Downs)
- ◆ **Vigil Mass** (4.30pm, St Peter's Church)
- ◆ **Vigil Mass** (6.00pm, Stella Maris Church)

Sunday, 22 January

3rd Sunday of Ordinary Time - Year A

- ◆ **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)
- ◆ **Polish Mass** (4.00pm, St Mary's Church)
- ◆ **Mass** (5pm, Stella Maris Church)

I Didn't Know That!

Are you interested in learning more about your faith? Join us once a month as we discuss the questions, explore the mysteries, and delve into our faith starting with Fr Mike Schmitz and the exciting programme 'Catechism in a Year'. As a parish group we will meet on the last Wednesday of every month at St Mary's Buderim, to share our discoveries and insights. If you would like to be part of the group or would like more information simply get in contact with Fr William who is coordinating the monthly meetings. (email: aupitoiulianow@bne.catholic.net.au)

The three wise men have returned home by another route. The nativity scene has been carefully packed away for another year. The vestments are now green, which means that the Christmas Season is over and we have now started a new liturgical season. To all parishioners and visitors enjoying the Sunshine Coast,

W e l c o m e

as we, together, celebrate the Second Sunday in Ordinary Time.

The title *Ordinary Time* is a bit misleading. Many people think Ordinary Time refers to parts of the calendar of the Catholic Church that are unimportant. Actually, Ordinary Time is called "ordinary" not because it is common but simply because the weeks of Ordinary Time are numbered.

The Latin word *ordinalis*, which refers to numbers in a series, stems from the Latin word *ordo*, from which we get the English word *order*. Thus, the numbered weeks of Ordinary Time, in fact, represent the ordered life of the Church - the period in which we live our lives neither in feasting (as in the Christmas and Easter seasons) or in more severe penance (as in Advent and Lent), but in watchfulness and expectation of the Second Coming of Christ. **Nothing ordinary about that!**

So we set off on this journey which will only be interrupted by Lent which begins with Ash Wednesday, falling on February 22 this year.

Baptismal Preparation

On the first Thursday of every month we host our Baptismal Preparation meeting. At this short meeting we explain the ritual and the meaning behind the symbols used in the ceremony and answer any questions before confirming dates and times of baptism. The next preparation meeting will be held at Stella Maris Church on Thursday, February 2nd, at 6pm. If you would like to book and receive the paperwork in advance, please contact the parish office.

First Friday

A reminder that the First Friday of February is our first Anointing & Healing Mass for 2023 - Friday 3 February, 9.00am at Stella Maris Church. All parishioners and visitors are welcome to attend. After the Mass you are invited to join us for morning tea in the function room (bring a plate if you wish). Please check with your neighbours and friends to see if they need transport.

Liturgy

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

Msza Polska

On the fourth Sunday of every month our Polish brothers and sisters gather for Mass at St Mary's, Buderim. Everyone is invited to attend and you are asked to share this invitation with any of your Polish neighbours and friends. The next Mass in Polish will be Sunday 22 January at 4.00pm.

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. You will find "welcome packs" at the entrance of our churches, and if you complete and return the form we will be in contact with you. Once again, *welcome*.

Australia Day

To celebrate Australia Day on Thursday, January 26th, in addition to our regular 8:30am Mass at St Peter's Coolum, there will be a 7am Mass at Stella Maris followed by traditional Aussie hospitality by the Knights of the Southern Cross. All Welcome.