

PARISH NEWSLETTER FOR 4TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

Weekend of the 28/29 January 2023

First Reading: Zephaniah 2:3,3:12-13 Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:26-31 Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12

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.

The other day, to welcome in the Exodus 90 experience, I decided to stumble my way up Mount Coolum. I basically exhaled my soul as I was climbing that mountain but it was certainly worth it when I got to the top.

These days, when we think about mountains, we think challenge or obstacles. Take the famous poet, Miley Cyrus, who said "There's always gonna be another mountain, I'm always gonna wanna make it move, always gonna be an uphill battle, sometimes I'm gonna have to lose."

But when we look at the scriptures we get another interpretation of the humble mountain. The mountains of our scriptures give us a sense of the magnificence of Creation, and the magnificence of the Creator.

We don't really hear about the struggle of climbing the mountain, but rather, we hear about the glory of God or the goodness of our Lord.

Today, our *Jerusalem Bible* translation gives us the word **hill** when it says, "seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the **hill** (Mt 5:1). The Greek word here is *πος ορος* which is better translated into **mountain**.

The scriptures don't mention anything about how "out of breath" Jesus was when he started teaching. The focus was on his message and the teaching that followed.

Whatever we choose to focus on becomes the thing that has power over us. We will all, without doubt, experience uphill battles and difficult tasks as the year progresses. We can choose to focus on these mountains as challenging and arduous, or we can choose to look at them through the eyes of scripture.

The mountain is our meeting place with God. The mountain is difficult, but my eyes are on the Lord. The mountain helps me to learn more about myself as I draw closer to my Creator.

Today's mountaintop experience with Jesus gives us words to embody. May we focus on being peacemakers, merciful and pure in heart as we journey through life's ups and downs and choose the Kingdom of God in the midst of it all.

Fr William Aupito Iuliano

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, *Cooper Squires* who will be baptised this weekend in our Parish.

We pray for all those who have died, especially *John Treby and Maria Lucilia Jorge* whose funeral rites were celebrated last Friday, and Desmond Sullivan whose funeral rites will be celebrated at St Peters Church on Monday, and Vaughan Johnson whose funeral rites will be celebrated at Gregson & Weight's Chapel on Thursday. 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.

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, 30 January

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

Tuesday, 31 January

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

Wednesday, 1 February

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

Thursday, 2 February

- ◆ **Mass** (8.30am, St Peter's Church)
- ◆ SVdP Coolool Meeting.
- ◆ 2pm Rosary & Divine Mercy (Stella Maris)
- ◆ Baptism Preparation for infants and young children (6pm, Stella Maris Church)

Friday, 3 February

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

Saturday, 4 February

- ◆ **First Saturday Mass** (8am, Stella Maris)
- ◆ Reconciliation **8.30 to 9.30am** (Stella Maris)
- ◆ 10am Baptism of Luca, Mali, Cuba & Alexis Marie and Remy Mallaite at Stella Maris Church.
- ◆ Parish Liturgy Committee meeting
- ◆ **Vigil Mass** (4.30pm, St Peter's Church)
- ◆ **Vigil Mass** (6.00pm, Stella Maris Church)

Sunday, 5 February

5th 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)
- ◆ **Mass** (5pm, Stella Maris Church)

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 is at Stella Maris Church this Thursday, 2 February, at 6pm. If you would like attend please contact the parish office.

Lenten Practice (cantors/singers)

All cantors/singers across our parish are invited to our practice for the Lenten season. Tuesday 14 February at 11.00am, Stella Maris Church.

A New Journey Begins!

One of our parishioners, Valentine Ohaneje (a face you have probably seen around the place), has started a new journey. Valentine will enter Holy Spirit Seminary, Banyo, to begin his journey towards priesthood.

"It is undoubted that life could be unpredictable and at the same time astonishing; full of ups and downs. Thereby, creating episodes after another as it pleases. However, despite everything I have faced in life, the shifts in paradigm, I never ceased saying the prayers of Psalm 27:4. Of course, only one thing matters- God's kingdom!



Originally, I hail from the Eastern part of Nigeria. I grew up in the region that's predominantly Christian, especially Catholic. I was born into a practising Catholic family of four boys. While my mother and the youngest son stayed in Nigeria, the two eldest are overseas. My boyhood was punctuated with Church activities; from serving at Mass to enrolling into the Minor Seminary. The zeal and desire to become a Catholic priest sustained me until my second year Theology. It was at this point that I experienced a turbulence-like vocation crisis that led me to opt out of the Seminary formation. A new phase had begun.

The quest to further my education led me to the University of the Sunshine Coast. While studying I was also working as a Disability support worker. During my leisure time, I enjoy swimming, playing soccer or watching soccer matches. Nevertheless, after a while, I realised that a day in God's house, as confirmed by the sons of Korah in Psalm 84, is indeed better than thousands elsewhere. Maybe this is God's call; a new phase is about to play out. We keep Valentine and all the seminarians at Holy Spirit Seminary in our prayers as they begin a new academic year.

The Next Step

Have you returned your ministry volunteer form? At the entrance to the church you can find extra copies of the ministry volunteer form and you are invited to tick the appropriate boxes and either place it on the collection plate or, simply return it to the Parish Office. Thank you to all new volunteers and to all parishioners who generously give of their time and energy to build up our Parish Family. Next Saturday the Liturgy Committee has its preparation meeting at 10am. On Saturday morning, February 11th at Stella Maris Church, we have a training/refresher meeting for all new Eucharistic ministers, readers, cantors/singers.

Speak like an Italian.

It is never too late to learn a language, and from Tuesday evening, February 7th everyone has an opportunity to delve into the most romantic language of them all – Italian! Carmel Barbagallo, a qualified Italian teacher, will lead eager students starting with basic, practical Italian. The classes will be held at the St Vincent de Paul meeting room (1 Norval Court, Maroochydore) on Tuesday evenings beginning at 6pm. The cost will be \$5 a lesson which will be donated to supporting the work of St Vincent de Paul in our community. To help with resources, if you are interested, please contact Carmel (carmelbarbagallo@bigpond.com) or the parish Office (suncoast@bne.catholic.net.au)

Lenten Program

Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent is only 25 days away! Traditionally, throughout Lent we have organised small discussion groups who have used, as their resource, the Lenten program produced by the Archdiocese. This year, Evangelisation Brisbane offers **From Ashes to Hope** which is based on the readings for each day of Lent, Holy Week and the Easter Octave. It provides an opportunity for each person to turn the eyes of their heart to God as God leads them beyond ashes to hope. The pocket-sized Lenten reflection book can be used by both groups and individuals. If you would like to join a group, or if you would like to simply order a booklet for your own personal journey, please record your name and contact details on the form at the entrance to the church. The cost is only \$5 each. Our parish will place its order on Friday 3 February so they arrive in time, so make sure you get your order in by then.

Women's Retreat

The annual women's retreat coordinated by Evangelization Brisbane and hosted by Our Lady of the Rosary, Caloundra is tomorrow (4 February). The day will begin with Mass at 9am and finish after lunch. Lunch will be provided at no cost. For registration and catering purposes please contact Vivienne on 0409 897 673. All women of the Parish are warmly invited to attend - why not tell a friend and car pool?