

PARISH NEWSLETTER FOR 7TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

Weekend of the 18/19 February 2023

First Reading: Leviticus 19:1-2, 17-18 Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 3:16-23 Gospel: Matthew 5:38-48

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.

What is Love

As kids, my sisters and I would bob our heads to Haddaway's song "What is love."

The song is upbeat and makes you want to dance, but when you take a moment to look at the lyrics we read a tragic love story. Haddaway sings of loving a girl who won't love him back. The pursuit of love, especially when it's not reciprocated, mostly ends in heartache.

Today in our Gospel the famous "L" word surfaces. Jesus says "You have learnt how it was said: You must **love** your neighbour and hate your enemy. But I say this to you: **love** your enemies and pray for those who persecute you."

The Greek word used here is *agape*.

Agape love is a self-sacrificial one that takes pleasure in the other. So Jesus' words today challenge us to more than just being on 'good terms' with your enemy, but Jesus is calling us to *wish well* of our enemies and to *take pleasure* in their delight. That's pretty radical of Jesus!

Our Gospel message today will continue to challenge us until the day we meet our Creator face-to-face simply because Jesus is inviting us into a divine love. This divine love can never fully be realised while we're here on earth but it'll come to its fullness in the next life.

Divine love lets the sun rise on good and bad men alike. Divine love does not claim credit for loving those who do not return love. Divine love is ready to greet even the stranger.

Although it might not be realised in this world, loving as God loves is still our vocation, mission and challenge. For without love we fall into the trap of revenge ("eye for an eye"), selfishness ("let them have your cloak as well") and lack of generosity ("if anyone wants to borrow, do not turn away").

Love transforms, and our world is in need of transformation!

This coming Wednesday we begin Lent. This period in our Liturgical calendar calls us back to our roots by stripping back all the distractions and noise of our days.

Lent is an amazing opportunity to turn back to God and embrace Jesus' divine and radical love.

As we take up our disciplines for Lent, may we remember our relationships and especially our enemies, that this season might be a time where we practice reconciliation and charity. Haddaway's question misses the mark for love is not a **thing**, but in the Christian worldview is a **person**. Who is love? God is love. May we use our Lenten observance to learn to love like our God.

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
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And It All Begins on Wednesday!

This Season of Lent is a time of fasting, almsgiving and consciously making room for God in our busy lives. Whatever image comes to your mind, with the distribution of ashes this Wednesday we begin another Lenten journey together. Once again there are many opportunities to grasp hold of during these coming 40 days.

FASTING & ABSTINENCE: Ash Wednesday is one of two days of fasting and abstinence set down by the Church, the other being Good Friday. In current Catholic practice, Fasting means having only one full meal a day. Smaller quantities of food may be eaten at two other meals but no food should be consumed at any other time during the day. The law of fasting applies to those who are 18 to 59 years old. Abstinence is the practice of abstaining from the use of certain kinds of food. Everyone aged 14 years and older is required to abstain from eating meat on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

The spirit of the law may invite us to extend the fast to things other than food – tweeting, surfing the net, gambling or gossiping. The minimum fasting requirements make most sense when they are combined with prayer and almsgiving. The Catholic practice of fasting and almsgiving aims at leading us to interior conversion. We fast in order to share our time and our treasure with an attitude of love towards God and others.

DAILY MASS: Each day we have daily Mass opportunities for you to incorporate into your daily Lenten routine. Why not join us?

PARISH MINI MISSION: It is important to make time to reflect on our lives and the direction life is taking us. To help us this year we welcome Bishop Tim Norton who will lead our Parish Mini Mission. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, February 27, February 28 & March 1. Mass on those three days will be at 4:30pm and the Mini Mission will be from 5 to 6pm. Don't let this Lenten opportunity slip by!

LITTLE BLACK BOOKS: Available at each church are the Little Black Books, which contain short and appropriate daily reflections. A tremendous companion throughout the days of Lent. A gold coin donation to cover the cost would be appreciated.

DO SOMETHING DIFFERENT: This Lent why not mark in your diary the World Day of Prayer which is a worldwide gathering of Christians. In our Parish Family, the World Day of Prayer will be hosted this year on Friday 3 March by:

- ◆ **Buderim:** 10am, St Mary's Catholic Church (contact Rosemary on 5477 1010 or the Parish Office with any queries)
 - ◆ **Maroochydoore:** 10am, St Peter's Anglican Church, Cnr Church Street and Beach Road
 - ◆ **Coolum Beach:** 9.30am, Holy Spirit Anglican Church, 25 Beach Road
- Why not, this Lent, join your local Christians for this annual morning of prayer?

RECONCILIATION: Forgiveness should be part of everyone's Lenten journey. It is never easy! Reconciliation is offered every Saturday at Stella Maris Church from 8:30am to 9:30am. Our Communal Rite of Reconciliation is celebrated on Monday of Holy Week – Monday 3 April at 5.00pm, Stella Maris Church

PROJECT COMPASSION: A practical and life giving aspect of Lent has always been our sacrifices and the ability to financially support, through the Project Compassion Appeal, those who have come off second best. Indeed, Project Compassion is something in which all individuals and families can be involved. Envelopes are available at the entrance to the church.

LENTEN PROGRAM: This year the Lenten Program is entitled, "From Ashes to Hope". All those who have been part of the program during previous Lents have found it a valuable part of their journey – if you have ordered your book make sure you collect it from the Parish Office before Ash Wednesday.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: Each week during Lent you are offered an opportunity to walk the Way of the Cross – *the Via Crucis* – a timely way to contemplate the final journey of Jesus. During Lent: Stella Maris following 9am Mass on Fridays, St Catherine's 6pm on Fridays.

LENT IS A SOLEMN SEASON: You will notice that together we will pray the Confiteor while the Gloria is omitted until the great celebrations of Easter. The liturgical colours and the music that has been especially selected to accompany us during Lent, are all subtle reminder of our faith journey. As a Catholic Parish, as individuals, and as families, Lent is an important time. To ensure that the grace of this season, and all the God-given opportunities, do not just slip through our fingers; it is important to think now about how this Lent will be different and life transforming.

Ash Wednesday Mass Times

This Wednesday, 22 February

St Mary's Church, Buderim 7.00am

St Peter's Church, Coolum Beach 7.30am

St Catherine of Siena Church, Sippy Downs 9.00am

Stella Maris Church, Maroochydoore 9.00am and 5.00pm

Young Adults' Meeting

Save the date - next Saturday, February 25th - and come down to The Savvy Squire, Mooloolaba, for the first Social event for our Young Adults' Group. Those aged 18-40 are more than welcome. **Bring a friend!** If you want some courage or encouragement contact Fr Will (aupitouiulianow@bne.catholic.net.au) or Deacon Isaac (falzoni@bne.catholic.net.au)

Episcopal Visitors

This Monday our Sunshine Coast deanery will welcome Archbishop Mark Coleridge and the Apostolic Nuncio Archbishop Charles Balvo. It will be an opportunity for the Archbishops to see firsthand the tremendous growth already happening in our region and how, looking into the future, we are now preparing the foundation to respond to some of those challenges and pastoral opportunities.

From Ashes to Hope

The Archdiocesan Lenten programme this year is titled "From Ashes to Hope". Over the years, especially pre Covid, groups of parishioners would gather and, guided by the programme, share their insights. We now have three parish groups gathering to reflect on the Archdiocese's Lenten Program. How about joining one of them?

St Catherine of Siena Church, 6.30pm to 7.30pm, during Lent, starting on Ash Wednesday (22 February).
Contact Helen 0403 617 512.

El Shaddai group - St Catherine of Siena Church, 2.00pm to 3.00pm, weekly during Lent, starting on Saturday, 25 February.
Contact Ellie 0415 552 289.

St Peter's Church, 9.30am to 10.30am, weekly during Lent, starting on Tuesday, 21 February.
Contact Eric 0403 849 499.

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. Early next month the priests of your parish and the Welcome Committee will host a welcome "cocktail party" and we want to make sure everyone gets a invitation.

Green for St Patrick's Day

March is just around the corner and that means it's St Patrick's Day. Let's face it, there is a little bit of Irish in all of us!!! Parishioners and friends from all corners of our Parish and beyond are invited to St Peter's Church at Coolum on the 17th of March. BYO Lunch to share and Singalong, 11.30am for 12noon start. *To be sure, all are welcome!!!*

Celebrating and Remembering

We welcome into God's Family, the Church, **Tahlia Kelly** who will be baptised this weekend in our Parish.

We pray for all those who have died, especially **Colleen Brady, Kevin Ryan and Dr Daniel Lane** whose funerals were celebrated last week, and **Connie Graham** (whose funeral will be 11.30am Saturday 25 February at Stella Maris Church).

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.

Catechism in a Year

We have our second instalment of Catechism in a Year. Join us again for a 6pm start at St Mary's Buderim. Fr William will unpack episode 41 - Origins and Ends CCC #285-289. 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.

Monday, 20 February

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

Tuesday, 21 February

- ◆ **Mass** (9.00am, Stella Maris School Chapel). All Welcome.
- ◆ St Peter's Coolum Lenten Program - 9.30am.

Wednesday, 22 February - Ash Wednesday

- ◆ **Mass** (7am, St Mary's Church)
- ◆ **Mass** (7.30am, St Peter's Church)
- ◆ **Mass** (9am, St Catherine of Siena Church).
- ◆ **Mass** (9am, Stella Maris Church)
- ◆ **Mass** (5pm, Stella Maris Church)
- ◆ Scripture Study Group (9.30am, Zoom).
- ◆ Catechism in a Year (6pm, St Mary's Church)
- ◆ Latin American Prayer Group (6pm, Function Room, Maroochydore)
- ◆ St Catherine's Lenten Program - 6.30pm

Thursday, 23 February

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

Friday, 24 February

- ◆ **Mass** (9am, Stella Maris)
- ◆ Stations of the Cross, during Lent (9.30am, Stella Maris Church)
- ◆ Stations of the Cross (2.00pm, Stella Maris)
- ◆ Stations of the Cross, during Lent (6.00pm, St Catherine of Siena Church)
- ◆ Community Meal for the Homeless, Vulnerable and Disadvantaged (6pm, Stella Maris)

Saturday, 25 February

- ◆ Reconciliation **8.30am to 9.30am** (Stella Maris)
- ◆ 10am Baptism of Clara Cameron.
- ◆ 11am El Shaddai group meets (Sippy Downs)
- ◆ Funeral Mass for Connie Graham at 11.30am.
- ◆ El Shaddai's Lenten Program group (2pm, St Catherine's Church)
- ◆ **Vigil Mass** (4.30pm, St Peter's Church)
- ◆ **Vigil Mass** (6.00pm, Stella Maris Church)
- ◆ Young Adults gathering at The Savvy Squire 6.00pm. Please join us.

Sunday, 26 February

First Sunday of Lent - 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)

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



Welcome Mass, P & F Thanks

The Welcome Mass on Sunday morning was a special event. To be in a full church with parents, students, staff and parishioners sharing the celebration was, for me, a wonderful occasion. Although the times of events will never suit everyone, if you can get to one of our school led Masses this year – that would be great. The pastries and coffees were a great way to finish off the morning (the chocolate croissants went in a flash).

As always, a sincere **thanks** to our P&F volunteers (and their families) who assisted in the organisation, ordering, serving and, after everyone had gone, packing and cleaning up. Also a big thank you to Mrs Barrett-Coade for the organisation of the Mass; Mrs Khoury and Mrs Summit for the choir preparation and accompaniment. Finally, to Fr Will and Deacon Isaac, we are blessed by your wisdom, leadership and direction, and grateful for your presence in our community.

Mr Glen Bucklar

Principal Siena Catholic Primary School



Stella Maris Primary School

Stella Maris Way,
Maroochydore
pmaroochydore@bne.catholic.edu.au
Principal: Mark Ballam



Each Thursday, our Year 6 students lead the school assembly, and one of the highlights is the presentation of the **Lighting the Lantern Awards**. Children can be nominated for these awards by demonstrating positive actions that reflect one of our **5Cs: Compassion, Commitment, Creativity, Courage and Confidence** - God-given gifts that we can all use to make our world a better place. These gifts were present in Venerable Nano Nagle, patroness of our school, as she carried on the mission of Jesus, bringing hope to many in difficult times. Today, our students are challenged to continue lighting the way for others, through their actions, every day.

One of the ways that the broader community at Stella Maris lights the way and carries on the mission of Jesus, is by recognising when people are in need of assistance and doing something about it. Our **Care Pantry** is a perfect example. This meal donation service allows us to support families that are going through difficult times. Members of the community collect containers from school and fill them with meals or with snacks that can be used in lunch boxes. They then return the filled containers, which are stored and distributed as needed. As we enter the Church season of Lent, may we all be inspired to look for ways we can bring light and hope to others.



Siena Catholic College

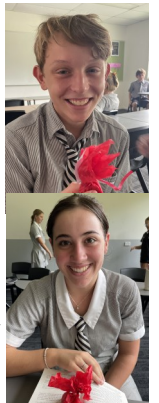
60 Sippy Downs Drive,
Sippy Downs
ssippydowns@bne.catholic.edu.au
Acting Principal: Pat Toohey



If you were down at Mooloolaba on Monday or Tuesday, chances are you saw our Year 9 students on their Geography excursion. While there, the students collected data on how successful Mooloolaba is as a tourist destination - looking specifically for ways people access the area and what attractions encourage them to visit.



On Tuesday, love was in the air as we celebrated Valentine's Day. Our Senior students had prepared a chocolate treat for each member of the community, and this inspired each of us to consider that *while not everyone agrees on the origins of Valentine's Day, no one can resist a day that reminds us of the importance of love.*



Also on Tuesday, some of our ATSI students travelled to ACU for a First Nations Dance Workshop. The students who participated enjoyed the opportunity to learn from and engage in story through both music and dance.



On Wednesday, our Year 11 and 12 Dance, Music and Drama students travelled to QPAC for a performance of the musical, Hamilton. Despite what was a very long day, the students appreciated the opportunity to view this award-winning and entertaining production.