

PARISH NEWSLETTER FOR FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

Weekend of the 25/26 February 2023

First Reading: Genesis 2:7-9, 3:1-7 Second Reading: Romans 5:12-19 Gospel: Matthew 4:1-11

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.

Did you know that 70% of the Australian mainland is classified as semi-arid, arid or desert? The heart of our nation is a dry and barren place. Yet, for our spiritual lives, there's more to the desert than just heat and sand.

In the scriptures, the desert holds a significant place in the life of the salvific story.

- The desert is a place of purification. Purified by the heat as gold is refined by fire.
- The desert is a place of preparation. The endurance necessary for the desert prepares us for the road ahead.

The first prime example of the value of the desert comes from the book of Exodus. God the Father delivered Israel from the slavery of Egypt, and the People of God didn't immediately go straight into the Promised Land but they went through the desert. They went through this purification and this preparation.

In the midst of it all, they were taught to rely on the providence of God. They were given the presence of the Lord in the Ark of the Covenant and they were reminded of the importance of their worship and commitment to God throughout the whole journey.

Our Gospel this weekend parallels the lessons of the People of Israel and shows us that Jesus stands as the new model of fidelity.

When the People of God were hungry, the Lord provided manna from heaven, but Jesus said, "one does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God."

When the People of God were complaining about being abandoned by God, the Lord continuously came to their aid, but Jesus said "You must not put the Lord your God to the test."

When the People of God made their own idols and gods, the Lord made his power known to them but Jesus says "You must worship the Lord your God and serve God alone."

Jesus' mastery over the temptations of the body and the world show us that all things are possible. It certainly won't be an easy stroll through the park, but struggling through the challenges of the body and the world have a purifying and preparatory effect on our lives to come.

We begin our Lenten experience in the desert with Jesus but we also cling to his example that, by his Word, we might find true life and strength to battle the temptations we will face in the coming days. May we walk through this desert time knowing that Jesus walks beside us.

Fr William Aupito Iuliano

At Your Service

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

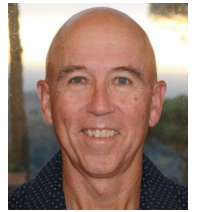


Stella Maris Parish Office

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

IT STARTS THIS MONDAY *and you are invited!*

Our Parish Mini Mission is on this Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday at Stella Maris. There will be Mass at 4:30pm followed by the mini mission from 5 to 6pm. We welcome Bishop Tim Norton svd who became the new Auxiliary Bishop of Brisbane last year and will lead us over these three days. Why not make this opportunity part of your Lenten journey this year? Everyone is invited – *why not invite a friend to join you?*



Finance Committee Report

This is a report from the Finance Committee that held its scheduled meeting on Monday, 13th February 2023 at Stella Maris. In attendance were Bev Nunan, Fr Peter Brannelly, John Legg, Lorraine Cush, Peter Donelan, Tim Hishon with apologies from Fr William Aupito Iuliano and Deacon Isaac Falzon. The main items discussed included:

- ◆ After the opening prayer the **parish accounts** were examined. Thanks to the generosity of parishioners and visitors on holidays, December's income was \$88,855 less expenses of \$66,320 leaving a surplus for the month of \$22,535, compared to budget of \$12,490. At the end of 2021 our outstanding loan was \$1,906,518. At the end of 2022 our outstanding loan is \$1,740,130 a reduction of \$166,388.
- ◆ The committee members were advised that the budget for 2023 is in the process of being finalised. The Parish financial year ends in December and the books and records will be **audited**.
- ◆ Fr Brannelly led a discussion on the establishment of an Endowment Fund for the parish. Endowed Funds are permanent investment funds from which a distribution is paid annually to support the life and ministry of the parish. The funds capital is preserved but keeps generating annual interest to provide an income stream for the parish. Through a bequest or if a parishioner donates money to the **Parish Endowment Fund** it guarantees that their generosity will continue to support the parish year after year. Many parishes are already a part of an independent and professionally run endowment programme established by our Archdiocese. The committee supported the establishment of an Endowment Fund for our Parish.
- ◆ A list of **maintenance** items were tabled and acted upon, including: At St Catherine's the painting of verandah and external wooden doors, repair of broken seats, electrical upgrade and need for a new mowing and garden contractor. At Stella Maris, approval was given for the next phase of the preventive maintenance work on the external vertical beams and timber posts. A report is being prepared into the external speakers which are being impacted by the corrosive salt air. St Mary's *Asbestos Management Plan* will be updated and a quote is being prepared for the carpet in the church to be steamed cleaned. St Peter's *Asbestos Management Plan* will also be updated, and their list of maintenance included the removal of outdoor seating, electrical upgrade and annual roof inspection.
- ◆ The committee decided to proceed with the non-structural renovations to the **Parish Office** at Stella Maris. The goal of the renovations is to open up the office and, importantly, to convert the current sacristy and chair storage room into a meeting room.
- ◆ After investigation it was agreed that the **piano** at St Catherine's, which can no longer be tuned, needs to be replaced. Discussions will be held to ascertain what would be the most appropriate musical instrument to replace the piano.
- ◆ A proposal was tabled to increase the **gathering area** at Stella Maris by concreting the triangle shaped garden outside the sacristy. The parishioners who put forward the proposal are involved in the hospitality ministry and they identified the current confined gathering space and the advantages of extending the gathering area. The committee agreed to look at their proposal in more detail at the next meeting.
- ◆ Brisbane Catholic Education has approached the parish enquiring about the possibility of extending the upper **car park** at St Catherine's. No decision was made. If the proposal were to proceed in effect this would be alienation of parish land and would need independent valuations and the approval of the Archdiocesan Property & Planning as well as the College of Consultors.
- ◆ In the **Workplace Health and Safety** report there were no incidents reported or ongoing. There was no rectification work identified, since the last meeting the Finance Committee.

The meeting closed with prayer. The next meeting of the Parish Finance Committee will be on Monday evening, March 13.

Celebrating and Remembering

We welcome into God's Family, the Church, *Maison Becker*, *Mia Becker* and *Momoka Becker* who were baptised last weekend, and *Clara Cameron* who will be baptised this weekend in our Parish.

We pray for all those who have died, especially *Connie Graham* whose funeral was celebrated this Saturday.

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.

A Warm Welcome

Our Parish welcoming committee are in the final stages of organising a "Welcome Cocktail Party" for all our new parishioners. If you are new to the parish and you have not picked up a welcome pack, which can be found at the entrance to the church, then you are encouraged to do so on the way out of Mass today. If you complete the details we will send you an invitation. Once again, *welcome*.

Anointing & Healing Mass

Every First Friday there is an Anointing & Healing Mass at Stella Maris followed by morning tea in the function room. The next Anointing Mass will be this coming Friday at 9am.

Baptismal Preparation

The next baptismal preparation session will be held on this Thursday evening at 6pm. At this short meeting the symbols of baptism will be explained, questions answered and baptismal dates finalised. To book in and receive the paperwork before the meeting please email the Parish office (suncoast@bne.catholic.net.au). The baptismal preparation sessions are held on the first Thursday of every month.

Invitation

Churches around the world throw open their doors each year and welcome fellow believers into their sacred space for the ecumenical World Day of Prayer. Each year a different country organises the order of service and this year the people of Taiwan have prepared the service. The theme is God's promise, in the letter to the Ephesians, which is an invitation to active listening which is the foundation of our prayers. Following the example of the letter (Ephesians 1:15-19), where the author praises the church for their faith in Jesus and love toward all the saints, the worship service contextualises the witness of the saints with the stories from Taiwan.

On this Friday, March 3rd, you are invited to join your fellow Christians for World Day of Prayer and this year the host churches are:

- ◆ **Buderim:** 10am, St Mary's Catholic Church
- ◆ **Maroochydore:** 10am, St Peter's Anglican Church, Cnr Church Street and Beach Road
- ◆ **Coolum Beach:** 9.30am, Holy Spirit Anglican Church, 25 Beach Road

Hospitality Next Weekend

The first weekend of the month has been designated as our hospitality weekend across our Parish Family. To be a welcoming and friendly parish we need to be a hospitable parish! Everyone is invited to stay after Mass next weekend and meet fellow parishioners and visitors – *why not give us a hand by bringing along a plate?*

Another Opportunity

There are many Lenten opportunities in our parish this year. Perhaps contemplating Jesus' final journey through the Stations of the Cross might be part of your journey in 2023? Each Friday during Lent, following the 9am Stella Maris Mass, you are invited to walk the stations with Deacon Isaac. There will also be Stations of the Cross during Lent at St Catherine's on Fridays at 6pm – all welcome.

Technology for the Third Age

Technology is changing so quickly and the pace of change can overwhelm us. Upgrades happen without our knowledge and suddenly things on our smartphone or tablets have changed or moved. When change happens simple tasks become difficult and frustrating. It is okay for teenagers who have grown up with computers and whose lives are fully consumed by them – but what about the rest of us? How do you find an app, operate the calendar, organise photos, access podcasts? On the second Friday of the month, following the 9am Mass at Stella Maris Church, we are organising a self-help Technology for the Third Age gathering where we will explore and find solutions to some of the technology challenges that frustrate us. Our first gathering will be on Friday, March 10th. *All welcome*.

Practical Almsgiving

A very practical way of showing your solidarity with your fellow believers who live in countries around the world where life is cheap and a daily struggle is through this year's **Project Compassion** appeal. Through your financial sacrifice you stand with and support those on the fringe of life and your commitment does make a difference. There are Project Compassion envelopes at the entrance to all our churches.

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, 27 February

- ◆ No Adoration/Benediction today
- ◆ **Mass (4.30pm)** followed by the Mini Mission (5 to 6pm) at Stella Maris.

Tuesday, 28 February

- ◆ **Mass** (9.00am, Stella Maris School Chapel). All Welcome.
- ◆ St Peter's Coolum Lenten Program - 9.30am.
- ◆ **Mass (4.30pm)** followed by the Mini Mission (5 to 6pm) at Stella Maris.

Wednesday, 1 March

- ◆ **Mass** (7am, St Mary's Church)
- ◆ **Mass** (9am, St Catherine of Siena Church).
- ◆ Scripture Study Group (9.30am, Zoom).
- ◆ **Mass (4.30pm)** followed by the Mini Mission (5 to 6pm) at Stella Maris.
- ◆ Latin American Prayer Group (6pm, Function Room, Maroochydore)
- ◆ St Catherine's Lenten Program - 6.30pm

Thursday, 2 March

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

Friday, 3 March

- ◆ **Anointing & Healing 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, 4 March

- ◆ **First Saturday Mass** (8am, Stella Maris)
- ◆ Reconciliation 8.30am to 9.30am (Stella Maris)
- ◆ 10am Baptism of Ocea Birthisel (Coolum)
- ◆ 10am Baptism of Hallie Paull and Kirra Wilkins (Stella Maris)
- ◆ **Vigil Mass** (4.30pm, St Peter's Church)
- ◆ **Vigil Mass** (6.00pm, Stella Maris Church)

Sunday, 5 March

Second Sunday of Lent - Year A

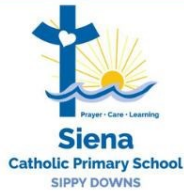
- ◆ **Mass** (6.30am, Stella Maris Church)
- ◆ **Mass** (7.30am, St Peter's Church)
- ◆ **Mass** (8am, St Catherine of Siena Church)
- ◆ **Mass** (9am, Stella Maris Church)
- ◆ **Mass** (9.30am, St Mary's Church)
- ◆ **Mass** (5pm, Stella Maris Church) including Children's Church

Gluten-free hosts are available. To arrange, simply contact the sacristan or coordinator before Mass. The priest will always distribute the gluten free host at communion.

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



On Wednesday, Siena Primary School marked the beginning of the Lenten season with two liturgies led by Fr Will. The homily, from Fr Will, spoke of the need to turn back to God and the ashes on our forehead are a reminder that we need the breath of God to live like Jesus in order to make good choices.

Starting next week, the children and staff will pause each morning and reflect on a way that they can become better people during Lent. 'How can I **Be the Flame** to others and be more like Jesus in my daily actions and words?' Each class will write a 'Goodwill Act' on a flame, which suggests ideas of how we can be less self-centred and more giving this Lenten season. One flame will be read out each day and the children and staff will reflect on this in their daily interactions.



Be The Flame

Stella Maris Primary School

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



Being part of the community in a Catholic school has many blessings. Being able to experience a rich and wonderful religious life is certainly one of these blessings, as the past week has highlighted. While pancakes were a hit on Shrove Tuesday, it was the sharing of our Ash Wednesday liturgies that really touched hearts. Through prayer, ritual, story, music and reflection; students, staff and parents were challenged to use this year's Lenten journey to become better people. Special thanks to Deacon Isaac for leading, and to all those students and staff who contributed. You made it extra special!



Siena Catholic College

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



This week we have been busy preparing for the Lenten Season. On Tuesday, we kicked-off our Project Compassion events with Shrove Tuesday - many thanks to the students of Teresa House who prepared and served a delicious pancake lunch! Throughout the next few weeks, each of the College Houses will strive to raise awareness of the work of Caritas and to raise funds for its many initiatives in the conflicted places of our world.

On Wednesday morning, we gathered as a community for our Ash Wednesday liturgy. This solemn occasion challenged us to *focus our hearts on prayer, repentance and fasting*. In wearing the ashes, we recalled the words of Pope Francis who tells us that they (the ashes) are important because they are a reminder that, "we are the dust of the earth, upon which God has poured out his heaven, the dust that contains God's dreams."

