

PARISH NEWSLETTER FOR SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

Weekend of the 4/5 March 2023

First Reading: Genesis 12:1-4 Second Reading: 2 Timothy 1:8-10 Gospel: Matthew 17:1-9

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.

Traditionally on the second weekend of Lent we hear the mysterious story of the Transfiguration. This year we hear Matthew's account which is filled with images from the Old Testament and the haunting voice that repeats Isaiah's "servant" proclamation. For Matthew's Gospel, the focus is subtly on the reaction of the disciples to the event of the Transfiguration, and how they grapple and finally come to understand the significance of what they experienced.

Are we that different here in our Stella Maris Sunshine Coast Parish? You see, the Transfiguration is not just something that happens to Jesus. To experience transfiguration is to experience and to realise that there exists within each of us the "divinity", the "love of God", the "spark of the divine", call it what you want, that enables us to transform our lives and the lives of those we love.

That experience of Transfiguration should lie at the heart of all our Lenten disciplines this year. As Pope Francis suggests, there are many ways of fasting and many ways of experiencing the Transfiguration in our lives and the lives of our sisters and brothers.

POPE FRANCIS ON LENT

Fast from **HURTING WORDS** and say **KIND WORDS**.

Fast from **SADNESS** and be filled with **GRATITUDE**

Fast from **ANGER** and be filled with **PATIENCE**.

Fast from **PESSIMISM** and be filled with **HOPE**.

Fast from **WORRIES** and **TRUST IN GOD**.

Fast from **COMPLAINTS** and contemplate **SIMPLICITY**.

Fast from **PRESSURES** and be **PRAYERFUL**.

Fast from **BITTERNESS** and fill your heart with **JOY**.

Fast from **SELFISHNESS** and be **COMPASSIONATE** to others.

Fast from **GRUDGES** and be **RECONCILED**.

Fast from **WORDS** and be **SILENT** so you can listen.

BE AN AGENT OF TRANSFIGURATION

So, what I think we should take away from today's Mass is a blueprint for all our actions and choices this coming week which enables us to be conscious of *what we are giving up and what we are taking on* this Lent. Today's Gospel powerfully reminds us that we are placed in our world, in our community, as God's fellow workers, *agents of Transfiguration*. The fasting recommended by Pope Francis helps focus our minds and makes us conscious of the choices we are making and the people we are becoming. For most of us, we will probably only experience these transfiguring moments when we discover who we are and, just as important, *the grace and love that has made us who we are*. So, I invite you to accept Pope Francis' suggestions so that this coming week injustice is transfigured into justice, dignity has the chance to be restored, forgiveness is experienced and all our God given potential is realised. Wishing you every blessing as we together live this second week of Lent.

Fr Peter Brannelly

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

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IT'S HOSPITALITY RIGHT ACROSS OUR PARISH FAMILY THIS WEEKEND



This being the first weekend of the month, all our communities invite you to share in some hospitality immediately after Mass. It is a great opportunity to catch up with old friends and meet new ones! Thank you to the hospitality groups across our Parish for generously providing our post Mass sustenance!

To be sure, to be sure!

March is here 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 17 March. BYO Lunch to share and Singalong, 11.30am for 12noon start. To be sure, all are welcome!!!

It's not too Late!

This Monday evening on the Stella Maris presbytery balcony Fr Peter, Fr William, Deacon Isaac, Deacon Michael and the Welcoming Committee are looking forward to welcoming 70 new and not so new parishioners through the front door. A couple of times a year we host a "cocktail party" at the presbytery to welcome and introduce ourselves to new members of our community. In a large and diverse Parish Family like ours it is so easy for new members to get swamped by the activity and dimensions of our Parish. We not only want to introduce ourselves to new members but also extend a warm welcome to be involved in the life and mission of our Parish. If you are new it not too late to join us on Monday evening – simply give the Parish Office a call on Monday (5443 3488).



Mini Mission

Parishioners and friends from all corners of our Parish and beyond gathered last Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday for our Lenten Mini Mission. Bishop Tim Norton, the new auxiliary bishop of Brisbane, led our three days of reflection on culture, identity, reconciliation and mission. Bishop Tim's challenge was to see the connections between culture and our responsibility to move beyond the safe boundaries that we are accustomed to living behind and embrace the possibilities of truly being intercultural.

Celebrating and Remembering

We welcome into God's Family, the Church, *Ocea Birthisel*, *Hallie Paul* and *Kirra Wilkins* who will be baptised this weekend in our Parish.

We pray for all those who have died, especially *Jack Wills* whose funeral was celebrated on Friday. May his soul and the souls of all our departed priests, religious, parishioners and family members, through the rich mercy of God,

Rest in Peace.

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 this Friday, 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.

Come to the Summit

We're looking for people interested in going to the principal gathering of the Archdiocese of Brisbane - Summit 2023. The Summit is a three-day event for all who belong to the faith community of the Archdiocese and is intended to empower, inspire and equip. Early-bird registrations close on the 31st March. The Summit begins on the evening of May 18th and will finish in the late afternoon of the 20th. If you're interested in going contact Fr William (aupitioiulianow@bne.catholic.net.au)

Stella Maris Parish Facebook

Visit our Facebook page! You will receive updates on what's happening within the parish, religious articles and content of interest. It is also a way we contact you with urgent news. "Like" our Facebook page, and you will be kept notified of new posts and help to promote the Parish page to more viewers. Just go to www.facebook.com/mission.stella/ and click on the 'thumbs up' under any of our posts. Why not 'share' it with a Facebook friend also?



Thanks for your support

There are many ways you can support the mission and ministry of your Parish. The traditional planned giving programme and direct debit allows us to budget with confidence so that we can cover our costs and plan for the future. The "Tap & Go" machines at the entrance of the church is another way that technology is making it easier to support the parish. We have not yet got to the stage of having the "Tap & Go" device embedded in the collection plate but I assure you with the way technology is going, it can't be far off! Another way, which makes it easy especially for our visitors and friends, is by scanning this QR code which will take you to the parish website. However you choose to support the mission and ministry of our parish family, a grateful parish says *thank you*.



Last Saturday night young members of the Sunshine Coast Catholic Community gathered for a meal and a catch up at The Savvy Squire in Mooloolaba. It was a chance to share some stories and plan a few activities for the coming year. The next gathering of the Young Adults Group will be Friday 10 March 6.00pm. Fr William will let you know where it will be this time.

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, 6 March

- ♦ Adoration 4.30pm, Stella Maris
- ♦ **Mass** (5.30pm, Stella Maris Church)
- ♦ Parish Welcome 'Cocktail' Party (6pm, presbytery)

Tuesday, 7 March

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

Wednesday, 8 March

- ♦ **Mass** (7am, St Mary's Church)
- ♦ **Mass** (9am, St Catherine of Siena Church).
- ♦ Scripture Study Group (9.30am, Zoom).
- ♦ Deanery Meeting
- ♦ St Mary's Community Team meeting.
- ♦ Stella Maris Community team meeting.
- ♦ Latin American Prayer Group (6pm, Function Room, Maroochydore)
- ♦ St Catherine's Lenten Program - 6.30pm

Thursday, 9 March

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

Friday, 10 March

- ♦ **Mass** (9am, Stella Maris)
- ♦ Stations of the Cross, during Lent (9.30am, Stella Maris Church)
- ♦ Technology of the Third Age (10am, 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, 11 March

- ♦ Reconciliation 8.30am to 9.30am (Stella Maris)
- ♦ 10am Baptism of Billy Free, Halle Achilles, Fletcher Achilles and Cooper Gunn (Stella Maris)
- ♦ 11am El Shaddai group meets (Sippy Downs)
- ♦ Stations of the Cross (El Shaddai, 2pm, Sippy Downs)
- ♦ **Vigil Mass** (4.30pm, St Peter's Church)
- ♦ **Vigil Mass** (6.00pm, Stella Maris Church)

Sunday, 12 March

Third 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)

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



Laps for Life and Laundry

On Monday all students were given a donation card and parent letter explaining our fundraising event for the poor in our world and community called, 'Laps for Life and Laundry'.

The Siena Primary community will walk for an hour around the school oval on 24th March to raise money and awareness for the disadvantaged and underprivileged in our local community and the world. This will be a great community building event where we live the Gospel message of love for all and preferential treatment of the poor.



We are raising money for Caritas – Project Compassion, St Vinnies and Orange Sky Laundry.

All families and staff are asked to donate to this worthy cause by sponsoring our students to walk for the hour. We are learning, through the Project Compassion stories, where our money is going to assist the many communities in the world and local groups who do not have the basics that we take for granted.

As Pope Francis said, 'Each individual Christian and every community is called to be an instrument of God for the liberation and promotion of the poor, and for enabling them to be fully a part of society.'



Stella Maris Primary School

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



At Stella Maris, we believe that we are called to be the image of Jesus to all those around us. We are the face of Jesus in the world today and **Jesus uses us to get his message across to people** in our small everyday actions.

Getting behind Project Compassion is one way to take action that will support some of the most vulnerable people in the world.

We launched Project Compassion at Stella Maris at our school assembly last Thursday and children came up with lots of practical ideas about how they could help to raise funds to donate.

Already, donation boxes have been returned, full to the brim. With all the negativity that abounds in the world today, it is heart-warming to see the generosity of our young people and their families as they put their faith into action and work to bring light and hope where it is most needed.

During this season of Lent, may we all be inspired to do the same.



Siena Catholic College

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



Fundraising for Project Compassion, and its awareness-raising, was the responsibility of Catherine House this week, as our students followed St Catherine's call to 'not be satisfied with little things, because God wants great things'. Their efforts have helped to ensure the work of Caritas can reach those most in need of our support.

Fr Will and Deacon Isaac shared their insights on a variety of contemporary ethical issues when they joined our Year 12 SOR classes on Monday morning. The students were very appreciative of the opportunity to ask questions about the church teachings that underpin their chosen topics.

It's certainly been a busy time for excursions at the College. Last week, our Year 12 Geography students travelled to Fraser Island, and this week the Year 12 Biology classes were on Moreton Island. In addition, our Year 12 Business and Year 10 Geography classes were out and about in the local area.

On the sporting front, our Netball teams took to the court for the start of the Monday night Interschool competition; our AFL team were successful in their 9-a-side games; our Volleyball players began their competition; and, our Swim squad did very well at the District Carnival.

