

PARISH NEWSLETTER FOR THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

Weekend of the 11/12 March 2023

First Reading: Exodus 17:3-7 Second Reading: Romans 5:1-2, 5-8 Gospel: John 4:5-42

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.

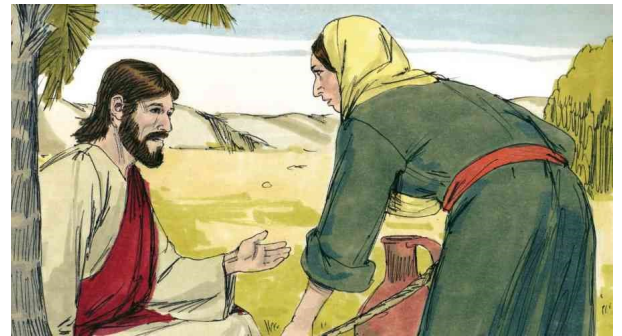
Most of you know by now that before starting my placement here at Maroochydore Parish I spent seventeen days in Rome on pilgrimage with the Holy Spirit Seminary.

These days in Rome were anything but a holiday or spiritual tour, they were a tough grind. Although, the trip did have holiday and spiritual aspects to it. Most of our days were spent on our feet walking from one basilica or church to another. Stopping momentarily at a local watering hole (Italian restaurant) to replenish our weary pilgrim bodies.

One of the highlights of the trip that did not consist of a church-related facility was going out to a pub or restaurant with the brothers to quench our thirst after a long day. It was the perfect opportunity to relax and debrief. Also, more importantly, it was the perfect opportunity to meet people from around the world or befriend one of the many lovely waiters/waitresses.

We specifically told some of the people we met during these times that we were studying to be priests, and had great conversations about Church related matters, and other times we just simply tried to be genuine good blokes. In other words, there were times that we specifically engaged in evangelisation and other times being a witness was enough.

When I close my eyes and try to imagine what a modern day version of ancient wells were like, this is the sort of image that comes to mind.



Deacon Isaac Falzon

IMPORTANT CHILDREN'S SACRAMENTAL NEWS

Confirmation Parent Information night will be held on the **26th of April**, 5-6pm at Stella Maris Church Maroochydore. If you can't make that night then you also have the option of attending the same information night the following evening, **27th of April**, 5-6pm at Our Lady of the Rosary Church Caloundra. By our two parishes combining our resources, we want to ensure that all families and children have the opportunity to be part of the Confirmation programme and celebrate the sacraments.

Confirmation is for children in Year 3 or above, enrolments will be opening soon. Please enrol online via our parish website maroochydoreparish.com.au.

For **baptism for older children**, age 8 and above, there will be an enquiry session held on Sunday **23th of April** at 10:15am in the function room next to the parish office. Any further information please contact Carrolyn Watt at the Parish Office.

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

Who are the Samaritans?

In this weekend's Gospel we hear about the well-known story of the Samaritan woman at the well. Littered throughout the Gospel are stories about Samaritans. Most people only know Samaritans from the Bible, or as a charity for the emotionally vulnerable or as the name of an order of nuns. But the Samaritans were once a sizable community and several hundred of them still exist today.

The Samaritans, like Jews, trace their lineage to Abraham. But the enslavement of the Jews by the Babylonians complicated matters. The Samaritans claim that, after returning from Babylon, Jews forgot their early customs. Several hundred thousand Samaritans lived in the Holy Land at the time of Christ. But a war with the Byzantines, between 529 AD and 531 AD, decimated their population.

The subsequent arrival of Islam depleted their numbers further; most ethnic Samaritans are now pious Muslims. At the last count, in 2019, there were only 812 Samaritans remaining. Their gene pool is dangerously shallow.

Young Samaritans have converted to Judaism in order to marry, since the religion prohibits unions with outsiders. Moreover, becoming a Samaritan is a big commitment. For those few Samaritans who endure, protecting pre-captivity traditions is central to their culture.

Care for our Common Home and its People

Pope Francis said in **Laudato Si'** – “*we have forgotten we ourselves are dust of the earth; our very bodies are made up of her elements, we breathe her air and we receive life and refreshment from her waters*”. *Earth's atmosphere formed 5 billion years ago. This atmosphere prevents the sun's dangerous rays from reaching earth. *Find out why scientists at the Vatican say earth is now entering a new geological era. *Australians contribute disproportionately more per capita to greenhouse gas emissions. We must reduce our greenhouse gas emissions for the sake of all life.

Some ways you can help our planet this Lent: **1.** Embrace Slow Fashion – buy recycled clothes, recycle your present clothes. **2.** Eat less meat – think about a meatless Monday and Friday. **3.** No more one-use plastics this Lent.

Feeling Crafty?

There were so many different groups and activities in our Parish Family before Covid struck. We probably took most of them for granted and failed to realise that being a part of all those groups kept us connected and engaged. We want to re-establish a Craft Group here at Stella Maris which will meet in the function room on the 4th Friday of the month following the 9am morning Mass. Everyone welcome. We have two coordinators of the Craft Group, and if you would like to be part of the group please give the Parish Office (5443 3488) a call. Our first gathering will be on Friday, 24 March following the 9am Friday Mass.

Children's Church - Building Our Future Together

Thank you to all those who have volunteered to help with our Children's Church. As soon as your Safeguarding requirements are in place we will “set you to work”. **However**, our aim is to be able to have this important ministry taking place **every weekend**, so we need more people putting up their hand. All resources are provided and we always work in teams so if you can volunteer (even if it's only once a month) we'd love to hear from you. Please call the parish office.

Visiting Our Hospitals

All those interested in taking *Communion to the Sick* to the Buderim Private Hospital are asked to attend a short workshop and planning meeting on Saturday, 25 March (9.30am to 10.30am). It will be in the Boardroom in the Parish Office. If you haven't done so already, just let the Parish Office know you are interested.

Join Us For Some Fun

St Patrick's Day is this Friday - BYO lunch to share and singalong. Why not come along and join us this Friday at St Peter's Church at Coolumb. 11.30am, for 12noon start. All welcome, *tell your friends!*

Piano or designer piece?

The piano at St Catherine's is soon to be replaced, as it can no longer be tuned. Do you have an artist flair, and would like to take it off our hands? Why not re-purpose it into an interesting piece of furniture? Contact the Parish Office if you are interested.



Celebrating and Remembering

We welcome into God's Family, the Church, **Billy Free, Halle Achilles, Fletcher Achilles** and **Cooper Gunn** who will be baptised this weekend in our Parish.

We pray for all those who have died, especially **Clorine Richards** whose funeral rites will be celebrated on Wednesday. May her soul and the souls of all our departed priests, religious, parishioners and family members, through the rich mercy of God,

Rest in Peace.

A Very Warm Welcome



We live in a very mobile society and that is reflected by the many new faces we see at our churches each weekend. However, in such a large and diverse Parish Family like ours it is also very easy to get lost in the crowd! Last Monday evening on the presbytery balcony, we hosted a “Welcome Party” for all our new members where we took the opportunity to formally introduce ourselves and welcome them to their new Parish.



Several times a year we host a welcome evening and if you are new to our community you are invited to take home a “Welcome Pack” which can be found at the entrance of the church. Simply complete the details and return it to the Parish Office, and the Parish Welcome Team will be in contact with you with an invitation to our next welcome evening. To all our new and returning parishioners - **welcome!**



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, 13 March

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

Tuesday, 14 March

- ◆ **Mass** (9.00am, Stella Maris School Chapel). All Welcome.
- ◆ St Peter’s Coolum Lenten Program - 9.30am.
- ◆ Mass (10.30am, St Vincent’s Care Services, Maroochydore)
- ◆ Parish Finance Council meeting

Wednesday, 15 March

- ◆ **Mass** (7am, St Mary’s Church)
- ◆ **Mass** (9am, St Catherine of Siena Church).
- ◆ Scripture Study Group (9.30am, Zoom).
- ◆ St Vincent de Paul Maroochydore meeting.
- ◆ St Catherine’s Community team meeting.
- ◆ Latin American Prayer Group (6pm, Function Room, Maroochydore)
- ◆ St Catherine’s Lenten Program - 6.30pm

Thursday, 16 March

- ◆ **Mass** (8.30am, St Peter’s Church)
- ◆ St Vincent de Paul Coolum meeting.
- ◆ 2pm Rosary & Divine Mercy (Stella Maris)

Friday, 17 March

- ◆ **Mass** (9am, Stella Maris)
- ◆ Stations of the Cross, during Lent (9.30am, Stella Maris Church)
- ◆ Grief Support team meeting.
- ◆ 11.30am for 12noon start (St Patrick’s Day BYO Lunch (St Peter’s 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, 18 March

- ◆ Reconciliation 8.30am to 9.30am (Stella Maris)
- ◆ 10am Baptism of Oliver Siney, Dylan Siney, Natalia Esperanza, Bhavya Patel and Zilvani Fair (Stella Maris)
- ◆ 10am Baptism of Corbin Knight (St Catherine’s)
- ◆ 10am Baptism of Hallie Brighty and Bowie Brighty (St Peter’s)
- ◆ 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), including Baptism of Brooklyn and Bailey Howell.

Sunday, 19 March

- ◆ **Mass** (6.30am, Stella Maris Church)
- ◆ **Mass** (7.30am, St Peter’s Church) including Children’s Church.
- ◆ **Mass** (8am, St Catherine of Siena Church)
- ◆ **Mass** (9am, Stella Maris Church) including Baptism of George Pettett
- ◆ **Mass** (9.30am, 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



Priests Visiting Classrooms

We are so blest at Siena with the partnership we have with our priests in enhancing our Religious Education and Religious Life of the School.

Fr Peter, Fr Will and Deacon Isaac bring the church and its teaching alive and visible to the students. Jesus' message that we should love one another and treat everyone with dignity has been received with understanding by the students through the interesting child focused homilies given at the various school gatherings this year.

Our priests have also started to visit classrooms answering children's questions and giving their perspective on the Religion unit the children are learning.

This week, Fr Will and Deacon Isaac visited the Year 1 classes discussing life at the time of Jesus. Next week they will talk with the Year 3 classes on images of God and how these images enhance our understanding of God in the everyday.

We appreciate our partnership with the church as this enhances the children's faith development and makes religion and the church more real in their lives.



Stella Maris Primary School

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



This week, there has been much excitement in the air as *Artist in Residence*, Jandamarra Cadd, began work on a special mural at the school. A Yorta Yorta and Dja Dja Warung descendent, Jandamarra is a man of many talents. The school community has been captivated, not only by his work as a visual artist, but by his readiness to listen deeply, ask questions and share stories. It's a wonder he is getting any work done at all with all the observers stopping by!

The idea for the mural stemmed from a discussion by the Staff Religion Team about the need to have high quality religious art visible around the school. This developed into a focus on the scripture texts studied by classes in Religious Education units of work. With all year levels having some focus on Creation stories, Care for Creation and Stewardship, it was decided to head in this direction, with an indigenous perspective. How lucky we are to have the talented Jandamarra to work with us on this journey.

This work is by no means through, just great work by a talented artist. This is a collaborative art piece! By the end of the project, every student and every staff member will have contributed to the creation of this mural. Students who are part of our *Deadly Maroochy Mob* and their families will have the opportunity to work in a special way with Jandamarra on the project as well. We can't wait to show you our finished masterpiece!



Siena Catholic College

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



We have passed the halfway point of Term One and the weeks just seem to get busier. On Sunday, more than 175 families gathered at the College for our Open Day. Following a tour, led by Year 11 and 12 students, parents had the opportunity to learn more about the College during a presentation from the Leadership Team.

On Monday, we gathered for the annual 'Clean Up Siena' afternoon. Donning their blue gloves and with Clean-Up bags at the ready, students scoured the College grounds for stray lunch wrappings, empty poppers and the inevitable plastic straws, apple cores and chip packets.

Tuesday saw us again mobilise to raise funds for the important work of Caritas. MacKillop House, inspired by Mary's words to 'never see a need without doing something about it', fired up the BBQ for a delicious (and sold out!) sausage sizzle.

Our Year 11 students joined Parishioners at St Catherine's on Wednesday morning for the 9am Mass. During his homily, Fr Will challenged the students to think how they might answer Jesus' call to live a life of service to others.

