

PARISH NEWSLETTER FOR FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Weekend of the 18/19 March 2023

First Reading: 1 Samuel 16:1, 6-7, 10-13 Second Reading: Ephesians 5:8-14 Gospel: John 9:1-41

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.

THERE ARE NONE SO BLIND.....

I hate having to wear glasses! Every year my eyesight seems to be deteriorating a little more! I am painfully reminded of my visual limitations when I go to the supermarket without glasses and I can't see prices or the ingredients or directions on labels. I look back fondly on a time when I could see everything clearly. Perhaps because of vanity or just the unrelenting process of growing old, but as my sight slowly deteriorates, I wonder if I really appreciate what I am missing out on?

This week's Gospel is the story of the man born blind. For the second weekend in a row we get a rather long Gospel and yet, for such a long story, the amazing thing is that Jesus only appears at the beginning and at the end. In fact, at the end of the story Jesus hears that the blind man had been driven away and he goes looking for him. We sometimes miss the significance of Jesus hearing about what had happened to the man and deliberately setting out to find him. You see, it is not a question of whether we, sighted or blind, find Jesus. Rather it is an image of Jesus coming to look for us and finding us where we are.

As for the story itself, there is a rich vein of irony running through it. We can see how God turns the world's expectations on its head. The reality of things is just the opposite of what it seems to be. Those who are so sure they can see are, in truth, blind. He who starts out blind takes a risk at Jesus' invitation and ends up seeing. The once blind man passes from blindness to sight to insight. He stands in contrast to the neighbours, who remain in ignorance; his parents, who refuse to take a risk; and the authorities and Pharisees, who refuse to believe what their eyes see. **It seems it is true that there is no one as blind as the person who refuses to see.**

There's a line from the Talmud, which is a commentary on the Scriptures used by the rabbis, which reads, "**We do not see things as they are - we see them as we are.**" For me personally the point of the story is that one day, a man who was blind from birth was touched by the Light and he, himself, became a light and he touched others with his light and they, in turn, became light to others.

Could it be true that this story could resemble our life story, a tale of our daily struggle to overcome our darkness with light? With our determination and God's grace anything is possible. Sure there is a risk involved but we all long to be able to say "**while I might not know all the answers one thing I do know is that once I was blind but now I see**".

Wishing you vision and insight for the week ahead.

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
Telephone: 5443 3488
Email: suncoast@bne.catholic.net.au
Website: maroochydoreparish.com.au

THANK YOU FOR REMEMBERING YOUR PARISH FAMILY IN YOUR WILL

Catholic Encounter Kids Day 2023

The Ultimate gift for your child in the Easter school holidays!

Let Encounter Kids inspire your child with their one-day school holiday program filled with games, activities, crafts, fun and faith. Whether your child likes puzzles or playing Tug-O-War, it's the ultimate environment to meet new friends and take part in immersive play and prayer designed to give children a positive and powerful experience of the Catholic faith.

Encounter Kids is the perfect playground for kids to burn off some energy in the school holidays, master some true friendships and encounter faith that might yet lead them to their best friendship ever with Jesus!

Open to all primary school aged children aged between 5 and 12 years, this one-day program creates a welcoming and fun space for children to connect with Jesus and grow in faith.

As a parent who's doing your best to pass on the faith to your child, don't miss out on this one-time event hosted in collaboration with Stella Maris by our neighbouring parish, Our Lady of the Rosary Caloundra, on Friday, April 14 from 9am to 5pm - click on the QR code for more information.

More Info



Look Out Silicon Valley!

Last Friday parishioners gathered after the 9am Stella Maris Mass for the inaugural Technology for the Third Age self-help gathering. It was a chance to gather and together solve some of the annoying challenges technology brings and in the process make our smart phones and tablets work for us – and not the other way around! The group will meet on the second Friday of each month, and the next gathering will be on Friday 14 April after the 9am Mass – all most welcome.

This Friday, 24 March, is our first **Craft Group** meeting for the year at the Stella Maris function room. If you are interested, please accept this invitation and come along – we will gather for morning tea after the 9am Friday Mass at Stella Maris.

Celebrating our Unity in the Midst of our Diversity.

On Sunday 18 June we are planning a multicultural Mass at Stella Maris Church which will be a great celebration of faith, culture, unity and diversity. At the conclusion of the 9.00am Mass we want to invite everyone to a giant morning tea where we will celebrate and taste the unique and delectable national cuisine of the many communities that make up our Parish Family. At the start of our planning, we want to identify the many different groups and we would appreciate if you are involved in a group could you please contact the Parish Office (5443 3488 or suncoast@bne.catholic.net.au).

Ministry to the Sick, the Hospitalised and the Housebound

As we move beyond Covid and try to re-establish the normal routine of our Parish life over the next couple of weeks we will be concentrating on our ministry to the sick, the hospitalised and the housebound. Each week Holy Communion is taken from our Masses to those who cannot be with us to celebrate the Eucharist – *this is an important ministry and we are grateful to all the Communion Ministers who are part of this ministry*. Over the next couple of weeks we will host several short meetings with ministers to confirm that we are following best practice in our ministry and to ensure that there are no gaps in our ministry to the sick and housebound.

The first meeting is on next Saturday, March 25 at 9.30am at the Parish Office and it is for all parishioners who would like to be on a roster and bring Holy Communion to the patients of Buderim Private Hospital.

The next meeting will be on Saturday, April 22 at 9.30am at the Parish Office. It will be an initial enquiry meeting for parishioners who would like to be part of the pastoral care ministry at the Buderim Private Hospital. This is different from bringing Holy Communion to patients but rather is focused on the spiritual wellbeing of all patients at the hospital. A formation programme, offered by the hospital, is part of the preparation for this ministry.

The final meeting is on Saturday April 29 at 9.30am, at the Parish Office, and is for all parishioners who take Holy Communion to the housebound and to aged care facilities. It is an opportunity for our Parish to ensure that all aged care facilities are being visited, that best practice is being followed and all safeguarding protocols are in place.

Celebrating and Remembering

We welcome into God's Family, the Church, *Oliver & Dylan Siney, Nathalia Esperanza, Bhavya Patel, Zilvani Fair, Corbin Knight, Bowie & Hallie Brighty, Bailey & Brooklyn Howell* and *George Pettett* who will be baptised this weekend in our Parish.

We pray for all those who have died, especially *Clorine Richards, Kellie Beale* and *Bernie Stormonth* whose funeral rites were celebrated last week, and *Magda Prout* whose funeral will be this Wednesday. 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.

Southern Cross

This Wednesday at the 7am St Mary's Mass at Buderim the members of our local Knights of the Southern Cross will gather for their local Founder's Day Mass. It is our opportunity to pray for the members of the Knights of the Southern Cross and remember and celebrate the good work they do in our community.

Vinnies 3 day Book and Plant Sale

This annual St Vincent de Paul fundraising event will be held at the Kawana Catholic Community Centre, Nanyima Street, Buddina (opposite the Kawana Library) on Friday 24th & Saturday 25th March from 8am – 3pm and on Sunday 26th March from 9am – 1pm.

There will be fiction, non-fiction and children's books galore, many by popular authors, as well as DVDs, CDs, jigsaw puzzles and much more. For those wanting to start-up a new garden or freshen up an existing one, they have many beautiful indoor and garden plants ready to brighten up your home. ALL proceeds go to assisting the St Vincent de Paul Society in that area in continuing to support and give a hand up to those going through difficult times due to homelessness, domestic violence, continual increase in cost of living and high rental costs. Thanks for your support.

Screening of the 12th Annual Melbourne PASSION PLAY



WHEN: Good Friday 12-2 pm

**WHERE: The Avenue Function Room, 32
Baden Powell St, Maroochydore.**

TICKETS: BOOK ONLINE or call 0408 217375

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/screening-of-the-annual-melbourne-passion-play-tickets-578084836307>

**Sometimes, it is our hidden faulty assumptions
that cause us our blindness !!!**

“The Man Born Blind”

A woman was about to step into the shower.

She had, it seems, just disrobed in the bathroom when the doorbell rang.

She hollered out, **“Who is it?”**

A man shouted back through the door, **“It's the blind man.”**

She was not getting dressed again and figuring she was safe,
she opened the door.

The blind man looked at her in shock and somehow managed to ask,
“Where do you want me to hang these blinds, lady?”

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 March

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

Tuesday, 21 March

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

Wednesday, 22 March

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

Thursday, 23 March

- ◆ **Mass** (8.30am, St Peter's Church)

Friday, 24 March

- ◆ **Mass** (9am, Stella Maris)
- ◆ Stations of the Cross, during Lent (9.30am, Stella Maris Church)
- ◆ Craft Group (9.30am, Stella Maris)
- ◆ 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 March

- ◆ Reconciliation 8.30am to 9.30am (Stella Maris)
- ◆ Workshop (9.30am, Parish Office, Communion to the Sick to Buderim Private Hospital)
- ◆ 10am Baptism of Jovi & Jasper Fenn, Arthur Hughes and Desley Murray (Stella Maris)
- ◆ 10am Baptism of Paityn Wilson (St Peter's)
- ◆ 11am Baptism of Easton & Oaklyn Ernewein (Stella Maris)
- ◆ 11am El Shaddai group meets (Sippy Downs)
- ◆ El Shaddai Lenten Program (2pm, Sippy Downs)
- ◆ **Vigil Mass** (4.30pm, St Peter's Church)
- ◆ **Vigil Mass** (6.00pm, Stella Maris Church).

Sunday, 26 March

- ◆ **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)

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, the Siena Primary staff showed their support for our Project Compassion fundraising venture - Laps for Life and Laundry - by wearing bright clothing which we called 'Colours for Caritas'.

The staff raised over \$300 to support the poorest of poor in our world and local community through the fundraising effort.

This money will be combined with the donations brought in by the students for participating in Laps for Life and Laundry on Friday 31st March. The school community will walk for an hour for the disadvantaged in our world.



Stella Maris Primary School

Stella Maris Way,
Maroochydore

pmaroochydore@bne.catholic.edu.au

Principal: Mark Ballam



At this stage of the term, there's a buzz around the school as parents and teachers meet for end-of-term interviews to discuss student progress, achievements and learning goals. They might review data, share stories from different perspectives, look at student work samples and enlighten each other about a child's learning journey so far this year. Genuine partnerships between home and school have been proven to have a positive impact on student engagement and we really appreciate the effort everyone puts in to help every child to flourish.

On the learning front, our Prep students have had such a full term, adapting to "big school", making new friends, learning new routines, exploring new concepts and building lots of skills. In Religious Education lessons, the children have been investigating what life must have been like for Jesus, growing up in a Jewish family. They have been comparing their own families, clothes, games, homes and celebrations with those of Jesus' time. They had lots of fun working with their Year 6 buddies to design and create replicas of homes in Nazareth, two thousand years ago. They are now learning about the story of Holy Week and the first Easter Sunday by collecting symbols to help them retell the story. No wonder their smiles are so big!



Siena Catholic College

60 Sippy Downs Drive,
Sippy Downs

ssippydowns@bne.catholic.edu.au

Acting Principal: Pat Toohey



Week 7 of the term was rounded out with a group of Year 12s again volunteering at the Friday Night Community Meal at Stella Maris; the Open Rugby boys participating in a pre-season weekend training camp; and a group of students, teachers and parents staffing one of the drink stations at the Mooloolaba Triathlon.

We have just completed Week 8 and it was another busy one! Our Year 7 and 9 students engaged with the two-day NAPLAN testing, which is designed to show how, at this point-in-time, they are progressing in Literacy and Numeracy. In addition, our Year 10s had the opportunity to participate in the St Catherine's Mass on Wednesday. In his homily, Fr Will reflected on the rules which guide us, and challenged the students to 'find who they are in Christ'.

Thursday was *Close the Gap Day*, and all members of the community were encouraged to consider what actions need to be taken to raise the standard of living for Indigenous people - so that we can close the gap in healthcare and access to health resources.

