

PARISH NEWSLETTER FOR FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Weekend of the 25/26 March 2023

First Reading: Ezekiel 37:12-14 Second Reading: Romans 8:8-11 Gospel: John 11:1-45

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.

Dear friends,

Throughout history, human beings have struggled with the problem of pain and suffering but have not come up with many suitable explanations. Thus, we often encourage a sick friend to accept an illness because "It is God's will", almost as if we are saying God not only wants us to suffer but also takes some kind of pleasure in seeing us in pain. Today's Gospel reading gives us reasons to question this way of thinking.

The author of the Gospel according to John provides us with a glimpse of the human side of Jesus when Lazarus, one of Jesus' close friends, dies. John tells us Jesus was troubled and wept openly upon hearing about Lazarus' death. Since this is hardly the reaction we would expect from a deity who enjoys seeing people suffer, we can conclude from this story that Jesus is a God who does not like to see His friends in pain. So, let's stop blaming Him for all the evil in the world and let's stop telling people who are suffering to accept their pain because "it is God's will". It is not God's will that we suffer and die.

Where, then, does suffering and pain come from? Scripture tells us that pain, the drudgery of work, and death are consequences of sin and did not become part of life until man and woman disobeyed God (see Genesis 3). Since the devil introduced sin into the world, it is the devil, not God, who is responsible for all the pain and suffering we experience.

Finally, in today's reading, Jesus says He is both the resurrection and the life. This is just one of the seven famous "I am" statements we find in John's Gospel. The other six are: "I am the vine and you are the branches" (15:5) "I am the bread of life" (6:35) "I am the good shepherd" (10:11,14); "I am the way, the truth, and the life" (14:6); "I am the sheep gate" (10:7); and "I am the light of the world" (9:5).

Prayer: *Lord Jesus, I praise You for restoring what was dead in me and for raising me up to new life. Yes, Lord Jesus, I do believe in You. I want to rise with You. Let me know Your presence today.*

Amen.

(Source: A Christian Pilgrim)

Deacon Isaac Falzon

The **Sacrament of Reconciliation** should be one of the solid foundations on which we approach Holy Week and the Resurrection celebrations of Easter. It is our chance to acknowledge before God and the Church the moments, words, actions and choices that we regret and have led us into sin. Instead of wallowing in self-pity, Reconciliation gives each and every one of us the chance, through God's grace, to acknowledge our failings and to start again – and in the process, grasping the invitation of becoming more like the person we were created to be. This year our Lenten journey offers us two opportunities to celebrate the Rite of Reconciliation:

Next Saturday morning, 1 April at Our Lady of the Rosary, Caloundra at **9am**

Monday week, 3 April, at Stella Maris, Maroochydore at **5pm**

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: maroochydroparish.com.au

THANK YOU FOR REMEMBERING YOUR PARISH FAMILY IN YOUR WILL

CELEBRATING EASTER

Communal Rite of Reconciliation -

Monday 3 April

Maroochydore 5.00pm

Holy Thursday - 6 April

Maroochydore 7.00pm

Good Friday - 7 April

Stations of the Cross:

Maroochydore 10.00am

Coolum Beach 10.00am

Sippy Downs 10.00am

Veneration of the Cross:

Maroochydore 3.00pm

Coolum Beach 3.00pm

Buderim 3.00pm

Holy Saturday - 8 April

Maroochydore 6.00pm

Coolum Beach 6.00pm

Easter Sunday - 9 April

Maroochydore 6.30am

Coolum Beach 7.30am

Sippy Downs 8.00am

Maroochydore 9.00am

Buderim 9.30am

Maroochydore 5.00pm

As a Parish Family we extend a warm welcome to all our visitors and friends to join us as we celebrate the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Ministry to the Sick, the Hospitalised and the Housebound

Thank you to our fellow parishioners who attended the Saturday morning meeting and have volunteered to bring Holy Communion to the Buderim Hospital. We are trying to coordinate our ministry to the sick, hospitalised and the housebound and over the next couple of weeks we will be arranging a series of meetings to ensure that no-one is forgotten and to remind ourselves of what is best practice in our ministry.

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 later in the year, 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.

Enrolments Are Now Open - Confirmation 2023

The start of our Sacramental Programme is not too far away - if you have a child in Grade 3 or older, now is the time to enrol. Simply go online now at maroochydoreparish.com.au For any questions please contact Carrolyn Watt at the Parish Office.



What's for Dinner?

Every year the Archbishop invites anyone discerning their vocation to the priesthood or consecrated life to his residence, *Wynberg*, for dinner. It is a chance for the Archbishop to share a little of his story and to offer some encouragement to young men and women on their journey of discernment. These dinners will be hosted in April and June. If anyone is interested or would like to find out more information please contact Fr William or Deacon Isaac.



Irish Eyes Were Smiling !

Parishioners and friends descended on St Peter's Church to celebrate St Patrick's Day - *after all there is a little bit of Irish in all of us!!!*

The afternoon entailed sharing of food, song, tall stories and plenty of laughter – thank you to the organisers and the Coolum community for hosting the event.

A reminder that next weekend across our Parish we have hospitality and everyone is warmly invited after Mass to catch up with old friends and introduce yourself to new friends.

Celebrating and Remembering

We welcome into God's Family, the Church, *Jovi Fenn, Jasper Fenn, Arthur Hughes, Desley Murray, Paityn Wilson, Easton Ernewein* and *Oaklyn Ernewein* who will be baptised this weekend in our Parish.

We pray for all those who have died, especially *Francis Jayaraj* whose funeral rites were celebrated last week, and *Sylvester O'Dempsey* whose funeral will be on 3 April and *Ruth Reeves* whose funeral rites will be on 13 April. 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.



His Grace
Most reverend Mark Coleridge
Archbishop of Brisbane
warmly invites the people of Stella Maris Parish to the annual
Chrism Mass
at the Cathedral of St Stephen
on Thursday 30 March at 7.00pm

Catholic Encounter Kids Day 2023

The Ultimate gift for your child or grandchild 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 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



Last Call

Last call for those interested in attending the Archdiocesan Summit 23. There will be a group price and, if necessary, billeting options for those staying in town. Email Fr Will to register your interest - aupitoiulianow@bne.catholic.net.au



Our faith is full of symbols that invite us, if we take the time, to look beyond what we see and use our God-given imagination to appreciate a deeper meaning. Over the weeks of Lent our sanctuary and the Blessed Sacrament chapel window at Stella Maris has resonated with the themes of desert and water, death and new life, journey and destination – themes which powerfully reflect these days of Lent and the potential of Easter. As we ponder the remaining days of Lent and the events of Holy Week may our senses and imagination be drawn into the symbols and mystery of the Resurrection.

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 March

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

Tuesday, 28 March

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

Wednesday, 29 March

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

Thursday, 30 March

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

Friday, 31 March

- ◆ **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, 1 April

- ◆ No Individual reconciliation this Saturday. Instead you are invited to the Communal Rite of Reconciliation at Caloundra at 9am or on Monday, 3 April 5pm at Stella Maris.
- ◆ **Vigil Mass** (4.30pm, St Peter's Church)
- ◆ **Vigil Mass** (6.00pm, Stella Maris Church).

Sunday, 2 April

- ◆ Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord - 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.



Catholic Education in our Stella Maris Parish Family

Siena Catholic Primary School

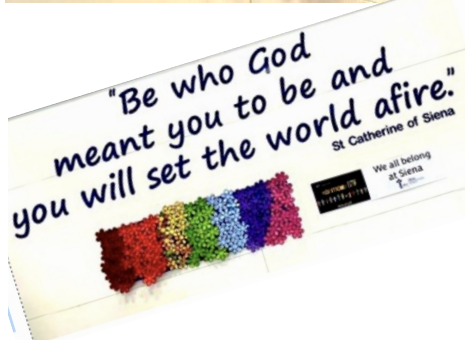
58 Sippy Downs Drive,
Sippy Downs
psippydowns@bne.catholic.edu.au
Principal: Glen Bucklar



Harmony Week 2023

This week, March 20-26, is Harmony Week. The theme for this year is Everyone Belongs. Our Well-being Year 6 Leadership committee cut out over 100 flowers with over 600 petals – one for each student. On each petal we shared why we feel we belong in our class and at Siena. You can find these flowers in our artwork “Siena’s Inclusive Flower Orchard” on the back wall of the Daintree (school hall), which was coordinated by our Guidance Officer, Emily Tredrea. The message of the artwork is that it is our differences that make us unique, special and valued in our beautiful community – just like a garden of flowers.

To celebrate Harmony Week we will be showing *Care for Others* through small acts of kindness, including others, helping others in need, and helping everyone to feel that they belong at Siena.



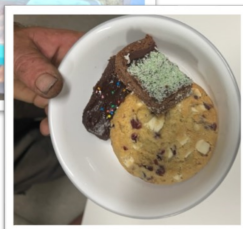
Stella Maris Primary School

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



Sometimes it seems that schools spend a lot of time talking about school values and encouraging students to put them into action. At the beginning of the year we are setting expectations, establishing routines, practising behaviours and building confidence. We reflect on how Jesus has taught us to live, making links to our school story and community for inspiration. As the term progresses, it's about targeting learning, harnessing energies and identifying needs. As we reach the end of our school term, it is so rewarding to look back at the achievements and progress made. We couldn't be more proud than when we have students putting their learning into action.

As part of Year 6 Religion this term, the students have been investigating the scriptural foundations for the corporal and spiritual works of mercy (Matthew 25:31-46) and how individuals and groups can apply these in their lives. The students were then asked to plan a service project that could be implemented in our Stella Maris community. While lots of ideas were impressive, special mention has to go to Lucy and Sarai, who took on their project with great passion, baking goods and donating them to the Stella BBQ last Friday night to support those in need and feed the hungry. All the treats that they donated were loved by those who attended as there were none left at the end of the night.



Siena Catholic College

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



First term is rapidly coming to a close, and teachers and students have moved into the assessment phase of their work units. Exams, assignments, oral presentations, videos and art pieces have all been completed or submitted, so that teachers can identify how student knowledge and understanding has grown.

Wednesday was the opportunity for our Year 8 and 9 students to gather at St Catherine's for the weekly Community Mass. In his homily, Fr Will asked students to consider *what it means to be invited to the participate in the Divine Dance, and how we might show our acceptance of this invitation by the way we live our lives.*

This week we marked *Harmony Day* with several events. All students joined in themed prayers each morning – recalling that *it is through the example of Jesus that we see how to treat each other with dignity and respect ... so that we might build a community in which the gifts and talents of all are acknowledged and appreciated.* Other events included a Filipino dance class and a display of flags from the more than 25 nations represented at the College.

Friday saw us again working to support Caritas, with Ozanam's much-appreciated ice cream stall, and another instalment of the very entertaining Lunch on the Lawn.

