

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.

The Gospels always have little details that often get missed in the reading of the story. It's true that everything should be read in context and that we should avoid "cherry picking" scriptures to fit our agendas or narratives.

That being said, this small detail from our Gospel today opens the doors to a whole new world of understanding. Whenever words or phrases are repeated, then the Gospel writer is trying to attract our attention to that particular thing.

We hear at the beginning of our Gospel today, "the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were." Towards the end of the Gospel we hear again, "the doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them."

There's no real consensus on what this phrase, "doors were closed", might mean but perhaps these reflections might be worth exploring as a part of our prayer times in the coming week.

In close relation to the phrase "the doors were closed" is the other phrase, "Jesus came and stood among them." The closed doors in this regard, reveal to us that even for the risen Christ nothing can keep him away from being present. Christ is no longer subject to the finitude of time and space but now Christ is omnipresent, a trait belonging to his truly divine nature thereby validating the divinity of Christ's resurrection. This was not just a hoax but Jesus' resurrection was real!

The Greek word for door here is θύρα (thura) which could also mean **an opportunity**. When the doors were first closed, it was, as we're told, "for fear of the Jews." The second instance of the doors being closed was situated within the disbelief of Thomas the apostle. Here, the "closed door" phrase acts as a metaphor for the way a person would avoid receiving the resurrected Christ, either through fear or disbelief. If we want to receive Jesus' resurrection then we're to be people of courage with faith in Christ's new life.

Finally, Jesus, earlier in John's Gospel, tells the people in one of His great **I AM** statements that He is the "gate" or the "door" to the sheepfold (10:7). As Jesus enters into the rooms with "closed doors" He reiterates this notion that He Himself is now the doorway into everlasting life. Although we might live in fear and disbelief Christ is the way forward and through Christ we can walk in confidence. Through Christ we can open doors.

Each position provides us with a unique point of reflection, all coming back to the person of Christ. Jesus is omnipresent, our source of courage and faith, and also our doorway into new life. Christ has risen from the dead. May our pondering of this great mystery help us to experience more deeply the resurrected Christ alive in this world and hopefully alive in our lives.

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
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PARISH NEWSLETTER FOR SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

Weekend of the 15/16 April 2023

First Reading: Acts 2:42-47 Second Reading: 1 Pet 1:3-9

Gospel: John 20:19-31

Enrol Now For Confirmation This Year

The start of our Sacramental Program for 2023 is not too far away - if you have a child in Grade 3 or older, now is the time to enrol - this is our parish's only Confirmation program this year. Simply go online now at maroochydoreparish.com.au For any questions please contact Carrolyn Watt at the Parish Office.



Gathering Together As One Big Parish Family

The face of the world is changing and we, as a community of believers, reflect the many people of God's world. Our parish is planning to have a Multi-Cultural Mass and celebration on Sunday 18 June, and we invite everyone from the different communities who make up our parish to come to a preparation meeting at 9.30am on Saturday 6 May in the Parish Office boardroom. Your involvement will help us to prepare a celebration which will reflect our diversity and rich faith tradition. Contact the Parish Office (5443 3488) if you are interested in being involved in any way.

Pastoral Care of Patients in Hospital

Please consider joining this team of people who seek to respond to the religious, spiritual and pastoral needs of the patients, their families and the staff at Buderim Private Hospital (this is different to our team that bring Holy Communion to the patients). You will be supported, and provided with a formation program offered by the hospital as preparation before you start. An initial enquiry meeting for any interested parishioners will be on Saturday, April 22 at 9.30am at the Parish Office. Please contact the parish office (5443 3488) if you are interested.

Next Step - Communion to the Sick in Hospital

All those who have volunteered to take Holy Communion to the patients at Buderim Private Hospital are now invited to attend the "onboarding" required at the hospital before commencing this ministry. There are two opportunities - Thursday 27 April - either 10.00am or at 2.00pm. Please let the Parish Office (5443 3488) know which you will be attending.

Ministry to the Sick in Nursing Homes and at Home

As we come out of all the covid restrictions everyone who takes Holy Communion to those who can't join us at Mass or to nursing homes are invited to attend a meeting at 9.30am on Saturday 29 April in the Parish Office boardroom. This is to ensure we are compliant with Safeguarding, and use best practice guidelines in our parish. We look forward to all who are involved in this valuable ministry joining us then. Please call the Parish Office (5443 3488) so we know numbers attending.

Remember and Celebrate

This Friday, 21 April, we will hold a morning tea after the 9.00am Mass at Stella Maris Church for all those in our parish who have lost someone. Please feel welcome to join us for a cuppa.

Farewell for Juanita

The interment of Juanita Hartkopf's ashes will be following the 9.30am Mass this Sunday, 16 April, at St Mary's Church. Juanita was involved in many ministries over the years, and everyone is invited to join the family.

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, 17 April

- ◆ Adoration 4.30pm, Stella Maris
- ◆ **Liturgy of the Word** (5.30pm, Stella Maris Church)

Tuesday, 18 April

- ◆ **Mass** (9.00am, Stella Maris School Chapel). All Welcome.
- ◆ Parish Finance Council meeting.

Wednesday, 19 April

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

Thursday, 20 April

- ◆ **Mass** (8.30am, St Peter's Church)
- ◆ St Vincent de Paul Society (Coolum) meeting.

Friday, 21 April

- ◆ **Mass** (9am, Stella Maris)
- ◆ Bereavement morning tea (following 9am Mass)
- ◆ Encounter Kids (St Catherine's)
- ◆ Community Meal for the Homeless, Vulnerable and Disadvantaged (6pm, Stella Maris)

Saturday, 22 April

- ◆ Reconciliation 8.30am to 9.30am (Stella Maris)
- ◆ Planning Meeting (9.30am, Parish Office, Pastoral Care at Buderim Private Hospital)
- ◆ 10am Baptism of Darcy Wright, Lucie Herrera, Breeze and Sunny Schwartz, Amara McKeown (Stella Maris Church)
- ◆ 10am Baptism of Oliver, Ella and Mia Reilly (St Catherine's)
- ◆ 10am Interment of Roly Dargusch (St Mary's)
- ◆ 11am El Shaddai group meets (Sippy Downs)
- ◆ **Vigil Mass** (4.30pm, St Peter's Church)
- ◆ **Vigil Mass** (6.00pm, Stella Maris Church)

Sunday, 23 April

- ◆ **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)

Celebrating and Remembering

We welcome into God's Family, the Church, *Juliette & William Roberts, Armani Kharouni, Sonny Ingram, Nivelle, Ezekiel & Syllas Kelly, Chloe Proctor, Darcy Siddaway, Isla & Maizie Spring* who will be baptised this weekend in our Parish.

We pray for all those who have died, especially *Tony Palmero* whose funeral rites will be celebrated this Friday. 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.

Palm Sunday



Thursday of the Lord's Supper



Good Friday

Polish Blessing of the Food



Easter Saturday Vigil

