

# PARISH NEWSLETTER FOR FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Weekend of the 29/30 April 2023

First Reading: Acts 2:14, 36-41 Second Reading: 1 Pet 2:20-25 Gospel: John 10:1-10

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 Gospel for this Sunday is brief in comparison with those of the past few weeks. The soothing, reassuring image of the Good Shepherd is easy for us to picture. We are the cute, cuddly, frisky sheep; and Jesus is the strong and caring shepherd who keeps us from harm. The key to this image is that the sheep listen. *The sheep hear his voice, one by one he calls his own sheep and leads them out... the sheep follow because they know his voice.*

I don't know about you, but my world is full of voices and noise and sounds that easily distract and confuse. How do I hear the voice of the Good Shepherd amid, and in spite of, all the other noises? That is the great challenge of being a disciple, being part of the flock that is called Stella Maris Parish.

For a Christian, prayer is the most obvious way in which we listen to God. However, sometimes we make the mistake of thinking that if we don't pray then God is not present. **We don't pray to make God present to us. God is already present. We pray to make ourselves present to God.** God, as the English writer Sheila Cassidy colourfully puts it, is no more present in church than in a drinking bar, but we generally are more present to God in church than we are in a drinking bar. The problem of presence is not with God, but with us.

But if we seriously want to make ourselves present to God then we will need discipline, focus and determination. Like gaining anything worthwhile in life, *there are no shortcuts!*

The first step is to discern the sound of the Good Shepherd, to be able to identify his voice in the midst of so many distractions. To have any chance of this happening this week requires us consciously setting aside some time for prayer. If we are disciplined enough to begin each day in silence, or take advantage of morning Mass, or are creative and structure some time during the day where we can pray, then we stand a chance of discerning the voice of the shepherd and being attentive to his directions. If we don't, then our senses will be overwhelmed with the competing noise and sounds of our modern, secular world.

But, *and this is the bonus*, in making ourselves present to God we run the risk of also becoming attentive to the richness of our own lives! Too often we are not present to the beauty, love, and grace that brim within the ordinary moments of our lives. There is a haziness to our lives that can develop and, if we are not careful, days slip into weeks that quickly become months, and before we know it, yet another year has slipped by. The beauty, richness and uniqueness of our lives is there for us to claim. Unfortunately more often than not, we are too busy or not disciplined enough to be in the same space.

**So, if the secret to prayer is not to try to make God present, but to make ourselves present to God, the secret to finding beauty and love in life is basically the same.**

To embrace the true joy of this Easter season is to be attentive to the voice of the Good Shepherd. *When he has brought out his flock, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow because they know his voice.* So this week have the discipline, make the time and don't expect the Good Shepherd to carry a megaphone!

Wishing you and yours every blessing 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](mailto:suncoast@bne.catholic.net.au)  
Website: [maroochydoreparish.com.au](http://maroochydoreparish.com.au)



## The Journey of Faith Continues

To launch our Sacramental Programme for 2023 we invited Jesuit author and theologian, **Fr Richard Leonard** to speak to the parents of children preparing to make their Confirmation. Last Monday evening at Stella Maris, Fr Richard explored the work that the Australian Church does today because it is important that, as parents, they know what their children are being Confirmed into. Fr Richard then reflected upon the Gifts of the Holy Spirit and how, in practical ways, they impact the choices we make day in, day out. Finally, Fr Richard challenged us, as parents and parishioners, to be open to the Holy Spirit in our lives, allowing the Spirit to guide our actions and trusting enough to make the sometimes scary choices that we are called to make because of our faith.

Moving forward for all those who attended the above Parent Information Night, on the weekend of May 13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup> across our parish there will be **Enrolment Masses** for our Confirmation candidates whereby we will officially acknowledge them as candidates for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

On Monday evening, May 15<sup>th</sup>, at 5pm at Stella Maris, the **first parent and candidate preparation session** will take place – please note there will be no Monday evening Mass.

On Monday evening, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, at 5pm at Stella Maris the **second parent and candidate preparation session** will take place – please note there will be no Monday evening Mass.

On Monday evening, May 29<sup>th</sup>, at 5pm at Stella Maris the **third parent and candidate preparation session** will take place – please note there will be no Monday evening Mass.

On Monday evening, June 5<sup>th</sup> at Stella Maris the **final parent and candidate preparation session** will take place which

will include a rehearsal – please note there will be no Monday evening Mass.

On Thursday evening, June 8<sup>th</sup>, at Stella Maris we will celebrate the **Sacrament of Confirmation**.

As our young candidates and their families journey towards celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation we pray that the Holy Spirit will guide them and that we might be a Parish Family that visibly reflects the Holy Spirit at work in our lives in the example we give and in the choices we make.


## A hilarious, coming-of-age musical about discovering that “cool” is sometimes where we least expect it


Geek. Poser. Jock. Beauty Queen. Wannabe. These are the labels that can last a lifetime. With an unforgettable rock score from Tony Award-winning composer, Jason Robert Brown, (*Parade, The Last Five Years, Bridges of Madison County*) *13* is a musical about fitting in – and standing out!

Evan Goldman is plucked from his fast-paced, preteen New York City life and plopped into a sleepy Indiana town following his parents’ divorce. Surrounded by an array of middle school students, he needs to establish his place in the popularity pecking order. Can he situate himself on a comfortable link of the food chain... or will he discover there are more important things in life than being popular?

To reserve your tickets just go to: <https://theeventscentre.com.au/.../siena-catholic.../>

SIENA CATHOLIC COLLEGE'S  
Production of





**13**  
the musical

**TICKETS ON SALE**

Music & Lyrics by  
Jason Robert Brown


Book by Dan Elish  
and Robert Horn

3 Performances ...70 cast members

Wednesday 3 May	7pm
Thursday 4 May	7pm
Friday 5 May	7pm

Tickets  
**\$25**

BOOK NOW

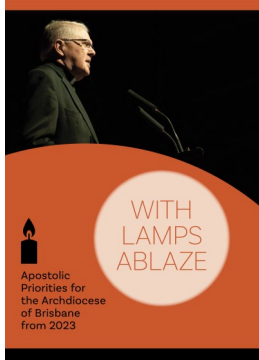


THE EVENTS CENTRE Caloundra  
[www.theeventscentre.com.au](http://www.theeventscentre.com.au)

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## With Lamps Ablaze



In the lead up to the Archdiocesan Summit, Archbishop Mark has published a document entitled "With Lamps Ablaze: Apostolic Priorities for the Archdiocese of Brisbane from 2023" which outlines seven priorities for our local Church. You can read the document at:

[www.tinyurl.com/lampsablaze](http://www.tinyurl.com/lampsablaze)

### Priority Two: Reshaping Parish Communities

*"Our current structures are based upon the facts of an earlier time and our current mode of provision is unsustainable. In the cities at least we have too many parishes and too many churches. Urban parishes were established on the assumption that people had to be able to walk to church and at a time when the numbers attending Mass were much larger. Many of our parishes are pressed financially and cannot provide the range of services which a missionary Church requires. Therefore, we need – sensibly and over time – to move towards larger configurations of a community of communities where the concentration of personnel and the sharing of resources would allow a greater range of services for the sake of the Gospel."* **Archbishop Mark Coleridge**

## Anointing and Healing Mass

Every First Friday there is an Anointing & Healing Mass at Stella Maris followed by morning tea in the function room. The next Anointing Mass will be this coming Friday at 9am.

## Baptismal Preparation

The next baptismal preparation session will be held on this Thursday evening at 6pm. At this short meeting the symbols of baptism will be explained, questions answered and baptismal dates finalised. To book in and receive the paperwork before the meeting please email the Parish office: [suncoast@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:suncoast@bne.catholic.net.au). The baptismal preparation sessions are held on the first Thursday of every month.

## Hospitality Next Weekend

The first weekend of the month has been designated as our hospitality weekend across our Parish Family. To be a welcoming and friendly parish we need to be a hospitable parish! Everyone is invited to stay after Mass next weekend and meet fellow parishioners and visitors – why not give us a hand by bringing along a plate?

## Unity in our Incredible Diversity

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 next 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 want more information - *together this will be a great celebration of faith.*

## 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, 1 May Labour Day

- ♦ Adoration 4.30pm, Stella Maris
- ♦ **Mass** (5.30pm, Stella Maris Church)
- ♦ Librum Et Legere Club meeting (Stella Maris)

### Tuesday, 2 May

- ♦ **Mass** (9.00am, Stella Maris School Chapel).

### Wednesday, 3 May

- ♦ **Mass** (7am, St Mary's Church)
- ♦ **Mass** (9am, St Catherine of Siena Church).
- ♦ Scripture Study Group (9.30am, Zoom).

### Thursday, 4 May

- ♦ **Mass** (8.30am, St Peter's Church)
- ♦ St Vincent de Paul Society (Coolum) meeting.
- ♦ 2pm Rosary & Divine Mercy (Stella Maris)
- ♦ Baptism Preparation for infants and young children (6pm, Stella Maris Church)

### Friday, 5 May

- ♦ **Anointing & Healing Mass** (9am, Stella Maris)
- ♦ Community Meal for the Homeless, Vulnerable and Disadvantaged (6pm, Stella Maris)

### Saturday, 6 May

- ♦ **First Saturday Mass** (8am, Stella Maris)
- ♦ Reconciliation 8.30am to 9.30am (Stella Maris)
- ♦ Preparation Meeting for our Multi-Cultural Mass in June. 9.30am, Parish Office meeting room. All Welcome.
- ♦ 10am Baptism of Evelyn Hopson, Leo Hocken, Caiden Nelson-Scaliora and Mia McGuinness (Stella Maris)
- ♦ **Vigil Mass** (4.30pm, St Peter's Church)
- ♦ **Vigil Mass** (6.00pm, Stella Maris Church)

### Sunday, 7 May

Fifth Sunday of Easter - 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)
- ♦ 10am Baptism of Ollie Kennedy (Stella Maris)
- ♦ **Mass** (5pm, Stella Maris Church), including Children's Church.

## Celebrating and Remembering

We welcome into God's Family, the Church, **Adelina Morley** who will be baptised this weekend in our Parish.

We pray for all those who have died, especially **Jim Rush**, whose Funeral Rites will be celebrated in Toowoomba this week. This Friday's Stella Maris Mass will be a Memorial Mass for Jim. May the souls of all our departed priests, religious, parishioners and family members, through the rich mercy of God,

**Rest in Peace.**

# 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 – What a Great Morning!

Well done to all the Siena Primary children, staff and family members who walked, danced, and smiled their way through our hour-long **Laps for Life and Laundry** venture on the last day of Term 1 for Caritas, St Vinnies, and Orange Sky Laundry through our Project Compassion Quest for Lent. What a terrific atmosphere of joy, community spirit and commitment to assist our poorest of poor in the world.

Many thanks to all those who donated to our venture including family businesses, school families, children, staff and parishioners.

We are so truly humbled by the response from our Siena Primary family **raising over \$11,000** for the most vulnerable. WOW!

This is our call, as Christians, to assist the marginalised and the charity shown by our Siena community reflects God's love in action.



## Stella Maris Primary School

Stella Maris Way,  
Maroochydore

pmaroochydore@bne.catholic.edu.au

Principal: Mark Ballam



There is no doubt that if our original ANZACs could have seen the engagement of the Stella Maris Catholic Primary School community their hearts would have swelled with pride. The spirit of those ANZACs continues to touch hearts and impact the lives of even the littlest Australians, over a hundred years after the first ANZACs arrived at the shores of Gallipoli.

Our formal acknowledgement of ANZAC Day began with a whole school prayer assembly. While our Year 6 students led us in prayer and reflection, Mr Ballam spoke about how we can honour the legacy of the ANZACs today. Our *Stella Fellas* choir performed a soul-stirring rendition of The Last ANZAC before each class placed a wreath in our sacred space. Mrs McNamara (a current staff member and past member of the Royal Australian Navy) recited The Ode and then you could have heard a pin drop during the playing of the Last Post, the minute silence and the Reveille. After a spirited singing of the National Anthem, we all followed the procession of wreaths to where they were displayed on our Path of Remembrance.

And then on ANZAC Day itself, a record number of over 200 students and staff represented the school in the march from the Maroochydore RSL and following service.

May we all continue to learn from the past, look to the future with hope and live like Jesus taught us.



## Siena Catholic College

60 Sippy Downs Drive,  
Sippy Downs

ssippydowns@bne.catholic.edu.au

Acting Principal: Pat Toohey



What an incredibly busy two weeks we have had. Week One began with school photos and there was much tying back of hair and polishing of smiles - in preparation for the taking of a perfect image to grace the refrigerator door of grandparents everywhere. Sport also played a big part in the week, as Rugby teams across all year levels took to the field and all students ran the often-muddy Cross Country track.

An assembly for ANZAC Day was on the agenda for Monday of Week Two. We joined with Siena Primary School for a solemn ceremony that recalled those who fought for our country, as well as those who did not return to receive the welcome and gratitude of their nation. On Tuesday morning, hundreds of our students attended Dawn Services across the Coast, with many later regathering for the Buderim Honour March.

Wednesday saw our Year 12 students depart for their 3-day Retreat experience. The program saw them reflect on how *in the stillness of our soul we find the courage to dare greatly*. They returned to the College on Friday afternoon - tired but grateful for the opportunity to further bond as a cohort.

After months of work, our talented singers, actors, dancers and musicians take to the stage next week for our biennial College Musical – come along, it promises to be a fabulous production.

