

# PARISH NEWSLETTER FOR FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Weekend of the 6/7 May 2023

First Reading: Acts 6:1-7 Second Reading: 1 Pet 2:4-9 Gospel: John 14:1-12

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.

### JESUS THE CORNERSTONE

In recent times, construction companies in Australia have taken strain with shortages in building materials, which has led to delays in building projects that has resulted in some companies going into liquidation. Having the correct materials and building skills is essential to complete buildings that meet safety standards. Since ancient times, builders have used cornerstones in their construction projects. A cornerstone was the principal stone, usually placed at the corner of a structure, to guide the workers in their course. The cornerstone was usually one of the largest, the most solid, and the most carefully constructed or chosen of any in the structure. The Bible describes Jesus as the cornerstone upon which His church is built. He is foundational. Once the cornerstone was set, it became the basis for determining every measurement in the remaining construction; everything was aligned to it. As the Cornerstone of the building of the Church, Jesus is our standard of measure and alignment.

The scriptures speak a lot about rocks and stones. The book of Isaiah has many references to the coming Messiah and in several places the Messiah is referred to as "the cornerstone".

In the New Testament, the cornerstone metaphor is continued. St Paul desires for the Ephesian Christians to know Christ better: *"Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord"* (Ephesians 2:19– 21).

What Isaiah said centuries before is affirmed by St Peter in this week's second reading. Jesus, as our cornerstone, is "chosen by God and precious to Him". The Cornerstone is also reliable, and "the one who trusts in Him will never be put to shame."

Unfortunately, not everyone aligns with the Cornerstone. Some accept Christ; some reject Him. Jesus is the *"stone the builders rejected"* (Mark 12:10). Jesus was in fact rejected many times during his life on earth, but most especially at his crucifixion where he paid the ultimate price for our salvation.

How can people reject God's chosen, precious Cornerstone? Simply put, they want to build something different from what God is building. Jesus is indeed our Cornerstone and the rock of our salvation.

We pray that in our troubled world today, more people will look to Jesus as the Cornerstone and foundation on which our salvation is built. Jesus said, *"I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father except through Me"*.

*Deacon Michael Khoury*

#### 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)

## Hospitality this Weekend.

The first weekend of the month has a hospitality focus for our parish family and everyone is invited to join us after Mass for light refreshments. Thank you to all the coordinators who generously help make this happen each month. Bon appetite !

## The Journey Towards Confirmation

Preparation has well and truly begun for 90 of our younger parishioners as they continue on the journey towards receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation. Over the next 4 Monday afternoons at 5pm they will gather at Stella Maris to complete their workbooks – this Monday they will be reflecting and remembering their Baptism and what it means to be known by God and be an important part of the church. We keep these young boys and girls and their families in our prayers during these weeks – **please note that over these next 4 weeks while the preparation is on there will be no 5:30pm Monday Mass.**

## Eucharistic Ministers

Our Eucharistic Ministers who take Holy Communion to our fellow Catholics who are sick, housebound or who reside in one of the numerous aged care facilities within our Parish, undertake a vital ministry that we don't take for granted. For many, our Eucharistic Ministers are the link that keeps the connection with our Parish Community alive and they act as the visible face of the Church. Last Saturday morning all the Communion Ministers gathered at Stella Maris to reflect upon their ministry and to ensure they were following the correct protocols. Every year we are required to send to the Archbishop the names of those who are commissioned as Eucharistic Ministers and last Saturday's gathering allowed us also to agree upon our Parish protocols.

- ~Only designated Eucharistic Ministers are permitted to take Holy Communion from the Church.
- ~The ministry takes place on the day and preferably the Eucharistic Minister is commissioned at the end of Mass.
- ~Before Mass starts the Eucharistic minister records their details so that there is a record.

Once again, we are blessed as a community to have so many generous parishioners who are willing to give of their time to fulfil this important ministry. If you would like to join this ministry please contact Fr Peter or Fr William.

## A Little Care

We are fortunate to have those large glass doors at Stella Maris that open up to provide excellent ventilation and additional capacity when we have big crowds. The long bolts on the doors are very sensitive and break easily – and every time we replace a bolt it costs \$400. Please talk to one of the Mass coordinators or the sacristan if you have any questions regarding the doors – thank you.

## Problem Solving

Next Friday, May 12, after the 9am Mass we continue with our Technology of the Third Age gatherings at Stella Maris. It is a chance to gather and explore some of the tricks in dealing with our modern iPhones and iPads and together find solutions to those annoying problems that prevent us from getting the most out of our iPhones and iPads. Everyone is welcome – *bring your devices!*

## The Marriage Course

When did you last spend time really investing in your relationship? Regardless of whether you've been together for only a few months or several decades, whether your relationship is thriving or facing challenges, the Marriage Course offers practical, online sessions to help strengthen your most important relationship. No group sharing, just time together for you and your partner.

Be supported and encouraged with seven online sessions in the privacy of your own home covering topics from the art of communication, to resolving conflict, to the power of forgiveness.

**Time:** 7:30pm to 9pm

**Date:** Wednesday nights beginning 31st May 2023 (for seven sessions with a break over school holidays, finishing on 26th July)

**Where:** Online Zoom link will be shared after registration

**Cost:** Course is free. Option to purchase journals at \$50 per couple or to download the PDF version for free

**RSVP:** Wednesday 24th May

Find out more and register now at [tinyurl.com/tmcmay23](https://tinyurl.com/tmcmay23)

## We Need You

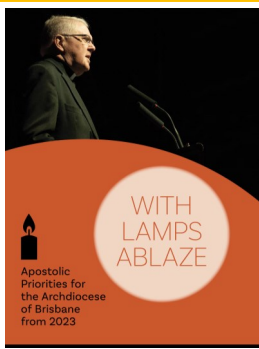
Perhaps the old adage is true – *to sing is to pray twice!* We are in need of additional parishioners willing to lend their voice and help lead the singing at Mass on a Sunday morning. Also, an invitation is extended to any young musician who would like to join the team that leads the Sunday evening Stella Maris Mass – it's a great experience and an avenue to develop your musical skills. For more information please contact Michael Fitzpatrick [mfitzpatrick@ozemail.com.au](mailto:mfitzpatrick@ozemail.com.au)

## Celebrating and Remembering

We welcome into God's Family, the Church, *Evelyn Hopson, Leo Sol Hocken, Caiden Nelson-Scaliora, Mia McGuinness* and *Olliella Kennedy* who will be baptised this weekend in our Parish.

We pray for all those who have died, especially *Slav Jordanovich* and *Bernard Bennett* whose funerals will be celebrated throughout the week. May the souls of all our departed priests, religious, parishioners and family members, through the rich mercy of God,

**Rest in Peace.**



## 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 Four: Responding to Abuse and the Abused

*“In responding to abuse and the abused, we need to move beyond considerations of law and finance... Of course, we need to attend to legal and financial matters, but the paramount concern needs to be the good of those abused. Not all victims and survivors look to the Church for spiritual and pastoral accompaniment and care, but some do and others may in time, if ever trust can be established. We can learn from experience elsewhere in seeking to respond more effectively to abuse and the abused. Unless we do, this will remain a gaping wound – certainly for victims and survivors but for the whole Church as well – which makes it hard for us to move in the future.”*

Archbishop Mark Coleridge



Last Sunday the community at Sippy Downs celebrated the feast day of their patron saint, Catherine of Siena. Bishop Brian Heenan was the celebrant at Mass and it was followed by a greatly appreciated morning tea. Thank you to all who helped make the occasion so memorable especially the coordination undertaken by Catherine of Siena primary school.



## 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, 8 May

- ◆ Confirmation preparation at Stella Maris church—*reminder*—no 5pm Mass today.
- ◆ Librum Et Legere Club meeting (Stella Maris)

### Tuesday, 9 May

- ◆ **Mass** (9.00am, Stella Maris School Chapel).
- ◆ **Mass** (10.30am, St Vincent’s Care Services, Maroochydore)
- ◆ Parish Finance Council meeting
- ◆ St Peter’s Craft group (1.00pm, Coolum Beach)

### Wednesday, 10 May

- ◆ **Mass** (7am, St Mary’s Church).
- ◆ **Mass** (9am, St Catherine of Siena Church).
- ◆ St Vincent de Paul Society (Maroochydore) meeting.
- ◆ Scripture Study Group (9.30am, Zoom).
- ◆ Funeral of Slav Jordanovich, 12noon at OLR Caloundra.
- ◆ Funeral of Bernard Bennett, 1.00pm at Chapel, Gregson & Weight Buderim.
- ◆ St Peter’s Community Team meeting.
- ◆ St Mary’s Community Team meeting.
- ◆ Stella Maris Community team meeting.
- ◆ Latin American Prayer Group (6pm, Function Room, Maroochydore)

### Thursday, 11 May

- ◆ **Mass** (8.30am, St Peter’s Church)
- ◆ 2pm Rosary & Divine Mercy (Stella Maris)

### Friday, 12 May

- ◆ **Mass** (9am, Stella Maris)
- ◆ Technology of the Third Age - Android devices (10am, Stella Maris Church)
- ◆ Community Meal for the Homeless, Vulnerable and Disadvantaged (6pm, Stella Maris)

### Saturday, 13 May

- ◆ Reconciliation 8.30am to 9.30am (Stella Maris)
- ◆ 10am Baptism of Melissa Morita, Lennox Sergeant, Cooper Thompson, Aliyah Thurston, Justin Clarito (Stella Maris)
- ◆ 11am El Shaddai group meets (Sippy Downs)
- ◆ **Vigil Mass** (4.30pm, St Peter’s Church)
- ◆ **Vigil Mass** (6.00pm, Stella Maris Church)

### Sunday, 14 May

## Sixth 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)
- ◆ **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.*

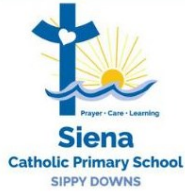
# Catholic Education in our Stella Maris Parish Family

## Siena Catholic Primary School

58 Sippy Downs Drive,  
Sippy Downs

psippydowns@bne.catholic.edu.au

Principal: Glen Bucklar



On Friday 28<sup>th</sup>, Siena Primary celebrated the feast day Of St Catherine of Siena.

We came together for a beautiful happy liturgy to honour and pray to St Catherine to be people of Prayer, Care and Learning in our everyday lives. Year 3 led the school in songs, readings and prayers before the children continued the celebrations with buddy activities.

It was a joyous morning with buddy classes. Activities included painting, lily making, games of the 1300s and a kahoot quiz on St Catherine for some classes.

The morning of festivities finished with a game of Staff vs Year 6 in kick tennis in the hall being cheered on by the remainder of the school.

We are so blessed to have St Catherine of Siena as our patron saint. Her wisdom in words, her dedication and devotion to a life of service to the Lord is an inspiration for us to mirror in our daily lives at Siena to be people of Prayer, Care and Learning.

Our quote from St Catherine that we live by at Siena is,

**'Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world afire'.**



## Stella Maris Primary School

Stella Maris Way,  
Maroochydore

pmaroochydore@bne.catholic.edu.au

Principal: Mark Ballam



May, in the Catholic Church, is traditionally (since the 13th Century!) celebrated as the *Month of Mary*, a time to honour Mary, mother of Jesus and mother of the Church. This time allows us to acknowledge both Mary's privileged relationship to Jesus and her symbolic relationship to the Church as a role model and woman of faith. Learning about Mary is part of the RE curriculum for all our students:

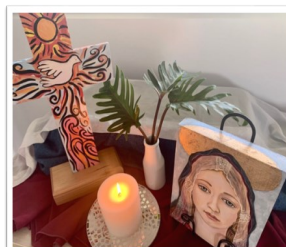
In **Prep**, students listen and respond to stories that tell of Jesus' mother Mary, his family and friends.

In **Year 1**, students recognise some ways in which believers past and present honour Mary, Mother of Jesus, including praying the Hail Mary. Our Year 1 students created our Mary Garden at school.

In **Year 5**, students examine Mary's role as mother of Jesus and mother of the Church. They analyse the elements and features of some Marian prayers including the Hail Mary, the Rosary and the Litany of the Mary of Nazareth to describe the role of Marian prayer in the lives of believers past and present.

In **Years 2-4 and 6**, while there is not a specific focus on Mary, students reflect on Mary's role in Jesus' birth, his ministry and his final days; and then in being part of the early Christian community.

How are you celebrating Mary this May?



## Siena Catholic College

60 Sippy Downs Drive,  
Sippy Downs

ssippydowns@bne.catholic.edu.au

Acting Principal: Pat Toohey



We caught our breath on Monday during the Labour Day Public Holiday - in preparation for what promised to be another busy week.

Our Year 7s had an opportunity for reflection this week. On Wednesday morning they gathered with Parishioners for the Community Mass at St Catherine's, while on Friday they were at the Innovation Centre with Michael Fitzpatrick for their Reflection Day. Both events were wonderful opportunities for them to take time to reflect on how their first year of High School is progressing.

The performances of our College Musical (*13 The Musical*) have concluded, and we congratulate the students and staff who spent many months preparing for the presentation of three wonderful shows. Well done!

