

# SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Weekend of 29/30 July 2023

First Reading: 1 Kings 3:5, 7-12 Second Reading: Romans 8:28-30 Gospel: Matthew 13:44-52

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

Dear Friends, Thank You!

As you read this I am either 30 or 31 days ordained a Priest and it's been a wild ride already. Over these last 30/31 days there has been one clear theme for me - that theme being how generous and kind people are. Particularly how generous and kind you all have been to me during this ordination period.

Generosity, which is one of the fruits of the Spirit is an essential disposition for us all to cultivate because it is a virtue that articulates and orders people towards the source and goal of their Christian practice – God. Therefore, it is quite fitting that Holy Mother Church has prescribed the Gospel reading about the treasure, the pearl and the net. In these parables the essence lies not only in the act of giving but also in the rewards that follow. Jesus emphasises the abundant blessings bestowed upon those who embrace the virtue of generosity. When we give selflessly and wholeheartedly, we are promised the gift of finding something far more valuable than material possessions – a reward that can't be measured by temporal goods.

Moreover, as we embrace generosity, we engage in acts of kindness that impart grace and goodness to the lives of others. The parable of the fishing net that is cast into the sea is a reminder that our acts of kindness create a ripple effect, touching the hearts of numerous individuals. This means that the rewards of generosity extend to the individual and their circle of influence, inspiring them to spread kindness and love to others.

Furthermore, the parable of the master of the house who brings out treasures old and new encourages us to cherish the wisdom passed down through generations. Those who generously share their insights and experiences (take St Augustine as one example of many) not only leave a lasting impact on others but also contribute to the enrichment of collective knowledge and understanding. In other words, generosity can be shown through wisdom and knowledge as well as temporal goods.

Therefore, the rewards of generosity are seen not only in the next life but in this life as well. Generosity allows us to discover hidden treasures that enrich our lives and the lives of those around us, and better our chances at reaching the kingdom of heaven.

May the stories of the hidden treasure, the pearl of great value, and the other parables inspire us to continue to develop this wonderful spirit of generosity and kindness that is present here at Stella Maris Parish. As we share kindness, love, and compassion, we partake in a transformative journey that not only brings joy and fulfilment but also shapes a better, more compassionate world for all.

Again, I want to thank each and every one of you for the kindness and generosity that you have shown me over this last period. Thank you!

*Fr Isaac Falzon*

### At Your Service

Fr Peter Brannelly  
Fr William Aupito Iuliano  
Fr Isaac Falzon  
Fr Brian Connolly  
Deacon Michael Khoury



### Stella Maris Parish Office

Adjacent to the Stella Maris Church  
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Email: [suncoast@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:suncoast@bne.catholic.net.au)  
Website: [maroochyshoreparish.com.au](http://maroochyshoreparish.com.au)

## CHRISTMAS IN JULY - PHOTOS

It was a joyous occasion at our *Christmas in July* celebration, with 45 parishioners gathering with bells and whistles. Here are some photos of the occasion. Thank you to all those who attended. You made it a wonderful luncheon. We also thank Lorraine Nolan who organised the event.



## A SOCIAL GATHERING - NEXT WEEK

Come along on Tuesday to The Avenue café, for a social gathering with some parishioners. Only a few metres down the road from the Stella Maris Church, parishioners will enjoy some quality coffee with some quality company. We look forward to seeing you there at 10:30am.

## PARISH WELCOME NIGHT

We still have about a month before our next Parish Welcome Night, but we want to make sure that no one slips through the cracks. Good food will be provided by the master chefs of the area (Dominos!) but it's the company that matters the most. Join us with some of the local faces that make up this wonderful parish and be a part of the ministry and mission. Our next Parish Welcome night will be on the 21st of August at 6:00pm. We can't wait to meet all our new parishioners.

## GRANDPARENTS AND ELDERLY SUNDAY

To all the Grandparents and Elderly of our Parish - thank you! Without you this place would not operate. We have many volunteers who contribute to the upkeep and character of this Parish and we would like to honour each and every one of you. Last Sunday the Church Universal celebrated "Grandparents and Elderly Sunday". The Holy Father said, "Old age is indeed a blessed time, for it is the season to be reconciled, a time for looking tenderly at the light that has shone despite the shadows, confident in the hope that the good wheat sown by God will prevail over the weeds with which the devil has wanted to plague our hearts."

## THANK YOU!

Our Knights of the Southern Cross group have again generously donated their time and funds to support our First Holy Communion program. They often do a lot of work behind the scenes - thank you so much!



## IGNITE CONFERENCE

It's one of the largest Catholic gatherings in Australia! Ignite gathers the young and young-at-heart around the Sacraments, teachings and community to provide a space for our youth to grow in relationship with Jesus. We as a parish want to be intentional with Youth Ministry and see this experience as a springboard into the future of Youth Ministry within the parish. If you would like to be a part of this vision, extend an invitation to those young people within your life. If you're interested in attending this year's Conference which begins on Thursday 21 September and ends on Sunday 24 September then contact Fr Isaac or Carolyn Watt at the Parish Office.

## MYSTERY AND MISSION

Register now for the National Conference on Liturgy and Liturgical Music to be held in Brisbane from 28-30 September. It is rare to have expert liturgists, liturgical musicians and educators together in one place for three days of focussed input. In addition to six keynote presentations and over 50 workshops, there will be opportunities to engage in facilitated discussions, and to participate in the Conference Mass as well as Morning and Evening Prayer. Visit <https://mysteryandmission.com.au/> to register.

## XAVIER SCHOOL OF PREACHING

Do you have a gift of sharing the Gospel? Are you looking for an opportunity to develop your preaching skills? Evangelisation Brisbane, in partnership with Australian Catholic University, invites you to the Xavier School of Preaching, an opportunity for all the baptised to grow in the gift of preaching. The intensive experience includes input from preachers, practical formation and training workshops aimed at developing your capacity to communicate. The intensive begins on Thursday 24 August and finishes on Saturday 26 of August. Lessons will be given from Xavier Hall, Holy Spirit Seminary, 487 Earnshaw Rd, Banyo QLD 4014 and the cost is \$250 per person and \$125 concession. To find out more and register, follow the link by Tuesday 1st. <https://tinyurl.com/xsp2023>

## MEET THE PARISH

Last week we had our first 'Catechesis Corner' in the Newsletter, on the alternating week we will have a segment called 'Meet the Parish' where we will interview a Parishioner and hear a bit about their story. This week we would like to introduce you to Shirley Bell.



Shirley lives next door to the Stella Maris Church at St Vincent's Care, Maroochydore. Shirley came from the Blue Mountains in NSW and has fond memories of Fr Isaac's homily where he described the cloudiness of the Mountains "to a T." She moved into St Vincent's Care in 2020, and enjoys her time knitting and gardening. She's really proud of her flowers on her balcony which can be seen from ground floor. "It's the one with the Jesus statue, he has no hands." Shirley normally attends Sunday 9am Mass at Maroochydore. Nice to meet you Shirley!

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We've received a few volunteers to help at the Tierney's Café near the Presbytery, and still need some more. We are looking to have a network of volunteers so if you're still interested in being involved contact the Parish Office and leave your name. We'll show what to do. We will be in contact soon about the process.

## ANOINTING MASS

This coming Friday we have our Anointing Mass, Stella Maris at 9am. We often have a great turnout to the Mass. Take the time to invite a friend whom you know is in need of healing, either physically, spiritually, emotionally or psychologically. We have Morning Tea afterwards so stay behind and celebrate with us as you meet some new people. May the God of all healing continue to make us whole.

## HOSPITALITY NEXT WEEKEND

As well as our normal socialising next weekend, we will again be welcoming the children as they journey towards their First Holy Communion. There will especially be a lot of extra families at the 9.00am Mass next Sunday, how about bringing a plate to share!

## 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, 31 July

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

### Tuesday, 1 August

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

### Wednesday, 2 August

- ◆ **Mass** (7am, St Mary's Church).
- ◆ **Mass** (9am, St Catherine of Siena Church).
- ◆ Scripture Study Group (9.30am, Zoom).
- ◆ Funeral of Shirley Fitzpatrick (12noon, St Mary's Church)
- ◆ Latin American Prayer Group (6pm, Function Room, Maroochydore)

### Thursday, 3 August

- ◆ **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, 4 August

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

### Saturday, 5 August

- ◆ **First Saturday Mass** (8am, Stella Maris)
- ◆ Reconciliation 8.30am to 9.30am (Stella Maris)
- ◆ Baptism of Eli and Lilley-Jayde Rocca, Oscar Haynes, Iyla Dickenson, Quinn and Harper Berryman (10am, Stella Maris Church)
- ◆ **Vigil Mass** (4.30pm, St Peter's Church)
- ◆ **Vigil Mass** (6.00pm, Stella Maris Church)

### Sunday, 6 August

#### **The TRANSFIGURATION of the LORD**

- ◆ **Mass** (6.30am, Stella Maris Church)
- ◆ **Mass** (7.30am, St Peter's Church)
- ◆ **Mass** (8am, St Catherine of Siena Church)
- ◆ **Mass** (9am Stella Maris)
- ◆ Baptism of Toby Sheahan (during 9am Mass, Stella Maris Church)
- ◆ **Mass** (9.30am, St Mary's Church)
- ◆ **Mass** (5pm, Stella Maris Church), including Children's Church.

## Celebrating and Remembering

We welcome into God's Family, the Church, **Charlie Stone** who will be baptised this weekend in our Parish. We prayerfully remember all those who have died, especially **Fr Brian Sparksman** whose funeral will be in Toowoomba on Monday, **Lenore Webberley** whose funeral rites were last Thursday, and **Shirley Fitzpatrick** whose funeral rites will be celebrated on Wednesday.

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



This week we celebrated Catholic Education Week (CEW). It was an opportunity for all 313 Catholic Schools in Queensland to celebrate and promote their distinctive mission and ethos.

Catholic education makes a difference in the lives of our students, staff and community by challenging young people to live out the message of Jesus and to reach their full potential as compassionate, contributing, life-giving members of society. The theme this year was Communities of Faith, Hope and Love.

On Tuesday the college and primary school combined to celebrate CEW with a liturgy led by Fr Isaac.

The primary choir sang beautifully. The Preps led the actions to our school mantra impeccably and Mr Bucklar spoke about how we should live the message of Faith, Hope and Love through both our actions and words following the example of Jesus.

During the week, classes joined in on CEW activities discussing why Catholic Education is important. There was also buddy colouring-in activities, and we finished the week celebrating Grandparents Day with a liturgy to bless and thank our Grandparents. A lovely morning tea was served and the day included classroom visits.



## Stella Maris Primary School

Stella Maris Way,  
Maroochydore

pmaroochydore@bne.catholic.edu.au

Principal: Mark Ballam



This year, Stella Maris School participated in an external review process for our Religious Education (RE) Program, including both the classroom learning and teaching of the RE curriculum and the Religious Life of the School. Last week, we received our Certificate of Validation and our official Report. It outlines commendations for great work that is happening in this area at the school, as well as recommendations which inform future improvements.

In the category of 'Students and Community'. The commendations included:

- The Catholic story of the school is visible and apparent to both visitors and community members through weaving of school values (based on Presentation Charism) through behaviour matrix, formation plans, iconography and RE curriculum.
- Strong connections between parish and school.
- Use of parent newsletter to provide formation and education on faith issues and RE curriculum.
- Use of tours to foster connection between school and prospective parents.
- Provision of a text to all staff each year, which can be linked to the school charism.
- Authentic links between curriculum and social justice activities provide students with the means to connect learning, life and the wider community.
- The establishment and engagement of the Deadly Maroochy Mob for authentic purposes.
- The inclusivity of staff prayer.
- Laudato Si initiatives evident through curriculum links and school garden.
- Harnessing of school performing and visual arts to enhance the Religious Life of the School.

## Siena Catholic College

60 Sippy Downs Drive,  
Sippy Downs

ssippydowns@bne.catholic.edu.au

Acting Principal: Pat Toohey



Tuesday and Thursday were our key celebration days. We gathered with the Primary School on Tuesday morning to acknowledge the whole Siena Community and Fr Isaac and Mr Bucklar provided us with both inspiration and blessings for the week ahead. Thanks especially to the wonderful Primary Choir for leading us in song.

On Thursday, we gathered for what is becoming a very regular celebratory *lunch on the lawn*. Our musicians entertained us with their performances, while the Year 11s cooked hundreds and hundreds of sausages to feed the hungry hordes!

During the week, Homerooms were challenged to create an acrostic poem about one of our four Pillars. Here is one of the awesome entries about our Community Pillar ...

**C**reating connections, we stand as one.

**O**pen arms, a place for everyone.

**M**any voices blend as one.

**M**any dreams have been won.

**U**niting friendships that cannot be undone.

**N**urturing those who need someone.

**I**ncredible place,

**T**errific people!

**Y**ou're never alone in the place we call Siena.

