

NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Weekend of 12/13 August 2023

First Reading: 1 Kings 19:9, 11-13 Second Reading: Romans 9: 1-5 Gospel: Matthew 14:22-33

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

GET OUT OF THE BOAT

Today's Gospel has a lot to say to us about fear and faith, and ultimately about trust, as Peter, in a boat with his fellow disciples on the Sea of Galilee in a storm on a dark night, dares to do the impossible - walk on water. St Matthew tells us when Jesus said to Peter "Come", Peter got out of the boat. What Jesus invited Peter to do was challenging - and there is a lesson in that for us. This last week has been our annual National Vocations Awareness week - an opportunity to reflect on our particular "vocations", God's call in our lives and to encourage young people to discern and pray about God's personal call for their young lives.



Last Monday I attended a funeral in Toowoomba for one of our Diocesan Priests, Fr Brian Sparksman, who died, aged 87, having been bedridden for the last five years due to the sad and sudden onset of severe dementia. To my mind, Fr Brian had a "get out of your boat" type of call when he went to the Seminary at Banyo in 1964. Not only was he more than ten years older than us seminarians who went to the seminary straight from school, but because he had contracted Polio as a student at Downlands College in the early 1950's, he walked with difficulty with callipers on his left leg. Ordained in Warwick in 1970 with four other young priests, Fr Brian with his many gifts and with his physical restrictions, found his niche in the life of the Diocese.

After studying Canon Law in Canada with the future Bishop, Brian Finnigan, he spent all his priestly life in Toowoomba in parish ministry, but mainly on the Matrimonial Tribunal and as Diocesan Chancellor. Walk and run he did also in promoting ecumenical and inter-faith relationships in the diocese. Thank you, Fr Brian, for "getting out of the boat" all those years ago when you heard in your heart the Lord say to you "Come, walk as best as you can on the waters of life as a priest." Maybe someone who reads this may just be encouraged to ask - is the Lord calling me to "Come, be a Priest or Religious". In the ups and downs and storms of modern day living, let us try and see the One who is always among us - even on the darkest of nights - the One who says "Courage. It is I. Do not be afraid" and try to discern whether he is saying to you or me "Come, get out of your boat" - I will support and hold you afloat - just trust me.

May your week ahead be blessed by God's goodness and gifts.

Fr Brian Connolly

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
Office Hours 8:30am - 4:30pm Weekdays
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BISHOP MICHAEL PUTNEY MEMORIAL LECTURE

The theological understanding of Mission has grown and changed in recent years. Scholars from across the Churches recognise the importance of context, be it culture, gender, socio-economic or other factors, on how that message is proclaimed. You are invited to the 2023 session of the Bishop Michael Putney Memorial Lecture - Mission in Context, with guest speaker Professor Stephen Bevans SVD, a Roman Catholic Mission priest who has taught for many years in Mission and Culture. The lecture will be held on Tuesday 15 August at 7pm from the Hanly Room (Cathedral Precinct, 196 Charlotte St). The cost is \$10 if you're attending and \$5 via Livestream. Register : <https://tinyurl.com/BMPecture23>

PRAY FOR OUR CHILDREN

Please continue to pray for our children currently preparing for their First Holy Communion. This week they will be celebrating Reconciliation as a part of their journey. As they prepare with their families over the coming weeks, may they feel Jesus' warm welcome through our parish.

COME ALONG TO THE BALCONY!

We're only a few weeks away from our Parish Welcome night and we don't want our new Parishioners to miss it. Register your attendance with the Parish Office as we gather around food and people of the Parish to welcome our newcomers. Phone the Office if you're new and have not yet completed the welcome form. We look forward to seeing you there!

FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION

On Tuesday this week (15 August) the Church celebrates the Feast of the Assumption of our Blessed Mother. Mass will still be held at Stella Maris Primary School but, as a response to the anticipated numbers, Mass will be held in the Scholl Hall next to their Chapel, instead. Monday evening Mass (14 August) will be a Vigil Mass of the Assumption for those that are unable to make the 9am on Tuesday. As we expect a crowd, maybe you can talk to your friends and carpool - parking is very limited there.

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

WOMEN'S RETREAT - REMINDER

A reminder that women are invited to a retreat in Dakabin. Maybe it would be worth carpooling with other women of the area. The theme of the weekend is "Open the eyes of my heart, Lord." The retreat will be facilitated by Sr Therese Mills (leader of the Missionaries of God's Love Sisters) and Sr Judy Bowe (Missionary of God's Love Sister). The retreat will be held from 13-15 October at The Watson Park Convention Centre, 337 Old Gympie Rd, Dakabin. For more information contact **Rosa Montegrando** 0400 755 516 or email wowqld@gmail.com

THANK YOU, UNITY COLLEGE

The Leadership team at Unity College donated a set of Catholic Worship Book II to our parish, to recognise some support we gave them. It is wonderful to have a close relationship with our schools, and we thank them for helping support our music ministry. Here is a photo of Fran and Ursula, two of our singers, receiving the books from Lin Johnstone (Head of College, Identity and Formation). A special thank you also to all our singers and musicians. You lead us wonderfully. As St Augustine said "*to sing is to pray twice*".



CALLING ALL YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS



Ignite Conference 23: *Wonder* is a National Catholic Conference for people of all ages to experience real world formation, powerful worship and encouragement in their Catholic faith in an exciting, and ground-breaking way.

We all need an opportunity to meet our God of wonders. At this time when our world is so full of fear, uncertainty and powerlessness, we desperately need the God of wonders to remind us of all that is good and true; that Jesus is present and powerful and able to move mountains in our lives.

Ignite Conference is a chance to meet the God of wonders, to encounter Jesus for the first time or the hundredth time. It's a rare opportunity to gather as a people of faith from around the country.

A line-up of speakers and artists will be joining our expanding Ignite family this year at two locations. In Brisbane, we are excited to continue our partnership with St. Laurence's College in the heart of the city. We want to see the Church in Australia be led by a wonder-filled generation ready to transform all around them into colour and light.

If you haven't been to an Ignite Conference yet, this is your time. Come along for four days of unforgettable Catholic worship, speakers, creativity, sacraments and workshops. Let's invite the Holy Spirit to breathe WONDER into our lives, Church and nation together! Contact Fr Isaac or Carrollyn Watt at the Parish Office to find out more!



MEN ALIVE WEEKEND

Real men don't do church? Wrong, but living out your faith can be pretty tough, and most of us need help. If you are a bloke over 18, consider this: on 7/8 October, experienced leaders from the MenALIVE team will be running a MenALIVE weekend at Stella Maris Primary School for all men. Come along and be inspired and encouraged, and rediscover God's purpose for your life. For more information contact Ross McNally (0418 962 837) or contact the Parish Office to speak with Fr Isaac.

MEET THE PARISH

This weekend we make our way over to St Peter's Church where we meet Margaret and Neville Banister who are also affectionately known as "Mr and Mrs Church".



Margaret and Neville joined the Parish in 1995 and regularly attend St Peter's Church, Coolum Beach. Both help with the upkeep and running of the sacristy on a weekly basis. The Banisters have three children and will be celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary in December of this year. In 2006 Margaret was diagnosed with a rare cancer but credits her healing to the support and prayers of the Parish Community "I'm still here" (because of the parish). The Banisters are thankful for being part of the parish and we're equally thankful to them for their work and support. Nice to meet you.

CATHOLIC FORMATION

Have you been feeling a call to engage and understand the Word of God more deeply? Maybe your imagination was sparked by something a priest said about the scriptures. The Archdiocese Centre for Catholic Formation has put together a course on **Understanding, Praying and Living the Scriptures**. This course is on offer over 10 weeks and will cover a range of topics around the Scriptures. The course will be run from Holy Spirit Seminary in Banyo. There's an opportunity to set up a local/regional hub to save people travelling from the Seminary back to their place of residence. If we get enough interest, we will set up a local hub here in Maroochydore. The cost for an individual is \$250 whereas for a group of 5plus it's \$150 each participant. If anyone is interested in being a part of this course, please contact Carolyn Watt in the Parish Office. cspy.suncoast@bne.catholic.net.au

GOLDEN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS

All those celebrating their golden wedding anniversary, and any couples married at the Cathedral of St Stephen or its Chapel, are invited to attend a Mass there on Saturday 30 September at 11.30am. Bring your family and friends. RSVP 3324 3030 by 1 September.

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, 14 August

- ◆ St Peter's Community Team meeting.
- ◆ Adoration 4.30pm, Stella Maris
- ◆ **Mass** (5.30pm, Stella Maris Church)
- ◆ Librum Et Legere Club meeting (Stella Maris)

Tuesday, 15 August

- ◆ **Mass** (9.00am, Stella Maris School Chapel).
- ◆ **Mass** (10.30am, St Vincent's Care Services, Maroochydore)
- ◆ Children celebrating Reconciliation in preparation for their First Holy Communion.
- ◆ Parish Finance Council meeting

Wednesday, 16 August

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

Thursday, 17 August

- ◆ **Mass** (8.30am, St Peter's Church)
- ◆ St Vincent de Paul Coolum meeting
- ◆ 2pm Rosary & Divine Mercy (Stella Maris)

Friday, 18 August

- ◆ **Mass** (9am, Stella Maris Church)
- ◆ Grief Support team meeting
- ◆ 9:30am Technology for the Third Age (Apple)
- ◆ Community Meal for the Homeless, Vulnerable and Disadvantaged (6pm, Stella Maris)

Saturday, 19 August

- ◆ Reconciliation 8.30am to 9.30am (Stella Maris)
- ◆ Baptism of Aria and Griffin Hosking and William Finnegan (10am, Stella Maris Church)
- ◆ 11am El Shaddai group meets (Sippy Downs)
- ◆ **Vigil Mass** (4.30pm, St Peter's Church)
- ◆ **Vigil Mass** (6.00pm, Stella Maris Church)

Sunday, 20 August

20th SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

- ◆ **Mass** (6.30am, Stella Maris Church)
- ◆ **Mass** (7.30am, St Peter's Church) with Children's Church
- ◆ **Mass** (8am, St Catherine of Siena Church)
- ◆ **Mass** (9am Stella Maris) with Children's Church
- ◆ **Mass** (9.30am, St Mary's Church)
- ◆ **Mass** (5pm, Stella Maris Church)

Celebrating and Remembering

We welcome into God's Family, the Church, all who are being baptised into the Church this weekend.

We prayerfully remember all those who have died. 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



Siena Choirs

Siena Primary is delighted with their two hard-working choirs, conducted by talented Gabby Khoury and beautifully accompanied by Isobel Summit.

Both choirs are not auditioned, and all eager students are welcome to participate.

Our Semitones Choir is for our Year 2 and 3 students. They rehearse during afternoon tea once a week and have the opportunity to perform at Assembly and various concerts during the year.

On 2 August, this group of 55 students participated in the Sunshine Coast Junior Eisteddfod at Matthew Flinders, where they earned first place out of 8 schools in their section. They sang their hearts out and were overjoyed with their achievement! Congratulation to the Semitones, Mrs Khoury and Mrs Summit.

The Senior Primary Choir is for students from Years 4 to 6, and they rehearse for an hour every week. This choir has sung at Assembly, at our Catholic Education Week Liturgy and at Grandparents Day. They are invited to sing at the school Parish Mass once every term and on 18 August they will participate at the Queensland Catholic Music Festival in Brisbane. We wish them luck and we know they will make us proud.

The Senior Choir will also participate in a combined choral workshop with Siena College, and perform in our annual music performance, Viva Siena, later this term. There is great joy in singing together, and our Siena choirs certainly share joy with each other and with our Siena community.

Stella Maris Primary School

Stella Maris Way,
Maroochydore

pmaroochydore@bne.catholic.edu.au

Principal: Mark Ballam



This week we celebrated the Feast of St Mary of the Cross (Mary MacKillop). The children and teachers of our Year 4C and 4D classes were delighted to be able to share the celebrations with parishioners and parents at the 9am parish Mass on Tuesday (8 August) in the school chapel. Some of the children even distributed specially made Feast Day prayer cards, produced by the Mary MacKillop Today foundation. The cards challenged readers to “Be Fierce for Fair” just as Mary MacKillop was.

At Stella Maris School, we like to think that our patron, Nano Nagle, would have been great friends with Mary MacKillop and that they would have been great support for each other, as their work was so closely aligned, even though they lived well over 100 years apart and in different countries. The world is certainly a better place for their amazing contributions. St Mary of the Cross, pray for us.



Siena Catholic College

60 Sippy Downs Drive,
Sippy Downs

ssippydowns@bne.catholic.edu.au

Acting Principal: Pat Toohey



Two major events have book-ended our week. On Monday, our Year 8s departed for their three-day Emu Gully experience. Like our Year 11s, who participated in a similar experience last term, they were up bright and early for their long bus ride to Helidon. Once at the camp, they were challenged to participate in a variety of ANZAC-themed activities, each of which took them out of their comfort zones and into the cold and sticky mud. Each activity was designed to promote reflection on the themes of mateship, teamwork, courage, and accountability.

Friday saw us taking a day out of the classroom for our annual Siena Day celebration – a day to reflect on and to celebrate who we are as a community. We began the day with a liturgy before heading down to the oval for a variety of group games and challenges. Then it was on to side-show alley, which included a bucking bronco, games of skill and lots of delicious food options. House points were on offer for those participating in the recreation of Siena’s famous Palio race, while memorable Red Faces skits rounded-out our day.

