

# TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Weekend of 19/20 August 2023

First Reading: Isaiah 56:1, 6-7 Second Reading: Romans 11:13-15, 29-32 Gospel: Matthew 15:21-28

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,

Last weekend I had the privilege of being the Church's witness at my sister's wedding. It was a great celebration. As I was standing on the top step of the sanctuary watching people enter the Cathedral I couldn't help but notice how their disposition went from laughter, fun and joy to very serious as they entered. I think we can all fall into this trap sometimes. That trap being that the Church is not a place where we can have fun or smile. Perhaps the Canaanite woman can teach us a few things.

Picture this: Jesus heads off to the region of Tyre and Sidon to take some downtime. Now, word must have spread that Jesus, this miracle-working Messiah, was in town because our brave sister from Canaan comes bounding up, desperately seeking some divine intervention for her daughter's demon problem.

But here's where the story takes an unexpected comedic turn. Jesus, who usually dishes out healings like they're going out of style, responds with what seems like a brush-off: "It's not right to take the children's bread and toss it to the dogs." Ouch, right? Jesus just called this woman and her daughter dogs. It's a good thing she didn't have a literal bone to pick with him!

But let's not forget, this Canaanite mama has got the determination of a bulldog. Instead of storming off in a huff, she snaps back with a rather witty reply, "Even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master's table." Mic drop! It's like she's saying, "Sure, I may be a dog in your analogy, but even dogs get some crumbs of grace!"

When I imagine this passage in my head I imagine Jesus having a bit of a laugh at this point. A laugh that contains how utterly impressed he is by her faith and determination. He exclaims, "Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted." Imagine the disciples' faces: "Did we just witness a holy stand-up routine?"

The Canaanite woman's persistence and quick wit turned the tables on Jesus, reminding him that even the outsiders deserve a slice of the heavenly pie. It's a divine comedy moment that showcases the depth of Jesus' compassion and the power of unwavering faith. Plus, it gives us all a good chuckle about the lengths this woman went to score a healing for her daughter.

So, my friends, the moral of the story is clear: when life gets rough, channel your inner Canaanite woman and persist with a dash of humour. And remember, even if you're feeling like the underdog, there's a chance that divine crumbs of blessings might just be falling your way.

*Fr Isaac Falzon*

### At Your Service

Fr Brian Connolly

Fr Isaac Falzon

Fr William Aupito Iuliano

Deacon Michael Khoury



### Stella Maris Parish Office

Adjacent to the Stella Maris Church

Office Hours 8:30am - 4:30pm Weekdays

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## ANNUAL CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN

Thank you for your generous support of the Catholic Campaign this year, and for your support over the years. In the past, our Parish has donated favourably to the cause. Over the weekend, we'll hear from the Archbishop about how the donated funds go to sustaining Centacare (social services), Priests Foundation (healthcare of unwell and retired priests), Holy Spirit Seminary (training our future leaders), Mary Mackillop Access Fund (Catholic education for families in Crisis) and Grassroots Programs.

## IN MEMORY OF FR HARRY BLISS

This Tuesday marks the fifth anniversary of Fr Harry Bliss who died on the 22nd of August, 2018. Fr Harry was the Parish Priest of Maroochydore after it was separated from the Nambour Parish. He faithfully served our community with energy and vision until 1988. May Fr Harry Bliss' soul, and the souls of all our former priests, religious and parishioners Rest In Peace

## RECEIPTS TO BE COLLECTED

We still have a few receipts to be collected at the entrance of the Churches. For those who have donated to the Parish via Bpay, Direct Debit or any other means, please make sure you collect your receipts this weekend if you haven't already done so. Thank you for supporting our parish.

## SCRIPTURE HUB - CATHOLIC FORMATION

Monday night marks the beginning of a 10-week program on the scriptures with Catholic Formation. Eleven of our parishioners will journey through modules on **Understanding, Praying and Living the Scriptures**. Let's keep them in our prayer over these next few weeks. There is still time to register, so if you're interested in being a part of the journey, contact Carolyn Watt in the Parish Office.

## YOUNG ADULTS NIGHT

Our Young Adults Group will meet this coming Friday for a prayer session on 25 August. Adoration and Liturgy of the Hours will be the focus of the night. Prayer will begin at 6pm at St Mary's in Buderim. Afterwards, they'll be going out for a meal together. Bring a friend along to the night. See you there!

## WORLD YOUTH DAY - FR WILL REFLECTS

Thanks to everyone who have welcomed me back from my trip to Portugal. World Youth Day was a whirlwind of emotions and spiritual encounters that I'm still unpacking. Many of the experiences I had overseas will be food for thought in the years to come and perhaps even feature in some homilies here and there. We travelled from Paris to Lourdes, then from Lourdes to Fatima. We then went from Fatima to Lisbon for the World Youth Day week and then travelled to Avila for a time of retreat and reflection. We certainly did many of the tourist things. I was especially astounded by the week in Lisbon where we hopped on trains jammed with pilgrims, went to catechesis sessions led by people we watch on YouTube, and of course, we had the opportunity to see the Pope. It was astounding hearing the Masses of young people chanting "Papa Francesco." Overall, I'm blessed to have had the time with the Diocese, and I would gladly support any of our future young people who would consider going to the 2027 World Youth Day in Seoul.

## OFFICE RENOVATIONS

If you've been to the Parish Office recently, you will have noticed that we've made a few changes to the physical space. We want to be a welcoming community and although not everything we do can have that element of welcome, whatever we can control, we want to do well. When you enter the office now you'll be met with the face of a human and not a wall. That first point of contact is essential for making a person feel at home and welcomed. We've opened up a few spaces that can now be used as meeting rooms and, of course, we've carpeted the sacristy area as a space that we can potentially use for Children's Church. See some photos of the updated spaces below.



## MYSTERY AND MISSION

Mystery and Mission: The Art of Liturgical Celebration, here in Brisbane. Register now for this 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.

## CATECHISM CORNER

One last point on the Sacrament of Baptism, and that's the Baptism of Infants. Why does the Catholic Church baptise babies? There has been opposition to infant baptism over the centuries with people rejecting it's validity. But the Church has held for many years that Christ's law applies to infants as well as adults, for Jesus said, 'no one can enter heaven unless they are born again of water and the Holy Spirit. Children, too, are born with a fallen human nature and tainted by Original Sin. They too are in need of the new birth given to us by Baptism.

The sheer gratuitousness on offer through Baptism has always attracted parents (CCC#1250). Why not receive of this life-giving Sacrament? In the scriptures we hear testimony of whole households receiving baptism where we intuit that children were also baptised (Acts 16:15). St Paul talks about Baptism as a 'circumcision of Christ' drawing that comparison to the Old Law where mostly infants were circumcised (Col 2:11-12). We want our children to receive of the grace on offer. Jesus said, "Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them; for to such belongs the kingdom of God" (Luke 18:16).

*Although we've been covering Sacraments, if you would like a question answered, simply email the Office and over time we'll respond with what the Catechism says about that particular question.*

## INFORMATION SESSION ON MARRIAGE ANNULMENTS

Sadly, some marriages can't continue due to abuse (spiritual, emotional, financial or physical) and the Church recognised this. There will be an information session on marriage annulments in the Catholic Church, given by staff of the Regional Tribunal for Queensland. What is an annulment? Who needs one? What's involved? FAQs answered and the chance to have your own questions answered. Tuesday 22 August 2023, Mary Immaculate Hall, 616 Ipswich Rd, Annerley (parking adjacent), 7:45pm. Enquiries to [tribbris@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:tribbris@bne.catholic.net.au) or 3324 3033.

## MORE PLACES TO SIT

Through a government grant we obtained ten bench seats for Stella Maris Church. These bench seats will be used for our bigger events and perhaps even some of our weekly events. Our thanks to the Knights of the Southern Cross who kindly assembled them for us.



## 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, 21 August

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

### Tuesday, 22 August

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

### Wednesday, 23 August

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

### Thursday, 24 August

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

### Friday, 25 August

- ◆ **Mass** (9am, Stella Maris Church)
- ◆ Interment of George Taylor (following 9am Mass, Stella Maris Church)
- ◆ 9.30am Craft Group (Stella Maris)
- ◆ Young Adults Group (6pm, St Mary's Church)
- ◆ Community Meal for the Homeless, Vulnerable and Disadvantaged (6pm, Stella Maris)

### Saturday, 26 August

- ◆ Reconciliation 8.30am to 9.30am (Stella Maris)
- ◆ Baptism of Amaya Dias (10am, Stella Maris Church)
- ◆ Baptism of Kataya Hill and Carter Holland (10am, St Catherine's Church)
- ◆ 11am El Shaddai group meets (Sippy Downs)
- ◆ **Vigil Mass** (4.30pm, St Peter's Church)
- ◆ **Vigil Mass** (6.00pm, Stella Maris Church)

### Sunday, 27 August

#### 22st SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

- ◆ **Mass** (6.30am, Stella Maris Church)
- ◆ **Mass** (7.30am, St Peter's Church)
- ◆ **Mass** (8am, St Catherine of Siena Church)
- ◆ **Mass** (9am Stella Maris) with Children's 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, *Aria and Griffin Hosking* and *William Finnegan* who will be baptised this weekend in our Parish.

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



### Principal's Day

On Friday, 4 August we celebrated, Principal's Day at Siena.

It was a great day where both staff and students acknowledged the great leadership of our principal, Mr Bucklar.

As you can see in the photo, the children processed up with cards and letters they wrote to show their appreciation of their principal all the while we played *Simply the Best* by Tina Turner.

*'Leaders become great, not because of their power but because of their ability to empower others'. Quote by John Maxwell.*

This statement reflects the style of leadership Glen bestows and our Siena community is flourishing under his guidance.



### Year 6 versus Staff Oztag

The annual Year 6 versus Staff Oztag was held on Wednesday. It was our pre-game match before the Matilda's. The game was a great contest of skills learnt and friendly rivalry.

The game was scheduled after the Year 6 have a couple of weeks focus on learning the Oztag game in PE lessons.

The teachers were victors by one point with both sides showing great sportsmanship and passion.



## Stella Maris Primary School

Stella Maris Way,  
Maroochydore

pmaroochydore@bne.catholic.edu.au

Principal: Mark Ballam



As a large school, it is impossible for us to get together in our chapel for important occasions. It's even somewhat difficult in our large school hall. So this week, when it came to the celebration of the Solemnity of the Assumption on Tuesday, different classes and year levels celebrated in different ways. Our Year 3C and 3D classes were excited to participate in a special parish Mass, with Fr Isaac as the presider. Three of the boys joined the entry procession, to lay flowers at the foot of the statue of Mary. Many classes took time for dedicated prayer, discussion and songs. The children of Year 2 spent some time in the Mary Garden. They made their own paper flowers to honour Mary and add to the space especially dedicated to Mary. The garden is extra special to this group because they helped create it last year, when they were in Year 1. *Mary, mother of us all, pray for us.*



## Siena Catholic College

60 Sippy Downs Drive,  
Sippy Downs

ssippydowns@bne.catholic.edu.au

Acting Principal: Pat Toohey



Some wonderful photos from Siena Day celebrations last week.

