

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Weekend of 26/27 August 2023

First Reading: Isaiah 22:19-23 Second Reading: Romans 11:33-36 Gospel: Matthew 16:13-20

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

The new Rock!

Last week we read of Jesus being in the region of Tyre and Sidon and this week we meet Jesus and his disciples still in the North of Israel, but inland at Caesarea Philippi.

Here, Jesus says to Peter, "You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven."

When we look at the location of this event more closely, we see some fascinating details about Jesus' words.

Caesarea Philippi was home to an ancient spring. The spring itself is masked by a dominant rock from which flows abundant and fresh water. At the time of Jesus, there was a Temple dedicated to the pagan god Pan built on the site. Today, the location is known as Baniyas, which derives from the name Paneas, the pagan god of nature. Since the rocks also formed a cave, pagans believed that the area was a gate to the underworld where their fertility gods lived.

Given all these simple details of the area, what Jesus does then is alarmingly profound, especially to first century listeners.

After Peter correctly identifies Jesus as Messiah, Jesus then calls him πέτρα (Petra) which means 'a mass of connected rock.' On one level, Jesus incorporates the natural landscape of Caesarea Philippi with the rock in mind, and reclaims the site through Peter.

Rather than being a pagan place of worship, Jesus says, "on this rock I will build my Church."

On another level, Jesus dethrones the authority of Herod, who gave the region to his son Philip, (which is where we get the name Caesarea Philippi) as he names Peter, Petra.

Finally, Jesus says that "the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it." Since the pagans believed that the cave itself was the entrance to the underworld, Jesus asserts the power of the Church by, basically, erecting it right on top of the entrance to the pagan underworld.

Jesus essentially establishes the Church as a solid, unbroken, life-giving stream of God's action in the world.

At times, it may seem like the Church is going in a strange direction, or that it's leaders are blindly leading people astray, but let us be people of faith who hold onto the bold and everlasting words of Christ in our Gospel today. Let's also pray for our Church and it's leaders, that the Spirit may help us to extend the reign of God to the whole of humanity.

Fr William Aupito Iuliano

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

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St Vincent de Paul Society St Gerard Majella Conference Report to the Parish for 2022-2023

We wish to express our gratitude to all Parishioners for your generous support of the St Vincent de Paul Society at Maroochydore and advise you of our activities over the past financial year.

Our Family Support Office is open 4 days per week with 1305 contacts coming through our doors, enabling us to help 2789 people over the past year.



Day-to-day assistance is made up of food parcels, food vouchers, pharmacy vouchers for prescriptions and emergency fuel cards. We also receive donated food from OZHarvest and Aldi. Telstra donates vouchers for those in hardship situations and GIVIT has donated pre-paid sim cards for victims of domestic violence. SVDP donates Vinnies cards to be spent in our Vinnies Shops.

The total value of assistance provided this last financial year ending 30 June 2023 was \$132,519. 91.



On November 9th, 2022, the joint 40th Anniversary Celebration of St. Gerard Majella Conference in Maroochydore and St. Peter's Conference in Coolum took place at Stella Maris Church. The celebratory Mass led by Bishop Brian Heenan, Fr Peter Brannelly and Fr John Fitz-Herbert, inducted new member Mario Barbagallo, and concluded with a blessing by Fr Peter Brannelly. Attendees enjoyed morning tea, viewing displays and photo books in the Function Room and courtyard followed by lunch. Each received a 40th Anniversary booklet written by Pauline Edwards (Coolum) and Rita Rynne (Maroochydore).

Diocesan President Beryl Rowan addressed the assembly, followed by Q&A sessions. Festivities included a courtyard fashion parade, showcasing Maroochydore Vinnie's Store's offerings.



The event was attended by 133 Vincentians, volunteers, and guests, creating a special celebration. The Anniversary Cake was made and iced by Maroochydore Conference Vice President, Carmel Barbagallo.

Vincentians play a crucial role in helping those in need. When individuals seek help, we ensure that every person receives a thorough interview to understand their specific requirements. We then prepare a food parcel, coordinate a home visit, or provide emergency vouchers as needed. In addition to these vital tasks, some Vincentians contribute by participating in furniture collection efforts when donations are received. Furthermore, there are Vincentians who dedicate their time by manning the service counter and working with computer systems to input and manage essential data. Through these diverse efforts, Vincentians demonstrate their commitment to serving the community, ensuring that assistance is provided efficiently and compassionately to those who require support.



St. Gerard Majella Conference actively supports families struggling with children's education. The "Smart Start for Students" fund, with \$3,555 raised, aids this initiative. Shamus Conway and this team notably contributed by fundraising at Bunnings Sausage Sizzles.



The Society in Queensland runs the **Children's Education Fund** which is open to students from low-income families. Stateside, the Society provided over \$900,000 with \$19,430 allocated to 38 families in our area. If you would like to donate towards this fund, then stipulate 'education' and your money will be deposited in this Fund.

Our companions are also assisted with No Interest Loans (NILS) by which they can purchase white goods, computers, furniture and medical aids. There is also a NILS 4 CARS for qualifying applicants. This is a real 'hand-up' for those on low incomes.

The CEO Sleepout at Maroochydore Beach in June was the most successful to date, raising \$193,000 for our Diocese. Nick Saunders from Maroochydore Conference participated in this year's Sleepout with his sleeping bag, a pillow and two sheets of cardboard for comfort. He raised \$6,250. Well done, Nick! He was in good company raising funds and sleeping out as our two primary school principals (Siena Primary School, Glen Bucklar, and Stella Maris Primary School, Mark Ballam) joined many other hardy souls and raised money for the cause. The funds will aid homeless individuals on the Sunshine Coast, providing temporary accommodation and essential supplies like tents, sleeping bags and comfort packs.



Our regular fundraisers are the Winter and Christmas Appeals. We can always rely on wonderful support from parishioners in both instances. Once again Mooloolaba-Alexandra Headland Kindergarten raised \$420 for warm pyjamas and this was doubled by Target Maroochydore. These warm clothes were given to SVDP Maroochydore for distribution to families in need. Our three Catholic schools helped us by donating tents, toiletries and funds.



The Vincentian family relaxing and enjoying Christmas festivities in our Centre.

Our Vinnies Shop is one of five on the Sunshine Coast and run by a paid Manager with the help of volunteers who work in the shop. If you would like to find out more about volunteering at Vinnies, please call the shop Manager Susan on 54517620. All are welcome.

A SVDP Bursary is given to encourage students to show respect for people in need. These students showed empathy for others in their day to day lives. Murray Langford won the Tertiary Bursary for Siena Catholic College; Kaelan Juillerat won the Primary Bursary for Siena Primary, and the Bursary for Stella Maris Primary was shared by Brady Johns and Willow Connelly in November 2022.



Christmas is a happy time for most people, but for others it is a reminder of their poor financial situation. We gave happiness to many families through our Christmas Hamper Program. Parishioners, Stella Maris Primary School, Siena Primary School and Siena College were so generous with their goods, monetary donations and vouchers. Olga Girle and her team gave out 122 hampers to families and singles to enable them to enjoy this festive Holy Season.



During the year, President Kareen Dwyer inducted new members Mary Nugent and Leanne Attard, Associate Members Tony Attard and Ross McNally as well as welcoming back former member, Loretta Ferguson. We also ask you to pray for our recently deceased members Patricia Golik, Christopher Chandler and Jack Wills. We need our membership to grow so that we can keep assisting disadvantaged people. If you would like to learn more about us, talk to a Vincentian you see at Mass.



We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all of you for your unwavering support, as your generosity consistently shines through whenever we ask. Your kindness is deeply appreciated, and we are genuinely thankful.

Carmel Barbagallo (Vice President) 20/8/2023

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



Our focus at Siena over the last few weeks has been on our school value of Integrity. "As people of Integrity we strive and act to make decisions based on the life and teachings of Jesus Christ.

John 18:12 'I am the light for the world. Follow me, and you won't be walking in the dark. You will have the Light that gives Life'.

Respect falls out of Integrity and follows the footsteps of Jesus (doing the right thing even when nobody is watching) Jesus connected with everybody and treated them with respect.

Last Friday was the National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence. Every child at Siena Primary tied an orange ribbon promising to behave with respect towards all people.

Every class also mounted a display in the Daintree about what Respect looks like sounds like and feels like. They looked very impressive, and it is our hope that these messages manifest in daily life of Siena.



Stella Maris Primary School

Stella Maris Way,
Maroochydore

pmaroochydore@bne.catholic.edu.au

Principal: Mark Ballam



Book Week celebrations had us all excited this week, with the theme for this year being: **Read, Grow, Inspire**. A team of staff organised lots of engaging activities to take place both inside and outside the classroom across the week, to get us all exploring and talking about all things book related – stories, authors, illustrators, plots, characters, settings, problems and resolutions. The favourite moment during the week for most of us though had to be our Book Week Parade on Wednesday morning. We were amazed at the efforts and talents people used to come up with this year's costumes. We'll let these photos do the talking...



Siena Catholic College

60 Sippy Downs Drive,
Sippy Downs

ssippydowns@bne.catholic.edu.au

Acting Principal: Pat Toohey



Last Friday night, our Year 11s participated in our inaugural *Thrift To Gift Night* at the Bower Tree in Sippy Downs. This night was a chance for students to enjoy a function with their peers, but it was also a chance to support local charity stores - as at least one item in their outfits needed to be sourced from a local Op-Shop. At the end of the event, these clothing items were re-gifted, ensuring a double donation would be made. Our estimate is that this event has benefitted local thrift stores by more than \$5000.

On Wednesday, our Year 10s joined Parishioners at the Community Mass. In his homily, Fr Will reminded us that we shouldn't fall into the trap of comparing ourselves to others. Instead, he suggested, we should compare ourselves to who we were yesterday, so that we might invest in becoming good people in and for the world.

