

# TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Weekend of 2/3 September 2023

First Reading: Jeremiah 20:7-9 Second Reading: Romans 12:1-2 Gospel: Matthew 16:21-27

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

### FOLLOW ME

*A story is told of a cub who got lost in a forest. Seeing a set of footprints, he follows it, believing that it will lead him to his family. To his dismay, however, he finds a flock of ostriches. The following day, the cub follows another set of footprints but after walking for a long time, he sees a herd of elephants. Although discouraged, the cub follows yet another set of footprints, this time leading him to a pack of wolves.*

*At this, a wise owl, who had observed all of this, offers a piece of advice, saying, "Your destination is determined by the footprints you follow. Follow footprints like your own and they will lead you to where you want to go." The next morning, the cub does just that. Ignoring other sets of footprints, he searches meticulously for a lion's footprints. Finding and following lions' footprints finally leads him to a lion's den and his family. (From Tassels of Thought by Bro. Andrew Maria, MMHC)*

In the Gospel this Sunday, Jesus tells His disciples to follow in His footsteps by taking up their cross to follow Him. The Christian life can be challenging. Jesus did not promise those who choose to follow Him, that life would always be easy. Nevertheless, if we endure to the end, we will find our desired destination and gain eternal life and the many blessings that come with it.

Many people followed Jesus and listened to Him preach about the Kingdom of God. However, not all of them were his disciples. Today too, there are people who claim to follow Jesus even though their hearts are far from Him.

Just like the lion cub who followed the lion's footprints to find his way home, we too can choose to follow in the footsteps of Jesus and stay on track by adhering to these His primary teachings:

**Love your enemies** - Not everyone is going to like us. One way to follow Jesus is by praying for those that despise us and treating them with kindness even if it is never returned.

**Love your neighbour** - Jesus consistently taught His disciples to love others and show compassion to everyone they interact with. Being a disciple of Jesus means showing love to everyone we meet. Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

**Do not judge others** - Sometimes, we make assumptions about people based on what we see. The Bible tells that only God knows the heart (1 Samuel 16:7). We can practise following Jesus every day by refusing to cast judgment on others.

**Be humble** - If we are seeking to follow Jesus, then we must be humble. When we humble ourselves before God and we practise meekness in our interactions with others, God will lift us up.

**Do not worry** - God has promised to take care of us. Whenever you find yourself worrying, remember that God has your back. Remember the sparrows (Matthew 10: 29-31).

**Worship God whole-heartedly** - Worship, praise and thanksgiving should be an everyday part of our Christian routine. When we pray to God, we shouldn't forget to worship Him and thank Him for everything He has done for us.

**Show Jesus in everything you do** - We are citizens of God's kingdom. When we are actively following Jesus, others will be able to see His light shine through us and be drawn closer to Him.

**Seek God First** - Seek God first, in all decision making. We must consider the will of God for our lives, and then seek to fulfill it as best we can.

This Sunday, in Australia, we celebrate Father's Day. We cannot take our role as fathers lightly. In fatherhood, God has united the greatest privileges and responsibilities of leadership. Our children follow our footsteps as we lead them on a physical, emotional, intellectual and spiritual path. As fathers, we need to accept, love and guide our children, without conditions or condemnation, just as our Father in heaven accepts and loves us, and help them to follow in the footsteps of Jesus too. We thank our fathers for their care and for leading us to where we are.

*Dean Michael Khoury*

### 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

Telephone: 5443 3488

Email: [suncoast@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:suncoast@bne.catholic.net.au)

Website: [maroochyshoreparish.com.au](http://maroochyshoreparish.com.au)

## NATIONAL CHILD PROTECTION WEEK

This Sunday, 3 September, is the start of National Child Protection Week 2023, and the theme is “*Every Child in every community needs a fair go*”. Child abuse and neglect is one of Australia's most significant social problems, and includes physical, psychological, sexual abuse, and neglect and exposure to Family Violence. As a parish, we continue to focus on this most important issue to ensure a safe and supported life for every child now and into the future.

## STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Ever since Lent of this year, a faithful group of Parishioners have been going through the Stations of the Cross on Fridays following the 9.00am Mass. The Stations of the Cross devotion in the life of the Church has been a source of reflection and deep conversion for many Catholics and saints over the generations. If you're interested in being part of the Stations of the Cross on a Friday, come and join the group after Mass.

## BR MICHAEL HERRY FMS

Come along Tuesday 3 October to Stella Maris Church for a workshop with one of Australia's contemporary hymn composers. Br Michael Herry is a Marist Brother who has contributed to the liturgical musical scene over the years. The night is open to all people. For more information contact Michael Fitzpatrick on 0419 876 195 or email [mfitzpatrick@ozemail.com.au](mailto:mfitzpatrick@ozemail.com.au).

## BAPTISM FOR CHILDREN 8 YEARS AND OLDER

Twice a year we offer preparation for older children (8 years and older) who wish to be Baptised. The next enquiry gathering is next Sunday 10 September at 10.15am. It will be in the Function Room at Stella Maris Church, Maroochydore. No need to book. Just turn up and find out more about this journey for older children towards their Baptism.

## TOTUS TUUS - CONSECRATION TO JESUS THROUGH MARY

Here in the Parish we have a solid devotion to Mary and it expresses itself in many different ways. We would like to warmly invite Spanish speaking parishioners to join in a series of talks, led in Spanish, following the method of St Louis-Marie Grignon de Montfort. This consecration to Jesus through Mary will begin on September 25 at 6:30pm in the Function Room of the Stella Maris Church, Maroochydore.

## CHRISTIAN RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION

Did you know that Christian Religious Instruction is a choice of many Queensland parents, with around 200,000+ state school students opted-in to participate in a Christian RI Program each week? Parents choose Christian RI to give their children the opportunity to explore the Christian faith and its values.

The number of students choosing to do RI is so high, there is still a need for more local parishioners to get involved. Without RI Instructors many students miss out on the opportunity to hear the gospel message.

If you have a couple hours free each week and would like to help children to know who Jesus is and how much God loves them, consider becoming a Christian RI Instructor or Helper in the classroom.

Contact Georgia at the Christian Religious Education Program - Sunshine Coast via phone [0481 528 381] or email [admin@fantheflame.net.au](mailto:admin@fantheflame.net.au) to get involved today!

## FUNDRAISER FOR IGNITE CONFERENCE - YOUTH MASS

A reminder that our Ignite participants will be hosting a sausage sizzle fundraiser on the weekend of 16-17 September. Come along to the 5pm Mass, which will be a Youth Mass and support the Young People that will be attending this year's conference. See you there!

## THANK YOU!

Last weekend we celebrated First Holy Communion within the Parish and we were blessed to have so many volunteers and parishioners getting involved in setting up, music, welcoming, ushering and cake-giving. As a Parish we want to take the time to say Thank You! Without your assistance much of the good work that happens in the Parish would not be possible. Thank you for taking on these tasks and we continue to encourage involvement across the board, particularly with many of the other ministries that are happening within the Parish.

## JUNIOR MINISTERS

On **Sunday, September 10**, we are holding a Junior Ministers “Fun and Formation” session afternoon for all Junior Ministers within our parish. It will be in the Stella Maris Church Function Room (the room next to the church kitchen) beginning at **2:30pm with training** for all the Junior Ministers (new and experienced). This is then followed by our fun, social get-together where we will be playing games so we can all get to know each other. We **finish at 4:30pm**, that way you can join us for Sunday night Mass at 5:00pm. Your parents can either pick you up at 4:30pm and join us for Mass or pick you up after Mass at 6:00pm. During the afternoon we will be having a snack of pizza and a soft drink. We need to know numbers in advance for catering purposes so could you please email Bernadette Baillie at [bbaillie811@gmail.com](mailto:bbaillie811@gmail.com) or ring the Parish Office on 5443 3488 by **6 September** and let us know.

*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.*

## Celebrating and Remembering

We welcome into God's Family, the Church, **Nathaniel Sheppard, Emma Robinson** and **Andrew Robinson** who will be baptised this weekend in our Parish.

We prayerfully remember all those who have died, especially **Raymond Slade** whose funeral rites will be this Wednesday. May the souls of all our departed priests, religious, parishioners and family members, through the rich mercy of God,

**Rest in Peace.**

## MEET THE PARISH



Today we make our way to St Mary's Buderim to meet Brian and Deidre McDonnell. Brian and Deidre moved up from Brisbane in 2002 and have been a part of the St Mary's Community since then. They've been married for 60 years this coming November. For work, Brian was a gynaecologist and Deidre was a nurse. Deidre eventually took on fulltime motherhood. Together, Deidre and Brian have five children, fourteen grandchildren and are still eagerly awaiting another. The McDonnell's are proud caravaners who travel regularly around Australia. If you're ever at the 9:30am Mass in Buderim, take the time to meet this lovely couple. Nice to meet you!

### MEN ALIVE

It's not too late to register for the MenALIVE weekend happening from 7-8 October. Many men have valued time away on this weekend exploring what it means to be a man in our current society. Men face pressures that often make them feel excluded or alone. This weekend hopes to speak into that reality and provide a different perspective, one based on hope, responsibility and purpose. For more information contact Ross McNally (0418 962 837) or contact the Parish Office to speak with Fr Isaac.

### HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!

They might spout a few lame jokes here and there, or not remember your teacher's middle name but fathers still hold a special place in the life of the family. We know not everyone enjoys the warm embrace and leadership of a father, which in itself is a loss, but let that not take away from the bear-hugging, scruffy-looking, constant presence of the loving fathers of our parish. We honour and acknowledge you on this day. May the loving Father, who Jesus taught us to love and relate to, be our strength and encouragement. From God the Father, may all men, grandfathers, fathers, uncles and father-figures learn mercy, justice and love. Happy Father's Day! May the beers be cold, the snags be hot and the backyard cricket be fair.

## 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, 4 September

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

### Tuesday, 5 September

- ◆ **Mass** (9.00am, Stella Maris School Chapel)
- ◆ Parish Social Group (11.00am, Compass Connections Café, Maroochydore)

### Wednesday, 6 September

- ◆ **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).
- ◆ Funeral of Raymond Slade (1.00pm, Gregson & Weight Chapel, Buderim).
- ◆ Latin American Prayer Group (6pm, Function Room, Maroochydore)

### Thursday, 7 September

- ◆ **Mass** (8.30am, St Peter's Church)
- ◆ St Vincent de Paul meeting (Coolum)
- ◆ 2pm Rosary & Divine Mercy (Stella Maris)
- ◆ Baptism Preparation for infants and young children (6pm, Stella Maris Church)

### Friday, 8 September

- ◆ **Mass** (9am, Stella Maris Church)
- ◆ 9:30am Technology for the Third Age (Android)
- ◆ Young Adults Group (6pm, St Mary's Church)
- ◆ Community Meal for the Homeless, Vulnerable and Disadvantaged (6pm, Stella Maris)

### Saturday, 9 September

- ◆ Reconciliation 8.30am to 9.30am (Stella Maris)
- ◆ Baptism of Marilyn Savilla, Oliva Millach (10am, Stella Maris Church)
- ◆ Baptism of Oliver Blakey, Ava Burgess, Halle Alberti (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, 10 September

#### 23rd 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)
- ◆ Baptism Preparation Session for older children (10.15am, Function Room, Maroochydore)
- ◆ Junior Ministers (2.30pm, Function Room, Maroochydore)
- ◆ **Mass** (5pm, Stella Maris Church) with Junior Ministers

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING YOUR PARISH FAMILY IN YOUR WILL

# 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



### Book Week 2023 Read Grow Inspire

Book Week 2023 at Siena was truly a joyous festival of books, a celebration of reading, and a parade of amazing costumes.

Each year since 1945 the Australian Book Council has brought children and books together to celebrate the joy of reading. During our book week celebrations we had a visit from a children's author, many reading based activities, an amazing library display by our talented library staff and, of course, the annual Book Week parade.

We had many Harry Potters, several Where's Wallys, a bloom of Jellyfish, the characters from Peter Pan and a catalogue of Little Miss and Mr Men characters to name a few. Nessie the Lock Ness Monster even graced the stage.

Many thanks to the parents, children and staff for a magical week celebrating the joy of books and reading.



## Stella Maris Primary School

Stella Maris Way,  
Maroochydore

pmaroochydore@bne.catholic.edu.au

Principal: Mark Ballam



Our staff are always learning. Last week alone, we have had:

- our *Primary Learning Leaders* undertake professional development facilitated by the Queensland Curriculum Assessment Authority (QCAA);
- our *Teacher Librarian* participate in a Librarians Network Day;
- lots of our *School Officers* and *Teachers* have undertaken refresher training in CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation) and First Aid;
- our *Support Team* collaborated with the Student Wellbeing Team from Brisbane Catholic Education (BCE);
- all *Teaching Teams* engage in collaborative Data Dives to analyse student data;
- and another team participated in the next step of a year-long BCE Early Years Literacy Project, facilitated by the University of Melbourne.

And this Friday, when all our students are enjoying a day off with their families, we will be hosting a collaborative learning day with staff from Siena Primary and St Joseph's School, Nambour.

We are so grateful that our staff don't only encourage children to learn, but they are authentic lifelong learners as well, which makes them super-role-models!



## Siena Catholic College

60 Sippy Downs Drive,  
Sippy Downs

ssippydowns@bne.catholic.edu.au

Acting Principal: Pat Toohey



This week was a shorter one for students, as they enjoyed a day off on Friday so that their teachers could engage in Professional Development and Planning. Despite this, we still managed to fit a lot in...

Our whole school focus was *Keep Siena Beautiful* and there were a variety of challenges and competitions throughout the week; as well as activities (including flower planting and a clean-up) to beautify the grounds.

Finals season has begun for our Term 3 sporting teams, with our AFL and Basketball players competing for positions in their respective Grand Finals.

Our Year 9s joined the parishioners for the St Catherine's Community Mass on Wednesday morning. In his homily, Fr Will challenged us to discover and to be the best version of ourselves.

On Friday, a group of teachers travelled to the *Ration Shed Museum* at Cherbourg. While there, they participated in a very worthwhile tour during which they listened to the stories of the precinct, explored the historical and contemporary exhibitions, and saw local Aboriginal artists at work.

