

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Weekend of 16/17 September 2023

First Reading: Sirach 27:30-28:7 Second Reading: Romans 14:7-9 Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35

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

SPIDER-MAN 3

One of my favourite ways to relax is by watching a good movie. Just recently I re-watched *Spider-Man 3*. It's the one where the black stuff starts to take over Peter Parker's body. As I was watching it I thought this movie is perfect to write a spiritual reflection on.

The black symbiotic substance that engulfs Peter in *Spider-Man 3* serves as a powerful metaphor for the age-old spiritual struggle between light and darkness within the human soul. Within the movie we journey with Peter and witness an internal battle as he grapples with the corrupting influence of the mysterious black substance, providing us with some great insights on the themes of temptation, redemption, and the human capacity for transformation.

At the heart of things, this black substance represents the subtle and dangerous way our disordered desires lead us astray from our spiritual paths. It symbolises the seductive nature of power, ego, and the shadow self - the aspects of our inner self that we hide from the world and sometimes even from ourselves. Just as Peter's encounter with this black substance amplifies his strength, it simultaneously magnifies his inner turmoil, bringing forth the darker aspects of his personality.

The spiritual lesson here is that we must confront our inner demons and acknowledge the darkness within ourselves if we aspire to achieve spiritual growth. Suppressing or denying these darker aspects only allows them to fester and eventually dominate our lives, much like the black substance consumes Peter's identity and integrity. True transformation begins with self-awareness, acceptance, and a willingness to confront our inner shadows with the goal of "putting to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly."

As we witness Peter's descent into moral ambiguity, his once-strong relationships with his loved ones begin to deteriorate. This mirrors the way our inner conflicts can strain our connections with others and distance us from the path of spiritual enlightenment. The influence of the substance serves as a stark reminder that unchecked desires and unchecked ego can lead us down the dangerous path of isolation and moral decay.

However, the heart of the story lies in Peter's eventual triumph over the darkness. His struggle is a testament to the human capacity for redemption and the transformative power of love and responsibility. Peter's love for Mary Jane and his unwavering commitment to his role as Spider-Man ultimately guide him back towards the light. This story of redemption offers us hope and reinforces the belief that no matter how deeply we may have strayed from our spiritual paths, it is never too late to return.

Spider-Man 3 underscores the truth that our spiritual journeys are often marked by moments of darkness and moral ambiguity. Yet, it reminds us that even in our darkest hours, the path to the light remains open to us. We must confront our inner demons with courage and self-reflection, for it is through this internal battle that we can emerge as stronger, more enlightened individuals.

The black substance in *Spider-Man 3* is not just a nice effect in a cool movie but an important spiritual allegory. It reminds us that our lives are a constant struggle between light and darkness, ego and selflessness, desire and restraint. To embark on a genuine spiritual journey, we must be willing to confront our inner shadows, embrace the redemptive power of Love and responsibility, and remember that even in our darkest moments, the path to the light is always within our reach. Or rather we are always within reach of God who is redemption, Love, and light.

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

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THANK YOU!

Thank you to Jacinta Walker for doing the Technology for the Third Age workshops for Android and Apple devices. The last Android meeting was held on Friday 8 September, and the last Apple was Friday 15 September. This has been an invaluable ministry for our parishioners and we look forward to seeing what the future has in store for our community.

IT'S HERE! - IGNITE CONFERENCE

We've been preparing for, and advertising, the Ignite Conference for sometime now and it's finally here. A group of our young people will attend the Conference this coming week beginning on Thursday and ending on Sunday. Keep them in prayer, as they head down to Brisbane, that the Holy Spirit may inspire them and spur them into active ministry in the life of the Church.

RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION IN STATE SCHOOLS

Mark's Gospel says 'let the little children come to me,' It's our hope that we can instruct those of our children that are yet to hear the Gospel, but we still need assistance. If you've got the time and are willing to help contact Georgia at the Christian Religious Education Program - Sunshine Coast via phone [0481 528 381] or email [admin@fantheflame.net.au] to get involved today.

ROSARY TALK - FR JEREMY SANTOSO

This coming Saturday Fr Jeremy Santoso will be here to talk to the community about the rosary. If you've ever wondered about the rosary and it's meaning, now is the time to learn more about it. Fr Jeremy will lead us in a spiritual experience of the rosary. We will meet at 11am, 23 September at St Mary's. Bring along something to share for lunch afterwards.

DAY TRIP TO THE CATHEDRAL

As well as the Message Stick travelling around our parish this week as a part of its journey around the Archdiocese to invite people to the 150th celebration of St Stephen's Cathedral next year, we have also organised to take a busload of parishioners to the Cathedral for a guided tour, Mass, a farmers' market and an organ recital. This day will have it all. The day trip is on Tuesday 17 October, and will leave from St Peter's Church at 8.30am, and pick up the rest of our parishioners at Stella Maris Church before heading off to the Cathedral, and will most likely take the whole day. Don't miss out! It's just \$25. Call the Parish Office (5443 3488) to book in now.

TOTUS TUUS - CONSECRATION TO JESUS THROUGH MARY

Pope John Paul II humbly offered himself to this consecration to Jesus through Mary. We extend an invitation to Spanish speaking parishioners and people of faith to join us at our consecration to Jesus through Mary, which will begin next Monday 25 September. Join us at 6:30pm in the sacristy room of the Stella Maris Church, Maroochydore. For more information contact Patricia Zuluaga 0480 304 643 or email patriciazg_1@hotmail.com

BR MICHAEL HERRY FMS

Music within the liturgy lifts the mind and heart to the things of God. It's vital that good music aids the liturgy and assists in helping the People of God enter into a time of prayer and communion with God. Br Michael Herry, a Marist Brother, and influential voice in the space of liturgical music, will be coming to our Parish. The night is open to all people, so come along and learn something new about how we might be able to participate more fully in the musical, liturgical and spiritual life of our community. Br Michael will be here on the 3 October for a workshop - 5pm to 7pm. For catering purposes please contact Michael Fitzpatrick on 0419 876 195 or email mfitzpatrick@ozemail.com.au.

24HR ADORATION

To welcome the month of the rosary in October, we're hosting 24hr Adoration at Stella Maris Church on 6/7 October. Adoration will begin after the morning Mass on the Friday, and continue until its conclusion at the Saturday morning Mass the following day. All parishioners are invited to commit to a timeslot - schedules are available at the entrance of our churches so you can select one (or more).

CATHOLIC MISSION AMBASSADORS

Catholic Mission is the Pope's international mission agency that responds to the call of loving God and neighbour by reaching out to give life by the sharing of personal and financial resources. Catholic Mission Sunday will be on the 21/22 October, and we're looking for people who might be ambassadors at their respective Mass. The ambassador will read a message during Mass and hand out information regarding this good work after Mass (everything is provided). If you're interested in being part of this movement, contact the Parish Office to join in the mission.

HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT THE SYNOD ON SYNODALITY?

By now, you will have heard of the Synod on Synodality. A synod is a gathering of the faithful in order to listen to what the Spirit is saying to the Church and asking her to be and to do. The Synod on Synodality began in October of 2021 and is projected to finish in October 2024. In a couple of weeks time, the Bishops and faithful involved will begin with a three-day retreat as a way of opening this next stage of the Synod. A document was released known as *Instrumentum laboris* to help guide the assembly. *Instrumentum* brings together experiences of dioceses from around the world. Pope Francis sees this as an exercise of mutual listening, conducted at all levels of the Church and involving the entire people of God. The three key words of the Synod are communion, mission and participation. We ourselves can begin this Synodal process by exploring the way we engage in communion, mission and participation especially at a cultural and generational level. If you would like to learn more about what's happening with the Synod and the reflections that are emerging, log onto the Synod website. <https://www.synod.va/en.html>

MEET THE PARISH



We make our way over to Sippy Downs for our next instalment of *Meet the Parish*. Today, we present to you, Rob and Helen Matchett. Rob and Helen came to the Parish in 2003. They originally attended Stella Maris Church until St Catherine's Church was built, and have attended Mass there ever since. They've been a part of the building-up of the community through their involvement in welcoming people especially during morning tea after Mass. Rob was on the Finance Committee and has looked after a lot of the maintenance of the church. Helen has been involved with the Grief Support Team, RCIA and Alpha. Together, they have four children, eight grandchildren and three great-grandsons. Thank you to the Matchetts for all they do within the community. Nice to meet you!

CALLING ALL MEN!

There is still room for you to join this great MenALIVE weekend! What better place to discover a supportive community of men than in your backyard? This weekend is on 7/8 October at the Stella Maris Primary School in Maroochydore, and will provide the space and environment for men to reflect; and be inspired, encouraged and have a new sense of purpose and mission. For more information contact Ross McNally (0418 962 837), or contact the Parish Office and speak with Fr Isaac. There are some brochures still at the church entrances - take one home this weekend and see what it's all about.

FR JAMES ALLISON TOUR

On Thursday 12 October at 6pm Bishop Tim Norton will host a panel with Fr James Alison. If you're familiar with Fr James Alison's work, you'll know that he's written extensively on the theologian Rene Girard and has also contributed to spaces concerning same-sex attracted Catholics in a Catholic setting. If you're interested in hearing from him, come along to the Stella Maris Primary School for a conversation that promises to be enlightening and enriching.

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, 18 September

- ◆ Adoration 4.30pm, Stella Maris
- ◆ **Mass** (5.30pm, Stella Maris Church)
- ◆ Librum Et Legere Club meeting (Stella Maris)
- ◆ Catholic Formation course (6.30pm, Function Room, Stella Maris)

Tuesday, 19 September

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

Wednesday, 20 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)
- ◆ St Catherine's Community Team meeting.
- ◆ Latin American Prayer Group (6pm, Function Room, Maroochydore)

Thursday, 21 September

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

Friday, 22 September

- ◆ **Mass** (9am, Stella Maris Church)
- ◆ Funeral of Elizabeth Anderson (10.30am, Gregson & Weight Chapel, Buderim)
- ◆ 9.30am Craft Group (Stella Maris)
- ◆ Community Meal for the Homeless, Vulnerable and Disadvantaged (6pm, Stella Maris)

Saturday, 23 September

- ◆ Reconciliation 8.30am to 9.30am (Stella Maris)
- ◆ Baptism of Joni D'Elboux, Charlie McCathie, Hudson McCathie, Isabelle McCathie. (10am, Stella Maris)
- ◆ Rosary speaker, Fr Jeremy Santoso (11am, St Mary's)
- ◆ 11am El Shaddai group meets (Sippy Downs)
- ◆ **Vigil Mass** (4.30pm, St Peter's Church)
- ◆ **Vigil Mass** (6.00pm, Stella Maris Church)

Sunday, 24 September

25th 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 of Jonathan Longfield (11am, Stella Maris)
- ◆ **Polish Mass** (4.00pm, St Mary's Church)
- ◆ **Mass** (5pm, Stella Maris Church)

Celebrating and Remembering

We welcome into God's Family, the Church, *Penelope Kube* and *Elijah O'Donnell* who will be baptised this weekend in our Parish.

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

Rest in Peace.

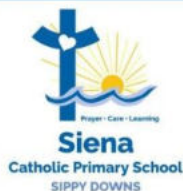
Catholic Education in our Stella Maris Parish Family

Siena Catholic Primary School

58 Sippy Downs Drive,
Sippy Downs

psippydowns@bne.catholic.edu.au

Principal: Glen Bucklar



Interschool Sport - Year 5 and 6 Siena Primary students have recently participated in Coastal District Interschool Sport. At Siena, we support interschool sport because when our students participate in team sports they develop: friendship and camaraderie, cooperation and teamwork skills, leadership skills, respect for team mates/opponents/officials, a sense of belonging/team membership, social interaction skills, physical skills, self-esteem, self-discipline, patience and persistence, resilience through sharing positive and negative experiences. Above all else, the children had a lot of fun!

Year 6 Drama Production - throughout Term 2 and 3, Year 6 students were offered the opportunity to audition for the Drama production Cinderella. Our very creative, talented and dedicated Year 6 teacher, Kate Maher, worked with the cast and crew most lunchtimes, as well as some after school times to learn lines, create costumes and props, and to put together a spectacular and very entertaining production of a version of Cinderella. Performances were attended by parents and our whole school this week. Mrs Maher and her whole team are to be congratulated for sharing their incredible talents with us all.



Stella Maris Primary School

Stella Maris Way,
Maroochydore

pmaroochydore@bne.catholic.edu.au

Principal: Mark Ballam



The arrival of **R U OK? Day** this week was the perfect opportunity for our staff to stop at the end of another busy school term, to spend some down time with each other, enjoy a hearty breakfast and check in with each other. Our Wellbeing Team did a fabulous job of organising a special meal, setting up a delightful venue, cooking up a storm and providing service with great big smiles. With everything shining yellow, from the tablecloths to the flowers to the drinks, outfits and accessories, it was a fabulous transition to the school holidays.

R U OK? Day was instigated in Australia as a National Day of Action to highlight the importance of meaningful conversations and remind all Australians to start them every day of the year. It's a day to come together at community events across the country to share this important message and ask, "Are you OK?" There are lots of resources available online to promote regular, meaningful conversations with colleagues, family and friends. It's important because a conversation could change a life. Start one today!



Siena Catholic College

60 Sippy Downs Drive,
Sippy Downs

ssippydowns@bne.catholic.edu.au

Acting Principal: Pat Toohey



This term has seemed to fly past ... with our staff and students now on their final term holidays for the year ... and taking some very deep breaths before they engage again in what is guaranteed to be a hectic Term 4.

Our Year 11s have completed their first formal exam block, which saw them studying at home and then gathering on-site to complete their end of unit exams. The experience has been a demanding one, but the students now have a better idea of what their Year 12 exams will be like. Our Year 12s are at the end of formal classes and are now in tutorial, revision and preparation mode for their upcoming external exams - the finish line is now in sight, and we trust that they are prepared for the weeks ahead.

The Year 10s have been off-site this week as they undertook a three-day wilderness camp. After a few weeks of beautiful weather, the cooler temperatures, wind and rain were an added challenge, but all staff and students drew on their resilience to ensure that they successfully navigated this trekking, canoeing and camping experience. Unfortunately, there are no photos as there was no internet access at the camp.

