

# TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Weekend of 30 September/1 October 2023

First Reading: Ezekiel 18:25-28 Second Reading: Philippians 2:1-11 Gospel: Matthew 21:28-32

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

### GUARDIAN ANGELS

On 29 September we celebrated the feast of the Archangels Michael, Gabriel and Raphael. This week, on 2 October, we reflect on the feast of the Holy Guardian Angels.

When some of us were young, we may have had beautiful images of guardian angels hanging in our bedrooms and we may have learned to recite the Guardian Angel prayer, "*Angel of God, my guardian dear, to whom God's love commits me here, ever this day be at my side, to light and guard, to rule and guide*". I always felt comforted by the idea that I was constantly being guided and cared for by my own personal Angel.



In our world today, acceptable information is expected to be scientifically proven and physically observed. The idea of each of us having our own Guardian Angel or a heavenly guide following us around, may seem superstitious, old-fashioned, or outdated to some. Many people may wonder why such a concept is still included in the Catechism of the Catholic Church. These teachings are not designed to be facts that we blindly agree with or disagree with, but are rather designed to reveal more to us about our God who is Love, the world God created, and how God offers us grace and salvation in every moment of our lives.

In its paragraph on Guardian angels, the Catechism includes a quote from the great fourth-century theologian St. Basil of Caesarea, "*Beside each believer stands an angel as protector and shepherd leading him or her to life*" (CCC 336). Basil's idea has some scriptural foundation, as Christ says: "*Take care that you do not despise one of these little ones; for, I tell you, in heaven their angels continually see the face of my Father in heaven*" (Mt 18:10).

The word "angel" comes from the Greek word 'angelos', a translation of the Hebrew word for 'messenger.' Angels in Hebrew Scriptures function as spirits that bring messages from God - an angel brings word to Abraham to spare Isaac, an angel wrestles with Jacob, and angels help Daniel interpret God's visions. In the New Testament, the angel Gabriel announces the births of Jesus and John the Baptist, an angel tells Joseph to take Mary as his wife, angels assist Jesus when He is tempted in the desert and in His agony in the garden. In the various Gospel accounts, angels are witnessed at the empty tomb, and Matthew credits an angel for rolling the stone back from the entrance.

Theologians' ideas about the nature of angels vary but they agree on several key truths about angels. Angels are created spirits, having intellects and wills, but no bodies. Scripture tells us about angels to remind us that God is actively at work in our world, but in ways that are somewhat mysterious to human beings.

Many people struggle to recognise the presence of a spiritual realm, beyond our rational, observable world, but perhaps we should not be so quick to discard our guardian angels. They serve to remind us that God is intimately present to each of us. Let us continue to turn to our own guardian angels as an intercessor, guide and source of protection, as we endeavour to walk each day, with our God.

*Dea 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

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## SHARE A CUPPA THIS WEEKEND

It is the first weekend of the month again, and you are invited to stay for a cuppa, as there will be refreshments after all our Masses this weekend. It's an opportunity to catch up with friends, and meet some new people. The community at 6.30am Mass will be providing a sausage sizzle after their Mass. A wonderful way to start the day.

## 24 HOUR ADORATION

We had one earlier in the year that turned out to be a success. We're calling on parishioners to again be part of this upcoming 24 Hour Adoration. If you have some time between Friday 6 and Saturday 7 October come along to Stella Maris Church for this time of prayer and rest in the Lord. Spend some time with the Lord as you pray for your personal needs, the needs of this parish, and the needs of the world. Sign up with one of our time sheets located at the entrance of each church.

## CONVERSATIONS WITH FR JAMES ALISON

We're not too far away from Bishop Tim and Fr James' visit. Many people have been enquiring about the content of this talk. At its most basic level Fr James will share a few of his reflections and position on same sex attraction. There's much to be said in this space, particularly with how we as Catholics are to pastorally approach the situation. Bishop Tim will guide the conversation but it will certainly be a challenging and/or enlightening space for many. Fundamentally, it's important that we can have a safe and open conversation about these topics. We warmly welcome all people to join us for this occasion. The conversation will take place at Stella Maris Primary School, Maroochydore, at 6pm on Thursday 12 October.

## BR MICHAEL HERRY FMS

This Tuesday (3 October) Br Michael Herry will come to Stella Maris Church, Maroochydore. This parish boasts a high standard of musical talent and this workshop promises to elevate that to the next level. With his vast experience in psalmody and lyricism, the Br Michael workshop promises to be a learning space that will ultimately contribute to the way we worship in the Mass. Don't miss out on this opportunity to learn from one of Australia's best. The night will begin at 5pm and finish around 7pm. Everyone is welcome. If you're interested in coming along kindly contact Michael Fitzpatrick on 0419 876 195 for catering purposes or email [mfitzpatrick@ozemail.com.au](mailto:mfitzpatrick@ozemail.com.au).

## RELIC OF ST JOHN BOSCO

On Saturday 14 October we will welcome a 410kg relic statue of St John Bosco marking 100 years of the Salesian order in Australia. The wax replica of the 19th century priest's body is contained in a glass casket and holds a major relic of the patron saint of young people. Take some time out of your day to visit the relic that Saturday and pray for the Young People of this nation and particularly this parish as we look to build a Youth Group in the coming months.

## TRIP TO THE CATHEDRAL

Seats are selling quickly for our Tour Trip down to the Cathedral for the 150th celebrations. The Cathedral staff have informed us that we are the first parish to take up the invitation to visit our spiritual home which means we'll pave the way for other parishes and their future visits. The bus will leave on Tuesday 17 October for a full day trip - picking up at Coolumb Beach, and then Maroochydore, before it heads down to the Cathedral. Get in quick and don't miss out on this amazing experience.

## JUNIOR MINISTERS

We had a great turnout to our last Junior Ministers meeting and now we're calling on our young people again to make their way to Stella Maris Church on Sunday 15 October for our next session. The meeting will begin at 2:30pm in the church with a little training. Afterwards, there will be pizza and games from 3:15pm to 4:30pm. We're inviting children who have made their First Holy Communion or who are in grades 4-Yr 8. We look forward to seeing you there.

## PRAYER FOR THE SYNOD

Keep in your prayers this week the Synod on Synodality which begins on Wednesday in the Vatican. Pope Francis and representatives from all over the world will meet and table many of the issues, concerns, realities and situations of our universal Church with the intention of being a listening Church that humbly approaches many of the circumstances of our day in a prayerful and reflective way. If you'd like to join the universal Church in prayer, find the Synod prayer on the back of this week's bulletin.

*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, **Hugh Mackinlay, Alice Sammut, Ava Ramsay** and **Gus Simmons** who will be baptised this weekend in our Parish.

We prayerfully remember all those who have died, especially **Margaret Adena** whose funeral rites will be celebrated on Monday 9 October. 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



Meet Michael Fitzpatrick. You've probably heard him sing at the 5pm Stella Maris Mass. Outside of the many hours he commits to volunteering in the Parish, Michael runs retreats and reflection days in Catholic schools up and down the East Coast. He works in 85 Catholic high schools. He is married to Helen, who is head of English at Siena, and they have two daughters. Michael was born in Cairns but has lived here on the Sunshine Coast for 34 years. He came up to work for Fr Joe Duffy, on what was then called the evening Youth Mass. Fr Will caught Michael connecting cables and then took a photo. Nice to meet you, Michael!

### MEN ALIVE - LAST CHANCE!

Last Chance to Register. The menALIVE weekend for men is happening NEXT WEEKEND 7/8 October in Stella Maris Primary School, Maroochydore. Like thousands of other Catholic men who have already been on menALIVE weekends, you will be inspired and encouraged to renew your faith and rediscover God's purpose in your life. Experienced leaders from menALIVE will be running the weekend. For last minute registration or inquiries, contact Ross McNally (0418 962 837), or contact the Parish Office and speak with Fr Isaac.

### CATHOLIC FORMATION

Catholic Formation's scripture course will resume on Monday with the next session unpacking the mysteries of the Word. We pray that those involved come to a deeper appreciation of the Word in their lives through this course.

### MONTH OF THE HOLY ROSARY

October is the month of the Holy Rosary. We began by exploring the topic with Fr Jeremy Santoso last weekend, and will continue with 24-hour adoration next weekend. We especially wish every blessing to our neighbours down south, Our Lady of the Rosary Parish (Caloundra), who will celebrate their feast day on Saturday 7 October. Keep an eye out in the Newsletter for other up-and-coming events centred on the Rosary. There's also an invitation from the community at St Peter's to join in their rosary before the 8:30 am Mass on Thursday.

## 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, 2 October

- ◆ Adoration 4.30pm, Stella Maris
- ◆ **Mass** (5.30pm, Stella Maris Church)
- ◆ Librum Et Legere Club meeting (Stella Maris)
- ◆ Consecration to Jesus through Mary, in Spanish (6.30pm, Stella Maris Church)
- ◆ Catholic Formation course (6.30pm, Function Room, Stella Maris)

### Tuesday, 3 October

- ◆ **Mass** (9.00am, Stella Maris School Chapel)
- ◆ Parish Social Group (11am, Compass Connections Café, Maroochydore)
- ◆ Music Workshop with Br Michael Herry (5pm, Stella Maris Church)

### Wednesday, 4 October

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

### Thursday, 5 October

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

### Friday, 6 October

- ◆ **Anointing & Healing Mass** (9am, Stella Maris Church), followed by morning tea.
- ◆ 24 Hour Adoration (starting after 9am Mass and finishing with First Saturday Mass (Stella Maris Church)
- ◆ Community Meal for the Homeless, Vulnerable and Disadvantaged (6pm, Stella Maris)

### Saturday, 7 October

- ◆ 24 Hour Adoration (starting after 9am Mass on Friday, and finishing with First Saturday Mass (Stella Maris Church)
- ◆ **First Saturday Mass** (8am, Stella Maris)
- ◆ Reconciliation 8.30am to 9.30am (Stella Maris)
- ◆ Baptism of Jazlyn Bastenie, Indi Bastenie, Herbie Morris, Saila Morris (10am, Stella Maris)
- ◆ **Vigil Mass** (4.30pm, St Peter's Church)
- ◆ **Vigil Mass** (6.00pm, Stella Maris Church)

### Sunday, 8 October

#### 27th 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)
- ◆ **Mass** (5pm, Stella Maris Church)

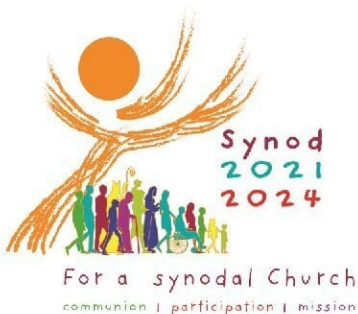
## NEW COLUMBARIUM WALLS

This week we installed two new Columbarium walls at Stella Maris Church. If you've visited the space before, you'll know that the walls already installed were named after three of the Archangels; *Michael*, *Gabriel* and *Raphael*. So we now need two more names. Suggestions welcome - contact the Parish Office on 5443 3488.

If you have any queries about our Columbarium walls just contact the Parish Office.



## SYNOD ON SYNODALITY PRAYER



We stand before You, Holy Spirit,  
as we gather together in Your name.  
With You alone to guide us,  
make Yourself at home in our hearts;  
Teach us the way we must go  
and how we are to pursue it.  
We are weak and sinful;  
do not let us promote disorder.  
Do not let ignorance lead us down  
the wrong path nor partiality influence our actions.  
Let us find in You our unity  
so that we may journey together to eternal life  
and not stray from the way of truth  
and what is right.  
All this we ask of You,  
who are at work in every place and time,  
in the communion of the Father and the Son,  
forever and ever.