

TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Weekend of 7/8 October 2023

First Reading: Isaiah 5:1-7 Second Reading: Philippians 4:6-9 Gospel: Matthew 21:33-34

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

"NICE TO MEET YOU" - Fellow Parishioners, New Cardinals and 450 Synod Delegates

I thought last week's "Nice to meet you" about Michael Fitzpatrick, our generous, talented musician at Stella Maris was brilliant, as are all the "Nice to meet you" profiles on parishioners in all four communities of this friendly, warm, welcoming and prayerful very big parish. It's also in the pews and after Mass each Sunday that all of us can be saying 'nice to meet you' and getting to know each other better – a synodal parish.

The big news at the moment is from Rome - the creation of 21 new Cardinals last Saturday (nice to meet you all!!) and the start of the much anticipated Synod with the theme "For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission".

Synods are a fruit of Vatican II when a representative group of Bishops from around the world gather every few years to discuss important issues in the life of the Church. The big difference about this Synod is it has involved two years of preparation, starting with consultation in parishes when we had the opportunity to share our perspective on key issues, and when for the first time not only Bishops but the lay faithful as members of the 450 delegates from all over the world who will have a wide range of views on many important issues. The Synod will meet all this month and reconvene again in October 2024, after which the Pope will share with us in a Papal document the fruits of the Synod.

What did Pope Francis say in his Homily at the Opening Mass of the Synod last Wednesday, the feast of St Francis of Assisi, 4 October 2023? After cautioning against relying on "human strategies or ideological battles" he urges "unity and friendship". He said: "the primary task of the Synod". (is) to refocus our gaze on God, to be a Church that looks mercifully at humanity; a Church that is united and fraternal, that listens and dialogues; a Church that blesses and encourages; that helps those who seek the Lord; that lovingly stirs up the indifferent; that opens paths in order to draw people into the beauty of faith. A Church that has God at its centre and is not divided internally and is never harsh externally".

Pope Francis told the Synod delegates we need to be a Church that "does not impose burdens" and instead "repeats to everyone "come, you who are weary and oppressed; come, you who have lost your way or feel far away; come, you who have closed the door to hope, the Church is here for you."

At the opening session later in the day, Pope Francis told the delegates St Francis "did not criticise or lash out at anyone" but instead "took up only the weapons of the Gospel: humility and unity, prayer and charity", and he encouraged the 450 delegates "Let us do the same."

One priest at the three day Retreat prior to the Synod said the Retreat was like a Gospel experience of the Transfiguration which he called "a Retreat Jesus gave his closest disciples before they embarked on the first Synod in the life of the Church when they walked and talked with Jesus to Jerusalem. He said the Apostles may have felt they didn't achieve anything except to witness the terrible death and then the resurrection of Jesus. But then they took the Gospel message to the world. May this historic Synod help the Church to be united and effective in that same mission today. Pray all October for Pope Francis and the Synod.

Fr Brian Connolly

At Your Service

Fr Brian Connolly

Fr Isaac Falzon

Fr William Aupito Iuliano

Deacon Michael Khoury



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FR JAMES ALISON CONVERSATION WITH BISHOP TIM

This coming Thursday Fr James Alison will be in Maroochydore for a conversation and question time with Bishop Tim Norton. The interview, led by Bishop Tim, will cover questions such as “What does the Church say/not say about being gay?”, “How can Catholic communities be more inclusive of the LGBTQ+ community?” We recognise that this can be a sensitive topic for many, but one still worth exploring. All are invited to be present at Stella Maris Primary School, 6pm Thursday.

ST JOHN BOSCO RELIC VISIT

Saturday 14 October, the relic statue of St John Bosco will come to the Parish. All Parishioners are encouraged and invited to visit the relic statue for some time of prayer and veneration. Relics are a deep part of the life of the Church, and have been for many years. Most altars have relics of a saint which comes from a long history of Christians building Churches on top of the burial sites of the saints. St John, the founder of the Salesian Order, was influential in educating the poor. The Salesians throughout the world have been present in many countries continuing this tradition of education but now to people of all walks of life. If you get a chance, come by Maroochydore on Saturday to see this great man of God.

JUNIOR MINISTERS

The last time they met, our Junior Ministers learnt about the Introductory Rites of the Mass and what do to when serving during this part of the Mass. We’ve had more servers taking up the role within local communities which is amazing to see. Children are invited to come along to Stella Maris on Sunday 15 October at 2:30pm for training and then fun and games with pizza. Our meeting will conclude at 4:30pm and children will have an opportunity to stay and attend the 5pm Mass.

PARISH EXCURSION TO THE CATHEDRAL

We’re drawing closer to our Parish bus trip to the Cathedral. Workers within the Archdiocesan Offices in town are already raving about the magnificent markets they have every Tuesday. Yet more importantly, we get to celebrate and pray for our diocesan spiritual home, the Cathedral of St Stephen. Register your spot on the bus for \$25. There’s still plenty of space on the bus which we hope to fill. The bus will leave on the morning of 17 October, beginning at Coolum and then going through Maroochydore, before leaving for the Cathedral.

LIBRARY OF BOOKS

Some Churches of the Parish will notice the return of the library books at the entrance of the Church. There is plenty of material there for the nourishment and spiritual journey of the soul. Please take one and return it once you’ve finished reading. Please **do not add** books to the shelves otherwise they will be removed. Enjoy the wide range of spiritual readings from the history of our faith.

YOUNG ADULTS MEETING

The next young adults meeting will take place on Friday 13 October at St Mary’s, Buderim, 6pm. All young adults are welcome to join in Lectio Divina, which is a prayerful and meditative reading of the scriptures. The group will cover the Gospel of the coming Sunday. Come along and meet some new people.

VINNIES, ST PETER’S CONFERENCE

On Thursday at St Peter’s, two new members were inducted into the conference. Congratulations to the men who signed up to be a part of this missionary endeavour on the coast. We pray that Vinnies continues the work of the Lord in the world and bring people back to faith.



Celebrating and Remembering

We welcome into God’s Family, the Church, *Jazlyn Bastenie, Indi Bastenie, Herbie Morris* and *Saila Morris* 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.

CATECHISM CORNER

Who is the minister of Confirmation? The original minister of Confirmation is the Bishop. This is slightly different to how the Eastern Orthodox celebrates the Sacrament because they receive all three Sacraments of Initiation at the one time. The importance of the Bishop as the *original* minister of communion stems back to the Apostolic Tradition, which is the succession of appointed Bishops going all the way back to the Apostles. When the Bishop administers the Sacrament of Confirmation it clearly demonstrates that its effect is to unite those who receive Confirmation more closely to the Church, apostolic origins and the Church's mission of bearing witness to Christ (#1313).

A priest can administer Confirmation either by mandate of the law or by delegation by the bishop. The Code of Canon Law outlines that regarding moments where a person is in danger of death, the Priest can administer Confirmation.

PRISON MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS

A few parishioners make their way to Woodford Correctional Centre for Prison Chaplaincy. Prison ministry can be daunting at first, but picks up on the Gospel imperative to seek out the lost and lonely, 'when I was in prison, you visited me (Mt 25:36).' If anyone is interested in being part of this ministry, contact the Parish Office and register your interest. We look forward to hearing from you.

BR MICHAEL HERRY

Last Tuesday night Br Michael led the community through an interactive and musical time. He sang majestically as we covered psalm tones and how to prepare for a Mass of a weekend. Thank you to Michael Fitzpatrick and the volunteers who assisted with the refreshments afterwards.



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, 9 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)
- ◆ Parish Finance Council meeting

Tuesday, 10 October

- ◆ **Mass** (9.00am, Stella Maris School Chapel)
- ◆ 9.30am Craft Group (Stella Maris)
- ◆ Firefighter Remembrance Day Service (10am, St Peter's Church)

Wednesday, 11 October

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

Thursday, 12 October

- ◆ **Mass** (8.30am, St Peter's Church),
- ◆ 2pm Rosary & Divine Mercy (Stella Maris)
- ◆ Fr James Alison discussion panel (6.00pm, Hall, Stella Maris Primary School)

Friday, 13 October

- ◆ **Mass** (9am, Stella Maris Church)
- ◆ Young Adults Group (6.00pm, St Mary's)
- ◆ Community Meal for the Homeless, Vulnerable and Disadvantaged (6pm, Stella Maris)

Saturday, 14 October

- ◆ Visit of St John Bosco relic
- ◆ Reconciliation 8.30am to 9.30am (Stella Maris)
- ◆ Baptism of Mason Kearns (10am, Stella Maris)
- ◆ Baptism of Stella Harvey, Ari Harvey (10am, St Catherine of Siena)
- ◆ 11am El Shaddai group meets (Sippy Downs)
- ◆ 12 noon RCIA Confirmation and First Holy Communion for Candidates (Stella Maris)
- ◆ **Vigil Mass** (4.30pm, St Peter's Church)
- ◆ **Vigil Mass** (6.00pm, Stella Maris Church)

Sunday, 15 October

28th SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

- ◆ **Mass** (6.30am, Stella Maris Church)
- ◆ **Mass** (7.30am, St Peter's Church) with Children's Church
- ◆ **Mass** (8am, St Catherine of Siena Church)
- ◆ **Mass** (9am Stella Maris) with Children's Church
- ◆ **Mass** (9.30am, St Mary's Church)
- ◆ Junior Ministers (2.30pm to 4.30pm, Stella Maris)
- ◆ **Mass** (5pm, Stella Maris Church) with Junior Ministers

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



Siena Primary welcomed back students to Term 4. It was great to see a happy and positive spirit around the school this week.

This term, Siena Primary are revisiting our school value of **JUSTICE**. At Siena, justice looks out for others, up to God, and shares it around to everyone. As a community of faith, we seek continually to build respectful relationships valuing and embracing all.

Stella Maris Primary School

Stella Maris Way,
Maroochydore

pmaroochydore@bne.catholic.edu.au

Principal: Mark Ballam



For most Year 6 students across Australia, this term will be their final one in primary school. That means that it comes with a great mix of emotions. While some students are filled with excitement about the prospect of starting high school, many are feeling reflective about their journey so far and somewhat nervous about leaving the safety and comfort of the place they've known, the friends they've made and the experiences shared. Here at Stella Maris School, lots of measures are in place to support the transition to high school. On top of all the classroom learning, we've got a Leadership Reflection Day, transition days at new schools, a Thanksgiving Mass, a Graduation Dinner, a Leadership Handover and final day celebrations. We wish all Year 6 students a fabulous term ahead.



Siena Catholic College

60 Sippy Downs Drive,
Sippy Downs

ssippydowns@bne.catholic.edu.au

Acting Principal: Pat Toohey



It was a bonus to have an extra day added to our term break due to the King's Birthday holiday. A group of our teachers, however, used that day to travel to Sydney for the second of our Mary MacKillop staff pilgrimages. Over two days, they walked in Mary's footsteps, exploring the area of The Rocks where she set up her Houses of Providence. They also learnt of her life and ministry and visited the Mary MacKillop museum, which contains many wonderful artefacts, Alma Cottage, and the beautiful chapel which houses her tomb.

On Wednesday, our Year 11 students began the process of choosing student leaders for 2024. They had the opportunity to listen to Az Hamilton, whose presentation aimed to equip our students with ways to make a tangible difference in their world through simple but profound actions.

It's the beginning of the end of secondary school life for our Year 12s, and this week they begin the final weeks of formal classes. We wish them well as they prepare for their upcoming external exams.

