

# THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Weekend of 11/12 November 2023

First Reading: Wisdom 6:12-16 Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 Gospel: Matthew 25:1-13

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

### TO OUR CATHOLIC COMMUNITIES IN AUSTRALIA

Dear friends,

I'm sure October 7 is etched in our memories now as a day when once again the Middle East, and particularly the Holy Land, was devastated with a new wave of violence. The Franciscans have, for eight centuries, been responsible for the care of the many sacred places, as well as schools and parishes in Israel, Gaza and the West Bank.

It is difficult to not take sides in this conflict, but so far both sides have used extreme methods where many innocent people have been killed.

With Hamas' initial attack on innocent Israeli citizens – infants, children, youth and the elderly – killing more than 1,000, wounding many others and taking 200 hostages, and Israel's response of blocking food, water, fuel, medical supplies and demanding that more than a million people leave their homes; are both acts of extremism and difficult for us in Australia to comprehend.

Pope Francis has called for peace: *"Terrorism and extremism do not help reach a solution to the conflict between Israelis and Palestinians, but fuel hatred, violence, revenge and only cause each other to suffer. The Middle East does not need war, but peace, a peace built on dialogue and the courage of fraternity... Please do not shed any more innocent blood, neither in the Holy Land, nor in Ukraine, nor anywhere else! Enough! Wars are always a defeat, always!"*

Besides looking after the pilgrims and pilgrimage sites, the Franciscans look after 15 schools in the Israel/Palestine area and offer wide-ranging housing and social support programmes. The Latin Patriarch looks after another 10 schools. There are two Catholic schools in the Gaza parish – they are part of the Holy Family Parish and part of the Latin Patriarchate. Both communities are currently sheltering families and will need help when the current violence stops. The Holy Child School in Bethlehem provides an intense therapeutic day treatment programme and alternative education for children in the Bethlehem region who suffer from untreated complex mental health issues and exposure to intergenerational trauma.

At this time, I ask you on behalf of all those affected by this conflict to pray for peace. In the near future, I hope to have more information on how you can help but for now, prayer is the best answer.

Let us pray with Psalm 122, 6-9:

*Ask for peace for Jerusalem:*

*may those who love you live in safety;*

*let there be peace in your walls,*

*safety in your palaces.*

*For my brothers and my friends, I will say:*

*Upon you be peace!*

*By the house of the Lord our God,*

*I will ask good for you.*

Sincerely,

Fr Bernie Thomas OFM

Commissary of the Holy Land Australia



**Holy Land Commissariat**

Franciscan Provincial Office

47 Victoria Street | Waverley NSW 2024 | Australia

#### At Your Service

Fr Geoff Baron

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: [maroochydoreparish.com.au](http://maroochydoreparish.com.au)

## PARISH WELCOME NIGHT

After our Monday evening Mass at 5:30pm on 20 November, we will host our Parish Welcome Night. The Sunshine Coast has seen an increase of residents which has also included new parishioners to our worshipping communities. We want to take the time to welcome you and include you in the life of the parish through the many different activities and ministries throughout the parish. More importantly, we want to hear your story and get to know you. This coming Welcome Night we also include our newly baptised brothers and sisters along with their family. If you haven't yet filled in a Welcome Form and you're new, take one from the entrance of the church or log onto the website and follow the links to the page 'I'm New' and fill in our online form. Welcome to the parish!

## PARISH THANK YOU PARTY

We are blessed to belong to a diverse faith community that is comprised of so many generous and willing members. One of the risks all large communities (like ours) is to take the ministry of our fellow parishioners for granted – *we are who we are, because of all who serve, and who make sure everything flows smoothly!* Across our parish there are so many who share their time and talent week-in and week-out ensuring that all our ministries and outreach reflect who we are called to be. Not every parish community is as blessed as we are! Once a year, just before the onslaught of the busy Christmas season, we like to invite everyone who is on a roster or involved in any form of ministry to Stella Maris Church, Maroochydore. It is a chance for all of us to gather, reconnect and give thanks. So, if you are on a roster or involved in any way, in any aspect, of the running of our four faith communities, please accept this invitation to our pre-Christmas appreciation on **Tuesday, 22 November, from 5 to 7pm**. Please bring a plate of dessert to share. For catering purposes, please RSVP to the Parish Office (5443 3488) the number of people who will be attending. See you there!

## SISTERHOOD - PARISH WOMEN'S RETREAT

We're only two weeks away from our parish women's retreat on 25 November at Stella Maris Primary School. We want to extend this invitation to all women within the parish to connect with and journey alongside other like-minded Catholics. This is a wonderful opportunity for the women of our parish, and it's through these encounters that we will come alive as a Church and as people of faith. We're blessed to have Karen Doyle, the founder of the Genius Project, speaking to us over the weekend. If you would like to learn more about this amazing event, check our parish website for more details, and to register - follow the links to our Sisterhood page. The weekend begins at 8:30am and finishes at 4pm. The cost is \$30 per person. Just call the Parish Office if you have any food allergies etc. We look forward to seeing you there.

## WITH EXPECTANT HEARTS - ADVENT RESOURCE

We're only a few weeks away from Advent now and Evangelisation Brisbane has released a resource to assist us in this time of preparation for the Christ event at Christmas. If you're interested in getting your hands on this resource, come by the Parish Office to secure yourself a copy. There aren't many copies available, so get in quick!

## WHEN ARE WE GOING TO HAVE THE WINE AGAIN?

Many people have asked this question of our clergy over the past few weeks. As many of us recall, our main hindrance at the time was COVID. Obviously, the virus is still circulating, but we would like to reintroduce the Communion Cup to our communities across the parish. We will begin again with the Communion Cup on the Feast of Christ the King, 26 November. A few things to keep in mind as we begin again. If you feel "under the weather" you should refrain from the chalice. The practice of intinction (dipping of Communion host into the chalice) is **NOT** permitted. This is seen as a *self-service* which goes against the meaning of Communion and sharing in the common cup as brothers and sisters. Remember also, that receiving from the chalice is a meaningful experience, but it is not necessary to receive the fullness of Christ in Holy Communion, so if you do not wish to take from the chalice then that is fine. As we draw closer to the date, we look forward in anticipation to joining with the Apostles who themselves received the cup from Christ. May we come alive in faith and be more like what we consume in the Eucharist.

## GREETINGS ALL - FROM FR GEOFF

For the next two months I'll be helping out round the parish with Masses and other sacramental ministries until Fr Peter returns. Running a parish is more demanding than years ago, and thankfully, in retirement, I'm free from that! So I will have time on my hands. If anyone would like me to knock on their door for a home visit just for a chat about whatever - plus a coffee and biscuit - I should be able to comply. It used to be called Home Visitation in the old days. Phone the parish office and I'll give you a call to arrange a date and time.

## SAFEGUARDING TEAM MEMBERS

Safeguarding is an essential role in the parish community. As a parish, we're dedicated to providing safe spaces for our children and vulnerable adults but we need your help. We're looking for representatives from each parish community to be part of a team that cares for our Parish community. If you're interested and would like to learn more about how you can get involved, contact the Parish Office to speak to Fr Will or send an email to [stellam@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:stellam@bne.catholic.net.au) with your details.

## ADVENT GROUP - ST CATHERINE'S

An invitation is being extended to the parish for anyone wanting to participate in the St Catherine's Advent Group. The Advent group will use the same resource from Evangelisation Brisbane called "With Expectant Hearts." The cost of each booklet is \$6. Meetings will take place on the Wednesday evenings during Advent on 29 November, 6, 13 and 20 December from 6:30pm-7:30pm. If you're interested in joining the group contact Helen Matchett on 0403 617 512 or email [helenmatchett@optusnet.com.au](mailto:helenmatchett@optusnet.com.au)

## Celebrating and Remembering

We welcome into God's Family, the Church, *Nathan Harris, Adeline Harris, Evelyn Harris, Jethro Gray, Bohdi Gray* and *Nea Viviers* 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

What happened to Confirmation names? It's long been the custom in the Catholic Church that the *Confirmand* would take on the name of a saint during Confirmation. Yet, the naming after a saint has never been an official part of the sacrament. The basic thought behind this custom was really to adopt a heavenly patron or to honour a saint to whom one had a special devotion. Some dioceses would opt for reaffirming the name given to you at your Baptism. As parents themselves put time and effort into the process, and the name itself has become part of your identity, people would often come to appreciate the name they were given. When we think about Baptism, the formula itself establishes a connection to Confirmation. At Baptism we use '*N. I baptise you in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.*' At Confirmation we use '*N. Be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit.*' Both begin with the name of the individual as a way of identifying and claiming them as God's own. The naming of a saint is still around but some dioceses and parishes might differ in this practice.

## PRISON SUNDAY

The Church in Australia marks Prison Sunday this weekend. Prison Sunday commenced in 2016, during the Year of Mercy, as an initiative of Pope Francis to observe the Jubilee for Prisoners. "We need to nourish the roots of our hope so that they can bear fruit ... despite whatever evil we have done. There is no corner of our heart that cannot be touched by God's love," Pope Francis said at the time.

Each year on the 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time, the Catholic Church in Australia marks Prison Sunday, bringing attention to the plight of prisoners and highlighting the important work that prison chaplains undertake.

"Let's think of our incarcerated brothers and sisters, and let's think about the tenderness of God for them and pray for them so that they may find in that window of hope a way out toward a better life.", Pope Francis has said. For those that are interested in being part of the Prison Ministry visits on Fridays, please contact Fr Will (aupitioiulianow@bne.catholic.net.au) or through the Parish Office.

## DO YOU HAVE A KEY FOB?

During COVID, many key fobs to the parish doors were disabled because of the restrictions. When access was again allowed, some reactivated their fobs but others have just remained inactive. We were hoping to gather as many fobs as possible back from parishioners who are no longer using theirs. If you're someone who has a fob and no longer uses it, would you kindly return it to the Parish Office? We'll return the bond you paid to you. Thank you!

## FAREWELL TO PAULINE

If you've come by the office, you will have encountered the amazing staff we have in the parish. It's with great sadness then that we say farewell to our front lady and operations queen, Pauline Leahy. Pauline will take up a wonderful role in Bundaberg to be closer to her family and friends, and although we're happy she gets to connect again with loved ones, the feeling is bitter sweet. We thank Pauline for all she has done for this Parish and the community. Pauline will see out the end of November and then will make her way up to Bundaberg. She will be sorely missed but we wish her all the best in her future endeavours.

## PARISH ADMINISTRATOR POSITION

With the departure of Pauline as our Parish Admin, a new position has opened in the Parish Office. We invite applications to be submitted via the Archdiocesan website under the tab 'Careers.' The job description will also be linked to the website which will give you an indication of the outline of the role. For more information follow our quick link and scroll down until you see the Maroochydhore Parish Admin.  
<https://brisbanecatholic.org.au/careers/>

## 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, 13 November

- ◆ Adoration 4.30pm, Stella Maris
- ◆ **Mass** (5.30pm, Stella Maris Church)
- ◆ 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, 14 November

- ◆ **Mass** (9.00am, Stella Maris School Chapel)
- ◆ **Mass** (10.30am, St Vincent's Care Services, Maroochydhore)
- ◆ Craft Group (1.00pm, St Peter's Church)

### Wednesday, 15 November

- ◆ **Mass** (7am, St Mary's Church)
- ◆ **Mass** (9am, St Catherine of Siena Church)
- ◆ St Vincent de Paul meeting (Maroochydhore)
- ◆ Scripture Study Group (9.30am, Zoom)
- ◆ Year 12 Graduation Mass
- ◆ Latin American Prayer Group (6pm, Function Room, Maroochydhore)

### Thursday, 16 November

- ◆ **Mass** (8.30am, St Peter's Church)
- ◆ St Vincent de Paul Society meeting (Coolum)
- ◆ 2pm Rosary & Divine Mercy (Stella Maris)
- ◆ Stella Maris Primary School Year 6 Dinner and Awards Night

### Friday, 17 November

- ◆ **Mass** (9am, Stella Maris Church)
- ◆ Community Meal for the Homeless, Vulnerable and Disadvantaged (6pm, Stella Maris)

### Saturday, 18 November

- ◆ Reconciliation 8.30am to 9.30am (Stella Maris)
- ◆ Baptism of Ivy Dellaway (10am, Stella Maris)
- ◆ Baptism of Hudson Tranent, Sutton Tranent (10am, Stella Maris)
- ◆ Interment of Muriel McRobert (11.00am, Stella Maris Church)
- ◆ 11am El Shaddai group meets (Sippy Downs)
- ◆ **Vigil Mass** (4.30pm, St Peter's Church)
- ◆ **Vigil Mass** (6.00pm, Stella Maris Church)

### Sunday, 19 November

#### 33rd 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)
- ◆ Interment of Ron Ivers (following 9am Mass, Stella Maris Church)
- ◆ **Mass** (5pm, Stella Maris Church)

*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.*



# 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



### Outdoor Learning Day

By Zali A & Rose S (Year 6)

Outdoor Learning Day is a fun and social experience which Year 6 run. All students from Prep to Year 5 participate in whatever activity they desire. The activities are ranged between emotional, intellectual, physical, environmental, spiritual, social and school-based. All Year 6 students involved with the activities, put in a lot of hard work and preparation. Some of the activities were, rock painting, water play, keychain making, oz tag, box construction, scavenger hunts and orange bird feeders. There were many competitions to partake in such as, the rubbish finds, the soccer competition and a water battle. It brought joy and happiness to everyone in our school community. Overall, it was a memorable day for everyone and was a great way to be outdoors and active.



## Stella Maris Primary School

Stella Maris Way,  
Maroochydore

pmaroochydore@bne.catholic.edu.au

Principal: Mark Ballam



### Happy Presentation Day!

Last Friday we celebrated what we call "Presentation Day". As our school was established by the Presentation Sisters, we are inspired by the charisma of Nano Nagle, their founder. We strive to work together to support each other to grow, learn, and live out the Gospel of Jesus Christ, guided by what we call "The 5 C's", the values of compassion, commitment, creativity, confidence, and courage.

A highlight of this special day was our Year 4 to Year 6 students celebrating Mass together in the hall and our Prep to Year 3 students celebrating a Liturgy of the Word.



## Siena Catholic College

60 Sippy Downs Drive,  
Sippy Downs

ssippydowns@bne.catholic.edu.au

Acting Principal: Pat Toohey



On Monday, we welcomed the 150+ Year 6 students who will commence at the College in 2024. They had a wonderful day making new friends, exploring the College, and meeting key members of the College Staff. The Year 6 parents joined us on Monday night for their orientation to all things High School. We are certainly looking forward to welcoming this new cohort back when they begin their secondary school journey in January next year.

On Wednesday, our Year 7s attended the Community Mass. During his homily, Fr Will encouraged the students to allow the Holy Spirit to guide them in following Jesus' example ... so that they might become the best version of themselves.

The Year 12s are in the final days of external exams and next week will celebrate their graduation ceremonies. Meanwhile, most of the Year 11s are preparing for their first Year 12 exams, which will occur in the next few weeks! We wish them well as they face this important milestone on their ATAR journey.

