

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE

Weekend of 25/26 November 2023

First Reading: Ezekial 34:11-12, 15-17 Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 28 Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46

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

THE SHEPHERD KING

This week we celebrate the Feast of Christ the King. Jesus is indeed our Lord and King but he defied the expectations of kingship for those in His time, and for us in ours. Throughout history, Kings and rulers used their armies to conquer lands and gain power and wealth. Jesus conquered sin by offering His own life. He came, not as a powerful ruler to conquer lands, but as servant and shepherd of His flock and to pay the price for the sin of humankind. Jesus is both servant and king, king and servant. For Him, these two identities go hand in hand. He is both a leader who serves, and a servant who leads.

Jesus says, "Whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant ... For the Son of man came not to be served but to serve." Jesus is a leader who serves, a king who walks among His people, not one who reigns from a mighty throne.

In Jesus, we have a king who not only serves, but is willing to die for us. Jesus defies our expectations and redefines the cultural understanding of who and what a king is. He uses His authority to teach others about God and God's kingdom, and uses His power to heal the sick and grant sight to the blind. Jesus uses His position to be an example of how to live in response to God's love.

But what does this all mean for us? Yes, we regard Jesus as our King who came to serve, but we are not kings ourselves. Each of us is, however, a leader in one way or another, which means we can follow Jesus' example of servant leadership. We are called to use our leadership roles, whether it be at work, in our families or communities, to benefit others. While we are not the saviour of the world like Jesus, there are plenty of ways for us to be servant-leaders.

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus tells His disciples, "When the Son of Man comes in all His glory, with all His Angels, all the nations will sit before Him and He will separate them one from another as a Shepherd separates the sheep from the goats". Jesus loves and cares for us as a shepherd does his sheep but also reminds us what makes us worthy to enter into His sheepfold, "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.' Whatever you did to the least of these, you did for me".

Let us honour Christ as our King, and follow His example, by leading and living as servant leaders who aim to serve others and especially those in greatest need.

Den Michael Knoury

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

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ANNOUNCEMENT

Last week Archbishop Mark appointed Fr William Aupito Iuliano as Parish Priest of St Mary's, South Brisbane. It's a bittersweet moment as we farewell Fr William and wish him all the best in his upcoming appointment. Fr William will begin as Parish Priest on 29 January 2024. As a Parish, we would like to take the time to thank Fr William for all he has done in the community. Even though it's been a short time, his presence has been deeply appreciated. We continue to hold Fr William in prayer as he takes on this new and exciting role in his life. Communities are welcome to farewell him in their own way over these next two months.

CHRISTMAS APPEAL

In the six months, May to October 2023, Maroochydore and Coolum conferences of St Vincent de Paul Society have given over \$70,000 of assistance to 2,100 local people seeking support to cope with rising costs of living, household bills, health impacts, domestic and family violence and other distress in their lives. Every day, individuals and families are helped by Vincentians with food and grocery items, essential furniture and whitegoods, travel and transport costs and payment of pharmacy prescriptions. Vincentians offer their time, information, advocacy and friendship that is not included in this dollar figure.

This weekend, the annual Vinnies Christmas Appeal will be held across our parish. Historically, contributions from parishioners to our two annual appeals provide approximately 20% of the two conferences combined income. This enables the Society to assist the most vulnerable in our community.

All proceeds to the appeal remain in our parish when donations are made in the envelopes provided as you leave the church today. If you haven't come prepared for the appeal, you can return the envelopes next weekend.

Alternatively direct donations can be made to:

MAROOCHYDORE - BSB 064-786 ACCOUNT 100027046 Reference : Christmas Appeal **or**

COOLUM - BSB 064786 ACCOUNT 100027007 Reference : Christmas Appeal

Email your name for a receipt to sgm4558@svidpqlld.org.au or sp4573@svidpqlld.org.au

On behalf of our local conferences, thanks again for your generous support.

CRAFT GROUP SELLING ITEMS

A reminder that the Stella Maris Craft Group will be selling items on the weekend of 2-3 December at Stella Maris Church, Maroochydore. They will be at all Maroochydore Masses over the weekend. Proceeds will go to a stacking ciboria that will assist with our major liturgical events.

SISTERS OF MARY MORNING STAR

Over the weekend of the 2nd Sunday of Advent, we will host the Sisters of Mary Morning Star at Stella Maris, Maroochydore. The sisters of Mary Morning Star are a contemplative order of sisters who live a monastic life-style. Some might remember hosting them here two years ago. We have a full day with them on Sunday 10 December where we will spend time in prayer, fellowship and formation. We invite all Parishioners to join us for the Sunday. The sisters rely on Providence to support their living in community, so if parishioners would like to donate to the sisters, they would be most appreciative. We've asked them for things they would use, and they've provided us with a list.

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|-------------------|--|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| -Olive oil | -Vinegar (balsamic or apple cider) | -Tea (black and herbal) | -Coffee (instant and for brewing) |
| -Oats or Weet-bix | -Cans of tuna, beans, corn, olives, tomatoes | -Honey | -Biscuits |
| -Vegemite | -Sugar | -Flour | -Some UHT milk |
| -Instant noodles | -Rice | -Peanut butter (sugar free) | |

Small amounts, for special occasions only:

- Nutella (or other fancy spread) -Wine (a couple of bottles for Christmas dinner) -Dark Chocolate -Granola or other fancy cereal
-Cleaning products: liquid laundry detergent, WC cleaner, shower cleaner -Stationery: ballpoint pens, notebooks, glue sticks, A4 paper

SAFE AND HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Most of our schools will finish for the year in this coming week. We want to take the time to wish them a special and happy holidays. We would also like to extend an invitation to all our school families to join us during Advent Masses and of course our Christmas Masses. We look forward to seeing you refreshed and rejuvenated for the New Year!

PARISH LIVESTREAM MASSES

If you have Facebook, you may have noticed that we livestreamed our 9am Mass at Stella Maris Church, Maroochydore last week. This will become a weekly occurrence as we attempt to reach those who stay at home due to illness or for any other reason. You will need to have a Facebook account to access our Facebook page "Maroochydore Catholic Parish Sunshine Coast" or follow the link: <https://www.facebook.com/mission.stella>. So if you know of any community members who would still like to be connected but are physically away send them to our Facebook page for weekly Masses at 9am. We're also looking for people who might help set up the livestream. If you're savvy with computers and a regular at the 9am Maroochydore Mass, contact the Office.

ADVENT GROUP - ST CATHERINE'S

Final reminder that St Catherine's will host an Advent Group this year. 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

PARISH NATIVITY PLAY

Come and see our Parish Nativity Play. It will be held at 6:30pm on Wednesday 13 December at the Stella Maris Church. All are welcome to come and watch. Smaller children can come dressed as angels or shepherds.

We are seeking students interested in performing in the play, as actors, singers, dancers, or musicians. They will need to be available to attend all the following rehearsals:

Mon 11 Dec 10:30am-12noon - Tues 12 Dec 10:30am-12noon - Wed 13 Dec 9:00am 11:00am and the performance at 6:30pm.

If you are interested, please contact Bernie Baillie bbaille@bne.catholic.edu.au or phone the parish office on 5443 3488.

PARKING AT STELLA MARIS, MAROOCHYDORE

Our friends next door at the Anglican Church in Maroochydore have asked that parishioners for the 9am Maroochydore Mass refrain from parking in the Anglican car park. The Anglicans next door also have Mass around the same time, so they want to cater for their elderly in the community. Parking around the area will require a bit of walking, there is parking available on the other side of the Mosque and of course parking at the Pathology centre via Baden Powell St.

ANNUAL FINANCE REPORT

This year has proven to be an unexpected year for The Parish Finance Council. Unfortunately we farewelled two members of our team resulting in some shifting of responsibilities and recruitment. The Finance Team has settled into a more comfortable rhythm since, but now as we move towards the end of the year, other things will naturally pick up along the way.

The Team would like to take the opportunity to say 'Thank You' to parishioners for the support they provided financially to the parish. Your contributions have aided in reducing Parish debt from **\$1,728,370** to **\$1,621,499**.

There are many ways to contribute to supporting our parish mission financially:

- Weekly as an Envelope or Cash Giver – the weekend Mass collection plate
- Our \$10 Tap N Go box in the Church
- Direct Debit: The Parish Office can organise monthly, fortnightly or weekly – Direct Debit or Credit Card transfers (your contributions are withdrawn automatically). Alternatively, you are welcome to do a direct transfer to our parish bank account:

BSB 064 786 Acc No. 100000037 - Ref your name and Envelope Number (if you have one).

We still have a way to go regarding our ministry internally and our mission externally, and we certainly will not be able to respond to these needs without your assistance financially.

We have been preparing for the future in many ways with the launch of our Parish Endowment Fund. As you may know, an endowment is a fund in which the principal deposit is permanently invested for growth. This fund will serve to support us as we receive interest over time.

Next year, we look forward to welcoming a NET (National Evangelisation Teams) Team into the parish to assist us in our efforts to reach the Youth and to support our existing parishioners. This, inevitably, will come at a cost to the parish with things like housing, transport and groceries to consider. We recognise that the time is **now** to respond to Youth activities in the parish, so we step out in faith, but we're conscious of the impact this will bring financially.

Many are also aware of the maintenance that occurs around the parish with each community wanting to steward the goods of the Church. We work closely alongside trusted contractors and volunteers to make sure that we maintain and protect our communities.

With all this in mind, we press forward in confidence knowing that the Lord will assist us along the way. We have skilled workers and generous volunteers who help to juggle all the moving parts of Church finances, for whom we are also thankful.

Yet, this is a time to look forward in hope. We have the opportunity to respond to these financial endeavours with a sense of adventure and faith. Perhaps we could build stronger connections as a community around social fundraising events like a Parish Dinner Dance or Talent Night. The possibilities are endless.

Ultimately, this is a word of 'thanks' and 'appreciation' to you, our parishioners. May this upcoming season of Advent prepare us anew for Christ's coming and may our lives be refreshed as we look to a new year.

Fr William

FUN DAYS WITH GOD

All primary school aged children are invited to "Advent Adventures" the parish holiday activity day, to be held on Tuesday 5 December from 9.00am - 3.00pm in the Stella Maris Church Function Room.

Children bring their own morning tea and lunch. There is a cost of \$10.00 per child for the day. (Maximum of \$20.00 per family)

Places are limited so you must register. For more information and to obtain a registration form please contact the Bernie Baillie

bbaillie@bne.catholic.edu.au or phone the parish office on 5443 3488

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, 27 November

- ♦ Adoration 4.30pm, Stella Maris
- ♦ **Mass** (5.30pm, Stella Maris Church)
- ♦ Consecration to Jesus through Mary, in Spanish (6.30pm, Stella Maris Church)

Tuesday, 28 November

- ♦ **Mass** (9.00am, Stella Maris School Chapel)
- ♦ Year 6 End-of-Year School Mass (Stella Maris Primary School)

Wednesday, 29 November

- ♦ **Mass** (7am, St Mary's Church)
- ♦ **Mass** (9am, St Catherine of Siena Church)
- ♦ St Vincent de Paul Society Meeting (Maroochydore)
- ♦ Scripture Study Group (9.30am, Zoom)
- ♦ Latin American Prayer Group (6pm, Function Room, Maroochydore)
- ♦ Advent Program group (6.30pm, Sippy Downs)

Thursday, 30 November

- ♦ **Mass** (8.30am, St Peter's Church)
- ♦ 2pm Rosary & Divine Mercy (Stella Maris)
- ♦ Year 6 Graduation Liturgy (Siena Primary)

Friday, 1 December

- ♦ **Anointing & Healing Mass** (9am, Stella Maris Church), followed by morning tea.
- ♦ Funeral of Benjamin Brosnan (12noon, Stella Maris Church)
- ♦ Community Meal for the Homeless, Vulnerable and Disadvantaged (6pm, Stella Maris)

Saturday, 2 December

- ♦ **First Saturday Mass** (8am, Stella Maris)
- ♦ Reconciliation 8.30am to 9.30am (Stella Maris)
- ♦ Baptism of Ivy Murphy, Stella Murphy, Caleb Nielsen, Ayla Jorgensen, Charles Polsen and Oliver Polsen (10am, Stella Maris)
- ♦ **Vigil Mass** (4.30pm, St Peter's Church)
- ♦ **Vigil Mass** (6.00pm, Stella Maris Church)

Sunday, 3 December

FIRST SUNDAY of ADVENT

- ♦ **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, and Baptisms of Harrison Gilbert, Aidan Blennerhasset, Sydney Blennerhasset
- ♦ **Mass** (9.30am, St Mary's Church)
- ♦ Junior Ministers Christmas Party (3- 5pm)
- ♦ **Mass** (5pm, Stella Maris Church) with Children's Church

Celebrating and Remembering

We welcome into God's Family, the Church, **Sally Fitzpatrick, Harvey Fitzpatrick, Louis Matthews, Kiralee Semgreen** and **Xavier Gash** who will be baptised this weekend in our Parish.

We prayerfully remember all those who have died. Especially Gail Saunders whose funeral was on Friday, Benjamin Brosnan whose funeral will be on Friday 1 December, Patrick Clifford whose funeral will be on Monday 4 December and Patrick McDonnell whose funeral will be on Tuesday 5 December. 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



Keeping Christ in Christmas at Siena



In Prep Religious Education classes this term the children are learning about the infancy narratives. They have learned that Matthew and Luke's version of the birth of Jesus are different though still describe the special holy event that is the birth of our Saviour. Each author is writing for a different audience. Combined accounts of the story have become what we know as The Nativity.

Two Prep students during classroom play and construction made their own nativity scene and title board. The importance of play is so important in developing oral language and creative ideas necessary in continued academic and social growth.



Stella Maris Primary School

Stella Maris Way,
Maroochydore

pmaroochydore@bne.catholic.edu.au

Principal: Mark Ballam



A Time for Celebration!

The last two weeks of school at Stella Maris are full of memorable moments.

Last Thursday we celebrated our Year 6 Dinner and Awards night at the RSL. The students, their parents and the teachers all came together to enjoy this milestone with a special meal. It was lovely to have Fr Will, Fr Isaac, Kay Glasson and Karen Dwyer, who even made use of the photo booth!



During our final whole school assembly, we presented our donations for the St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal and finished with a performance by the teachers!



Siena Catholic College

60 Sippy Downs Drive,
Sippy Downs

ssippydowns@bne.catholic.edu.au

Acting Principal: Pat Toohey



Congratulations Year 12 - know that you are loved, and that we who love you are filled with confidence that you *are* ready to begin the journey that will lead you into a new and wonderful future.

