

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Weekend of 2/3 December 2023

First Reading: Isaiah 63:16-17, 64:1,3-8 **Second Reading:** 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 **Gospel:** Mark 13:33-37

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

Dear Friends,

Holidays! What a fantastic time of year. When hearts are filled with anticipation and hope, the subject of war might seem bizarre. Yet, the Catholic perspective on war during this season of Advent offers us an interesting reflection on the pursuit of peace amidst conflict and chaos.

Advent is a period of expectant waiting and preparation for the celebration of Christ's birth. It calls us to contemplate the Prince of Peace that enters into an un-peaceful world. It calls us to reflect on the promised peace and the harsh realities of conflict that persist in our world.

At the heart of Mother Church's teachings is the belief in the sanctity and dignity of every human life. This core principle offers a lens through which to view the tragedy of war. The Church denounces war as a failure of humanity to resolve conflicts through peaceful means, emphasising the importance of pursuing alternatives to violence.

Jesus is the personification of love, forgiveness, and reconciliation. Catholic teaching challenges us to echo these fundamental principles through faithfully seeking avenues of dialogue and understanding, even in the most unfortunate and disastrous circumstances. Advent reminds us of the importance to embody these virtues. To be instruments of peace in a world plagued by strife.

Pope Francis has been an advocate for peace, urging nations to seek dialogue and diplomacy instead of resorting to armed conflict. His passionate pleas for peace resonate deeply with the spirit of Advent, emphasising the urgency of cultivating a culture of encountering the Risen Lord.

The season of Advent invites us to reflect, prompting us to consider the ways in which we contribute to or alleviate the causes of conflict. It challenges us to examine our roles as missionary disciples and peacemakers, calling us to action in fostering harmony within our communities and across nations.

The Catholic Church has a rich tradition of "just war theory", which is a moral framework that seeks to limit the devastating impact of armed conflict. Rooted in principles of proportionality, discrimination, and the last resort, this doctrine endeavours to alleviate the horrors of war while acknowledging the complexities of human conflicts.

During Advent, Catholics are called to fervent prayer and reflection. It is a time to pray for peace, to ask God for the healing of nations that are torn apart by violence. It's a period to seek comfort in the message of hope that Christ's birth brings - a hope that transcends the darkness of conflict, offering a glimpse of a world where swords are transformed into ploughshares.

Before the joys and festivities this Christmas, the Church's perspective on war during Advent serves as an important reminder. It is a call to confront the grim realities of our world with compassion, seeking avenues of peace in the midst of discord. It invites us to align our actions with the message of reconciliation heralded by the birth of Christ.

In the quiet anticipation of Advent lies the profound truth - that even amidst the tumult of war, the hope for peace endures, illuminated by the promise of a newborn Saviour.

Fr Isaac Falzon

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

Website: maroochydoreparish.com.au

ANNOUNCEMENT

By now, many of you are aware that Fr William will leave our parish in the new year. His official appointment begins on 29 January 2023, but his last weekend will be 20-21 of January. Again, we thank Fr Will for all that he has done in the parish and wish him all the best in his new appointment.

BEWARE - SCAM ALERT

Unfortunately, it's returned! Scams are currently circulating the Parish again so please be aware of messages asking for money or gift cards. No priest in the Archdiocese should be asking for personal funds in any way, shape or form. The spam message reads something like this: "Dear XXXX Are you busy? I have a discrete request... Send me an email when you get this. Sincerely, Fr XXXX XXXX Parish Priest. The best way to deal with a message like this is to double-delete it (delete it from your Inbox and then go and delete it also from your Deleted/Junk box).

OFFICE CLOSURE NEXT WEEK

The Parish Office will close early on Wednesday 6 December. If you would like to get in contact with the parish, send an email to admin.suncoast@bne.catholic.net.au, or if you have an emergency follow the prompts on the parish voicemail and call the parish Emergency Phone.

FLOWERS PLEASE

The women who work tirelessly setting up our environment at Stella Maris Church Maroochydore are currently looking for blue hydrangeas and blue agapanthus flowers. If anyone has access to these flowers and are willing to donate some, please contact the Parish Office.

PARISH NATIVITY PLAY

We all know the story well, but come and see it in action when the parish hosts it's Nativity Play 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.

FUN DAYS WITH GOD

All primary school aged children are invited to "Advent Adventures" the parish holiday activity day, to be held next week 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

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

SISTERS OF MARY MORNING STAR

On Sunday next weekend, we will host the Sisters of Mary Morning Star at Stella Maris Church, 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. You can just drop anything for them off at the Parish Office this week.

-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			

YOUNG ADULTS CHRISTMAS PARTY

Come along to the Young Adults Christmas party on 8 December at 6pm. This year's Christmas party will happen in the Presbytery. Bring your board games and enjoy some good food with friends as we farewell 2023 in style.

BAPTISM PREPARATION CLASS

Our parish has seen so many Baptisms this year and we're proud to be a parish that regularly welcomes new children into the family of God. This coming Thursday we have our next preparation class for parents (the last one for the year). Children are Baptised into a faith that is entrusted to the parents to teach and model. For those preparing to have their children Baptised, we look forward to seeing you this coming Thursday.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

With Christmas around the corner, we want to provide Parishioners with every opportunity to prepare for our Christmas Masses. This year will be slightly strange because Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday which means that the Vigil Masses on Saturday 23rd and morning Masses on Sunday 24th will be the Fourth Sunday of Advent. Masses celebrated from 4pm onwards on Sunday 24th will then be Christmas Eve Masses.

Saturday 23rd Dec

4:30pm St Peter's, Coolum

6:00pm Stella Maris, Maroochydore

Sunday 24th Dec

6:30am Stella Maris, Maroochydore

7:30am St Peter's, Coolum

8:00am St Catherine's, Sippy Downs

9am Stella Maris, Maroochydore

9:30am St Mary's, Buderim

Christmas Eve 24th Dec

5pm St Peter's, Coolum

5pm St Catherine's, Sippy Downs

4pm Stella Maris, Maroochydore

6pm Stella Maris, Maroochydore

12am Stella Maris, Maroochydore

Christmas Day Monday 25th Dec

6:30am Stella Maris, Maroochydore

7:30am St Peter's, Coolum

9am Stella Maris, Maroochydore

9:30am St Mary's, Buderim

SISTERHOOD WEEKEND

Last weekend the parish hosted the "Sisterhood" retreat at Stella Maris Primary School. Over 100 ladies gathered from around the region to connect with other women of faith in the area and hear from our guest speaker Karen Doyle. Congratulations to the women and men who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to make this event possible. Check out some of the photos from the weekend.



ECUMENICAL CAROLS ST PETER'S

We all enjoy a good carol or two. Come along to the Ecumenical Carols happening on 14 December at St Peter's Church, Coolum Beach at 5:30pm. Bring a friend along to this wonderful occasion. Whether you can hold a note like Celine Dion or have no ear for music, come anyway! We look forward to seeing you there.

VINNIES CHRISTMAS APPEAL

A reminder from the St Vincent's Conference at Coolum that the Christmas Appeal has well and truly begun. Envelopes will be provided on the pews over the weekend, we invite all parishioners to take the time to donate if possible.

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, 4 December

- ◆ Funeral of Patrick Clifford (10.30am Stella Maris Church)
- ◆ **Mass** (5.30pm, Stella Maris Church)
- ◆ Consecration to Jesus through Mary, in Spanish (6.30pm, Stella Maris Church)

Tuesday, 5 December

- ◆ Junior Ministers Fun Days with God - Advent Adventures
- ◆ **Mass** (9.00am, Stella Maris School Chapel)
- ◆ Funeral of Patrick McDonnell (11.00am, St Peter's Church)

Wednesday, 6 December

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

Thursday, 7 December

- ◆ **Mass** (8.30am, St Peter's Church)
- ◆ St Vincent de Paul Society Meeting (Coolum)
- ◆ Baptism Preparation for infants and young children (6pm, Stella Maris Church)

Friday, 8 December

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

Saturday, 9 December

- ◆ Reconciliation 8.30am to 9.30am (Stella Maris)
- ◆ Baptism of Koen Battistin (10am, Sippy Downs)
- ◆ 11am El Shaddai group meets (Sippy Downs)
- ◆ **Vigil Mass** (4.30pm, St Peter's Church)
- ◆ **Vigil Mass** (6.00pm, Stella Maris Church)

Sunday, 10 December

SECOND 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
- ◆ **Mass** (9.30am, St Mary's Church)
- ◆ **Mass** (5pm, Stella Maris Church)

Celebrating and Remembering

We welcome into God's Family, the Church, *Ivy Murphy, Stella Murphy, Caleb Nielsen, Ayla Jorgensen, Charles Polsen, Oliver Polsen, Harrison Gilbert, Aidan Blennerhasset* and *Sydney Blennerhasset* who will be baptised this weekend in our Parish.

We prayerfully remember all those who have died. Especially 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



Siena Catholic Primary School wish the Stella Maris Parish a blessed and holy Christmas.

May the birth of Jesus bring new hope, peace and happiness to you and your family.

May this Christmas be a time of reflection, gratitude, and generosity as we embrace the spirit of giving and share the love of this season with those who are less fortunate.

Thank you for your prayers over the year and we look forward to sharing our faith with you in celebration of the Eucharist in 2024.

Here are some pictures that Year 3 have drawn depicting the various accounts of the nativity. Can you guess which ones are from Matthew's Gospel and which one is from Luke's Gospel?



Stella Maris Primary School

Stella Maris Way,
Maroochydore

pmaroochydore@bne.catholic.edu.au

Principal: Mark Ballam



Wow, time flies! Where did the 2023 school year go?

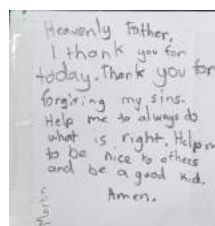
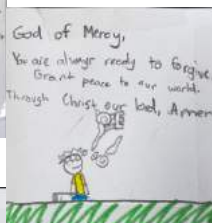
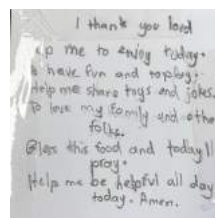
Our school celebrations have been continuing: Christmas Carols on Conway, the School Swimming Carnival, and our School Liturgy on the last day.

In our final Staff Liturgy, we said farewell to a number of staff, all of whom have made a significant contribution to the fabric of Stella Maris. The staff leaving include Julianne Biffin, Mike Van Dalen, Michael Low, Kari Scott, Vanessa Portors, Michelle Howell, Courtney Morgan, Vicki Parker, Crystal Fowler, Nadine Tarrant, Tom Duncan, Louise Ford, Rose Burgess, Jessica Pennesi, Kristy Brittain, Trena-Jane Rowlands and Genevieve Bignell.

We pay special tribute to Julianne, who retires from our school office after over 40 years of service, and to Mike, who retires from education after a career spanning over 40 years, the last 17 years at Stella.

We also wanted to share some of the beautiful prayers written by our Year 3 students.

So, from us here at Stella Maris Primary School, Happy New Liturgical Year and we just wanted you to know we love being part of the Stella Maris Parish.



Siena Catholic College

60 Sippy Downs Drive,
Sippy Downs

ssippydowns@bne.catholic.edu.au

Acting Principal: Pat Toohey



The 2023 school year is now complete, and the final week of school has not seen us slow down. Students in Years 7, 8 and 9 have completed a variety of Worthy Siena Men and Women activities, have visited the Bli Bli Waterpark, spent a day at the beach and the movies, and looked forward to the upcoming Advent and Christmas seasons.

On Tuesday, we finalised our hampers for the Vinnies Christmas Appeal, with each of our Homerooms providing food and Christmas essentials for families in need. Throughout the week we also found opportunities to farewell the staff and students who are leaving us to move on to new challenges and new adventures – we wish them well for the next stage of their life's journey.

The staff and students of the College would like to wish all Parishioners a happy and holy Christmas season.

