

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Weekend of 9/10 December 2023

First Reading: Is 40: 1-5, 9-11 Second Reading: 2 Pet 3:8-14 Gospel: Mark 1: 1-8

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

BORN INTO THE ORDINARY

With Advent upon us, I'd like to share this Reflection by Fr Ron Rolheiser on the season. Fr Ron, Missionary Oblate of Mary Immaculate, is a prolific and highly esteemed writer who to my mind often puts a fresh spin on many matters, both human and divine, theological and psychological. He comes from a large farming family in Canada and is now 76. This reflection was written in December 1986.

“Christmas is about God in the ordinary. After the birth of Christ, we need not look to the extraordinary, the spectacular, the miraculous to find God. God is now found where we live, in our kitchens, at our tables, in our wounds and in each other's faces. That is hard to believe and always has been.

When Jesus was on earth, virtually no one believed he was the Messiah because he was so ordinary, so unlike what they imagined God to be. People were looking for a Messiah. When finally Christ did appear, they were disappointed. They'd expected a superstar, a king, a miracle worker, someone who would, by miracle and hammer, vindicate good, destroy evil and turn the world rightfully upside down.

Jesus didn't live up to those expectations. Born in a barn, preaching meekness and gentleness, unwilling to use power in a forceful way, there was little hammer and few miracles. Mainly there was ordinariness.

Things haven't changed much in 2000 years. Seldom does Christ meet our expectations. We are like his contemporaries, constantly looking beyond the ordinary, beyond the gardener, the cook and the traveller, to try to find a miraculous Christ. It is for this reason that we fly to Fatima or Lourdes to see a spot where the Blessed Virgin might have cried and left us a message, but fail to see the significance of tears shed at our own breakfast table. We are intrigued by Padre Pio who had the wounds of Christ in his hands but fail to see the wounds of Christ in those suffering around us.

We pray for visions but seldom watch a sunset. We desire proofs for the existence of God even as life in all its marvels continues around us. We tend to look for God everywhere, except in the place where the incarnation took place - in our flesh.”

Fr Geoff Baron

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
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ARCHDIOCESE ANNOUNCEMENT

Fr Will's holidays will begin immediately after Christmas and he will return to the Parish on 7 January. We wish him all the best in his upcoming placement to Dutton Park as Parish Priest and pray that the Lord will guide him through this new and exciting time.

PARISH NATIVITY PLAY—CALLING OUR RISING STARS

We might very well have the next superstar actor sitting in our pews. We're calling our children to come and prepare with us for the Parish Nativity Play which 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 bbaillie@bnc.catholic.edu.au or phone the parish office on 5443 3488.

SISTERS OF MARY MORNING STAR

A reminder to all those who would like to donate to the Sisters of Mary Morning Star. The list is provided below.

- | | | | |
|-------------------|--|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| -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 | | |

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

8am St Catherine's, Sippy Downs

9am Stella Maris, Maroochydore

9:30am St Mary's, Buderim

Christmas Eve 24th Dec

4pm Stella Maris, Maroochydore

5pm St Peter's, Coolum

5pm St Catherine's, Sippy Downs

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

SECOND RITE OF RECONCILIATION

Last year we had a phenomenal response to the Second Rite of Reconciliation both in Lent and Advent. This time around we hope to cater for another grand event where we humbly come before the Lord in the Sacrament of Reconciliation as a way of preparing for Christmas. We've partnered with the Caloundra Catholic Parish to have Reconciliation on **Saturday 16 December, Our Lady of the Rosary, Caloundra at 9am**. This means on **Tuesday 19 December, Stella Maris, Maroochydore at 5pm** we will have our Second Rite. Parishioners are to note that there will **not** be any Confessions on Saturday morning 16 Dec at Maroochydore because the priests will be at Caloundra. We warmly invite all parishioners to be part of this spiritual exercise.

MISA DE GALLO

Mark your calendars everyone for the Annual Misa De Gallo. Sunrise these days is before 5.00am so it is not too much of a challenge to get up a bit earlier and come to Stella Maris Church for our annual Misa de Gallo on Saturday 23 December at 4am. The Misa de Gallo translates as "Rooster Mass" and as the first cockcrows are heard at dawn on Saturday 23 December, you are invited to join us for Mass and then a fantastic breakfast. The Misa de Gallo tradition is strong in predominately Spanish speaking countries and our local vibrant Filipino community coordinates this celebration. Tell your friends! Everyone is welcome!

RECONCILIATION AT ST MARY'S, BUDERIM

As we draw closer to Christmas we want to make sure that everyone prepares as well as possible for this sacred time in our Liturgical Calendar. To that end, Reconciliation will be on offer to those in the St Mary's community on 20 December after the 7am Mass. We especially encourage those who find it difficult to travel to attend these Confessions. See you there!

CATHOLIC MISSION APPEAL 2023

On behalf of the Missions Office, thank you to all parishioners who generously supported this year's appeal. We deposited **\$5,312.10**. This is truly a phenomenal effort by our Parish. Once again, on behalf of all those who directly benefit from your generosity, "Thank You".

HALF WAY NEXT WEEK—GAUDETE SUNDAY

Next weekend (Third Sunday of Advent) is also called Gaudete Sunday and we light the rose coloured candle on our Advent Wreath. To add to the solemnity of this weekend our Stella Maris Liturgical environment group is looking for some help. Do you have any pink flowers for our church's arrangements? If you can help at all, please contact the Parish Office.

ECUMENICAL CAROLS

This coming Thursday on 14 December at 5:30pm, St Peter's Coolum will host this year's Ecumenical Carols. Come along to this wonderful event as we join with our Christian brothers and sisters to hear the message of Christmas in an interactive and creative way. All are welcome.

JUNIOR MINISTERS

Last week on Sunday, our Junior Ministers drove all the way out to Caloundra to enjoy the icy cold skating rink. Although there were a few tumbles and bruises afterwards, the children enjoyed their time together. We thank our ministers for their service over this past year and look to the new year with the hopes of some new recruits.



RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION IN STATE SCHOOLS

As we look to the new year, we warmly invite our retired teachers who have spare time and would like to assist in going out to our children in the State Schools for Religious Instruction. If you're interested and would like to be part of this wonderful ministry, contact the Parish Office to speak to Fr William, or email, aupitouiulianow@bne.catholic.net.au

CHRISTMAS ROSTERS

A reminder if you're available to help with Christmas Masses to put your name down on the rosters. Rosters can be located at the entrance of the Churches.

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, 11 December

- ◆ Parish Nativity Play rehearsal (10:30am-12pm, Stella Maris Church)
- ◆ Adoration 4.30pm, Stella Maris
- ◆ **Mass** (5.30pm, Stella Maris Church)
- ◆ Parish Finance Council Meeting

Tuesday, 12 December

- ◆ **Mass** (9.00am, Stella Maris School Chapel)
- ◆ **Mass** (10.30am St Vincent's Care)
- ◆ Parish Nativity Play rehearsal (10:30am-12pm, Stella Maris Church)

Wednesday, 13 December

- ◆ **Mass** (7am, St Mary's Church)
- ◆ **Mass** (9am, St Catherine of Siena Church)
- ◆ Parish Nativity Play rehearsal (9am-11am, Stella Maris Church)
- ◆ Scripture Study Group (9.30am, Zoom)
- ◆ Advent Program group (6.30pm, Sippy Downs)
- ◆ Parish Nativity Play (6:30pm, Maroochydore)

Thursday, 14 December

- ◆ **Mass** (8.30am, St Peter's Church)
- ◆ 2pm Rosary & Divine Mercy (Stella Maris)
- ◆ Ecumenical Carols (5.30pm, Coolum)

Friday, 15 December

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

Saturday, 16 December

- ◆ **NO CONFESSIONS AT MAROOCHYDORE**
- ◆ Baptism of Lucia Camilleri, Teghan Esclamado, Gabriele Giannatempo (10am 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, 17 December

THIRD SUNDAY of ADVENT - GAUDETE SUNDAY

- ◆ **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, **Koen Battistin** 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.

FUN DAYS WITH GOD

On Tuesday Bernie Bailey led our Fun Days with God, "Advent Adventures" where children spent the day together doing activities and learning about Advent. Here are a few snaps from the day. Thank you to Bernie and all the volunteers that made the day possible.



THE SEASON OF ADVENT DEVELOPED IN THE CHURCH OVER TIME. HERE ARE 10 FACTS THAT YOU MAY NOT KNOW ABOUT THE ROOTS AND MEANINGS OF ADVENT:

1. Advent is a time of expectation and preparation for the birth of the Lord. The word "Advent" derives from the Latin word "adventus," which means "coming," and is associated with the four weeks of preparation for Christmas.
2. Advent has a changing start date, but it always contains four Sundays. It starts on the Sunday closest to the feast of St. Andrew the Apostle (Nov. 30). It can begin as early as Nov. 27 or as late as Dec. 3.
3. Advent marks the beginning of the liturgical year. Advent was chosen to begin the year as representative of the time in history that Christ was not known to us. With His birth the beginning of our faith was founded. The liturgical year ends with the feast of Christ the King, His reign over the universe.
4. The Advent season has two meanings. It emphasises both the celebration of Christ coming into the world as a man and also the Second Coming when the Lord will return again. It blends together a penitential spirit, very similar to Lent, a liturgical theme of preparation for the Second and Final Coming of the Lord, called the Parousia, and a joyful theme of getting ready for the Bethlehem event. The traditional colour of Advent is purple or violet, which symbolises the penitential spirit. Religious traditions associated with Advent express all these themes.
5. Hope is a predominant theme of Advent. The Israelites hoped for a Messiah to come, and Christ entered the world. We are hopeful for the arrival of Christ again into the world.
6. Advent is a reminder of the Old Testament promises of the coming of the Messiah. The Advent tradition of the Jesse Tree consists of symbols of the Messiah coming from the line of Jesse (Lk 3: 23-38). Isaiah is often read during this season to remember that we are waiting for the day when the Messiah will come again.
7. Advent focuses on light as opposed to darkness. Christ enters our dark world and casts away the darkness of sin to redeem us. He will come again as the light of the world.
8. Advent has two parts. The first portion, the First Sunday of Advent until December 16, is preparation for the Second Coming of Christ. The second portion, from December 17 to 24, directly prepares us for the commemoration of the first coming of Christ, Christmas.
9. The origins of Advent can be traced back to the Church in France. In the 4th Century, the Church in France used the period before Epiphany as a time of preparation for Baptism.
10. Advent as we know today was developed in Rome. Pope Gregory I in the late 6th or early 7th Century composed many of the prayers, antiphons and psalm responses. Many themes and ideas we now know can be traced to the Roman Advent season.