

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

Weekend of 30/31 December 2024

First Reading: Gen 15: 1-6, 21: 1-3 Second Reading: Heb 11: 8, 11-12, 17-19 Gospel: Lk 2: 22-40

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

HOLY FAMILIES

The Catholic Church has many great feasts and celebrations one of those great celebrations is the Feast of the Holy Family. It signifies the special bond shared between Mary and Joseph and their child Jesus. It honours the values of love and unity which culminates in the significance of family life. The message behind this ancient feast provides significant learnings and is profoundly relevant for today as holy *families have the potential to transform our world.*

Today's feast serves as a reminder that holy families which are modelled upon The Holy Family stands as an exemplar of strength amidst adversity. Their journey was marked by challenges—seeking refuge in Egypt, poverty, uncertainties of life, and their son being murdered... Despite the trials, they modelled faith, resilience, and unconditional love portraying the power of unity and the strength derived from familial support.

Just as the Holy Family participated in the salvation of the world our *families are the seed bed of thriving societies.* They have the power to foster positive change shaping individuals and influencing communities. Within the walls of a home, values are imparted, love is nurtured, and character is moulded. It's within this sacred space that seeds of compassion, empathy, kindness, and faith are sown, which ultimately has a ripple effect.

The living testimony of the Holy Family highlights the importance of unity, understanding, and mutual respect—a blueprint for modern families. In a time where division and disharmony seem common, the Holy Family leaves us with the message of fostering unity and support within our families.

Moreover, *families serve as beacons of hope for others.* Through families' collective efforts, they can initiate change, whether by advocating for social justice, extending a helping hand to the marginalized, fostering inclusivity within communities and parishes, or inviting someone over for a meal. Small acts within families have the power to create a ripple effect that sparks a positive change far beyond their immediate circles of influence.

Furthermore, as alluded to earlier, the Feast of the Holy Family invites us to reflect on the roles we play within our own families. It urges us to prioritize moments of togetherness, fostering open communication, offering support, and teaching faith and love of God. In doing so, *families not only fortify internal bonds but external bonds* as well as they contribute to the betterment of the world.

As we commemorate this feast, let us acknowledge the immense potential families hold. Let us strive to imitate and embody the virtues of love, unity, and resilience that are on display by the Holy Family. *Each family has the power to incite positive change influencing the world* through their actions which is ultimately carrying on the mission of The Holy Family.

In conclusion, the Feast of the Holy Family is not just an ancient celebration but a call to modern day mission. It is a reminder of the transformative power rooted deep within families. As we celebrate this feast, let us reaffirm our commitment to nurturing strong, loving, and compassionate families, recognizing their potential to be agents of change in our world. May the spirit of love, unity, resilience, and faith which are depicted by the Holy Family inspire and guide our families everywhere to shape a world that mirrors these virtues.

Fr Isaac Falzon

At Your Service

Fr Peter Brannelly

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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NEW YEAR, NEW ME!

With the New Year beginning on Monday we invite Parishioners to consider adopting spiritual disciplines/practices as part of your new-normal. Over the years we've seen the release of **Bible in a Year** and **Catechism in a Year**. Both tools help us to gain new insights into God's word and how that enlivens our Tradition. A few men have already begun their **Exodus 90** challenge. As they look to Easter, may they too grow in faith and virtue. Perhaps you might want to pray the rosary more or read up on the **Saint of the Day**. Whatever the case, we invite Parishioners to take on these spiritual exercises alongside your other New Year's resolutions. We pray that the new year may find us ready and alert for when Christ comes to meet us again.

WELCOME BACK FR PETER

You might see him walking around, but take the time to welcome back Fr Peter who returns from his leave. We hope that he had a restful and rewarding time.

BLESSING OF THE CHALK

The ancient custom of marking the door of the home with blessed chalk is a way of incorporating the Liturgical feast of the Epiphany as a domestic ritual into the prayer life of the family. Chalk is first blessed in the Parish Church at Mass for the Epiphany and then people are invited to take some home and to mark the lintel of their front door as follows:

20 C + M + B 24

The letters C, M and B stand for the traditional names for the Three Wise Men who come seeking Jesus: Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar. The letters also represent the words *Christus Mansionem Benedicat* (May Christ bless this abode) - Excerpt from the *Ordo 2024*.

The Priests will bless the chalk on the weekend of 6/7 January.

THANKS TO THE CRAFT GROUP

A few weeks ago the Craft Group sold their items at Stella Maris. They had a successful weekend. We thank the ladies for their generous donation to the purchasing of our new ciborium. They have graciously covered the full cost of the ciborium.

OFFICE CLOSURE

A reminder that the Office will be closed from the end of Friday 22 December and will reopen on 8 January 2024. If you would like to make contact with the priests simply send an email to admin.suncoast@bne.catholic.net.au or ring the Parish Emergency Phone.

ANOINTING MASS

This coming Friday will be the first Friday of the month which means we have our Anointing Mass. The Anointing Masses have been a major part of our celebrations throughout the year and have been popular. We welcome all those who are feeling the infirmities of life to this Mass.

THANKS TO FR GEOFF

In the coming week we will farewell Fr Geoff Baron who has been a valuable member of our community over the past six months. Fr Geoff joined us earlier in the year and then returned to help supply for November and December. We've been fortunate as a community to learn from his wisdom and worship with him as presider and leader. We wish Fr Geoff a happy new year and look forward to his return to the Sunshine Coast.

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.

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, 1 January

◆ Adoration (4.30pm, Stella Maris Church)

◆ **Mass** (5.30pm, Stella Maris Church)

Tuesday, 2 January

◆ **Mass** (9.00am, Stella Maris School Chapel)

Wednesday, 3 January

◆ **Mass** (7am, St Mary's, Buderim Mass)

◆ **Mass** (9am, St Catherine of Siena Church)

◆ Scripture Study Group (9.30am, Zoom)

Thursday, 4 January

◆ **Mass** (8.30am, St Peter's Church)

◆ 2pm Rosary & Divine Mercy (Stella Maris)

Friday, 5 January

◆ **Mass** (9am, Stella Maris Church, Anointing Mass)

◆ Community Meal for the Homeless, Vulnerable and Disadvantaged (6pm, Stella Maris)

Saturday, 6 January

◆ Reconciliation 8.30am to 9.30am (Stella Maris)

◆ Baptism of Benjamin McEvoy, Charlie McEvoy, Genevieve Gower, Jack Jones and Macey McGough. (10am, Stella Maris, Maroochydore)

◆ Baptism of Poppy Byrnes (10am, Sippy Downs)

◆ **Vigil Mass** (4.30pm, St Peter's Church)

◆ **Vigil Mass** (6.00pm, Stella Maris Church)

Sunday, 7 January

The EPIPHANY of the LORD

◆ **Mass** (6.30am, Stella Maris Church)

◆ **Mass** (7.30am, St Peter's Church)

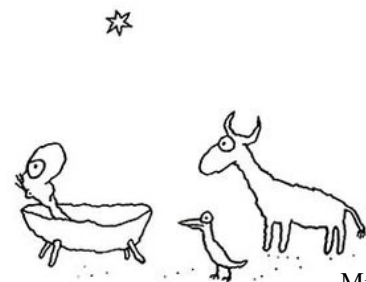
◆ **Mass** (8am, St Catherine of Siena Church)

◆ **Mass** (9am Stella Maris Church)

◆ **Mass** (9.30am, St Mary's Church)

◆ **Mass** (5pm, Stella Maris Church)

Love is born
With a dark and troubled face.
When hope is dead
And in the most unlikely place
Love is born,
Love is always born.



Michael Leunig

Celebrating and Remembering

We prayerfully remember all those who have died, especially **Jacqueline Craven** and **Frederick John Baron**. May the souls of all our departed priests, religious, parishioners and family members, through the rich mercy of God,

Rest in Peace.