

PARISH NEWSLETTER FOR 4TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

Weekend of the 27/28 January 2024

First Reading: Deut 18: 15-20 Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 7: 32-35 Gospel: Mark 1: 21-28

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

Our Parish has zero tolerance for all forms of abuse and is committed to safeguarding everyone involved in its activities, ministries and services. The safety and wellbeing of children and adults-at-risk is paramount.



THE ARCHBISHOP OF BRISBANE

AUSTRALIA DAY MESSAGE

Australia Day is marked in different ways by the different peoples who form the rich tapestry of this nation lying beneath the Southern Cross.

For some it is a moment to look back with pride on the many achievements of Australia since 26 January 1788. What began as a penal colony became in a relatively short time a peaceful and prosperous nation. It also became a stable democracy, sealed by Federation. None of this was easy, and Australia Day can be a time to give thanks for the sacrifices made.

For others who have come to this land more recently, often escaping the horrors of war, persecution and poverty, it is a moment to give thanks for the new home they have found in this country where they have been able to recover hope and rebuild their lives. Australia has given them much, but they too have given Australia much; and for that we all give thanks on the national day.

For the first inhabitants of the land Australia Day looks different. We cannot forget the injustice and dispossession they have known since 1788. Often they were displaced from their land; and Australia has slowly come to understand that to break the bond between Aboriginal peoples and the land was to do them great violence, communally and individually. The cornerstone of Aboriginal cultures was shaken, with devastating consequences for Aboriginal peoples' sense of identity. This was made worse when children were removed from their families. To this day, we see the effects of this, described at times as intergenerational trauma.

We who are not culpable are nonetheless responsible to do what we can to heal the wounds of injustice, since until those wounds are healed the claim that "all are equal" in this land will be little more than empty words. From 1788 until now, all have not been equal here; and they never will be until we remember in a way that reckons truthfully with the past and commits to doing what is necessary to heal the wounds. Until they are healed our national potential will never be fully realised, and Australia Day will not be the time of shared celebration it is meant to be.

A national day can be for us all a moment of deeper reflection when we recognise that Australia, with its many peoples, is capable of great compassion and of a wisdom that understands the truth. It can be a day to recognise what this country can be, a land where all are in fact equal and can walk together into the future God is preparing.

+ *Mark Coleridge*

Archbishop of Brisbane

Parish Clergy

Fr Peter Brannelly

Fr Isaac Falzon

Deacon Michael Khoury



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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, 29 January

- ◆ Adoration 4.30pm, Stella Maris
- ◆ **Mass** (5.30pm, Stella Maris Church)
- ◆ Spanish Prayer Meeting (6:30pm Stella Maris)

Tuesday, 30 January

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

Wednesday, 31 January

St John Bosco

- ◆ **Mass** (7am, St Mary's Church)
- ◆ **Mass** (9am, St Catherine of Siena Church).
- ◆ Scripture Study Group (9.30am, Zoom).
- ◆ Spanish Prayer Group (6pm Stella Maris)

Thursday, 1 February

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

Friday, 2 February

The Presentation of the Lord

- ◆ **Anointing Mass** (9am, Stella Maris)
- ◆ Stations of the Cross (9.45am, Stella Maris)
- ◆ Community Meal for the Homeless, Vulnerable and Disadvantaged (6pm, Stella Maris)

Saturday, 3 February

- ◆ First Saturday **Mass** (8am, Stella Maris)
- ◆ Reconciliation **8.30 to 9.30am** (Stella Maris)
- ◆ Baptism of Eva Denny and Tommy Denny (10am Stella Maris)
- ◆ Baptism of Koben Crothers and Leon Crothers (10.00am St Catherine's)
- ◆ 11am El Shaddai group meets (Sippy Downs)
- ◆ **Vigil Mass** (4.30pm, St Peter's Church)
- ◆ **Vigil Mass** (6.00pm, Stella Maris Church)

Sunday, 4 February

5th Sunday of Ordinary Time - Year B

- ◆ **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)

Gluten-free hosts are available. To arrange, simply contact the sacristan or Mass coordinator before Mass. The priest will always distribute the gluten free host at communion.

Celebrating and Remembering

We pray for all those who have died, especially **James McBrien**, whose funeral rites will be celebrated this Monday. We also pray for the soul of **Michael O'Brien**, son of Bernie and Lorraine, whose Funeral Mass was celebrated last week. May Jim and Michael now **Rest in Peace**.

WELCOME

As a Catholic Community we value Catholic Education and recognise that schools these days are complex and sophisticated organizations requiring skilled leadership by people of vision and deep faith. We welcome our new parishioner and new principal of Siena Catholic College to our Sunshine Coast Parish. Sharon Collins is an experienced educator, having worked in Catholic education for 28 years. She began her career as a Biology, Science, Maths and RE teacher at St Francis College, Crestmead. From there Sharon



worked at St Moncia's College, Cairns, as both teacher and Acting APRE, before being appointed foundation APRE of Xavier Catholic College, Hervey Bay. After 8 years in Hervey Bay, Sharon moved back to family in Toowoomba and worked in Toowoomba Catholic Education as an Education Officer:

Faith and Life. From here, she worked at St Mary's College, Toowoomba as Assistant Principal Identity, before taking on the Principalship at St Saviour's College, a role she successfully held for 7 years. The words of St Catherine of Siena's will be surely guiding Sharon as she starts this new school year, **"Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire"**. We wish the administration, teachers, support staff and students involved in the great ministry of education every blessing for this academic year.

BON VOYAGE

Over the past couple of weeks Fr Will has been visiting all our communities and it has given him a chance to say goodbye as he prepares for his next challenge of leading the West End/South Brisbane parishes. Last Sunday after the 9am Mass was our chance to gather and formally farewell Fr William.



As a Parish Family we presented Fr Will with a new acoustic guitar which will no doubt come in handy as he serenades his new parishioners! Thank you to the Knights of the Southern Cross for generously donating and coordinating the sausage sizzle and for those who quietly prepared for the function, served at the function and cleaned up afterwards—our community appreciates your service. Fr William takes up his new pastoral responsibilities from this weekend.

Thank you for supporting your Parish Planned Giving Program

BOOK A FRONT SEAT

THERE ARE PLENTY OF THINGS HAPPENING IN YOUR PARISH FAMILY

Następna polska Msza św

The next Mass in Polish will be celebrated at St Mary's Buderim this Sunday, January 28th at 4pm. Tell your Polish friends. Our Polish community gather for Mass every **fourth** Sunday of the month and the next month's Mass will be on Sunday, February 25th at St Mary's.

Sociable Seniors

We're back for 2024! Once again the Stella Maris Social Group will be meeting for a cuppa at 11.30am at Connections Cafe, 32 Baden Powell Street (opposite the church) on the first Tuesday of the month. Our next gathering will be on Tuesday, February 6th. Come along, bring a friend, make new friends or meet up with old friends. For more information contact Angelina on 0410 660 890.

Llamando a todos los hispanohablantes Calling all Spanish Speakers.

Great news! From next month we will be coordinating regular Masses in Spanish and all Spanish speakers are warmly invited. Firstly, on Ash Wednesday, 6pm, February 14th, there will be Mass in Spanish at St Mary's church, Buderim. Then, Spanish Masses will be celebrated every second Sunday of the month at St Mary's Buderim starting on Saturday, March 6th. In preparation for Easter there will also be a day of reflection at St Mary's on Saturday, March 16th from 9am to 5pm. For further details please contact: Rosemary 0401 098 238. Tell your Spanish speaking friends!

World Day of Prayer 2024

Stella Maris Catholic Parish will be hosting the annual World Day of Prayer on Friday, 8 March at 10 am to be followed by morning tea. World Day of Prayer is a worldwide ecumenical movement of many faith traditions who come together to observe a common day of prayer each year. This year's prayer service has been prepared by the Christian women of Palestine. The theme is "I beg you... to bear with one another in love". We hope to see many of our parishioners there to extend a warm welcome to the visitors from other traditions and to be united in prayer for all peoples in the region of Palestine.

Announcement Soon

Hopefully in the next week we will know the names of the six young people who will form our NET team for this year. NET stands for National Evangelization Teams and the members are young Catholics who volunteer a year or two of their lives in the service of the Church. NET has been operating in Australia for over 30 years and hundreds of young Catholics have during that time been a visible and powerful witness of faith, especially to their peers. While our NET team will work across our Parish, their particular ministry focus will be working with Siena College and the St Catherine's community at Sippy Downs. Currently this year's NET volunteers are undergoing training at Glendalough Outdoor Education Centre before beginning their ministry. Once again, the funding of this important ministry is made possible only through your continued generous support of your Parish—*Thank you.*

Planning Underway

This year's Multicultural Mass will be celebrated at Stella Maris on Sunday, 16 June. Once again it promises to be a colourful, vibrant, and energetic celebration of our diverse Catholic Faith here on the Sunshine Coast. All groups are invited to contemplate how you want to celebrate this year's Multicultural Mass and the festivities following the Mass.

The Final Task

The final phase of the minor refurbishment at Stella Maris Church will take place during the week beginning March 4th. It will involve the upgrade of our audio-visual system allowing us to live stream all our Masses, funerals, weddings and other liturgical celebrations. At the same time, a new, designated vesting area will be created for our priests and the final alterations will be made so that the new meeting room adjacent to the church will be fully functional. Because of work-place health and safety regulations the church will be closed that week except for the Monday Mass and reopen in time for the Friday morning Mass.

New Parking Arrangements

You might have noticed that there are new speed bumps and a boom gate under St Vincent's Care. These additions were made necessary for the safety of everyone because there was an increase in cars speeding through the covered carpark in the wrong direction. You can enter the carpark via Baden Powell Street but you cannot exit the carpark to Baden Powell Street – everyone must exit via Church Street. The boom gate will automatically open when you approach it from the Baden Powell entrance - but will not operate if you are trying to enter under St Vincent's via Church Street. Please, always drive with care in our church parking areas.

Perhaps You?

A vital and usually unsung ministry is our weekly Children's Church that takes place during Sunday Mass. It is a practical way of passing on the faith and engaging inquisitive minds to be captured by God's presence. Perhaps for 2024 this is your ministry? We always work as a team and never alone and resources are always provided. A meeting for all Children's Church volunteers and those interested in finding out more about this ministry will be held in the parish office boardroom Tuesday 6 February at 6pm. For further information please contact Carrolyn 5443 3488.

Perhaps this Lent will be different?

Ash Wednesday, February 14th, and the beginning of Lent is only 17 days away and now is the time to contemplate what needs to be done to ensure that this year's Lenten journey is full of potential and grace.

One of the ways we have incorporated into our Parish Lenten journey over the past couple of years is our Lenten Mini Mission. In the past we have welcomed to our community Fr Richard Leonard, sj, Br Damien Price cfc and Bishop Tim Norton svd. Each of our Mission Leaders have brought a unique perspective to our common faith experience. **This year we are delighted to welcome Jo Hayes.**

Jo Hayes is a television news reporter, Catholic evangelist, and Benedictine Oblate. She holds a Bachelors degree in Speech Pathology, and a Masters degree in Journalism. Jo has spent 15 years as a reporter/presenter in the mainstream media - most recently working for Seven News Australia. In the past three years, she moved into Catholic television, and is a regular presenter/host on Shalom World TV.

Jo has spent the past 7 years in an immersive study of Sacred Scripture, and travels extensively around the world, speaking and teaching on The Word of God, and hosting silent retreats.

On the Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of the first week of Lent (Monday, February 19, 20 and 21) we will host our Lenten Mini Mission on the Sunshine Coast. Like in previous years, the morning session will be at Our Lady of the Rosary, Caloundra with Mass at 9am followed at 9:30am with the session. The session will be repeated at Stella Maris in the afternoon beginning with Mass at 4:30pm followed by the session.

More information will be forthcoming as Lent gets closer but now is certainly the time to mark these dates in your diary.

You can find out more about Jo at johayes.com.au



God of all peoples, Lord of the journey
who always walk with us,
in this land you have blessed us
with the first inhabitants of the land
who have loved it through the ages:
for them we give you thanks.
You have blessed us in the settlers
who made this land their home,
and forged a nation with their toil:
for them we give you thanks.
You have blessed us in the many peoples
of different languages and cultures
who have found a new home here:
for them we give you thanks.
We ask that you make a home among us,
so that justice and truth may flourish
here
and all Australians may walk together
into the future you are preparing:
for that we give you thanks.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

+ Mark Coleridge
Archbishop of Brisbane

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