

PARISH NEWSLETTER FOR FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

Weekend of the 17/18 February 2024

First Reading: Gen 9: 8-15 Second Reading: 1 Pet 3:18-22 Gospel: Mark 1:12-15

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

You Are Invited

Our Parish Lenten Mission starts this Monday.

Our Parish Focus for the next 3 days is definitely our Lenten Mission. **This Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday (19 – 21 February) beginning with Mass at 4:30pm and then the Mission from 5 to 6pm**, all parishioners are invited to join this year's mission director, Jo Hayes as she leads us through the three sessions.

Jo Hayes is a television news reporter, Catholic evangelist, and Benedictine Oblate. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Speech Pathology, and a Master's 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.

2024 Lenten Mini Mission Session Outlines

Monday 19th Feb: How to Hear from God

It is possible to hear from God on a daily basis. To have an intimate, personal relationship with God that practically transforms our everyday life - leading to greater peace, joy, clarity, direction and freedom.

Tuesday 20th Feb: Living a life of radical holiness - sin and the Sacrament of Confession

'Holiness' is not just for 'the great saints'. Holiness is possible for everyday folk, like you and I. What it looks like to pursue holiness, the consequence of sin, and the freedom that comes with regular Confession.

Wednesday 21st Feb: Harnessing the power of The Word of God - a session on Lectio Divina

Lectio Divina is the prayerful reading of Divine Scripture.

Learn the what/why/how of this ancient spiritual practice, and how knowing, believing and applying The Word will radically transform your life.

Our Parish Mini Mission will **begin with 4:30pm Mass** immediately followed by the **Lenten Mission from 5 to 6pm**. If you can't make the Maroochydore evening sessions, you can always attend the Lenten Mission at Caloundra each morning with Mass at 9am followed by the presentation.



Recipe for a Lenten Garden

FIRST:

Plant 5 rows of peas.....

Preparedness, promptness, perseverance, politeness, prayer.

NEXT:

Plant 3 rows of squash....

Squash gossip, squash criticism, squash indifference.

THEN:

Plant 4 rows of lettuce.....

Let us be loyal, let us be unselfish, let us be truthful, let us be faithful.

NO GARDEN IS COMPLETE WITHOUT TURNIPS:

Turn up for Mass, turn up with a smile, turn up with a new idea, turn up with determination.

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, 19 February

- ◆ **Mass** (4.30pm, Stella Maris Church)
- ◆ **Lenten Mission 5 to 6pm**

Tuesday, 20 February

- ◆ **Mass** (4.30pm, Stella Maris Church)
- ◆ **Lenten Mission 5 to 6pm**

Wednesday, 21 February

- ◆ **Mass** (4.30pm, Stella Maris Church)
- ◆ **Lenten Mission 5 to 6pm**

Thursday, 22 February

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

Friday, 23 February

- ◆ **Mass** (9am, Stella Maris)
- ◆ 9:30am Stations of the Cross (Stella Maris)
- ◆ 9.45am Craft Group (Function Room)
- ◆ 6pm Stations of the Cross 6pm (St Catherine's)
- ◆ Community Meal for the Homeless, Vulnerable and Disadvantaged (6pm, Stella Maris)

Saturday, 24 February

- ◆ Reconciliation **8.30 to 9.30am** (Stella Maris)
- ◆ Baptism of Hunter Thornton and Goldie Thornton (10.00am Stella Maris)
- ◆ 11am El Shaddai group meets (Sippy Downs)
- ◆ **Vigil Mass** (4.30pm, St Peter's Church)
- ◆ **Vigil Mass** (6.00pm, Stella Maris Church)

Sunday, 25 February

Second Sunday of Lent

- ◆ **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** (5.00pm, Stella Maris Church)

Sisterhood

An invitation to ALL the women of our parish. Our first meeting for 2024 will be Tuesday 27 February 6pm Stella Maris Church, Maroochydore.

World Day of Prayer 2024

Stella Maris Catholic Parish will be hosting the annual World Day of Prayer on Friday, March 1st, at 10:30 am to be followed by morning tea. (Please not change of date) 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. Appropriately, 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 faith traditions. On the same day in Coolum this year the World Day of Prayer will be hosted at Coolum Christian Family Church while in Buderim the Uniting Church will host the service.

Anointing & Healing Mass

Every First Friday, there is an Anointing & Healing Mass at Stella Maris. Because the next Anointing Mass coincides with the World Day of Prayer on Friday, March 1st, parishioners are invited to stay and join fellow neighbouring Christians for the short service followed by morning tea.

Preparation

Once again in June we will celebrate our the diversity of our universal faith at our Multicultural Mass. To ensure that it is once again an enjoyable and successful occasion on Saturday, March 9th, 9:30am at Stella Maris there will be an initial planning meeting. All coordinators and parishioners interested in helping organizing this year's gathering are warmly welcome.

Reading Group

Last Monday the Reading Group celebrated their first anniversary. From Chesterton to Dostoyevsky, Graham Greene to Gerard Manley Hopkins, the rich diversity of Christian culture and literature has been explored. Currently the Lenten reflection is on St Thomas More. The reading Group meets every Monday evening, 6:30pm at Stella Maris and new members are welcome – for more information please call Aimee 0412871467

Practical Almsgiving

A very practical way of showing your solidarity with your fellow believers, who live in countries around the world where life is cheap and a daily struggle, is through this year's Project Compassion appeal. Through your financial sacrifice, you stand with and support those on the fringe of life and your commitment does make a difference. There are Project Compassion envelopes at the entrance to all our churches.

Baptismal Preparation

The next baptismal preparation session will be held on Thursday, 7th March at 6pm in Stella Maris church. At this short meeting the symbols of baptism will be explained, questions answered and baptismal dates finalised. To book in and receive the paperwork before the meeting please email the Parish office (suncoast@bne.catholic.net.au) The baptismal preparation sessions are held on the first Thursday of every month.

Celebrating and Remembering

We welcome into God's Family, the Church,
Riviera Echter, Olive Kerswill, James and Oliver Pearce
who will be baptised this weekend in our parish.

We pray for all those who have died, especially *Monica Robinson, Elaine Whittle, Bob Bygott & Janette Garcia*.
May Their souls and the souls of all our departed loved ones, through the rich mercy of God,

Rest in Peace

Parish Clergy

Fr Peter Brannelly
Fr Isaac Falzon
Deacon Michael Khoury



Stella Maris Parish Office

Adjacent to the Stella Maris Church
Office Hours 9am—1pm Weekdays
Telephone: 5443 3488
Email: suncoast@bne.catholic.net.au

MEET THE TEAM

This weekend we, welcome to our Parish Family the members of the NET team. NET is an acronym for National Evangelisation Team, and for over the past 35 years young Catholics have volunteered and given a year of their life supporting the mission of the Church. This year, our Parish welcomes six young Catholics who will minister within our community. They have finished their training and have moved into the Parish.

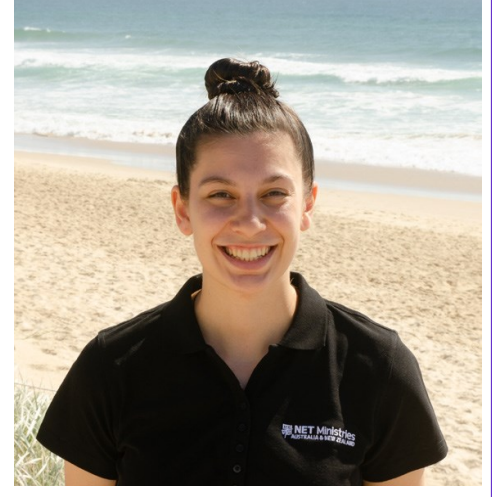
Their focus will be on our schools, especially Siena Catholic College and the St Catherine's community at Sippy Downs but their ministry will stretch across our Parish. Please make them welcome as they visit our four church communities over the next two weeks.



Gabby is 22 years old from Brisbane, Australia. She has a heart of mission and of encountering others and listening to their stories. Gabby enjoys spending time in nature and is so excited to be Jesus' hands and feet in Maroochydore this year.



Nathan is 18 years old and was raised in the Adelaide Hills in South Australia. He is a keen cricket player who also loves the beach and playing guitar. He is super keen to serve with NET this year, grow in his faith and share the love of Jesus.



Alaina is 19 and from Essex, Ontario, Canada! She loves spending time around any type of animal and used to work decorating ice cream cakes. This is her second year serving with NET and she is super excited to be ministering in Maroochydore.



Noah is 18 years old from the Blue Mountains, NSW. He is an adventurous young man who loves pizza and being outdoors, especially at the beach and the basketball court. He can't wait to share his love for God with young people.



Maddie is 19 years old from a small country town called Clifton in QLD. She holds a Cert 3 in early childhood education and care. She enjoys mixed netball and going to the gym. She is excited to help support and guide young people on their journey closer to Jesus.



Sam is 19 years old and calls Brisbane, Queensland home. He loves music and singing, nature and the environment and good chats. He is so keen to share his faith and grow closer to God during his time on NET.

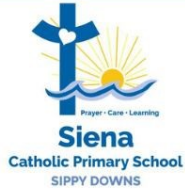
Catholic Education in our Stella Maris Parish Family

Siena Catholic Primary School

58 Sippy Downs Drive,
Sippy Downs

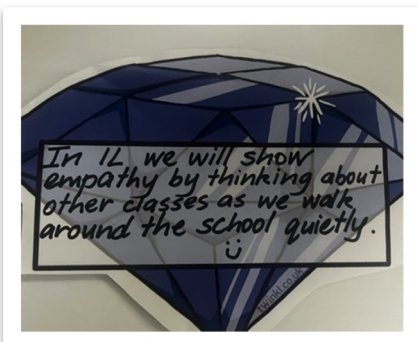
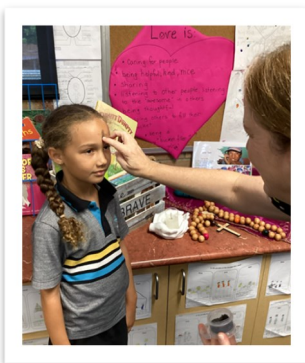
psippydowns@bne.catholic.edu.au

Principal: Glen Bucklar



Thank you to the children, staff and parents for your reverence, prayerfulness and beautiful singing during today's Ash Wednesday Mass and liturgy. Ash Wednesday is the first day of the liturgical season of Lent. This is a reflective, prayerful season leading up to Easter. Thank you also to Fr Isaac leading our prayerful service.

Starting next week, the children will pause each morning and reflect on a way that they can become better people during Lent. 'How can I be a 'Gem' and be more like Jesus in my daily actions and words?' Each class will write on a Gem a 'Goodwill Act', which suggests ideas of how we can be less self-centred and more giving this Lenten season. I will read out one gem wish each day and ask the children and staff to reflect this in their daily interactions.



Stella Maris Primary School

Stella Maris Way,
Maroochydore

pmaroochydore@bne.catholic.edu.au

Principal: Mark Ballam



Teachers at Stella Maris work hard to plan units of work that really engage their students, getting them to reflect on what they already know and make connections to new learning. In Year 2, the year has begun with a heavy focus on Hass (Humanities and Social Sciences) and RE (Religious Education).

The students are investigating the history of the parish and school and finding out about how the parish continues Jesus' mission today. To help with their explorations, they have been using human and physical resources in our local area, including past students and parishioners, plaques, images, historical photographs and memorabilia. They particularly enjoyed interviewing Fr Isaac.



Siena Catholic College

60 Sippy Downs Drive,
Sippy Downs

ssippydowns@bne.catholic.edu.au

Principal: Sharon Collins



Our focus at the start of this week was on Caritas, as we held the first of our Lenten fundraisers. During Lent, each of our five Houses organises an event designed to raise awareness and funds for the important work that Caritas does throughout the world. Teresa House prepared delicious Shrove Tuesday pancakes, which were an undoubted hit amongst students and staff ... the bar has certainly been set high for the other Houses!

On Wednesday, we gathered for our Ash Wednesday assembly. During the liturgy, we reflected on how this is a day when we find ourselves between what was and what is to come, when we are challenged to reflect on both who we are and who we are called to be as we journey towards Easter.

Thursday was set aside for our Swimming Carnival. Thank you to our Year 12 Leaders for fostering the competitive rivalry between the College Houses, and to all who dove into the spirit of the day.

