

# PARISH NEWSLETTER FOR FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Weekend of the 09/10 March 2024

First Reading: 2 Chron 36:14-16, 19-23 Second Reading: Eph 2:4-10 Gospel: John 3: 14-21

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.

**"FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY SON,  
THAT EVERYONE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM MIGHT NOT PERISH  
BUT HAVE ETERNAL LIFE"**

These are perhaps the most quoted words of John's Gospel, if not of the entire Bible. They are words that tell us that Jesus came, not to condemn the world but, out of love, to save all those who recognise and believe in Him.

These words were spoken by Jesus to Nicodemus, who was a well-respected Rabbi, a learned scholar and an expert teacher of Jewish law. Nicodemus was a Pharisee and a member of the Sanhedrin, a man devoted to prayer who adhered to scripture teachings and lived by them. Yet, in his encounters with Jesus, Nicodemus must have seen something that went beyond his human understanding. Impressed, or perhaps confused, by the miracles he had seen Jesus perform, and curious about this man, Nicodemus decided to visit Jesus in the dark of night. He wanted to know more but was perhaps uncertain of the reactions of his fellow Pharisees if they knew he was meeting Jesus. Jesus met Nicodemus where he was and tried to address questions from his context.

Leading up to speaking these words, Jesus explains that one cannot enter the Kingdom of heaven unless he is born again. This confused Nicodemus, but Jesus explained that to be born again means to be born from above, cleansed by water and filled with the Spirit.

The essence of what Jesus explained was that He, the Messiah had been sent, not to condemn the world but out of great love, to save the world.

Nicodemus never confessed his belief in Jesus at that time, nor did he give up his life and role to follow as a disciple of Jesus. Later in John's Gospel, however, we read that Nicodemus was present and participated at the burial of Jesus after His crucifixion. It was then that he made a commitment of faith and identified himself as a believer and follower of Jesus.

Unlike Nicodemus, we can look back to the Resurrection to recognise Jesus as the Christ, the one who came to save us. Perhaps the most important message we can take from this Gospel is that God sent His Son out of LOVE for us. Our God loves us, and He sent His Son not to condemn us, but to save us. Do we recognise God's great love and gift of salvation for each of us and are we ready to share the love we receive with others in our lives.

This week, let us pray for the grace and gift of faith to recognise God's great love and gift of salvation to us.

*Deacon Michael Khoury*

**Parish Clergy**  
Fr Peter Brannelly  
Fr Isaac Falzon  
Deacon Michael Khoury



**Stella Maris Parish Office**  
Adjacent to the Stella Maris Church  
Office Hours 9am—2pm Weekdays  
Telephone: 5443 3488

## 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 March

Adoration 4.30pm, Stella Maris

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

### Tuesday, 12 March

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

All Welcome.

- ◆ Craft Group (1.00pm, St Peter's Church)

### Wednesday, 13 March

- ◆ **Mass** (7.00am, St Mary's Church)
- ◆ **Mass** (9.00am, St Catherine of Siena Church).
- ◆ Scripture Study Group (9.30am, Zoom)
- ◆ Latin American Prayer Group (6.00-8.00pm Stella Maris Function Room)

### Thursday, 14 March

- ◆ **Mass** (8.30am, St Peter's Church)
- ◆ 2.00pm Rosary & Divine Mercy (Stella Maris)

### Friday, 15 March

- ◆ **Mass** (9.00am, Stella Maris)
- ◆ 10.00am Stations of the Cross (Stella Maris)
- ◆ 6.00pm Stations of the Cross (St Catherine's)
- ◆ Community Meal for the Homeless, Vulnerable and Disadvantaged (6.00pm, Stella Maris)

### Saturday, 16 March

- ◆ Reconciliation **8.30 to 9.30am** (Stella Maris)
- ◆ Baptisms Billie and Bowie Faith (10.00am Stella Maris)
- ◆ 11.00am El Shaddai group meets (Sippy Downs)
- ◆ **Vigil Mass** (4.30pm, St Peter's Church)
- ◆ **Vigil Mass** (6.00pm, Stella Maris Church)

### Sunday, 17 March

#### Fifth Sunday of Lent

- ◆ **Mass** (6.30am, Stella Maris Church)
  - ◆ **Mass** (7.30am, St Peter's Church)
  - ◆ **Mass** (8.00am, St Catherine's Church)
  - ◆ **Mass** (9.00am, Stella Maris Church)
  - ◆ **Mass** (9.30am, St Mary's Church)
  - ◆ **Mass** (5.00pm, Stella Maris Church)
- Gluten free Masses available on request, simply contact the sacristan or Mass coordinator before Mass. The priest will always distribute the gluten free host at communion.*

## Welcome

We live in an incredibly mobile society and there are always plenty of new faces popping up on the Sunshine Coast. In such a large and busy Parish places like ours, it is very easy for new faces to get lost in all the activity and the rush of modern living! The ministry of our Welcome Committee is to extend a warm welcome to new parishioners and provide information about the local Catholic Community. Several times a year we host a "Welcome Party" and the next one is scheduled for **Monday evening, 16 April**. If you are new to our Sunshine Coast Catholic Family could you please take a welcome pack, which is available at the entrance to the church and complete and return the details so that we can send you an invitation. On behalf of the entire parish, *thanks for joining our local Catholic Family.*

## Archdiocesan Youth Rally 2024

Join us and youth groups and ministries from across the Archdiocese of Brisbane for a night of live music, games, inspirational speakers, power prayer and the opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

This is a free event.

Friday 22 March, 6.00-8.30pm.

La Cordelle Auditorium, Padua College.

[https://app.tickets.org.au/eb/Reco\\_Rally](https://app.tickets.org.au/eb/Reco_Rally)

We will be joining with our neighbouring Caloundra Parish and taking a bus to this event. For more information contact Fr Isaac at the Parish Office (07) 5443 3488.

## A Positive Start to the Week

We are in the process of starting a new group that will meet after the 5.00pm Sunday night Mass at Stella Maris. The group is open to all young adults who want meet for an hour from 6.00-7.00pm for a little faith formation and pizza. The first meeting will be Sunday 17 March. All Year 12 students, university students and young adults are welcome.

## A Timely Prayer

Congratulations to the co-ordinators and the many parishioners behind the scene who successfully hosted last Friday's World Day of Prayer at Stella Maris. As a parish we welcomed many members of other local churches to the annual prayer service and this year the service was prepared by Palestinian Christian women. The theme was "I beg you... to bear with one another in love". A collection of over \$1500 was collected and will be forwarded to the Church in Palestine.



Next Friday, 15 March, following the 9.00am Mass at Stella Maris, the Grief Support Team will be hosting morning tea and a warm invitation is extended to relatives and friends of those who have lost loved ones recently.

## Remembering

We pray for all those who have died, especially **Keith John Halley, Della Helene Peters** and **Cherie Kathleen Morrison**. May their souls and the souls of all our departed through the rich mercy of God, **Rest in Peace.**



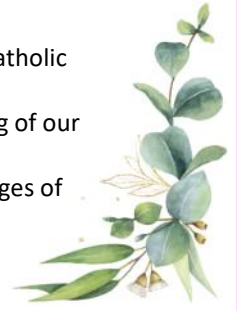
### MARCH MEETING - Tuesday 19 - 6-8pm

Sisterhood is the new and exciting Women's ministry growing out of Stella Maris Catholic Parish.

Sisterhood gathers every month for an evening of fellowship, prayer and deepening of our faith.

Our first Sisterhood evening last month welcomed 50 women from all ages and stages of life, coming together to share their faith and glean wisdom of those around them.

Come join us.



## Confirmation 2024

Registrations are now open for Confirmation. If you have a child in Year 3 or older, please enrol online via our website. Parent information night will be held at the Stella Maris Church, Maroochydore on Wednesday 24 April at 5.00pm. Please visit our web page for further information and to register your child: [maroochydoirparish.com.au](http://maroochydoirparish.com.au)

## Invitation to Formation:

In response to the challenge to provide better adult formation and to provide ongoing formation for those considering ministry roles, the Archdiocesan Centre for Catholic Formation has launched a series of innovative and accessible modules. Each module includes 10 sessions supported with individual reflection that is designed to engage both the head and the heart, so participants grow in knowledge and the lived experience of Catholic faith. The next module starts on Monday, 15 April 2024 and is titled Being Sacramental.

### Being Sacramental:

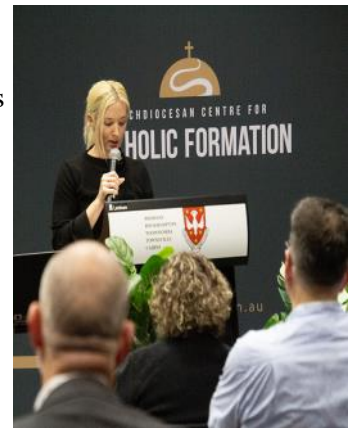
This Module will engage participants in the concepts of sacramentality, the sacraments and their context in liturgy in the Catholic tradition. The module will explore the nature of God's presence in the sacraments, the nature of grace, how grace is received and experienced in and beyond the sacraments of the Church. The sessions will cover topics including what is sacramentality, signs and symbols and will also explore all seven sacraments. Each module of our Catholic Foundations course is **open to all**, and **you do not need to have completed previous modules** in order to register for Module 3, 'Being Sacramental'.

### How it works:

The Stella Maris Catholic Parish is teaming up with Evangelisation Brisbane to subsidise the cost of this course for any parishioner who wants to reach out and understand what they have truly been graced with. Over 10 Monday evenings (15 April, 22 April, 29 April, 13 May, 20 May, 27 May, 3 June, 17 June, 24 June) from 7:00pm – 9:00pm, we will create a hub at Stella Maris and will participate in the live stream coming from Holy Spirit Seminary.

### What you need to do next:

To find out more about Being Sacramental and download a copy of the Module 3 prospectus, or to learn more about the Archdiocesan Centre for Catholic Formation, please visit [catholicformation.au](http://catholicformation.au). If you would like to find out more you can also talk to either Fr Peter or Fr Isaac. If you would like to be part of the Parish Hub that participates on the 10 Monday evenings please register your interest by calling the Parish Office on (07) 5443 3488.



## Our First Stella Maris Primary School Led Mass 2024

What a glorious celebration we had at the Sunday 9.00am Mass with a beautiful liturgy led by the Stella Maris Primary School. The school choir did a fantastic job skilfully leading us in praise and worship of the Lord. We would like to thank the children, parents and teachers for all their hard work in making this such a joyous gathering.





# 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



Partner reading involves two students working together in a supportive environment. During Partner Reading, students read a text aloud, taking turns in the reading so that they can support each other to success. It is an effective reading strategy that builds word recognition, decoding, fluency, and vocabulary development.



Word Noticing Walls

To stimulate and ignite the love of vocabulary and spelling in students, Siena teachers are investing time and learning looking at the history and meaning of words.

Learning about the origin of words and how they are connected builds interest and excitement in students and leads to a better understanding of vocabulary and more accurate use of spelling.



## Stella Maris Primary School

Stella Maris Way,  
Maroochydore

pmaroochydore@bne.catholic.edu.au

Principal: Mark Ballam



We thoroughly enjoyed being part of the Parish School Family Mass last Sunday, for the first time in a long while.

Our choir did a fabulous job leading the singing, supported by Mrs Durrer and Mrs Summit and we were so grateful to the students, staff and families who contributed by reading, altar serving or encouraging participation.

Special thanks to Fr Isaac and parishioners for the lovely welcome.

We look forward to joining in again next term.



## Siena Catholic College

60 Sippy Downs Drive,  
Sippy Downs

ssippydowns@bne.catholic.edu.au

Principal: Sharon Collins



Many of the key events of our week have been linked to our Service Pillar – how we communicate the truth and love of Jesus to others through word, action and example.

MacKillop House cooked up a delicious BBQ on Tuesday, continuing our Lenten fundraising efforts for Caritas. Thanks to our talented music students who showcased their talents during the event, providing us with the opportunity to enjoy another lunch on the lawn. On Wednesday afternoon, college staff joined with a team of Primary school mums to ensure our 'Soul Food' freezer is again stocked. This wonderful initiative of the P&F provides delicious meals for families in time of need – thank you ladies!

Finally, today (Sunday) a group of college staff, students and parents will be providing volunteers for one of the water stations for the Mooloolaba Triathlon.

On Wednesday, we recommenced our participation in the weekly Community Masses at St Catherine's. During his homily, Fr Isaac challenged our Year 10 students to think about how they might be changed by taking the chance and trying something new.

Also on Wednesday, 57 of our Year 12 biology students left for Moreton Island to explore the varied ecosystems of this beautiful location.

