

PARISH NEWSLETTER FOR FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Weekend of the 16/17 March 2024

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.

Truth about the Catholic Liturgy

Despite the hustle and bustle of our daily lives, and the noise of the modern world, there is a place that goes beyond time and space – a sanctuary where heaven and earth meet – the Catholic Liturgy. Everyday within our churches a mystery – a miracle – takes place that invites us to encounter the living God. In 600 words, let's explore the Truth about the Catholic liturgy.

At the core of the Catholic liturgy lies the Eucharist, the source and summit of our faith. In the celebration of the Mass, we are drawn into the paschal mystery – the life, death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Through the consecration of bread and wine, ordinary elements are transformed into the body and blood of Christ. A miracle occurs, and its reality is concealed within the appearance of bread and wine. This mystery, known as transubstantiation, underscores the truth of the Catholic liturgy – the real presence of Christ among us. Which is why we pay the Eucharist the utmost respect.

As we gather in worship we are not merely passive spectators but active participants in the liturgy. The liturgy is done best when it engages all our senses, enveloping us in the beauty of sacred music, the fragrance of incense, and the divine dance of ritual. Through gestures, symbols and sacred rites, we are drawn deeper into the mystery of God's love, encountering His presence in the midst of our communal prayer.

Yet, the truth of the Catholic liturgy extends beyond mere ritual and symbolism – it is an encounter with Christ Himself. In the liturgy we are nourished by the Word of God proclaimed in Scripture, guided by the teachings of the Church and strengthened by the sacraments. Through receiving the Eucharist, we do not so much consume the body of Christ, rather, we are consumed by Christ. We are united with Christ in an intimate way which nourishes our souls and renews our commitment to follow Him faithfully.

In a world often marked by division, busyness, and distractions, the Catholic liturgy stands as a beacon of unity and universality. Regardless of our cultural background, language, or social status, we are united as one body in Christ, members of a global communion of faith. In the celebration of the Mass, we are joined with believers across time and space, transcending earthly boundaries to participate in the heavenly liturgy of angels and saints.

Furthermore, the Catholic liturgy offers a sacred space of silence and contemplation, a refuge for weary souls seeking solace and renewal. In the quiet reverence of the church, we are invited to encounter the living God, to listen to His voice speaking in the depths of our hearts, and to respond with openness and humility.

As we reflect on the truth of the Catholic liturgy, let us be reignited with love and reverence for this sacred gift, entrusted to us by Christ Himself. May we approach the liturgy with hearts open to receive the abundant grace and blessings it offers, allowing it to transform our lives and renew our commitment to live as disciples of the Lord..

Fr Isaac

A Positive Start to the Week

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

Don't Procrastinate – 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: maroochydroparish.com.au

Parish Clergy

Fr Peter Brannelly
Fr Isaac Falzon
Deacon Michael Khoury
Bishop Brian Heenan
Bishop Emeritus



Stella Maris Parish Office

Adjacent to the Stella Maris Church
Office Hours 9am—2pm Weekdays
Telephone: 5443 3488
Email: suncoast@bne.catholic.net.au
Website: maroochydroparish.com.au

The Week Ahead

Monday, 18 March

St Patrick

- ◆ Adoration (4.30pm, Stella Maris Church)
- ◆ **Mass** (5.30pm, Stella Maris Church)
- ◆ Spanish Group – Consecration to Jesus through Mary (6.30pm, Stella Maris)

Tuesday, 19 March

St Joseph

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

Wednesday, 20 March

- ◆ **Mass** (7.00am, St Mary's Church)
- ◆ **Mass** (9.00am, St Catherine of Siena Church).
- ◆ St Vincent de Paul meeting, Maroochydore.
- ◆ Scripture Study Group (9.30am, Zoom).
- ◆ Latin Prayer Group (6.00pm, Stella Maris)

Thursday, 21 March

- ◆ **Mass** (8.30am, St Peter's Church)
- ◆ St Vincent de Paul meeting, Coolum.
- ◆ Rosary & Divine Mercy (2.00pm, Stella Maris)

Friday, 22 March

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

Saturday, 23 March

- ◆ **No Reconciliation** at Stella Maris this week. Communal Rite at Caloundra (9.00am).
- ◆ Baptisms of Pedro De Oliveira Giroldo, Winston Johnson, Amilie O'Mahony, Liam O'Mahony, Harlan Weber and Judd Weber. (10.00am Stella Maris Church)
- ◆ El Shaddai group meets (11.00am, Sippy Downs)
- ◆ **Vigil Mass** (4.30pm, St Peter's Church)
- ◆ **Vigil Mass** (6.00pm, Stella Maris Church)

Sunday, 24 March *Palm Sunday*

- ◆ **Mass** (6.30am, Stella Maris Church)
- ◆ **Mass** (7.30am, St Peter's Church)
- ◆ **Mass** (8.00am, St Catherine of Siena Church)
- ◆ **Mass** (9.00am, Stella Maris Church)
- ◆ **Mass** (9.30am, St Mary's Church)
- ◆ **Mass in Polish** (4.00pm, St Mary's Church)
- ◆ **Mass** (5.00pm, 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.

Reconciliation

We have passed the half way mark and our journey towards Holy Week is quickly gaining pace. One of the key elements of our journey together during this holy season of Lent is reconciliation. On the Sunshine Coast we have two opportunities to celebrate a Communal Rite of Reconciliation leading up to Easter. Next Saturday 23 March at 9.00am at Our Lady of the Rosary Caloundra and the following Monday of Holy Week, 25 March at 5.00pm at Stella Maris.

Please note that because your priests will be at Caloundra on 23 March there will be no individual reconciliation at Maroochydore on Saturday 23 March.



NET UPDATE

Firstly, we'd like to thank you all for welcoming us so warmly into your parish community. We've been here for four weeks now and have loved getting around to each Sunday Mass to introduce ourselves and meet as many of you as possible.

We've spent lots of time with the community at Siena Catholic College. We've been going into classrooms explaining what we do, leading prayers at the start of lessons, sharing a bit of our own stories and getting to know the students across many year levels. We've also been out and about during breaks, meeting students and building connections with them. One of our favourite things has been going to the beach with the Year 7s and going bowling with the Year 10s for their weekly sports activities!

Lots planning for the next 8 months has happened, and we can't wait for all of the opportunities ahead of us! Please come up to us and have a chat whenever you see us around!

P.S. *If you're a young adult, come along for pizza and reflection this Sunday from 6.00-7.00pm at Stella Maris!*

Feeling Crafty?

The first anniversary of the Craft Group is fast approaching – the next gathering will be on next Friday 22 March at 9.45am, following the normal Friday morning 9.00am Mass. The craft group will also be holding craft stalls on the Easter Sunday and all the proceeds will be forwarded to the Catholic Parish in Palestine. New members of the group are always welcome.

Our Pilgrimage of Faith

We welcome into God's Family, the Church, **Billie Faith** and **Bowie Faith**, who will be baptised this weekend.

We pray for all those who have died, especially **Robert James Morrison** whose funeral will be Tuesday 19 March 2024. May Robert's soul and the souls of all our departed priests, religious, family and friends through the rich mercy of God,

Rest in Peace.

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.



Calling all women to our monthly gathering this Tuesday 19 March at 6.00pm. We have another fantastic session planned for you. Our talented NET team will lead us in song, and most importantly, we will share in a cuppa and croissant. No need to book just come along and be ready to make some new friends!



ARCHDIOCESE OF BRISBANE SYNOD24

“I am making all things new” Rev 21:5.

This year the Archdiocese will celebrate SYNOD24 to mark the Implementation Phase of the Plenary Council. Together we'll discern the practical and Spirit-led actions that we, as the Archdiocese of Brisbane, need to undertake to be a more co-responsible church on mission. These actions will take into consideration what is already happening across the Archdiocese that should be affirmed, what learnings can be harnessed and shared, and where the gaps and needs are. SYNOD24 will take place over two sessions, September 6th and 7th and October 11th and 12th, with the Opening and Closing Masses open to the public. More information on the SYNOD24 journey will be released regularly, so head to www.aobsynod2024.com to refresh yourself on the Plenary Journey so far and to learn more about SYNOD24.



We Need You!

This weekend at the entrance of your church you will discover sign-up sheets for the ceremonies over Holy Week and Easter. While an incredible amount of work on behalf of the musicians and liturgy committee goes into the preparation of the ceremonies the other half of the equation always depends upon the willingness and generosity of fellow parishioners. Please take a moment and if you see a vacancy that you can fill, don't hesitate to sign-up! *Thank you.*

Is This You ?

Do you want to become a Catholic? Are you a Baptised Catholic who never received the Sacraments of Eucharist or Confirmation?

The RCIA program (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) is the normal process through which an unbaptised adult joins the church and it is the ordinary means of entering the Catholic Church for a person who has been baptised in another Christian denomination.

If you want to become a fully initiated Catholic this inquiry night is for you!

It is short time to learn more about the RCIA process. It will be at Stella Maris at 6.00pm on Wednesday 27 March. To register please email falzoni@bne.catholic.net.au

Ignatius Retreat - Worth Considering?

If you have a desire to deepen your relationship with God and find God's presence in your everyday life, this could be a retreat for you! ***Inner Peace in Darkness and Light*** is the title of the retreat based on the Spiritual

Exercises by St Ignatius of Loyola and will be held on 22 April, 29 April, 6 May, 13 May and 20 May at St Peter's, Coolum. Everyone is invited and there are no special requirements to attend!

What's involved:

Participants make a commitment to pray at home for 30 minutes each day, and meet for retreat within a group setting once-a-week for 90 minutes. There are in total five group meetings. These sessions are guided by trained givers of the First Spiritual Exercises.

Your Commitment:

Spend 30 minutes daily in personal prayer. Keep a journal. Willingness to commit to four weeks of the retreat and attend the five weekly group meetings.

More information will be provided closer to the date or go to info@jisa.org.au

HOLY WEEK and EASTER

at a glance.

Communal Rite of Reconciliation

Next Saturday Morning 23 March

Our Lady of the Rosary, Caloundra – 9.00am

(Please note that there is no confessions at Stella Maris on this day)

Monday evening, 25 March

Stella Maris, Maroochydore – 5.00pm

Holy Thursday – 28 March.

Mass of the Lord's Supper, Stella Maris - 7.00pm

Good Friday – 29 March.

Stations of the Cross:

Maroochydore	10.00am
Coolum Beach	10.00am
Sippy Downs	10.00am

Veneration of the Cross:

Maroochydore	3.00pm
Coolum Beach	3.00pm
Buderim	3.00pm

Easter Vigil – 30 March.

Maroochydore 6.00pm Coolum Beach 6.00pm

Easter Sunday – 31 March.

Maroochydore	6.30am
Coolum Beach	7.30am
Sippy Downs	8.00am
Maroochydore	9.00am
Buderim	9.30am

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



On Wednesday afternoon, 6 March, a group of parents and staff volunteers happily cooked a variety of meals for families throughout the year that may need assistance due to experiencing hard times. It was a great afternoon!

This merry, giving group was led by Mel Gibson from the primary P&F and assisted by college staff members, Catharine Hannan, APRE and Nick. We thank them for their time and use of the college catering facilities.

Nothing fills your soul more than witnessing volunteers giving their time to assist those in need. I feel privileged and humbled to be member of the Siena family where the values of Excellence, Justice, Hope and Integrity are endorsed daily through the words and actions of staff, parents and children.

In total 102 Anzac biscuits, 120 pieces choc slice, 11 quiches, 24 lasagnes, 34 spaghetti bolognese and 16 chick curries !!!



Stella Maris Primary School

Stella Maris Way,
Maroochydore

pmaroochydore@bne.catholic.edu.au

Principal: Mark Ballam



Our Year One classes have been busy trying to answer the question, "Who is God?" Little do they know that many people spend their lives trying to answer that very same question. To help answer the question, the children reflected on the Bible stories that they know, to see what they had to teach about God. They remembered the Old Testament stories of Creation, of Abraham and Sarah and of Joseph. They considered evidence of God's presence in their own lives, through the people and world around them. After deciding that God's qualities have to include being a creator – forgiving – loving – compassionate – and listening, each child created a page that was added to a class book. The next question to answer, is "How can each of us demonstrate the same qualities in our own lives?"



Siena Catholic College

60 Sippy Downs Drive,
Sippy Downs

ssippydowns@bne.catholic.edu.au

Principal: Sharon Collins



NAPLAN was on the agenda at the College this week, with our Year 7 and 9 students participating in two days of testing to gauge how they are progressing in literacy and numeracy.

On Tuesday, a group of our ATSI students attended a First Nations Cultural Immersion day at St John's. The day was presented by Ngutana-Lui mentors, and our students had the opportunity to yarn with elders and to participate in art, dance, weaving, and native vegetation identification workshops. All who attended enjoyed these diverse workshops, as well as the opportunity to bond as a group and to connect with First Nations students from other schools.

Our Year 8s joined parishioners at the Community Mass on Wednesday morning. During his homily, Fr Isaac encouraged them to make Jesus the centre of their lives, so that they might live in happiness and peace.

We rounded out the week with the fourth of our Caritas fundraisers, sharing Ozanam House's delicious ice creams on Friday morning - thanks to all who continue to support our efforts for this worthy cause.



**Only your financial commitment makes our Parish ministries possible.
Thank you for your continued financial sacrifices and trust.**