

PARISH NEWSLETTER FOR SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

Weekend of the 06/07 April 2024

Embracing the faith communities of **St Mary's Buderim**, **St Peter's Coolumb**,
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 are paramount.

There is a story about a mountain village in Europe, several centuries ago, where a nobleman decided to build a church for the village people. No one saw the complete plans for the church until it was finished. When the people gathered, they marvelled at its beauty and completeness. Then someone asked, "But where are the lamps? How will the church be lit?" The nobleman pointed to some brackets in the walls. He then gave each family a lamp and instructed them to bring it with them each time they came to worship. "Each time you are here the area where you are seated will have light," the nobleman said. "Each time you are not here, that area will remain dark. This is to remind you that whenever you fail to come to church, some part of God's house will be dark."

On this second Sunday of Easter, we hear the story of Doubting Thomas. We all know Thomas for his doubting, but let us consider another factor that contributed to his doubting. Thomas was not present when Jesus appeared to the disciples the first time. Whatever his reasons were, Thomas missed out because he was not there. Regardless of his reason for not being there, he missed some things that could never be duplicated.

In fairness to Thomas, we should also consider the other disciples. When they first heard the news that Jesus was alive, they didn't believe either. The whole group was so overcome with grief and disappointment that at first, they could not bring themselves to believe. Later, they came to believe when they recognized Jesus in the breaking of the bread and when they saw Jesus themselves. Thomas was only asking for the same proof that the other disciples had already received.

Thomas provides a reminder of why being present at church is so important. We never know what we will miss when we are not there. Something is missing in the fellowship of the Church when we are not there. We are the Church and when we are not present, we miss out on experiencing the Presence, the Power, the Peace and Praises of the Lord shared in the fellowship of our faith community and on recognising Jesus in the breaking of the Bread.

Jesus tells Thomas something we need to hear today. He tells Thomas that he believed because of what he had seen with his eyes and added that those who believe, without seeing, are even more blessed. We will never see the physical Person of Jesus in this life, but being present at Mass and in our faith community, allows an opportunity for us to encounter and recognise the presence of Jesus in the Word, the Eucharist and in our fellowship with one another.

Maybe there are some of us, like Thomas, who have allowed ourselves to be absent from the place where God meets with and blesses His people. Being present is not always easy but our presence brings light and the opportunity to meet and recognize Jesus.

Deacon Michael Khoury

Thank You For Your Support

The Craft Group would like to thank everyone for supporting their stall on Easter Sunday morning at Stella Maris. A total of **\$1854** was raised on the morning. There is only one Catholic Parish in the Gaza and the entire proceeds will be forwarded to them directly – once again, *thank you*.

Parish Clergy

Fr Peter Brannelly
Fr Isaac Falzon
Fr Joe O'Keefe sj
Deacon Michael Khoury
Bishop Brian Heenan
Bishop Emeritus



Stella Maris Parish Office

Adjacent to the Stella Maris Church
Office Hours 9am—2pm Weekdays
Telephone: (07) 5443 3488
Email: suncoast@bne.catholic.net.au
Website: maroochydoreparish.com.au

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, 8 April The Annunciation

Benediction 5.15pm, Stella Maris

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

Tuesday, 9 April

- ◆ **Mass** (9.00am, Stella Maris School Chapel).
- ◆ Finance Committee 6pm

Wednesday, 10 April

- ◆ **Mass** (7.00am, St Mary's Church)
- ◆ **Mass** (9.00am, St Catherine of Siena)
- ◆ Scripture Study Group (9.30am, Zoom).

Thursday, 11 April St Stanislaus

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

Friday, 12 April

- ◆ **Mass** (9.00am, Stella Maris)
- ◆ Community Meal for the Homeless, Vulnerable and Disadvantaged (6pm, Stella Maris)

Saturday, 13 April

- ◆ Reconciliation 8.30 am to 9.30am (Stella Maris)
- ◆ Baptisms 10.00am *Marcello Gabrielli, Bella Hine, Maximus Zumbo* (Stella Maris)
- ◆ 11am El Shaddai group meets (Sippy Downs)
- ◆ **Vigil Mass** (4.30pm, St Peter's Church)
- ◆ **Vigil Mass** (6.00pm, Stella Maris Church)
- ◆ **Spanish Mass** and Baptism of *Iris Garzon* (6.00pm St Mary's Church, Buderim)

Sunday, 14 April

Third Sunday of Easter

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

Being the first weekend of the month across our Parish Family, hospitality is our special focus – please accept this invitation to join your fellow parishioners after Mass today. Since we are in the middle of the school holidays, a warm invitation is extended to all our visitors – you are most welcome. A big thank you to our fellow parishioners whose generosity and commitment makes this ministry possible each month.

Divine Mercy

This weekend, the Second Sunday of Easter is also Divine Mercy Sunday. In our Deanery, our neighbouring Parish of St Joseph's at Nambour is hosting the Divine Mercy devotions. The devotions begin at 1:30pm with Mass at 3.00pm at St Joseph's church, 177 Currie Street Nambour

Misa en español el próximo sábado

Next Saturday evening, 13 April 6.00pm at St Mary's, Buderim we will celebrate our monthly Mass in Spanish. Please let all your Spanish speaking friends know! *Se recuerda a todos los hispanohablantes nuestra próxima Misa en español el próximo sábado a las 6 p.m. en St Mary's, Buderim.* All welcome.

Back in Action

Our Young Adult group resumes after the 5pm Sunday night Mass. All senior students, young adults and university students are welcome to join us at 6pm for a semiformal sharing of some food and faith development. *Bring a friend!*

Confirmation Programme

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. Once again, we are delighted that Fr Richard Leonard will lead the parent information session. Please visit our web page for further information and to register your child: maroochyshoreparish.com.au

New To The Neighbourhood?

We live in an extremely mobile society, and especially here on the Sunshine Coast there are always people coming and going. If you are new to our Parish, or if you are reconnecting with the Church, we would love to welcome you more formally to our Parish Family. You will find "welcome packs" at the entrance of our churches, and if you complete and return the forms we will be in contact with you. Regularly throughout the year we host a "Welcome Cocktail Party" for new and returning members of our Parish Family – the next is on 16 April 6.00-7.30pm and we would love to send you an invitation!

Perhaps You?

As a Parish Family, we are blessed with many dedicated parishioners who minister to those who cannot join us for Mass. Each week, quietly and behind the scenes, they visit fellow Catholics in their homes or aged care facilities bringing Holy Communion and spending some quality time with them. We are in need of some volunteers to take Holy Communion to some Catholic residents at Regis Sippy Downs – if you think you can help or would like to find out more about this ministry, please contact Judy at the Parish Office.

Celebrating and Remembering

We welcome into God's Family, the Church,
Huxley Bell, Jack Griffith, Vander Griffith, Bambi-Lou Griffiths, Aurora Hohn, Frederick Marker, Mila Marker and Freddie Muller
who will be baptised this weekend in our parish.

We pray for all those who have died, especially *George Verlaque* whose funeral rites will be celebrated on April 9 and *Aida Hulse* whose funeral rites will be celebrated on April 16.

May George and Aida's souls and the souls of all our departed Priests, Religious, family members and parishioners through the rich mercy of God,

Rest in Peace.

INTRODUCING

We welcome to our Sunshine Coast Catholic family, Fr Joseph O'Keefe SJ. Fr. Joe is a Jesuit priest who is completing what is known as *Tertianship* - a time of both renewal and preparation for final vows with his religious order. As part of that programme, he will be here with us until mid-May, providing sacramental and pastoral support in our parish and schools.

Fr. Joe was born and raised in a large Irish Catholic family in Boston on the east coast of the US, where he attended local Catholic schools and later earned undergraduate and graduate degrees at colleges there. After some years working in government and politics, he decided to enter the Jesuits. He has spent most of his Jesuit life on the west coast of the US, primarily in California, earning additional graduate degrees as a part of his early formation. Ordained a priest in 2013, he has since then worked in several Jesuit schools, parishes and other Jesuit apostolates.



When Fr. Joe finishes his time with us here in Australia, he will move to a new assignment at the Jesuit parish of St. Francis Xavier in Phoenix, Arizona. Until then, Fr Joe is eager to be part of our faith community and try to understand what is so fantastic about the Broncos !

A Serious Faith Education Opportunity for You

THE INVITATION:

In response to the challenge to provide better adult formation and to provide ongoing formation to 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:

Module 3 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 Three.

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. On the 10 Monday night 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 downloading a copy of the Module 3 prospectus, or to learn more about the Archdiocesan Centre for Catholic Formation, please visit catholicformation.au. If you would like to find out more you can also talk to either one of the priests or Carolyn Watt at the office. 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 (07) 5443 3488

Together ~ A True Team Effort

Last week's Holy Week ceremonies across our Parish Family were the culmination of a journey that started way back on Ash Wednesday. Throughout Lent and Holy Week so many nameless fellow parishioners were involved in making our liturgies moments of grace and hope. From cleaners to musicians, sacristans to liturgical art, readers to office staff and helpers, so many people were involved – and each person a valuable and indispensable part of our faith community. *A grateful parish says thank you.* As a way of acknowledging everyone who played a role in ensuring all our Holy Week ceremonies went so smoothly I would like to invite all those involved to a small thank you party on Monday evening, April 22 at 6pm. *If you played any part – don't be shy!* If you can bring a plate that would be great. To help with catering if you RSVP by contacting the Parish Office it would be appreciated. (5443 3488)

Bon Appetit

Each year, Archbishop Coleridge hosts a dinner at *Wynberg*, his official residence in Brisbane for all young men and women who are discerning a vocation to priesthood or religious life. It is a chance for the Archbishop to meet and share some of his story and talk about some of the current exciting challenges and his vision for our local church. If you would like more information or would like to receive an invitation to the dinner, contact Fr Isaac, Fr Peter or Fr Joe.

These School Holidays—Fun Days with God—this Monday

All primary school aged children are invited to participate in new parish school holiday activities called “Fun Days with God”. These days occur once each school holidays. Our first day for 2024, “Easter Capers” will be held on this 8 April from **9.00am-3.00pm** at the Stella Maris Church.

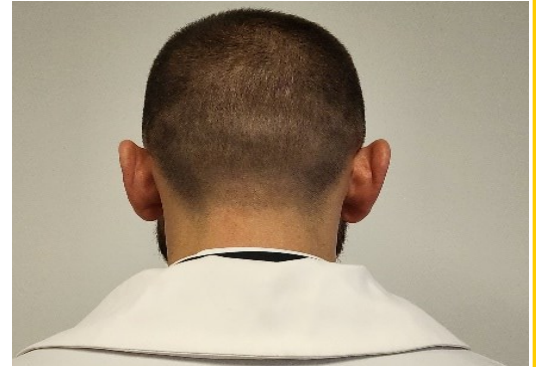
It will be an exciting day of fun activities - craft, bible stories, songs, prayer, drama, play and games, all based on some of the stories from the Easter Season. Children need to bring their own morning tea, lunch and hat. The cost of the day is \$10.00 per child with a maximum of \$20 per family.

High school students are also welcome to come and assist us on the day. **For more information or to register please email Bernie Baillie at bbaillie811@gmail.com or phone the Parish Office 5443 3488.**

Don't Forget to Support Fr Isaac's Mullet!!!

“The Mullet is making a comeback! Fr Isaac is going to grow a mullet this month to raise awareness of the work of the Black Dog Institute in support of their important work.

One in five of us will experience symptoms of mental illness in any given year. In Australia, that's around 5 million people. And roughly 60% of these people won't seek help. More alarmingly, 9 people in Australia die by suicide every day. Over 75% of mental health problems occur before the age of 25. Suicide is the leading cause of death for people aged 15-44 in Australia. And over 50% of people don't seek professional help when they're struggling with their mental health.



So, this April Fr Isaac will be rocking a mullet to raise funds and awareness for suicide prevention and mental health research.

“My mullet and funds raised will help Black Dog Institute drive real change and fund ground-breaking mental health research. This will put digital services and education into the hands of people who need it the most.” Fr Isaac said. “It would mean a lot to me if you donated to support my mullet. Together, we can create better mental health for all Australians.” If you would like to financially support my Mullet, simply follow the link to donate via the QR Code. **Thanks for your support.**



Our parish is built on solid foundations and that is obvious by the witness and ministry of the Knights. Although the **Knights of the Southern Cross** Queensland celebrated 100 years of Fraternal service in 2021, our Maroochydore branch wasn't established until April 1979. We currently have 19 members and meet once a month to review and discuss what's happening in our Parish and the Worldwide Church, as well as learn more about our Catholic faith through our Formation Program.

As a group, we are always on the lookout for ways to assist our Priests and the Parish. In recent times we have donated the food, drinks and manpower for the parish volunteers BBQ, the “Men Alive” dinner, the Women's retreat lunch and Fr William's farewell sausage sizzle. Our income comes from our Bunnings BBQ's, which enables us to donate financially to Vinies, Veterans Care, Rosies, our Parish Youth, and our newly ordained priests.

Socially, we like to share a beer and fellowship after our meetings and we have a couple of lunches during the year, so that we can thank our wives and partners for their support. Apart from enjoying the friendship and support of your fellow members, **“being a Knight gives you an opportunity to contribute to rebuilding the Church”** (Pope Francis). A warm invitation to any men who would like to discover more of our mission and ministry or to join us – simply call John Legg for more information. 0434 587 491



The Finance Committee meets this Tuesday evening at 6pm. The task of the Committee is to advise and ensure that we are good stewards of the resources of the Parish. Those resources are a result of your generosity and it is only through your support that we can pay down our Parish debt of \$1,540,115 maintain our churches and continue to fund the outreach and ministry of your Catholic Parish – NET, the Sacramental Programme, Adult Education and all the forms of evangelisation and ministry are possible because of your generosity, real sacrifices and continued trust – **thank you.**

ARCHDIOCESE OF BRISBANE SYNOD24

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, 6 and 7 September and 11 and 12 October, 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.

