

PARISH NEWSLETTER FOR THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Weekend of the 13/14 April 2024

First Reading: Acts 3:13-15, 17-19 Second Reading: 1 Jn 2:1-5 Gospel: Lk 24: 35-48

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 are paramount.

If we look back over our lives most of us can find something or other that we very much regret. We might remember speaking or acting in ways that hurt or damaged others. We might be aware of not doing something that we could have done and, that in our heart of hearts, wanted to do. Sometimes these experiences of personal failure can leave us very burdened. We can find it hard to move on from them; they trouble us, and we struggle to be free of them. They can weigh heavily on us and drain us of energy. We can find ourselves going back in memory to these moments and we just can't let them go.

The first disciples of Jesus must have felt like this in the aftermath of Jesus' passion and death. During the days of Jesus' final journey, they had all deserted him. Their mood in the aftermath of Good Friday can only have been one of deep regret. They must have felt that their relationship with Jesus was over. According to today's gospel story, however, the first words the risen Jesus spoke to his disciples were, 'Peace be with you'. These words assured the disciples of the Lord's forgiveness. For those first disciples, the initial experience of the risen Lord took the form of a profound experience of forgiveness. This was the risen Lord's gift to them.

The gift of forgiveness can be difficult to receive at times. We wonder if we are really forgiven. According to the gospel, when Jesus said, 'Peace be with you', they responded with alarm and fright. The risen Jesus then questioned them, 'Why are you so agitated, and why are these doubts rising in your hearts?' It took the disciples a while to realise that they were truly forgiven. (We are not alone!).

The first disciples, having received the gift of forgiveness, were sent by the Risen Lord to spread that forgiveness to others. In a similar way, we who receive the same gift are sent out on the same mission. As forgiven sinners, we are asked to proclaim with our lives the presence of a forgiving and faithful God. Let us pray for the strength and courage to accept this great gift of Easter and to live our lives as loved and redeemed children of God.

+ *Father Joe O'Keefe, SJ*



It was with great sadness that last Tuesday we received notification of the sudden death of Fr Marty Larson. Many of us will have fond memories of Fr Marty from his time here as assistant priest from July 2014 to December 2017. Our parish was his first appointment after his priestly ordination and being a former teacher, he was heavily involved with our Catholic schools.

Marty was one of triplets and was the nephew of our first Parish Priest, Fr Harry Bliss. After his appointment here Fr Larson was transferred briefly to Jubilee Parish before being appointed Parish Priest of Runaway Bay parish on the Gold Coast.

For his brother priests and many friends across the Archdiocese, especially here on the Sunshine Coast, Fr Marty's unexpected death comes as a shock. As of printing, we have not received notification of his funeral service. As soon as any information is known we will email all on our newsletter data base and post it on our facebook page. There is a possibility that the Parish might take a bus to the funeral in Brisbane, but that will depend on the time and numbers. The funeral will be live streamed via the Cathedral web page. ***May Marty rest in peace and experience the eternal presence of Christ he has both loved and served.***

At Your Service

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
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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, 15 April

- ◆ Benediction 5.15pm
- ◆ **Mass** (5.30pm, Stella Maris Church)
- ◆ Catholic Formation Hub, 7.00-9.00pm (Stella Maris or online)

Tuesday, 16 April

- ◆ **Mass** (9.00am, Stella Maris School Chapel)
- ◆ Parish "Welcome Night" 6.00-7.30pm (Stella Maris Presbytery)

Wednesday, 17 April

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

Thursday, 18 April

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

Friday, 19 April

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

Saturday, 20 April

- ◆ Reconciliation **8.30 to 9.30am** (Stella Maris)
- ◆ Baptisms 10.00am Zoie Axtell, Robert Keeley (
- ◆ 11am El Shaddai group meets (Sippy Downs)
- ◆ **Vigil Mass** (4.30pm, St Peter's Church)
- ◆ **Vigil Mass** (6.00pm, Stella Maris Church)

Sunday, 21 April

Fourth Sunday of Easter

- ◆ **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)
- ◆ 6pm Young Adult Group

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.

Term 2 starts this week with school resuming so we wave goodbye to visiting families who have been enjoying the Sunshine Coast over the holidays. The new term is a busy time for our parish family with the NET team fully engaged at Siena and our Confirmation programme beginning with the parent information night on Wednesday, April 24.

A New Ministry

Over the last two years we have deliberately concentrated on upgrading and improving our audio visual and sound equipment across the parish. You might have noticed last week wider screens at Mass. Next week hopefully a new projector will be installed in Stella Maris – being so close to the sea the atmosphere has a detrimental effect upon all our equipment. Finally we have the ability to reintroduce live streaming of our Masses and other liturgical services at Stella Maris. This is an important service we provide to our Catholic brothers and sisters who cannot join us at Mass. We want to start a new ministry and develop a roster of parishioners who are willing to help with the live streaming. It is a very simple and straight forward ministry with clear guidelines – would you like to be involved? Is this ministry for you? Please email the office suncoast@bne.catholic.net.au, or give us a call to register your interest.

Back in Action

Our Young Adult group continues every Sunday evening after the 5pm 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!*

Countdown ~ Confirmation Programme

Registrations are now open for Confirmation. If you have a child in Year3, 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. maroochyidoreparish.com.au

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.

A Warm Welcome

Our Parish "Welcome Night" for all new parishioners and returning parishioners is on this Tuesday evening, from 6 to 7:30pm at the Stella Maris presbytery. Everyone who took a "Welcome Pack" and completed and returned the details should have by now received an invitation. If you have not please contact the Parish Office on Monday. (suncoast@bne.catholic.net.au or 5443 3488)

The Spanish Prayer Group meets online every Monday and in person Wednesday evening, 6pm at Stella Maris – all welcome

We are planning to enlarge and frame some historic photos for the new meeting room – if anyone has some inside experience, expertise or advice could you please contact Fr Peter or Robyn Jewry at the Parish Office.

ON THE JOURNEY—WHERE LIFE MEETS FAITH

We welcome into God's Family, the Church,
Marcello Gabrielli, Bella Hine, Alumecci Tavodi-Smith, Maximus Zumbo and *Iris Garzon*
who will be baptised this weekend in our parish.

We pray for all those who have died, especially this weekend we pray for our former assistant priest, *Fr Marty Larson*. Also we remember *George Verlaque, John Reddy* and *Aida Hulse*, Aida's funeral will be celebrated on April 16. May the souls of all our departed priests, religious, family and fellow parishioners, through the rich mercy of God,

Rest in Peace.

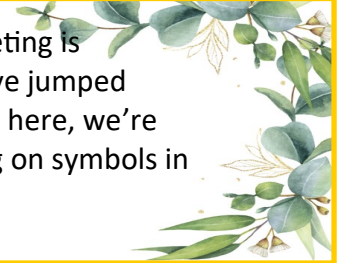
Anyone Going Shopping?

I must go shopping this week! Since the Easter rush is over, I am completely out of generosity and I must get some more. I also want to exchange the self-satisfaction I picked up the other day for some real humility – I have heard some people say it wears better! I must look out for some tolerance, which is worn as a wrap this year, especially by all the holiday makers! I saw samples of kindness in a catalogue. Well, over Lent and Easter I know I am a little low on that and it is one thing you can never have too much of! And I must try and match some patience. I saw it on a friend and it looked so good I thought it might look just as good on me. Now that winter is approaching and all those hot and humid days are behind us, I must remember to get my sense of humour mended and keep my eyes open for some inexpensive goodness. At this time of year, it is good to take a bit of a stocktake – it is surprising how one's stock of essential goods gets depleted – sometimes without you even noticing! Yes, I must go shopping today! **How about you?**



Our next sisterhood gathering is fast approaching. Our April meeting is shaping up to be another fun filled and formative evening. We've jumped at the opportunity to have Fr Joe give us a short talk whilst he is here, we're looking forward to being inspired by his knowledge and teaching on symbols in the Church.

Come join us Tuesday 23 April , 6.00—8.00pm.



Together ~ A True Team Effort

With the glow of the Easter Resurrection still illuminating our journey and the memory of so many liturgies over Holy Week still fresh in our minds, it is important to recognise and acknowledge everyone who helped make it all possible. We are privileged to belong to a parish of very generous people! 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)

Commissioning Mass

The **St Vincent de Paul Society** in Australia has more than 45,000 members and volunteers, who work hard to assist people in need and combat social injustice across Australia. Certainly, for our two Vinnies conferences at Maroochydore and Coolum, the members aspire to live the gospel message by serving the poor with love and respect, acknowledging the God given dignity of each person who asks for assistance. The work of St Vincent de Paul is "faith in action" and the members, fellow parishioners, strive to offer "a hand up" to people in need.

The Maroochydore Conference, cordially invite all parishioners to their Conference Mass and the Commissioning of their new President, Carmel Barbagallo, this Friday, April 19 9.00am at the Stella Maris morning Mass. There will be light refreshments served after the ceremony. If you would like to discover more about the work of our local Vinnies conferences, why not come along and join them this Friday?

Holy Communion to the Sick & Housebound

Any parishioners who wish to take Holy Communion to our brothers and sisters who are sick, housebound or in hospital or a nursing home must be listed on the "Register of Parishioners commissioned to take Holy Communion to the Sick", which can be found at the entrance of the church. This is an important ministry and out of reverence for the Blessed Sacrament we have strict protocols. If you have not been commissioned to do this ministry, please speak to one of the priests who can commission you. Each time you take the Blessed Sacrament from the Church, you are required to complete the details on the distribution sheet at the entrance of the Church. Thank you for your ministry.

The Return of the Mullet !

Fr Isaac returns to work after his two weeks leave and hopefully sporting at least the start of a mullet! During April, he will grow a mullet to raise awareness of the Black Dog Institute in support of their important work in combating mental illness. One in five of us will experience symptoms of mental illness in any given year so the funds raised by Fr Isaac will support the Black Dog Institute to provide awareness for suicide prevention and mental health research. If you would like to financially support my Mullet, simply follow the link to donate via the QR Code. **Thanks for your support**



Catholic Formation - Module 3 - **Being Sacramental - Unwrapping priceless gifts!** This module begins on this Monday, 15 April at 7.00pm and continues for the next 8 Monday evenings. We create a hub at Stella Maris and will participate in the live stream coming from Holy Spirit Seminary. This is faith education at its best and if you want to be part of this module, you need to contact Carrolyn Watt at the office on Monday.

NET REPORT

Happy Easter from the NET Team! We can't believe that it's already the end of Term 1. Here's a recap of what we've been up to in the last few weeks

In the middle of March, we had the chance to go to Siena College's Year 7 Camp. We had a great time getting to know so many of the Year 7s, building connections with them and creating space for them to get to know us and know what we do. As part of the camp, we got to run a liturgy one evening, in which we shared about building friendships with their classmates centred around Jesus.

On Friday 22nd March, we had the chance to bring some students from the parish and Siena to the Reco Rally, an event run by Evangelisation Brisbane, which brought together 400 young people (high school aged and young adults) from around Brisbane. The night was filled with getting to meet other young Catholics, live Catholic praise and worship music and an amazing and formative talk on the topic of Reconciliation. As the name 'Reco Rally' suggests, there also was the opportunity to go to the Sacrament of Reconciliation, with 12 priests from around Brisbane being present, including Fr Isaac and Fr Will! Together with the students, we had a great time and got a lot out of the night. We know that it'll be one of many similar opportunities over the year ahead.

The weekly Sunday night Young Adults Group (open to all young adults!!!) has also kicked off to a great start and we've loved getting to meet so many young adults from our parish! The pizza and the discussions about faith have been really insightful. We truly have found so much wisdom each Sunday night when we as a group get to share our own experiences of faith and share what we personally draw from Scripture with each other. We're keen to continue these evenings every Sunday night at Stella Maris.

Finally, we've loved getting to participate in the Parish's lively Holy Week and Easter liturgies and Masses, including through reading, altar serving, leading the music and helping out with Children's Church.

Happy Easter and may the joy and hope of the Risen Christ be with you all! We are excited about the new school term.

The NET Team.

P.S.: A parish youth group is coming sooon! More info will be coming in the next couple of weeks!



This is a report from the **Finance Committee** that held its scheduled meeting at Stella Maris on Tuesday evening, April 9th, 2024. In attendance were Kev Donahoe, Tim Hishon, Peter Donelon, Bev Nunan, Lorraine Nolan, Fr Peter Brannelly with apologies from Fr Isaac Falzon. After the opening prayer, the minutes of the previous meeting were approved and matters arising included:

The financial figures for 2023 were tabled and approval was given for them to be independently audited by Colquhoun Qld Pty Ltd and the report forwarded to the Archdiocese. The financial figures for the three months of this year were reviewed and it was noted that March's deficit of \$7,760.56 was due to additional audio and NET team costs. The budget for the parish for 2024 was reviewed and approved.

Ten years ago land was sold at Buderim and proceeds of the sale was quarantined and was only to be used at Buderim. The decision has been made to utilize these funds to build a small two bedroom cottage at St Mary's. In total we now have \$488,000 for this project. It is envisioned that the cottage will provide accommodation for a retired priest. Approval was given for plans to be drawn up.

The internal renovations have been completed in the Parish Office with the creation of a new small interview room, separate photocopy & store room and new reception desk. The former vesting room and chair storage has been converted into a new meeting room with a designated area for priests' vesting relocated to the area adjacent to the sacristy. The major audio-visual upgrade has been completed and a new projector will be installed within the month bringing the project to a conclusion.

Naming of the new Columbarium walls at Stella Maris was agreed (Isaiah & Samuel) new brochures have been prepared giving details of the 3 parish Columbarium walls located at Maroochydore, Coolum and Buderim. The cost for an individual niche is \$2250.

A report was given on the work of the NET team and the costs involved in accommodation and providing for their supervision and on going training. Favourable reports from the schools and parish communities have been received. The Finance Committee agreed to prioritise funding in next year's budget for a NET team for 2025.

There were no Workplace Health & Safety issues to report.

Repair and maintenance issues were discussed including the major repairs required on the roof of St Peter's, Coolum. It was noted that there has been a team of volunteers that have been busy maintaining and repairing our church buildings. Especially at Sippy Downs, the verandah and wood doors have been stripped back and stained, walls cleaned and rust and water issues addressed. The parish is grateful for their skills and generosity of time. It was noted that this year marks the 20th anniversary of the opening of St Catherine of Siena church and the Archbishop has agreed to celebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving in October. In preparation for the anniversary, there are several minor repairs and improvements that need to be undertaken.

The Parish Profit & Loss statement for 2023 will be posted on the Parish Web Page and will be available for perusal until the end of the month. The committee members were conscious of the generous financial support of fellow parishioners whose continued trust has enabled the committee to cover the parish expenses and budget for the future. The meeting ended with prayer. The next meeting of the Parish Finance committee will be on Monday, June 10.