

PARISH NEWSLETTER FOR SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Weekend of the 04/05 May 2024

First Reading: Acts 10: 25-26, 34-35, 44-48 Second Reading: 1 John 4: 7-10 Gospel: John 15: 9-17

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.

All You Need is Love

The Beatles song of the same title makes it all sound so easy! In John's Gospel, which we listen to again this weekend, love abounds. Indeed, today's passage begins and ends with love. Not just that, Jesus declares quite clearly that if we love him we will keep his commandments. That is reassuring, because I don't know about you, but when I hear the word commandments I immediately think of rules and regulations: what I have got to do and what I have got to avoid. Actually, if I am honest that usually means what is the minimum I can get away with!

The other gospel writers were not slow in recording Jesus' commands, such as turning the other cheek, going the second mile or giving to Caesar what is Caesar's! Clear examples that give you safe parameters to work in. But you can look as much as you like in John's Gospel, you won't find that reassuring list of suggestions, a catalogue of do's and don'ts.

Disappointingly, Jesus only gives one command in John's Gospel: **"I give you a new commandment, that you love one another."** Nothing could be simpler! Repeated over and over again in John's Gospel is this emphasis on love!

There is something personal and immediate about this command to love that prevents it from being put off into the future, but rather to be grappled with now. It is almost as if we are being reminded that judgment and eternal life begin now and not at some imaginary point in the distant future. If that is the case, then the simple question we all have to continually ask ourselves is, **"In what ways did I or did I not love today?"** We can attempt to answer that question at the end of each day but we can also ask that question many times during the day. And as you answer it, **judgment happens!**

Perhaps it is as simple as that! But before we bash ourselves up at our inability to keep this one great commandment, *pause a bit*. I get a sense that the judgment that John is talking about is not God finding a reason to punish us, but rather giving us the opportunity to stop, reflect and change. It is offering us the opportunity to look honestly at ourselves, our relationships, our actions. Maybe after all, we are the best judges of ourselves!

A couple of years back in Rome, Pope Francis talked to thousands of young engaged couples about love. In practical terms, the Pope said that when dealing with love they must remember three phrases: **'thank you,' 'please' and 'sorry.'** Not bad advice as we attempt to answer, **"In what ways did I or did I not love today?"**

Wishing you every blessing for the week ahead,

Fr Peter

Hospitality ~ Everyone is Welcome

This being the first weekend of the month, we always have a special emphasis on hospitality across our Sunshine Coast Parish Family. If we want to be a friendly community, we need to also be a welcoming community and providing hospitality is an excellent way of meeting new and old parishioners alike. Please join us after Mass this weekend. A big thank you to the different groups who organise our hospitality each month.

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
Office Hours 9am—2pm Weekdays
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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, 6 May

- ◆ Adoration 4.30pm, Stella Maris
- ◆ **Mass** (5.30pm, Stella Maris Church)
- ◆ Catholic Formation Hub, 7.00-9.00pm

Tuesday, 7 May

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

Wednesday, 8 May

- ◆ **Mass** (7.00am, St Mary's Church)
- ◆ **Mass** (9.00am, St Catherine of Siena).
- ◆ Scripture Study Group (9.30am, Zoom).
- ◆ Sacramental Programme 5.00pm

Thursday, 9 May

- ◆ **Mass** (8.30am, St Peter's Church)
- ◆ Funeral Agnes Babos (Stella Maris 10.30am)
- ◆ 2.00pm Rosary & Divine Mercy (Stella Maris)

Friday, 10 May

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

Saturday, 11 May

- ◆ Reconciliation 8.30 to 9.30am (Stella Maris)
- ◆ Baptisms 10.00am Charlie McCall and Leo Lawrence
- ◆ 11am El Shaddai group meets (Sippy Downs)
- ◆ **Vigil Mass** (4.30pm, St Peter's Church)
- ◆ **Vigil Mass** (6.00pm, Stella Maris Church)

Sunday, 12 May

The Ascension of the Lord

- ◆ **Mass** (6.30am, Stella Maris Church)
- ◆ **Mass** (7.30am, St Peter's Church)
- ◆ **Mass** (8.00am, St Catherine's Church)
- ◆ Baptism of Amelia Bell, Elias Bell & Nixon Bell
- ◆ **Mass** (9.00am, Stella Maris Church)
- ◆ **Mass** (9.30am, St Mary's Church)
- ◆ **Mass** (5.00pm, Stella Maris Church)
- ◆ 6.00pm 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.

To Sing Is To Pray Twice

As a Parish, we are blessed with many generous fellow parishioners who are involved in our weekly Masses. But there are others who are just as musical and just as generous sitting in our pews and we would like to invite you to be also involved in the music ministry of our Parish Family! We are forming an "ensemble" that is flexible and mobile and we need musicians and singers – *what about you?* We are having a rehearsal on Saturday, May 11 at Stella Maris at 11.00am. For more information and to get a copy of the music contact Michael Fitzpatrick (mfitzpatrick@ozemail.com.au) or Fr Peter.

Mass Count

Every year across the Archdiocese, there is a Mass count which helps those responsible for staffing and future planning as to where to allocate resources. This year for the four weekends of May, there will be parishioners who will be counting heads at all our Masses.

Change

When COVID hit us, it turned all our worlds upside-down and the regular routines and patterns of our lives were put on hold. As the restrictions were lifted, many of the patterns of our lives did not return to normal – certainly this is true of our parish life. With the large crowds celebrating some of our weekend Masses at Stella Maris, we need to look at a better way of receiving Holy Communion. For our large weekend Masses at Stella Maris, the 6.00pm, 9.00am and the 5.00pm, we will increase the number of Ministers of the Chalice to four and they will be stationed at both side doors. This weekend, we will explain the new procedure before Mass. Hopefully within a week or two, we will become comfortable with the new routine. Thank you for your patience and co-operation during this time of transition.

Think About It!

We are still looking for some volunteers to assist with the live streaming of our Masses at Stella Maris. It is an important ministry and it allows our sisters and brothers who are house bound or who cannot make it to Mass, to still be part of our Eucharistic celebrations. If you are interested, please see one of the Mass coordinators or Fr Peter or Fr Isaac.

Job Opening!

While on the subject of ministry, one of the important and traditionally a younger parishioner's ministry has been to serve at the altar. We are in need of altar servers to assist with our weekend Masses and if you would like to be involved, please see a Mass coordinator or either Fr Isaac or Fr Peter.

Children's Church

Every Sunday at St Catherine's (8.00am Mass) and Stella Maris (9.00am Mass) we have Children's Church. All our younger children at the start of Mass are invited to the front of the altar and blessed and sent forth with their catechist to celebrate a more age appropriate reflection on the Gospel before returning to the church towards the end of the Eucharistic prayer. We are always looking for more adults to join the team and the easy to use resources make this a very rewarding ministry – contact Carolyn Watt, our Sacramental Coordinator for more information : cspy.suncoast@bne.catholic.net.au

ON THE JOURNEY – WHERE LIFE MEETS FAITH

We welcome into God's Family, the Church,
Elliot Nietschke and *Georgia Hehir*,
who will be baptised this weekend in our parish.

We pray for all those who have died, especially *John Burke, Brian Cluff, Suzanne McGarry, Agnes Babos & Agnes Murphy*. Agnes Babos' Funeral Rites will be celebrated on this Thursday, May 9th. Agnes Murphy's Funeral Rites will be celebrated at Stella Maris on Tuesday, May 14th.

May their souls, and the souls of all our faithfully departed priests, religious, family and parishioners,
through the rich mercy of God

Rest in Peace.



It might be great living so close to the sea but the unrelenting salt air that batters our churches means that we need to constantly renew, repair and upgrade our technology. During the week, Troy Hargreaves, our technology consultant, assisted by Michael Fitzpatrick, installed a new projector at Stella Maris. As you can imagine, this is a major investment and it is a very visible example of one of the ongoing expenses that need to be budgeted for when running a large and modern Parish. While we had the scissor lift at Stella Maris we also replaced all the back up batteries in the ceiling fire/smoke alarms.



Our parishioners are participating in Module 3, Being Sacramental organised by Evangelisation Brisbane. Each module contains 10 sessions and is presented at Holy Spirit Seminary every Monday evening and televised live to “hubs” located in parishes across Queensland. Module 3 will engage participants in a discussion as to what it means to live in the sacramental world. This

will include investigating the broader concept of sacramentality, followed by an exploration of each of the seven sacraments of the Church, as well as a presentation on signs and symbols in the liturgy.



This being the first Sunday of the month it also means that this Sunday afternoon (May 5) at 2:30pm our Junior Ministers meet at Stella Maris. On the first Sunday of every month, the **Fun & Formation** session takes place at Stella Maris beginning at 2:30pm and concluding just before the 5.00pm Sunday evening Mass. For more information, please contact the coordinator, Bernie Baillie (bbaille811@gmail.com)



The Feast Day of St Catherine of Siena was celebrated last Sunday with our Sippy Downs church and packed with members of the local community. The liturgy was supported by the Siena Primary School and Bishop Brian Heenan was the celebrant. Across our Parish last weekend, over 100 of our young candidates for Confirmation were enrolled and formally began their preparation to receive the sacrament on Thursday, 6 June 2024. A big thank you to all those who helped prepare the liturgy and to all those who prepared and served the post Mass refreshments. For your diary, this year marks the 20th anniversary of the blessing and opening of St Catherine’s and Archbishop Mark Coleridge has accepted the invitation to celebrate a Mass to mark the anniversary at 8.00am on Sunday 13 October 2024.

More information will follow as the date gets closer.



CATHOLIC EDUCATION IN OUR PARISH

Siena Catholic Primary School

58 Sippy Downs Drive,
Sippy Downs

psippydowns@bne.catholic.edu.au

Principal: Glen Bucklar



Last Sunday our school led parish Mass was a beautiful community celebration of faith and worship.

It was heart-warming to see so many school families celebrate Mass with the St Catherine's parishioners.

Thank you to Bishop Brian for presiding over the Mass. Your homily was both interesting and meaningful to all attending.

Thank you to the choir for your beautiful singing, Mrs Ballie for preparing and conducting the choir and Mrs Summit, as always, for your gift as a pianist.

The morning tea following the Mass allowed for joyful mingling of parishioners and families. The food was delicious and the coffee on point.

Thank you to all the parents and staff who assisted with the serving and cleaning up after the celebration.

Blessings Kim



Stella Maris Primary School

Stella Maris Way,
Maroochydore

pmaroochydore@bne.catholic.edu.au

Principal: Mark Ballam



This week, our intrepid Year 3 students ventured out to Australia Zoo to extend their learning in Science, where the focus has been on classifying and comparing living and non-living things and the different life cycles of all God's amazing creatures. Using the students' own words, they described the day as: "Awesome!", "Fun!", "Amazing!", "Informative!", and "Best day ever!".

Of course, they couldn't stop saying "Crikey!"

Our incredible teachers also thoroughly enjoyed the day, but after clocking up about 20,000 steps on their pedometers, were very thankful that they could head home at the end of the day to rest and recover. They deserve medals, taking 120 extremely excited, eight-year-olds to Australia Zoo. We thank them for going above and beyond.



Siena Catholic College

60 Sippy Downs Drive,
Sippy Downs

ssippydowns@bne.catholic.edu.au

Principal: Sharon Collins



We've had a great start to Term 2, with many different activities filling our calendar. On Monday we recalled the life of St Catherine, as we commemorated her Feast Day and her call to each of us to be who God meant us to be, so that we can set the world on fire.

This week, our Year 7s have been particularly busy, with a visit to Wildlife HQ on Tuesday and a Retreat Day led by the wonderful Michael Fitzpatrick on Friday. Congratulations to the students for the way that they engaged in both of these events.

On Tuesday, a number of our boys attended the Justin Hodges League Gala Day. The day was a very successful one, with our Year 9 and Open teams finishing the day undefeated and our 2nds losing only one game. Well done boys!

Also on Tuesday, our Year 11s participated in a Worthy Siena Men and Women session – during which they reflected on the meaning of respectful relationships. Tuesday and Thursday evenings also provided the opportunity for staff, students, and parents to discuss Term One results and progress. Through many wonderful conversations, plans for fostering continued classroom success were developed.



Your continued and generous financial support makes all our parish ministries possible – thank you.