

PARISH NEWSLETTER FOR THE MOST HOLY TRINITY SUNDAY

Weekend of the 25/26 May 2024

First Reading: Deut 4: 32-34, 39-40 Second Reading: Rom 8: 14-17 Gospel: Mt 28: 16-20

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.

One of the hardest things to do as a priest is preach on the Trinity. The second hardest thing to do is preach *and* write a newsletter article on the Trinity. But that's what a good assistant priest does ! So for today's theological and ecclesial dilemma, I attempt to shed light on the conundrum of all Christian conundrums with a slice of humour! The Holy Trinity. Yep, it's the heavenly equivalent of juggling flaming torches while riding a unicycle – it sounds impossible, but somehow, it always works out well.

Father Knows Best: The Original God

In the first corner of our holy triangle, we have God the Father. Try to picture God the Father as the ultimate dad: creator of the cosmos, inventor of gravity, and the original handyman who said, "Let there be light!" God the Father is the eternal source, the one with the master plan who started the family business that we call existence.

Son of God: Jesus Christ, The Sequel

Next up is God the Son, also known as Jesus. If the Father is the CEO, Jesus is like a charismatic managing director, who steps down from the corporate office to mingle with the prac students. He's the star of the New Testament, pulling off miracles, preaching love, and even bamboozling death like a magical finger spinner from Shane Warne. Jesus is the relatable, human side of God who shows up to your backyard BBQ, turns water into wine, and has you pondering the meaning of life by dessert.

Holy Spirit: The Divine Glue

Finally, we have God the Holy Spirit, the mysterious third person of the Trinity. If the Father is the architect and Jesus is the foreman, the Holy Spirit is the construction team that gets things done. Invisible yet ever-present, the Holy Spirit is like WiFi – you can't see it, but you definitely notice when it's missing. It's the divine force that inspires, guides, and comforts, whispering wisdom in our ears and sometimes giving us that gentle nudge to do the right thing (or a swift kick every now and again).

Three's Company: The Triune Teamwork

Here's where the plot thickens; these three distinct persons are all fully and completely one God. Trying to explain this without sounding like you've lost your marbles is in itself a conundrum. It's like saying that your Saturday night Pure Blonde, Corona, and Asahi are all the same drink – different flavours, but all toasted grain water at heart. The Trinity is the ultimate divine paradox, a holy hat trick that have had theologians perplexed for centuries.

Heavenly Hilarity

So, next time you find yourself trying to wrap your head around the Trinity, just remember; it's like a divine sitcom where the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit all share the same script but play their parts to perfection. Whether you're praying to the Father, feeling inspired by the Holy Spirit, or walking in the footsteps of Jesus, you're always in good company – the best trio since Jatz crackers, Cheddar cheese, and a nice Cabernet Sauvignon.

Fr Isaac Falzon

ON THE JOURNEY—WHERE LIFE MEETS FAITH

We welcome into God's Family, the Church,

Camilo Rose Alfaro who will be baptised this weekend in our parish.

We pray for all those who have died, especially *Elaine Brown, Carmel Healy* and *Fr Jim Smith*. Fr Jim was a priest of the Archdiocese who died suddenly on Thursday morning. He served in the parishes of Grovely, Booval and Cannon Hill as well as ministering as Hospital Chaplain at the Royal Brisbane Hospital but would be probably be best remembered however, for his dedicated service and leadership with the Catholic Psychiatric Pastoral Care ministry for many years. 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.

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, 27 May

Benediction 5.15pm, Stella Maris

- ◆ **Mass** (5.30pm, Stella Maris Church)
- ◆ Catholic Formation Hub 7.00-9.00pm (Stella Function Room)
- ◆ Consecration to Jesus through Mary (Spanish) 6.30-8.00pm (Stella Maris)

Tuesday, 28 May

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

Wednesday, 29 May

- ◆ **Mass** (7.00am, St Mary's Church)
- ◆ **Mass** (9.00am, St Catherine of Siena Church).
- ◆ Scripture Study Group (9.30am, Zoom)
- ◆ Sacramental Programme (5.00pm Stella Maris)
- ◆ Latin Prayer Group (6.30pm Stella Maris)

Thursday, 30 May

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

Friday, 31 May

The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

- ◆ **Mass** (9.00am, Stella Maris)
- ◆ 2.00pm Stations of the Cross (Stella Maris)
- ◆ Community Meal for the Homeless, Vulnerable and Disadvantaged (6.00pm, Stella Maris)

Saturday, 1 June

St Justin

- ◆ **Mass** 8.00am (Stella Maris)
- ◆ Reconciliation 8.30 to 9.30am (Stella Maris)
- ◆ Baptisms Indiana Peut, Lennox Williams, Nina Williams (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, 2 June

The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ

- ◆ **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** (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.

Welcome to Trinity Sunday

The Sunday after Pentecost is celebrated as the feast of the Most Holy Trinity. This timing is deliberate, coming as it does after the commemorations of the life, passion and resurrection of Christ at Easter, and of the gift of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Although the term "Trinity" does not appear in scripture, many bible passages make clear the mutual relationship between the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. As Elizabeth Harrington from Liturgy Brisbane notes, the Mass prayers set down for the feast strongly affirm Christian belief in the mystery of the Holy Trinity and emphasise that it is God who is three-in-one whom we adore. For example in this weekend's opening prayer- ***"God our Father, who by sending into the world the Word of truth and the Spirit of sanctification made known to the human race your wondrous mystery, grant us, we pray, that in professing the true faith, we may acknowledge the Trinity of eternal glory and adore your Unity, powerful in majesty."*** This notion is reinforced in the preface. ***"For with your Only Begotten Son and the Holy Spirit you are one God, one Lord: not in the unity of a single person, but in a Trinity of one substance. For what you have revealed to us of your glory we believe equally of your Son and of the Holy Spirit, so that, in the confessing of the true and eternal Godhead, you might be adored in what is proper to each Person, their unity in substance, and their equality in majesty."*** So, welcome as we celebrate the great mystery of the Trinity.

Family Prayer

Individual and family prayer is so important and is something in our increasingly busy lives that can get left in the slipstream! **We are just too busy!** Yet, we all have memories of family prayer. We all remember the importance of consciously gathering as a family and friends for prayer. One of the traditional ways of focusing our family prayer is by our pilgrim state of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Travelling throughout our Sunshine Coast Parish will be the pilgrim statue. Families are invited to welcome the pilgrim statue into their homes for a week and allow the presence of the statue to be the focus of family prayer. Perhaps you can invite your Catholic neighbours and friends to join you one night and together pray the rosary or some other prayer ritual? Veronica Baatjes is the contact and if you would like to host the pilgrim statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary, simply email Veronica (veronica.baatjes@gmail.com) Please put "pilgrim statue" in the subject line.



A New Month

Next weekend, we celebrate the Feast of Corpus Christi, but it coincides also with the start of another new month. Hospitality is always a focus of our Parish Family on the first weekend of every month, and you are invited to stay after mass and enjoy the hospitality and friendship of your fellow parishioners. It is a great way of catching up and putting names to faces!!! Thank you, as always, to those who prepare and coordinate the hospitality across the Parish.

At Your Service

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: maroochydoireparish.com.au



ARCHDIOCESE OF BRISBANE SYNOD24

I am making all things new
REV 21:5

SYNOD24 marks the Implementation Phase of the Fifth Plenary Council. Since 2018 our Australian church has been asking the question: "What is the Holy Spirit asking of us at this time"? Through listening, dialogue and discernment your voices have been heard and captured through Fifth Plenary Council Decrees. Now it is time to move our Archdiocese into action.

“How can we become a more co-responsible church on mission?”

On September 6 and 7 and October 11 and 12 of 2024, the Archdiocese of Brisbane will celebrate a Synod to mark the next phase of the Plenary Council journey, the Implementation Phase.

Our Archdiocesan Synod will discern the practical and Spirit-led actions that we, as the Archdiocese of Brisbane, need to undertake in the Implementation Phase of the Plenary Council. Bearing in mind that the Decrees have yet to be officially approved by the Apostolic See, these actions will be practical and able to be implemented immediately. The Synod Engagement Team, and the Synod Writing will engage in strategic consultations with key stakeholders, community members and Church agencies.

Guided by the question: “How can we be a more co-responsible church on mission?”, these consultations will help discern creative dreaming and actionable ideas about what is already happening within the Archdiocese that should be affirmed, what lessons can be learned from others, and where the gaps and needs are.

Discover more by visiting the Archdiocese of Brisbane Synod24 webpage.

Old Habits Die-Hard.

Covid certainly changed our lives and reinforced new habits that would have been once considered strange and alien to most of us. But now that the Covid restrictions have been lifted, some of those habits are very much with us! While social distancing is important, it is amazing how we want so much space in our church pews – sometimes I think we subconsciously think we own our pew! Let’s consciously create a welcoming space and don’t be afraid to slide down your pew or chair and allow a fellow parishioner or visitor space to sit. *As a welcoming community it is the least we can do!*

RCIY—Rite of Christian Initiation for Youth

If you are in secondary school and wish to become a fully initiated member of the Church, we will be running an RCIY program beginning in June. If you are interested please contact Carolyn Watt csy.suncoast@bne.catholic.net.au or call the parish office 5443 3488. We keep in our prayers the adults currently on the RCIA journey.

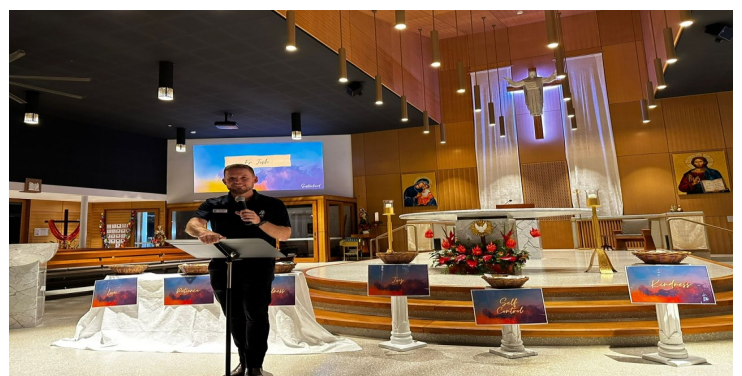


Corpus Christi

The annual Corpus Christi procession will take place at the Cathedral of St Stephen on Sunday, 2 June beginning at 2.00pm; starting and ending at the Cathedral and featuring prayers, rosary, hymns and Benediction. The proceedings will be led by Archbishop Mark Coleridge. Further information is available on our Parish Facebook page or by visiting corpuschristibrisbane.com

Sisterhood

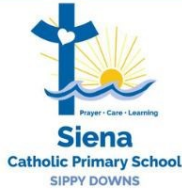
What a great evening, we experienced Tuesday night. Following on from Pentecost, Fr Josh shared his faith journey giving us examples of how we incorporate the Holy Spirit in our lives. It was a fantastic night of worship, followed by an amazing array of delicious, *low calorie* cakes!



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



We are truly blessed to have such an array of opportunities for our students to learn, perform and be inspired musically here at Siena. We are blessed to have such experienced talented tutors to teach our students.

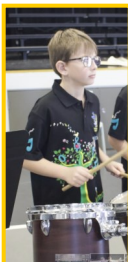
Here are some recent concerts that our Siena students performed

Primary Concert Band students participated in a full day workshop last Tuesday, hosting students and staff from Stella Maris, Good Samaritan and St. Thomas More. It was an awesome day of band culminating in a concert featuring five new pieces and even some body percussion.

Primary Senior Choir ventured over to Hibiscus Retirement Village in Sippy Downs last week to perform for residents; the choir and some instrumentalist gave wonderful performance and the audience was very appreciative; students also had an opportunity to speak with the residents which was lovely for all involved; thank you to Mrs Khoury and Mrs Summit for making this community partnership happen

Primary Guitar Club had their first performance on Tuesday morning at their "Progress Concert" showing what they have learnt as a group from the start of the year; thanks to Mr Ahles for his guidance and preparation of this group.

Primary Junior Band also had their first performance on Tuesday morning for their "Progress Concert" again showing the quick development in their skills so far this year.



Stella Maris Primary School

Stella Maris Way,
Maroochydore
pmaroochydore@bne.catholic.edu.au
Principal: Mark Ballam



This week we have been talking about the letter that Pope Francis wrote to all people of the world nine years ago, called 'Laudato Si', which challenges us all to "listen to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor" and to "care for our common home," because we haven't all been doing a good job. We've considered ways we can take action to take better care of our world so that all of creation can flourish.

Some of the ways we are trying include learning how to care for plants and animals; making sure rubbish goes in the bin; spending time in nature to appreciate the gift that God's given us; living more simply; trying to save water; recycling or re-using items instead of throwing them away; and getting other people to take action as well.

Let's all be better stewards of our world.



Siena Catholic College

60 Sippy Downs Drive,
Sippy Downs
ssippydowns@bne.catholic.edu.au
Principal: Sharon Collins



Our Netballers had a very successful Queensland Catholic Cup, with our Junior A Girls winning their division, while our 1sts, Senior Boys and Intermediate teams all finished in the top five of their divisions. Well done teams!

On Wednesday morning, we farewelled our Year 11 students, who headed to Emu Gully at Helidon to participate in an ANZAC-inspired leadership experience. The students braved the ultra-cold nights in their swags and during the day explored the themes of mateship, courage, sacrifice and perseverance. Congratulations to all for the way they engaged in this very challenging program.

Wednesday also saw our Year 9s join Parishioners for Mass at St Catherine's. Thanks to Fr Isaac for his homily, which reminded us that we need to depend on God if we are to become who God means us to be. God's plan for us can be achieved, he outlined, if we place our trust in God, are humble in our successes, are open to change, and always do the good we know we should.

The Year 10s have spent the week exploring the world of work, as they undertook their week-long Work Experience placements. Students worked in wide-ranging industries including construction, education, allied health, design, retail and management. Congratulations to all involved.



God has given us two hands, one to receive with and the other to give with. A grateful parish family says thank you to you today for the generous sharing of your time, talents and financial resources for the mission of your Catholic Parish.