

PARISH NEWSLETTER FOR THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

Weekend of the 11/12 May 2024

First Reading: Acts 1: 1-11 Second Reading: Eph 1: 17-23 Gospel: Mark 16: 15-20

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.

Happy Mother's Day! We also hit a milestone today within the "Great Fifty Days of Easter" as we celebrate The Ascension of the Lord this weekend. This is the formal ascension back to heaven of Jesus to God the Father after his bodily resurrection on earth. All the post-resurrection appearances and interactions of Jesus with his disciples were meant to prepare them to continue the great mission that Jesus had started with them. Even though the disciples must've been sad and even frightened that Jesus would be leaving them again physically, it was an important step for them to grow and mature in their own faith and ministry. Jesus often reminded his disciples not to "cling" to him because he would one day return to the Father. Jesus recognised the need for them to let go of his physical presence so that they would be able to realize the full potential of their own call and vocation to proclaim the Good News to the world.

Father Ron Rolheiser, a great Franciscan priest, once wrote, "The mystery of saying goodbye is really the mystery of the Ascension. The Ascension is about going away so that our loved ones can fully receive our spirit. It's about the mystery of saying goodbye, when goodbye isn't really goodbye at all, but only love's way of taking on a different modality. It then can be present in a way that's deeper, purer, more permanent, less-clinging, and less-limited by the tensions, disappointments, inadequacies, wounds, and betrayals that, this side of eternity, forever make our intimacy a work in progress." So, the Ascension is not really goodbye for Jesus, but it is our God trusting and loving us so much that he passes on to us the great work of building up his kingdom in this world, until we meet him in the kingdom of heaven.

Speaking of goodbyes – after what now seems like such a short time – I will be heading back home to America this week. It has been a true privilege to come to know so many of you and to celebrate Mass and the Sacraments with you since Holy Week back in March. I hope you treasure your wonderful parish and all your beautiful churches and ministries. May you all continue to build up the kingdom of God here on the Sunshine Coast of Australia. I am grateful to Father Peter and Father Isaac for allowing me to share their home and priestly ministry here during this time. When I return to The States, I will move to a new mission or assignment at Saint Francis Xavier Parish, the Jesuit parish of Phoenix, Arizona. Drop me a line at jokeefesj@gmail.com or better yet come visit. Know that you all will be remembered in my Masses and prayers, and I sincerely ask that you remember me and my new ministry in your prayers as well.

Hooroo and Blessings,

Father Joe O'Keefe, SJ

Fr Joe,
Thank you! The Parish community wishes to express our deepest gratitude for your guidance, wisdom, and support during your time with us. Your presence was enriching for all of us in countless ways. As you embark on your next endeavour, may you continue to inspire and uplift others as you have done for us. Wishing you all the best and endless success in your future Priestly ministry.

From all of us at Maroochydore Catholic Parish.

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
Telephone: 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, 13 May

Benediction 5.15pm, Stella Maris

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

Tuesday, 14 May *St Matthias*

- ◆ **Mass** (9.00am, Stella Maris School Chapel). All Welcome.
- ◆ Funeral Agnes Murphy (11.00am Stella Maris Church)
- ◆ St Peter's Cooloom Craft Group 1-3.00pm

Wednesday, 15 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
- ◆ Spanish Prayer Group (6.30pm, Stella Maris)

Thursday, 16 May

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

Friday, 17 May

- ◆ **Mass** (9.00am, Stella Maris)
- ◆ Grief Support morning tea (9.30am parish boardroom)
- ◆ Community Meal for the Homeless, Vulnerable and Disadvantaged (6.00pm, Stella Maris)

Saturday, 18 May

- ◆ Reconciliation **8.30 to 9.30am** (Stella Maris)
- ◆ Baptism 10.00am Preston Ferri, Claire Scott, Emelia Scott & Charlotte Schmitt
- ◆ Baptisms 9.15am Ellie May Ledger and 10.00am Wyatt Orreal (St Catherine's)
- ◆ 11.00am El Shaddai group meets (Sippy Downs)
- ◆ **Vigil Mass** (4.30pm, St Peter's Church)
- ◆ **Vigil Mass** (6.00pm, Stella Maris Church)
- ◆ Spanish Mass (6.00pm St Mary's Buderim)

Sunday, 19 May

Pentecost 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** (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.

Whitsunday

Next weekend, we celebrate the feast of Pentecost (also called Whitsunday or Whitsun. Pentecost takes place 49 days after Easter Sunday and commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon Mary, mother of Jesus and the Apostles while they were in Jerusalem. We invite all parishioners to **wear the colour red at mass next weekend to celebrate the Solemnity of Pentecost.** Can any parishioners who are growing red flowers in their garden kindly bring them into the office for our decorating team for Pentecost.

RCIA

Over the past fortnight, a staggering 18 men and women have commenced their RCIA journey through our parish. They will meet every fortnight learning about the faith of the Catholic Church and growing closer to God. Please keep all of these people in your prayers.

GRIEF SUPPORT MORNING TEA

Anyone who has lost a relative, or someone close to them recently, are invited to The Grief Support morning tea, Friday 17 May after the 9.00am Mass, in the parish office boardroom.

Baptismal Policy



Registration for **all** baptism is via our website maroochyoreparish.com.au. Our online registration is very easy with 4 basic steps; 1. Fill out the online form, 2. Upload birth certificate (pc or laptop only) 3. To comply with government legislation both parents must sign the parental authority 4. Choose a godparent (must be Catholic 16 years or older in good standing with the Church)

Infant Baptism 0 – 6 years

- ◆ Parent(s) attend Baptismal Preparation first Thursday of the month
- ◆ Baptisms are celebrated Saturday morning 10am Stella Maris Church, Maroochydore
- ◆ Other Churches and times during Mass are available on request after checking with the parish office

Older Children Baptism 7 - 15 years

- ◆ Attend initial enquiry session (8 September, 10.15am Stella Maris Function Room)
- ◆ Attend 2 hour preparation session (29 September, 2.00pm)
- ◆ Candidate is required to attend 5 Masses and complete a baptism workbook
- ◆ We encourage this age group to be baptised during Mass but they may attend 10.00am Saturday morning if desired

Older Children 16- 17 years

- ◆ This age group will participate in the Rite of Christian Initiation for Youth which will begin in June 2024, further information to follow.

Adults aged 18 years and over:

- ◆ Register via the Becoming a Catholic / RCIA drop down menu on the website

ON THE JOURNEY—WHERE LIFE MEETS FAITH

We welcome into God's Family, the Church,
Amelia Bell, Elias Bell, Nixon Bell and **Leo Lawrence.**
who will be baptised this weekend in our parish.

We pray for all those who have died, especially **Agnes Babos, Suzanne McGarry, Agnes Murphy** and **Gwenda Wyles.**

Agnes Murphy's Funeral Rites will be celebrated at Stella Maris on Tuesday, 14 May at 11.00am.

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.

NET REPORT

As a team, we've been kept busy with lots of Siena Catholic College and Parish events and activities!

To start with, we began the school holidays by attending a three-day retreat at Alexandra Headland facilitated by Alpha Youth Australia. (You may remember the Parish running the Alpha series a few years back.) Together with two students from Siena – as well as 120 other students and youth leaders from different Christian denominations across Australia – we were formed and trained in running the Alpha Youth series and its precursor, the Life Essentials series, in school and youth groups. Next week, we're going to begin running the Life Essentials series during break time on Friday – pizza and a ping pong tournament will be essential components in this launch!



During the holidays we were also part of Junior Ministers and 'Fun Days With God', which were great ways to meet and spend time with lots of the children in our parish. We loved joining the Junior Ministers to learn more about altar serving, to eat pizza and to play some Easter-themed games! At Fun Days With God, we got to join in the games and the arts and craft and learn more about the Easter story with 43 children! Many thanks to Bernie for putting together such wonderful days.

Once Term 2 started, we went to Siena's Year 12 Retreat at Lake Somerset, which was an excellent opportunity to spend time with the Year 12 students and get to know them better through conversations at meal times and free times, as well as joining in their small groups. We also ran a session on the second evening. The session began with Mass (huge thanks to Fr Isaac!); then we shared about how we can lay down our burdens and give them to Jesus. The session finished with a time of Eucharistic Adoration, during which the students were invited to bring their burdens to Jesus and lay them at the foot of the altar. Fr Isaac also was available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation during this time, which a handful of students took up! Overall, we reckon it was a huge success!

In addition to all of this, we've enjoyed running in Siena's Cross Country Carnival with the students, being part of Religion classes, meeting students at break times and even going to the zoo at Wildlife HQ with the Year 7s!

Liturgy Committee

Liturgy is the highest moment of prayer and purpose for our Sunshine Coast parish. As Catholics, we believe that it is the primary setting where God and people come together for the good of the whole world. Our Parish Liturgy Committee meets once a quarter and the goal of the committee is for us to plan and aspire to celebrate the sacred rites of the Church with dignity and inspiration.

Lost Property

If you have left behind any important items please see your Mass Coordinator or the Parish office to reclaim them. Otherwise you may see Fr Isaac wearing them at the next mass.

Misa en Español

Cambio de fecha — There is a change of date for this month's Spanish Mass. Mass this month will be on the third Sunday in May — Saturday the 18th commencing at 6pm, St Mary's Buderim. The change of date has occurred to coincide with the Feast of Pentecost. Please stay for some delicious Spanish Hospitality after Mass. All new comers are most welcome.

To keep up to date with the activities of the Spanish group, you can join their Facebook Page — Comunidad Catalica Latina De Sunshine Coast



Hospitality was the focus of our Parish Family last weekend and across the community there was a wide variety of food and light refreshments to share. A big thank you to all our fellow parishioners who prepared, served and cleaned up afterwards—a grateful parish says thank you. A special acknowledgement to MasterChef Fr Isaac who became more proficient with flipping pancakes the more he flipped!!!



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



This year, Siena Primary is living and breathing the world-renowned Resilience Project which promotes gratitude, empathy, mindfulness, and emotional literacy. The Resilience Project teaches positive mental health strategies, which is as important as teaching reading writing and maths skills.

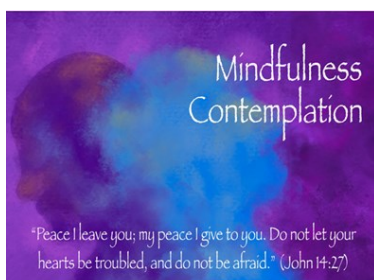
As a Catholic Education school we link Gratitude, Empathy and Mindfulness to our religious identity and scripture.

Gratitude in our Catholic Identity is thankfulness and the scripture which enlightens this is, 'This is the day the Lord has made, Let us rejoice and be glad in it' Psalm 118:24

Empathy is Love and the scripture reference we have chosen is 'I give you a new commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you' John 13:34

Mindfulness in our Catholic identity is contemplation and John's scripture that we reference is, 'Peace I give with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid' John 14:27

The below artwork is by Helen Buchmann, a gifted artist and friend



Stella Maris Primary School

Stella Maris Way,
Maroochydore

pmaroochydore@bne.catholic.edu.au

Principal: Mark Ballam



Last week, the senior members of our *Deadly Maroochy Mob*, First Nations students Zanzi, Luci, Byron, Hudson and Maija, responded with outstanding confidence and commitment to an invitation to present at the *Queensland Catholic Primary Principal's Conference 2024*.

Wearing their brand-new Deadly Maroochy Mob t-shirts, the students shared their Acknowledgement of Country and the accompanying artwork with pride, highlighting their connection to Country in the Sunshine Coast area. Huge thanks to these students for showcasing themselves, the Deadly Maroochy Mob and Stella Maris so well. They deserve to be very proud of themselves and are all nominated for Confidence AND Courage awards! Special thanks to the fabulous support crew as well, Mrs Peters and Mrs Huckle.



Siena Catholic College

60 Sippy Downs Drive,
Sippy Downs

ssippydowns@bne.catholic.edu.au

Principal: Sharon Collins



It has been another short week, but that was been a bonus for our Year 11 and 12 students who are preparing for and completing assessment. Even though we only had four days, we still managed to fit in a wide range of activities and events.

Sport has been a focus this week, as students have trialled for a variety of sports at both the Coastal District and Regional levels. The rain interrupted our plan for AFL to join the sporting calendar, with both boys and girls Q Schools Cup and ALFQ Gala Days postponed due to unplayable fields. Congratulations to all of our talented dancers who competed in the Sunshine Coast Dance Eisteddfod.

On Wednesday morning, our Year 7s joined parishioners for the Community Mass at St Catherine's. In his homily, Fr Isaac had us thinking about the 'outrageous' things that people do for love. He reminded us, too, that it is through the support of the Spirit that we are able to recognise and complete the work of love to which we have been called.

Our prayers and best wishes go out to all of the Mothers, Grandmothers and Mother-figures, whose unconditional love, compassion and support have enriched our lives.

