

PARISH NEWSLETTER FOR THE 14TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Weekend of the 6/7 July 2024

First Reading: Ezek 2:2-5 Second Reading: 2 Cor 12:7-10 Gospel: Mark 6:1-6

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.

What Will People Think?

Over the past couple of weeks, Jesus has been on a bit of a roll – calming the sea, last week curing the women and healing the young child. All pretty impressive stuff. Word has gone out to all the neighbouring towns and villages extolling this young rabbi who backs up his message with impressive miracles. Jesus was the biggest show in town! You would think that his home town would have rolled out the red carpet and welcomed him home as someone who has become famous and done the local town proud.

Instead, in today's Gospel, we see his hometown do the exact opposite. He returns to his local synagogue and can do nothing. No walking on water, no feeding of the five thousand, no miracle that could razzle dazzle them. He comes to his home town and finds only scorn. *"Where did this man get all this? What kind of wisdom has been given him? ... Is he not the carpenter, the son of Mary? ... And they took offence at him."* The Gospel ends with those haunting words, that Jesus *"was amazed at their lack of faith."*

I suppose, without faith, there is no room for God and no room for miracles. When we rely on ourselves, our own judgements, our own skills, our strengths and our ingenuity and cleverness we limit God's presence in our lives. We can set limits on God, just as the people of Nazareth set limits on Jesus, *"Jesus can't be from God, we know he is Mary's son"*.

Don't dismiss the reaction of the locals too quickly! It is understandable why they had such difficulty with him. After all, they had watched him grow up. They had watched him play with the other children of the village. They had watched him mature and learn a trade. He had led a normal life. He seemed like "one of them". Who is he to suddenly write such big tickets about himself? Who was he to come back saying and doing all these things? We know him! It is this assumption that clearly lies at the heart of today's Gospel.

The same thing can happen to us. The hardest thing about living out our faith isn't necessarily the fear of being persecuted by some big evil force. Sometimes, the hardest thing about living out our faith is being misunderstood by those who are closest to us. Whether you are still at school, or university, at work or retired, to suddenly become more involved in the life of the Church and to actively make life choices because of your faith, can confuse and amuse and certainly cause comment! It is our friends, our relatives, our family who cast doubt. They know us. They know our story. They know our faults. Who are we to suddenly get involved in the life of the Parish? Who are we to become interested in some of the big issues of our community, to put our hand up and volunteer our time and energy in an activity or ministry?

It might not be immediately obvious, but in this life, faith is potentially the greatest adventure any of us will ever go on. To limit that adventure because of a fear of what others might think or say is to place ourselves alongside the small minded and narrow people of Jesus' hometown. Instead, today Jesus calls us – dares us – to change our perspective and not to be afraid of where the great adventure of faith will take us!

Wishing you every blessing for the adventure ahead,

Fr Peter Brannelly

Welcome

This weekend across our Parish Family, being the first weekend of the month, hospitality across our community is our focus and you are invited to stay behind after Mass and catch up with old friends or meet new ones! Especially at our 9am Stella Maris Mass, we welcome all those who have been baptised during the past year and their families – we want to celebrate with you the great journey of faith that you have begun! Thank you also to our local Knights of the Southern Cross for hosting the sausage sizzle after the 9am Mass, your culinary skills and generosity are appreciated.

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 July

- ◆ Benediction (5.15pm Stella Maris Church)
- ◆ **Mass** (5.30pm, Stella Maris Church)

Tuesday, 9 July

- ◆ **Mass** (9.00am, Stella Maris School Chapel—All welcome)

Wednesday, 10 July

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

Thursday, 11 July *St Benedict*

- ◆ **Mass** (8.30am, St Peter's Church)
- ◆ Funeral of Friedhelm 'Fred' Laqua (11.00am Stella Maris)
- ◆ Rosary & Divine Mercy (2.00pm Stella Maris)

Friday, 12 July

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

Saturday, 13 July

- ◆ Reconciliation (**8.30am -9.30am** Stella Maris)
- ◆ Baptism Nathan McCallum, Bonnie Timms, Madeleine Timms and Willow Timms(10.00am Stella Maris)
- ◆ El Shaddai group (11.00am, Sippy Downs)

- ◆ **Vigil Mass** (4.30pm, St Peter's Church)
- ◆ **Vigil Mass** (6.00pm, Stella Maris Church)
- ◆ Mass in Spanish (6.00pm St Mary's Church) Baptism Maya Correa-Jimenez

Sunday, 14 July

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

- ◆ **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)
- ◆ Young Adult Group (6.00pm Stella Maris)

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.

This is the last weekend before the majority of our schools resume their educational routine. For our visitors and holiday makers, who are joining us, you are most welcome. For Fr Isaac, his focus this weekend is on leading the Reclaim Youth Retreat at Luther Heights. We keep Fr Isaac and the participants in our prayers over these two days.

First Communion

Don't procrastinate – register now— because of numbers and our duty to provide adequate preparation, once we begin our First Communion Sacramental Program, we cannot accept any late registrations. So, don't delay, registrations are now open for First Communion. If your child is in Year 4 or older, please enrol online via our website maroochydhoreparish.com.au. Parent information night will be on **Tuesday 16 July at 5.00pm**. First Communion candidates are not required to attend the parent session. Please see our Parish website for further information and all scheduled First Communion dates. For all enquiries, please contact Carrolyn Watt, our Sacramental Coordinator at cspy.sacraments@bne.catholic.net.au or call the parish office.

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 centre 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 C/- the parish office (suncoast@bne.catholic.net.au) Please put "pilgrim statue" in the subject line. There are brochures at the entrance to all our churches.

Young Adults

Because of the Reclaim Youth retreat taking place this weekend there will be no Young Adults gathering after the 5pm Sunday Mass this Sunday – our gatherings will resume next weekend! Every Sunday night after the 5.00pm Mass, we gather for pizza, fun, and faith formation—it's a great way to connect with friends and grow in your faith. Plus, every second Wednesday (next one is 5 June), we meet at a couple's house in Marcus Beach for a cosy dinner and a deeper discussion on faith. Don't miss out on these awesome opportunities to build community and explore your beliefs. For more details, contact Fr Isaac (suncoast@bne.catholic.net.au)

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 facilitating an RCIY programme beginning soon. If you are interested, please contact Carrolyn Watt cspy.suncoast@bne.catholic.net.au or call the parish office 5443 3488. We keep in our prayers the adults currently on the RCIA journey.

Thank You

Finally a big thank you to all who prepared, served and cleaned up afterwards over this hospitality weekend. You are appreciated.

ON THE JOURNEY—WHERE LIFE MEETS FAITH

We welcome into God's Family, the Church, Theodore Eastcott and Noah Lucas who will be baptised this weekend in our parish.

We pray for all those who have died, especially Robert McCormack, Bonaventure "Bonny" Orazio and Friedhelm "Fred" Laqua. Robert McCormack's Funeral Rites were celebrated at Stella Maris Church on Thursday, 4 July, Bonny Orazio's Funeral Rites were celebrated on Friday 5 July. Fred Laqua's Funeral Rites will be celebrated on Thursday 11 July 11.00am at Stella Maris Church. 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.

Dates for
the Diary:

We will be welcoming our former Parish Priest, **Fr Joe Duffy** on **Sunday 21 July after the 9.00am Stella Maris Mass** to bless the completed parish renovations project. We will name two meeting rooms as part of the ceremony: The Duffy Room and The Bliss Room. It will be a great opportunity to catch up with Fr Joe and enjoy the hospitality of the Parish after the 9.00am Mass. Please let your friends know about our gathering with Fr Joe.



Dates for
the Diary:

The **Dilemma of Dementia** a presentation on **Dementia Awareness!** We have invited **Leah Keating** to visit the Parish to answer some questions surrounding dementia vs normal aging and modifiable risk factors for dementia. For many of us, dementia impacts our lives as we care for loved ones and friends—for the rest of us, we all have questions.



Have you ever wondered what is dementia vs normal aging? Do you know about modifiable risk factors for dementia? Are you a carer for someone living with dementia? Would you like to learn more about communication strategies or how to best support your loved one as their brain is changing with the disease?

If you care for someone living with dementia, or would like to learn more about how to best support your loved ones with dementia, come along to this free presentation and morning tea on **Friday, 26 July after the 9.00am Stella Maris Mass.**

This event is sponsored by Holy Cross Funerals.

A New Start

This weekend marks the first weekend of the new financial year. How quickly they seem to come around! We can only cover our running expenses, pay down our debt and budget with confidence for the future mission of the Parish through your generous financial support. Thank you. If you are new to our Parish Family or if you would like to join your fellow parishioners in financially supporting your Parish there are brochures at the entrance to the church. Alternatively you can visit our Parish Web Page (maroochyshoreparish.com.au) and follow the links. However, you decide to financially support your Parish Family – *everyone's sacrifice is appreciated and no one's generosity is taken for granted.*

Our Parish Family is blessed with talented and generous musicians and singers who week in and week out lead our Eucharistic celebrations. They are backed up by our Parish Liturgy Committee who spend hours reflecting on the weekly scripture, the emerging themes and the issues and challenges confronting our community to provide the appropriate musical settings and hymn selections. All these ingredients come together each time we gather to celebrate the Eucharist. But hidden in our pews are many other talented musicians and singers and we want to give you an invitation to take the next step and consider joining Fr Peter's little ensemble – a mobile musical group that once a month allows the others to have a break and leads one of our Parish Masses.

So if you play the guitar, flute, bagpipes or recorder - if you sing fantastically in the shower - if you appreciate that there is safety in numbers – then our little ensemble is for you! **Why not join us?** Contact Fr Peter or Michael Fitzpatrick c/- the parish office suncoast@bne.catholic.net.au to join our merry little band.



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 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 – see Fr Peter or Fr Isaac for more info.



July's meeting is shaping up to be another wonderful night. We are continuing on with our theme from May and June, this month we will be digging deeper into the role of the Holy Spirit in our lives. This month, there will be a focus on prayer and reflection, along with some worship. As always, there will be the joy of meeting new people and sharing our faith with others. Come join us, all women in the parish are very welcome..

Join us Tuesday 23 July 6.00pm at Stella Maris.

Light
Snacks

Misa en Español

On the second Saturday of every month, our Spanish chaplain, Fr Luis, celebrates Mass in Spanish at St Mary's, Buderim. It is a great celebration with hospitality and a warm welcome to new faces. The next Mass in Spanish will be on next Saturday, 14 July, 6.00pm at St Mary's. Their Facebook page is Comunidad Catolica Latina de Sunshine Coast (CCLSC).

Następna polska Msza św

The next Mass in Polish will be celebrated at St Mary's Buderim on the fourth Sunday of every month. The next Mass in Polish will be on Sunday 28 July 4.00pm - tell your Polish friends—all welcome.

Keep the Fire Burning - Strong in Faith

This weekend the Australian Church celebrates Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday. The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council (NATSICC) is the peak advisory body to the Australian Catholic Bishops on issues relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholics. The Council was founded in 1992 and the Secretariat is based in Adelaide. Each State and Territory nominates a representative via their local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Ministry. In addition to a number of initiatives aimed to support First Nations Catholics, NATSICC advises the Bishops Commission for Relations with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholics. NATSICC is a not for profit organization that is funded by the Catholic Church and Caritas Australia's First Nations program.

The 2024 theme for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday is *Keep the fire burning- strong in faith*. It speaks to the need and desire to keep working for reconciliation, trusting that this is God's work and that God is with us.

On this day, we gather as one community to honour and celebrate the rich cultural heritage and contributions of our First Nations Peoples to our Australian Catholic Church. As Pope Francis reminds us, we are called to be a Church that goes forth, embracing all cultures and peoples. Let us open our hearts to the wisdom and spirituality of our First Nations Peoples, recognizing the presence of Christ in the stories and traditions. May our Eucharist today be a moment of grace, healing, and transformation for all of us.



This Year's Poster & Artwork

Pentecost painting by Magda Lee, Gracie Mosquito and Imelda Gugamen (Balgo Community). The four circles in the corners of painting represent the four communities: Wirrimanu, Mulan, Kurrurungku and Ringer Soak. The leaders are represented through the horse shoes located around the circle. The different colours represent different people.

The stars represent the different flowers in our area. The dots represent people all over the world and the people coming together for Church. People are also represented through the horse shoes on the right of the painting.

Wirrimanu is located in the top left hand corner, Mulan in the top right hand corner, Ringer Soak in the bottom right hand corner and Kurrurungku in the bottom left hand corner.

The Holy Spirit is located in the centre of the painting. It is the Spirit working in all of our communities.

Did you know that First Nations Catholics are the youngest and fastest growing demographic in the Australian Catholic Church?

135,681 The number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholics

4.6% The percentage of Catholic population aged under 5

8.2% The percentage of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholics aged under 5

10 The number of Dioceses which have over one-fifth of their Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population who identify as Catholic.

16474 In our Archdiocese of Brisbane we share our faith with 16474 fellow First Nation Catholics.

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