

# PARISH NEWSLETTER FOR THE 18TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Weekend of the 3/4 August 2024

First Reading: Ex 16:2-4, 12-15 Second Reading: 2 Eph 4: 17, 20-24 Gospel: Jn 6: 24-35

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.

### ANSWER THE CALL

Today begins National Vocations Awareness Week in Australia. This week is an opportunity to reflect on and promote vocations, in particular the vocations of priesthood and religious life. It is a week of thanksgiving for those brave men and women who have dedicated their lives to God in this particular way. However, more importantly a time to inspire and encourage young men and women to bravely answer God's call.

From my experience the journey to priesthood or religious life is slightly different for everyone, yet there are some recognizable similarities. It begins and ends with a deep burning love for Jesus Christ. From within this relationship with Christ comes a sense of a calling, which is always subtle and persistent, it urges people on to live for something greater than themselves, which can be summed up in a life of faith, sacrifice, and service. The vocations of priesthood and religious life are not by any standards "just another job". They are a lifelong commitment to loving Jesus Christ with every fibre of your being and doing your very best to infect as many people as you can with this love.

This lifelong commitment is a life that you learn to love. It is a life grounded in a desire to serve God and humanity. Life within the priesthood offers an array of opportunities for men of all skills and abilities to discover and express their gifts, such as: spiritual guidance, celebrating the sacraments, public speaking, managing director of multimillion dollar company, bringing comfort to the sick, elderly, and dying to name a few. In short, a priest is all things to all people. By becoming a priest, one enters a life of spiritual depth and connection with God, which brings immense personal fulfilment and joy.

Similarly, religious life provides an opportunity to live in a close-knit community dedicated to prayer, service, and the pursuit of holiness. Religious men and women commit themselves to a life of poverty, chastity, and obedience, following the example of Jesus Christ. This way of life allows them to focus entirely on their spiritual growth and their mission, whether it be in education, healthcare, social justice, or other forms of ministry. The communal aspect of religious life offers a supportive environment where individuals can grow in faith and contribute to the broader mission of the Church.

The journey of discernment is challenging and cannot be travelled alone, which is why one of the key messages of National Vocations Awareness Week is that everyone has a role in fostering vocations. Families, educators, and parish communities are all called to create an environment where young people feel supported and encouraged to explore their vocational calling. Simple acts of encouragement, such as praying for vocations, offering guidance, encouraging young people to be a part of the many parish youth programs, or telling your kids that they can be a priest or religious brother/sister when they grow up, can make a significant difference in someone's discernment journey.

As we celebrate National Vocations Awareness Week, let us remember that vocations are a gift to the Church and the world. Let us pray for an increase in vocations and for the strength and courage of those who are discerning their path. May we all be inspired by their example and strive to support and encourage the next generation of priests and religious.

In the words of Pope Francis, "Vocations are born in prayer and from prayer; and only through prayer can they persevere and bear fruit." Let us all commit to fostering a culture of vocations through our prayers, encouragement, and support.

*Fr Isaac Falzon*

#### 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](mailto:suncoast@bne.catholic.net.au)  
Website: [maroochydoreparish.com.au](http://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, 5 August

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

## Tuesday, 6 August *The Transfiguration of the Lord*

- ◆ **Mass** (9.00am, Stella Maris Primary School Chapel, all welcome)

## Wednesday, 7 August

- ◆ **Liturgy of The Word** (7.00am, St Mary's Church)
- ◆ Scripture Study Group (9.30am, Zoom)
- ◆ Latin Prayer Group (6.00pm, Stella Maris)

## Thursday, 8 August *St Mary of the Cross*

- ◆ Rosary & Divine Mercy (2.00pm Stella Maris)
- ◆ Maroochydore 10:10 (5:30pm St Catherine of Siena Parish Youth Group)

## Friday, 9 August

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

## Saturday, 10 August

- ◆ Reconciliation (**8.30am -9.30am** Stella Maris)
- ◆ Baptism of Angus Lane, Oscar Lane, Paige Larkin,
- ◆ Theodore Rastas and Peach Scott-Griffiths. (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)

## Sunday, 11 August

### *18th 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) followed by a fundraising sausage sizzle for 10:10 Parish Youth Group
- ◆ **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.*

# NET UPDATE

Term 3 is upon us and the NET team has been having a blast!

This term has come with many new and exciting opportunities we have been able to participate in. At Siena Catholic College, we've continued the Friday life essentials lunch group, we ran an activity and broke into small groups as we debriefed with the students. It was amazing to see the insights the students shared about the meaning of leadership and cooperation with others. We have been exploring the interesting topics that the Siena students grapple with as we join in many of the Religious Education classes. We find this time especially rewarding as we have an opportunity to show a side of faith and religion that the students might not have witnessed before. Especially not found in many people their own age!

Another fun event we've started running is a free pancake BBQ on Monday mornings. Not many people are a fan of Mondays. Our NET team members know the struggle of getting out of bed on Monday mornings! But we hope through the gesture of a free pancake, a smile, and an encouragement that it will provide some of that strength we all need to conquer the week!

In other news, we recently helped contribute to a young adult event that was held on the Sunshine Coast. Reclaim retreat is run through Evangelisation Brisbane, and we, the NET team felt really privileged to serve alongside such a committed group of men and women. The retreat ran from Friday evening until Sunday lunch. There were times of adoration, fellowship, games, talks and sharing. As much as we came to serve, it was clear that each one of us received greatly from this retreat. Particularly from our very own Father Isaac, who shared and led adoration; you could have heard a pin drop as Father Isaac shared his story with the young adults present. Many were brought to tears from the powerful sharing he gave.

Another important thing to note is our participation in the First Holy Communion preparation in the coming weeks. Last term we participated in Confirmation preparation. So, when asked to help we were extremely glad to join the parish again for this exciting journey. If someone you know is receiving First Holy Communion through Maroochydore parish, we want you to know we are so excited to join you for this time!

Lastly, we are super excited about the launch of the parish youth group last Thursday! We have lots in store, and we are thoroughly keen to continue journeying alongside the young people of Siena College and the wider Maroochydore parish community! Youth group will be held at Siena Catholic College every Thursday, from 5.30pm to 7.30pm.

All in all, we are glad to be back! Please continue to keep our mission in your prayers as we keep you in ours.

God bless,  
The NET team



## ON THE JOURNEY—WHERE LIFE MEETS FAITH

We welcome into God's Family, the Church,  
*Chelsea Nicholson, Harvey Nicholson, Noelle Lim & Gianna George*  
who will be baptised, this weekend in our parish  
We pray for all those who have died, especially *Elaine Carmody, Colleen Meigan, Patricia Buzolic, Daphne McClurg, Daniel 'Brendan' Heaslip* and *Patrick Bonus*,  
all of whose funeral rites were celebrated this week in our parish  
*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.*

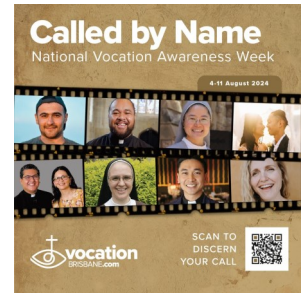


## SAVE THE DATE: ANNUAL PARISH MEN'S RETREAT

Mark your calendars! Join us on **October 26** from **8.30am to 6.00pm** at the Sunshine Coast Hockey Club, 176 Ballinger Rd, Buderim. Highlights: **Guest Speaker - Deacon Pellican**, Inspiring Sessions and Activities, Connect and Rejuvenate. Don't miss this chance to recharge and connect with like-minded men. More details to follow. Save the date and get ready for an unforgettable experience!

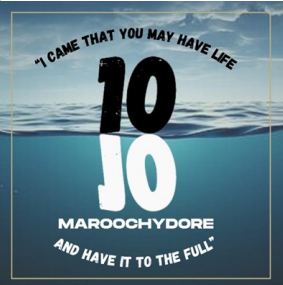
## FEELING CALLED?

National Vocation Awareness Week is a crucial opportunity to promote the importance of vocations and discernment in the Church, allowing people to explore their calling, and encourage their next step in following the call of God. How will you respond to God's call this week? How will you encourage others in their call?



## MAROOCHYDORE 10:10

Youth Group is back! Facilitated by the Parish, led by the NET Team and held at Siena Catholic College, 10:10 Maroochydore is for everyone in Years 7-12. Each night will be full of games, fun, food, new friends, formation in faith and prayer experiences. you don't want to miss it! **If you're in high school, we would love for YOU to come along!!!** If you're a parent/caregiver/grandparent, send your high-schooler along! **WHO:** All Year 7-12 students **WHEN:** Every Thursday during school term, 5.30-7.30pm **WHERE:** Siena Catholic College.



## HEBREWS!!

The Parish is incredibly proud to launch our brand new coffee van, Hebrews! This exciting addition will be serving delicious coffee during the weekend masses at Stella Maris and at other major parish events. Hebrews not only aims to bring our community together over a warm cup, but also to enhance our gatherings with a touch of comfort and hospitality. We are currently seeking volunteers with barista skills to help us make Hebrews a success. If you have experience in making coffee and a heart for service, we would love to have you join our team. Many hands make light work. Thank you to those special people who made this all possible. Please contact the parish office to volunteer.

## Sisterhood

Ladies, you don't want to miss next month's Sisterhood meeting! Come join us Tuesday 20 August 6.00pm, we have the dynamic and inspirational Kym Keady as our guest speaker. Kym has been working in youth ministry for over 30 years. As a counsellor, youth worker, author and inspirational speaker, Kym draws on her experience of working in the Church, helping leaders, young people, women and parents realise their potential and worth. She has worked in a variety of settings like parish, school, retreat ministry and ecclesial movements in the areas of youth ministry, pastoral care, event planning, leadership development, women's formation and community building. She is currently the Director of Ignite Youth, part of the Senior Leadership Team for Emmanuel Community, Brisbane and is completing her masters in Leadership and Theology. Kym is passionate about communicating the gospel in authentic and relevant ways especially to young people, which is why she founded Real Talk Australia. Kym is married to Patrick, a mother to 3 young adult children, 2 Son-in-laws and a proud Nana to 3 grandchildren. Kym's driving value is her family, which fuels her ongoing passion to renew the Church for future generations. Kym will share some practical pointers on finding purpose and meaning in our spiritual lives. As always, a light supper will be provided.



## MASS CANCELLATIONS THIS WEEK

Please be informed that the Wednesday 9am Mass at St Catherine of Siena and the Thursday 8:30am Mass at St Peters will unfortunately have to be cancelled this week. Both Fr Peter and Fr Isaac will be attending the annual clergy convocation and no other Priests were available to help out. We appreciate your understanding as Fr Peter and Fr Isaac participates in this important event.

## OUR PARISH SOCIAL MEDIA PAGES

Visit our Facebook page! You will receive updates on what's happening within the parish, religious articles and content of interest. It is also a way we contact you with urgent news. "Like" our Facebook page, and you will be kept notified of new posts and help to promote the Parish page to more viewers.



@stellamaris.parish



Stella Maris Catholic Parish



maroochydreparish.com.au

# 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



### Super Learners at Siena

Each week on assembly, Mrs Sauvage, our Primary Learning Leader, presents two certificates to children who are achieving great results with their learning.

The first award is the 'Super Learner' certificate. And the second certificate is the 'Super Learner Encouragement Award'.

Our recipients are recognised for their achievements in relation to their learning journey— some for excellence and others for trying to improve and persevering with their work.

Here are a few examples of our past award winners.

'For excellence in your work. You always respond to feedback and bump up your work. Your use of descriptive language in your writing is awesome. Thank you for always giving your best.'

'For trying so very hard to improve your writing. You use great adjectives to make your writing more interesting and try very hard to spell difficult words. Congratulations on showing so much interest in your work.'

We also love celebrating and acknowledging students in our school who live our 'GEM' culture of Gratitude Empathy and Mindfulness or who are role models for our school's, 'Four care Rules'. These awards are called, 'Principals 'Awards'.

## Stella Maris Primary School

Stella Maris Way,  
Maroochydore

pmaroochydore@bne.catholic.edu.au

Principal: Mark Ballam



Stella Maris School was privileged to host two fabulous Faith Formation Days for Catholic schools in our region.

Day 1 was especially for Year 5/6 students and Day 2, for students from Year 7-10. Buses arrived from as far as Nanango and Hervey Bay, full of enthusiastic and inquisitive students. With the days organised by members of the BCE Catholic Identity team; facilitated by the dynamic young adults from the Ignite Youth team and supported by the NET Ministry team, all students and staff were treated to rock star performances, affirmed for being great people and challenged to reflect and dream.

The presenters were dynamic, engaging, upbeat and really ready to listen to the attendees. There was much singing, dancing, storytelling, games, thinking, wondering, praying through music and gifts. Fr Isaac even made time to drop in for a greatly appreciated visit. A fun day was definitely had by all, but more than that, reflections from our own student attendees indicated that it was day of deep reflection and meaning for those involved.

What a great way to celebrate our Catholic schools, authentic communities of faith, hope and love.

## Siena Catholic College

60 Sippy Downs Drive,  
Sippy Downs

ssippydowns@bne.catholic.edu.au

Principal: Sharon Collins



As we come to the end of Week 4, we farewell the 31 students who have been visiting us from Cesena, a small town in the Emilia-Romagna region of north-eastern Italy. While they have been here, these students have participated in a variety of classes and have also visited Lady Musgrave, K'gari, Eumundi, Australia Zoo and Brisbane. They have also enjoyed the opportunity to participate in surfing and snorkelling lessons. We wish them well, as they leave us for a few days in Sydney before they begin their long flight home – addio, ci mancherà!

On Wednesday, our Year 11s had the opportunity to join Parishioners for Mass. In his homily, Fr Isaac asked us to think about where we find meaning, purpose and happiness in our lives. He also challenged us to consider what we might be willing to give up in order to discover who we are in Christ.

Last Thursday night, the NET team hosted a very successful first gathering.



## JUNIOR MINISTERS: A NEW AND EXCITING APPROACH!

*Are you confirmed and in Year 3 or above? If so, we invite you to join our Junior Minister's group as we embark on an exciting new format! Starting Sunday, August 11th, we'll meet every Sunday during the school term at 3.00pm at Stella Maris Church.*

*In our revamped sessions, we'll explore various ministries where our young people can get involved. After our activities, we'll enjoy a snack of pizza and a drink, followed by fun games.*

*We'll wrap up just in time to join the 5.00pm Mass celebration.*

*If you're interested and would like to learn more, please reach out to Bernie Baillie at [bbailie811@gmail.com.au](mailto:bbailie811@gmail.com.au).*