

# PARISH NEWSLETTER FOR THE 20TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Weekend of the 17/18 August 2024

First Reading: Prov 9:1-6 Second Reading: 2 Eph 5:15-20 Gospel: Jn 6: 51-58

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.

### Let Me Tell You A Story

We all love to be part of a story. Stories are so important in our lives. Without exception, all of us have treasured stories that we tell and retell, embellish and exaggerate. When we get together as family, at reunions and with friends, these are the stories we love to tell because they have shaped our lives. These stories also help us keep in mind who we are and, importantly, where we have come from. Indeed, our personal identity comes from our memories. The people we love, the people we hate, the people we admire and the people we can't stand all have a story!

When I worked in the West Indies, I was a stranger in the story of the people. As an outsider, I had to listen, learn and observe. It took years before, suddenly I realised, I had become part of the story! More importantly, I began to know the story behind the story!

This was also my experience when I was appointed parish priest of our Sunshine Coast parish. When I arrived I was a stranger in your midst. I did not know the community, I did not know this part of the North Coast, let alone the issues and history that had formed and shaped you. This only takes place by taking the time to listen, learn and observe. It is by baptising your babies, burying your parents, marrying your young lovers, sharing a meal, that I have got to know the story (and the story behind the story).

In the same way, every time we celebrate the Eucharist, we tell the story of God's saving love for his people. We listen, we learn, we observe. We tell that story by proclaiming and listening to the Scriptures. We continue to recount that story throughout the liturgy, especially in the great Eucharistic prayer. The centre of that story is Jesus Christ, in his self-offering for us. All of us give our assent to the truth and significance of that story, as we sing the "Great Amen" at the conclusion of the Eucharistic Prayer.

I think one of the many reasons why we need each week to celebrate the Eucharist faithfully is so that, more and more, we will allow **this** story to become **our** story. If we truly enter into the mystery of the Eucharist, the truth of Jesus Christ begins to shape our vision of ourselves, of others, of what is really significant in life.

As a parish family, we are in the middle of telling the story anew to 100 of our younger members as they prepare to receive their First Holy Communion next weekend. We share the story and allow it to shape the ways we see, decide and act. Hopefully, as parents, family, friends and importantly, as a faith community, our respect for the story and how it guides our actions and attitudes will provide a memorable example to the younger members of our parish.

We all love to be part of a story. What brings us to Mass today is the greatest story ever told - **and we are part of it!** As we journey through this coming week, though the life we live, may we allow **this** story to become **our** story.

God Bless, *Fr Peter Brannelly*

#### 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: [maroochyshoreparish.com.au](http://maroochyshoreparish.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, 19 August

- ◆ Benediction (5.15pm, Stella Maris Church)
- ◆ **Mass** (5.30pm, Stella Maris Church)
- ◆ Welcome Cocktail Party (6.00pm Stella Maris)

## Tuesday, 20 August *St Bernard*

- ◆ **Mass** (9.00am, S M Primary School Chapel)
- ◆ Sisterhood (6.00pm Stella Maris Church)

## Wednesday, 21 August *St Pius X*

- ◆ **Mass** (7.00am, St Mary's Church)
- ◆ **Mass** (9.00am St Catherine of Siena)
- ◆ Scripture Study Group (9.30am, Zoom)
- ◆ Latin Prayer Group (6.00pm, Stella Maris)

## Thursday, 22 August *The Queenship of the BVM*

- ◆ **Mass** (8.30am St Peter's Church)
- ◆ Funeral of Chris Aitken (2.00pm Stella Maris )
- ◆ **Maroochydore 10:10** (5.30pm at St Catherine of Siena-Parish Youth Group)

## Friday, 23 August

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

## Saturday, 24 August *St Bartholomew*

- ◆ Reconciliation (**8.30am -9.30am** Stella Maris)
- ◆ Barista Workshop (9.00am Stella Maris)
- ◆ Baptisms of Clarisse Palima, John Brotherston, Noah Martin, Atticus Mead (10.00am)
- ◆ El Shaddai group (11.00am, Sippy Downs)

- ◆ **Vigil Mass** (4.30pm, St Peter's Church)
- ◆ **Vigil Mass** (6.00pm, Stella Maris Church)

## Sunday, 25 August

### *21st 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)
- ◆ Junior Ministers (3.00pm Stella Maris Bliss Room)
- ◆ **Mass in Polish** (4.00pm 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.*

## First Holy Communion

Please continue to pray for all our young children as their preparation to receive their First Holy Communion reaches its climax. Last Wednesday, they celebrated their First Reconciliation and this weekend is the final preparation session before next weekend's celebration of their First Holy Communion. Next weekend will be a great celebration for the entire Parish, but please be aware that especially at the 8.00am Sippy Downs and 9.00am Maroochydore Masses parking will be at a premium as we welcome friends and family to our celebrations. Congratulations to the First Communicants.

## A Great Start

Last Sunday, we launched our revamped Junior Ministers programme at Stella Maris. The Junior Ministers Youth Group is specifically designed for your younger children from Year 3 to Year 6. **Every Sunday during school term from 3.00pm to 5.00pm at Stella Maris**, our Junior Minister programme explores various ministries within our parish, as well as fun activities and afternoon tea. Our plan is to wrap up in time for the 5.00pm Sunday Mass celebration. If you're interested and would like to learn more, please reach out to Bernie Bailie at [bbailie811@gmail.com](mailto:bbailie811@gmail.com). All young children are welcome and also adult volunteers who would like to be involved.

## Welcome

In our highly mobile society there are people moving to our Sunshine Coast community all the time and joining our Parish Family. The challenge for us as members of our large and busy Parish Family is to be welcoming and conscious of those who are new to our community. Several times a year we host a **Welcome Cocktail Party** at the Stella Maris presbytery. Actually, it is not so much a cocktail party (*so don't go out buying a cocktail dress*) but an excuse to invite all new and returning parishioners to a gathering where we can introduce ourselves and share some of our story.

Our next Welcome Cocktail Party is on this Monday evening, 19 August at the Maroochydore presbytery from 6.00pm to 7.30pm. If you are new to the parish or if you are returning to the Church, you are invited to take home a Welcome Folder, which you will find at the entrance to the church. By completing the details we will get in contact with you – once again, on behalf of the entire parish, *welcome*.

## Thanks For Your Support

Each year, one of the biggest Catholic youth gatherings takes place in Brisbane with the **Ignite Conference** this year taking place at St Laurence's College in September. This year our Stella Maris Parish is planning on sending 50 of our young adults to the **Ignite Conference**. The next youth fund raiser to help cover the costs of attending the **Ignite Conference** will be a car wash at Sippy Downs on Sunday morning, 8 September. A big thank you to the members of our Knights of the Southern Cross for generously assisting with last Sundays BBQ at Stella Maris.

## Craft Group

The monthly gathering of our Parish Craft Group is on this Friday in the Bliss Room immediately after the 9.00am Stella Maris Mass. New members are always welcome. Please feel free to drop in and see what we are doing!

## ON THE JOURNEY—WHERE LIFE MEETS FAITH

We welcome into God's Family, the Church,

**George Nisbett, Hugo Nisbett, Lillian Nisbett and Philippa Weir** who will be baptised this weekend in our parish.

We pray for all those who have died, especially **Barbara Leach** and **Chris Aitken**. Barbara's Funeral Rites were celebrated last Thursday and the Funeral Rites of Chris Aitken will be celebrated this Thursday, August 22 2.00pm at Stella Maris. This Thursday will also be the 6<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of our foundation Parish Priest, **Fr Harry Bliss**. May Fr Harry's soul and the soul's of Chris Aitken and Barbara Leach and all who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith, through the rich mercy of God,

**Rest in Peace.**

## A Time of Prayer and Purpose for our Young Adults.

In our busy, nonstop modern world everyone needs to occasionally stop and consciously spend some quiet time—some time in prayer. Our NET team has organised such a time for this Sunday! **At the conclusion of our Sunday evening Mass at Stella Maris until 8.30pm, all our young adults are invited to join our NET team** for a evening that will feature a time to connect with each other, dinner, input, a panel, live worship and adoration. The night asks the question, “are you living for more?”. It’s an opportunity for young adults to be reminded about the importance of community, a common goal, and most importantly what they bring to the life of our community and the mission of the Church. We finish by 8:30pm.

## Sisterhood – Our Parish Women’s Ministry

A warm invitation is extended to all women of our Sunshine Coast community to join us **this Tuesday, 20 August, 6.00pm**. With 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. ***Please come along and why not invite a friend?***



Our Coffee Van is here and ready to be of service but we need you to join our **Ministry of Hospitality** to make it work! We are forming 4 people teams so that we can make our Coffee Van part of the life of our parish. Training will be provided and it is a great way of being part of the life of the community – ***why not get some of your friends together and form a 4 person team?*** Contact Fr Peter or Fr Isaac if you are interested – ***you are never too old or too young to become a hipster barista!*** **Next Saturday morning at 9.00am at Stella Maris we will have a barista workshop so please come along and join us.**

## A Snapshot of our Sunshine Coast Parish

The Australian Catholic Council for Pastoral Research provides each parish in Australia data which is sourced from the Australian Census. The following data comes from the 2021 census. The information helps parishes and the Archdiocese plan for the future and identify certain trends and challenges.

Total Population: 135,817

Catholic Population: 22,419

Catholics make up 16.5 per cent of the total population

Median age of Catholics is 48 years

Total Catholic families: 9,912

2,252 Catholics live alone

4,787 Catholics were born overseas

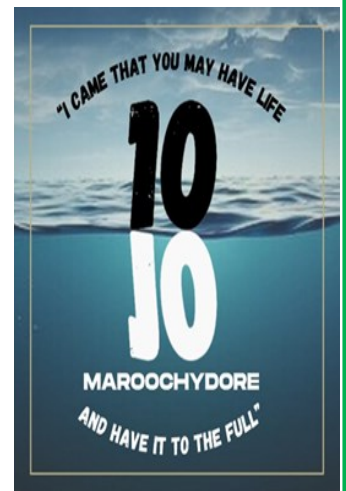
115 Catholics do not speak English well

1,439 Catholics need assistance with core activities

11,800 Catholics have changed address since 2016

Every Thursday evening from 5.30pm to 7.30pm, all students from Year 7 to seniors are invited to our weekly youth gathering at Siena College, Sippy Downs. Each gathering will be full of games, fun, food, new friends, formation in faith and prayer experiences. You don’t want to miss it!

Our group is called **Maroochydore 10:10** and if you want more information contact one of the NET members or talk to Fr Isaac.



# RCIA

*...A Journey in Faith*

©LPI

You might have heard us talking about the RCIA. The initials simply stand for the **Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults**. When people decide they would like to know more about the Catholic Faith, we invite them to COME AND SEE by joining the RCIA Group. The RCIA, also called the Catechumenate, is the process by which adult persons are brought into membership of the Roman Catholic Church. Currently, we have several RCIA groups and we keep all the enquirers and their sponsors and catechists in our prayers.

However, the Holy Spirit is certainly working in our midst and we have had many requests to explore joining the Church and discovering what we believe and what guides our lives. So, this is an invitation for anyone who would like to know more about the Catholic Faith, for people who have not been baptised and for those baptised in other Faith Traditions and for Baptised Catholics who have been taken time out and wish to reconnect. In the next couple of weeks we will be starting an additional RCIA group and if you would like to know more please contact Fr Isaac ( [falzoni@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:falzoni@bne.catholic.net.au) )

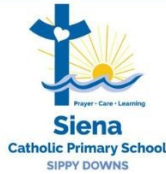
# Catholic Education in our Stella Maris Parish Family

## Siena Catholic Primary School

58 Sippy Downs Drive,  
Sippy Downs

psippydowns@bne.catholic.edu.au

Principal: Glen Bucklar



This week is 'Bullying No Way Week'. It is Australia's key bullying prevention initiative and connects schools and communities to find workable solutions to prevent bullying.

The theme for 2024 is 'Everyone belongs'. When we all feel like we belong, bullying struggles to find a place. It's about embracing who we are, respecting everyone's differences and standing up together against unkindness. It is in St Catherine's words, 'Being who God meant us to Be to set the world afire'.

Belonging means we all have a role in preventing bullying. We're encouraged to speak up and create a safe place where everyone feels supported and respected, and our voices are heard and valued.

This week our focus throughout the school is around Belonging. In Daintree we have an amazing sea mural created by Mrs Jackson and Mrs Crowther. All students contributed to the mural by designing a fish. It shows how uniqueness creates diversity in which embrace here at Siena. Morning messages and class activities have centred on – challenging stereotypes, promoting empathy, embracing diversity and fostering positive relationships. The children know that they don't need to deal with bullying on their own – there are many people at school to assist to help all feel safe and be happy at school.

## Stella Maris Primary School

Stella Maris Way,  
Maroochydore

pmaroochydore@bne.catholic.edu.au

Principal: Mark Ballam



This week has been the Bullying No Way National week of action, with the theme, Everyone Belongs. We take bullying seriously here at Stella Maris and take a proactive approach so that bullying is prevented as much as possible, and dealt with quickly if it raises its head. We took this opportunity to organise a dedicated session for each year level to focus on key messages about how we connect with others and how we can respond to tricky situations. Students considered the difference between actions that are rude or mean and those that are bullying. They then contemplated different scenarios that crop up at school and got really engaged in identifying helpful ways to respond.

Back in classrooms and playgrounds now, the challenge is to put these ideas into action. May compassion shine through!



## Siena Catholic College

60 Sippy Downs Drive,  
Sippy Downs

ssippydowns@bne.catholic.edu.au

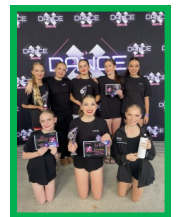
Principal: Sharon Collins



Despite the wet weather during the lead-in, we were still able to celebrate a wonderful Siena Day on Friday. This event celebrates all of the great things that make our community what it is. We always begin the day with a prayer that tells of our story and links us to the person of St Catherine and the town of Siena. During the remainder of the day, House Groups fought it out in Tabloid Sport, while the Houses competed for the best Palio parade, organised runners for our own version of the Palio race and created some seriously embarrassing Red Faces skits. Thank you to our House Leaders for their many, many hours of work in bringing their teams together, and the staff involved in making this such a special day.

Also this week, our Dance and Netball teams reported back on their wonderful successes in the Dance X competition and the Vicki Wilson Cup Netball competition.

While on Thursday and Friday, our Music ensembles travelled to Villanova College to perform at the Queensland Catholic Music Festival.



## Don't be Shy—Let's be Friends!

It has never been so easy to get in touch and keep up to date with the many ministries and activities of our Sunshine Coast Parish. Why not start by visiting our Parish 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. Our Parish Instagram page also offers a wealth of information while our E-Newsletter delivers our weekly Parish newsletter straight to your inbox!

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@stellamaris.parish



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maroochydoreparish.com.au