

# PARISH NEWSLETTER FOR THE 26TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Weekend of the 28/29 Sep 2024

First Reading: Num 11:25-29 Second Reading: James 5:1-6 Gospel: Mk 9:38-43, 45, 47-48

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.

Last Sunday afternoon, taking advantage of the beautiful warm weather, I went for a walk. As I was walking along Maroochydore Road, I noticed a friendly magpie sitting innocently on the grassed pedestrian median strip almost smiling at me! I smiled and kept walking only to feel, a few moments later, the vicious lunge of that very same magpie. Obviously, it is nesting season, because that magpie swooped on me all the way along Maroochydore Road and only stopped when I reached the relative safety of the intersection and the traffic lights! What annoyed me more was the ignominy of it all – trying to maintain my dignity, walking backwards, as cars passed by, everyone looking at me, waving my hands and hat wildly in the air like a crazy man! *The indignity of it all!*

That feeling of indignation might help capture what the disciple John was feeling in this weekend's Gospel. He had been out, travelling through the villages and, in Jesus' name, healing the sick and proclaiming the Good News. You could imagine John revelling in the attention and adulation from the crowd.

He then enters a village where he comes across a "*man not one of us*" who was casting out devils in Jesus' name. He might even have been doing a better job than John! You could imagine the indignation, but worse, the embarrassment, because this imposter was doing what John was supposed to be doing – only doing it better!

You would think that Jesus, wanting to support and encourage his little band of loyal disciples, would have agreed with John and condemned the imposter. Instead, Jesus rebukes John with the reminder that he is here to love and to heal; he is not interested in copyrights or credits.

Then, using plain yet forceful language with great imagery, Jesus goes on to challenge the disciples not to limit God and God's ability to work through all people and all structures. *No one has a monopoly on God!* Don't be indignant that God might use the gifts and talents of another person.

Rather, Jesus goes on to say, what should cause indignation is when vulnerable people are exploited when they should be protected and assisted. And vulnerability is not just something that we associate with childhood - we are vulnerable, to various different degrees, at every stage of life. From entering into lifelong relationships, trusting a colleague at work, to depending upon others as our own abilities and responsibilities diminish - *we never cease to be vulnerable.*

Perhaps, we should save our indignation for ourselves when we, through our own actions and words, deceive or take advantage of someone who is not able to understand what is happening. When we find ourselves in positions of power and influence over friends, family, workmates or strangers we can allow God to work through us, or we can abuse the position of trust and take advantage of those who are weaker than ourselves.

A swooping magpie during nesting season might cause you a little bit of embarrassment and, with everyone looking on, humiliation. Let's save our indignation for ourselves when the most vulnerable in our midst are exploited or taken advantage of and we do nothing about it!

With every blessing for the week ahead,

*Fr Peter Brannelly*

With the final term of the academic year beginning this week we wish all students, teachers, school officers and principals every blessing. Especially we acknowledge and pray for the senior students whose formal education is quickly drawing to a close.

### 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  
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# 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, 30 September** *St Jerome*

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

## **Tuesday, 1 October** *St Thérèse of the Child Jesus*

- ◆ **Mass** (9.00am, S M Primary School Chapel)
- ◆ Funeral John Miller (11.00am details TBC)

## **Wednesday, 2 October** *The Holy Guardian Angels*

- ◆ **Mass** (7.00am, St Mary's Church)
- ◆ **Mass** (9.00am St Catherine of Siena)
- ◆ Scripture Study Group (9.30am, Zoom)
- ◆ Community Meetings **Coolum** 12noon, **Buderim** 2.30pm, **Sippy Downs** 4.30pm, **Stella Maris** 6pm.
- ◆ Latin Prayer Group (6.00pm, Stella Maris)

## **Thursday, 3 October**

- ◆ **Mass** (8.30am St Peter's Church)
- ◆ Funeral Pamela Jacob (G&W Chapel, Buderim)
- ◆ Memorial Alice Hardy (11.00am Stella Maris)
- ◆ Rosary (2.00pm Stella Maris Church)
- ◆ Baptism Preparation (6.00pm Stella Maris)
- ◆ **Maroochydore 10:10** (5.30pm at St Catherine of Siena-Parish Youth Group)

## **Friday, 4 October** *St Francis of Assisi*

- ◆ **Anointing & Healing Mass** (9.00am Stella Maris - followed by morning tea )
- ◆ Funeral Carmel Boyce (11.00am St Peter's )
- ◆ Community Meal for the Homeless, Vulnerable and Disadvantaged (6.00pm, Stella Maris)

## **Saturday, 5 October**

- ◆ **Mass** (8.00am Stella Maris Church)
- ◆ Reconciliation 8.30—9:30am (Stella Maris )Baptisms of Melissa Dubrava(10.00am Stella Maris Church)
- ◆ El Shaddai group (11.00am Sippy Downs)

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

## **Sunday, 6 October**

### *27th 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** (5.00pm Stella Maris Church)
- ◆ Young Adults (6.00pm)

When parishioners and visitors walk through the doors of any of our four churches, I sometimes wonder if everyone fully appreciates the vast armada of people involved in ensuring that Mass starts on time! Sure, there are the people we see each week such as the readers and Eucharistic ministers, the children's church leaders and Mass coordinators, the sacristans and welcomers, not to mention the musicians, singers and those who operate our audio visual systems - they are the face of our Parish Family. Behind them are also the countless nameless fellow parishioners who vacuum and clean our churches week in and week out, those who wash our vestments and altar linen, those who decorate our churches with floral arrangements and the many who weekly provide food and hospitality after Mass. Others, of course, quietly drive fellow parishioners to and from Mass while others are commissioned to taking Holy Communion to those who can't join us. Finally, I suppose we are all involved and have a vested stake in our weekly Mass. This is because every time we contribute something financial on the collection plate we support the ministry of the Finance Committee who keeps our lights on, budgets for the future, ensures the necessary maintenance is carried out and slowly but surely reduces our parish debt of \$1,509,248.13. *So this weekend, as we celebrate Mass together, let's appreciate the generous Parish Community we belong to and the role we all play in celebrating the Eucharist that gives meaning to our lives and hope for our journey.*

## The Last Term of the Year

With school resuming this week so does our parish high school youth group **Maroochydore 10:10**. All high school students are more than welcome to gather with us this and every Thursday afternoon from 5:30 to 7:30pm at Siena College.

## Warning

Everyone has to be on the guard for scam emails requesting money or information. Once again doing the rounds are emails purporting to originate from Fr Peter and Fr Isaac. Please remember that we will never solicit money or personal information from you via emails and that any emails we send you will originate from the official [@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:@bne.catholic.net.au) address. **If in doubt – do not open and simply delete!**

## Baptism Preparation Evening for Infants

Those parents with new born babies wishing for them to be baptised are reminded of the preparation meeting, which takes place at Stella Maris Church on the first Thursday of every month. At this short preparation meeting, we outline some of the symbols used at the ceremony, answer any questions and confirm dates. The next baptismal preparation meeting will be on **this Thursday 3 October** beginning at 6.00pm. Please register through our parish website: [maroochydoreparish.com](http://maroochydoreparish.com)

## Return of the Junior Ministers

Next Sunday afternoon at 3.00pm at Stella Maris sees the return of our **Junior Ministers Youth Group**. All primary school students are warmly invited to join us, as each week we explore aspects of our church and the different ways we can be ministers and be of service, with plenty of activities and games. We finish in time for the 5.00pm Sunday evening Mass. Adults are always welcome to help. If you're interested and would like to learn more, please reach out to Bernie Baillie at [bbaille811@gmail.com.au](mailto:bbaille811@gmail.com.au) *See you there!!!*

## ON THE JOURNEY—WHERE LIFE MEETS FAITH

We welcome into God's Family, the Church,

*Patrick Joseph Till*, who will be baptised this weekend in our parish.

We pray for all those who have died, especially *Carmel Boyce, Alice Hardy, Pamela Jacob and John Miller*.

John's funeral rites will be celebrated on Tuesday 1 October 11.00am at Stella Maris. Alice Hardy's memorial will be on Thursday 3 October at 11.00am at Stella Maris. Pamela Jacob's funeral rites will be celebrated on Thursday 3 October at G&W Chapel, Buderim. Carmel's funeral rites will be celebrated on Friday 4 October 11.00am at St Peter's.

May all who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith, through the rich mercy of God,

**Rest in Peace.**

## Is this what you have been looking for ????????

For five consecutive Mondays beginning on the 14 October, St Peter's Coolum will be the venue for this year's Ignatius Retreat. If you have a desire to deepen your relationship with God and find God's presence in your everyday life, then this could be a retreat for you! Where are now is where God is waiting for you! The great news is that there *are no special requirements to attend!*

This First Spiritual Exercises retreat runs over four weeks in daily life. It guides you in prayer and reflection for 30 mins each day. The retreat is for anyone who desires to grow in their relationship with God.

The retreat was composed by Michael Hansen SJ and is based on the Spiritual Exercises by St Ignatius of Loyola. Come and experience this journey into divine friendship in your everyday life through a program of personal prayer and attending a weekly gathering of guided spiritual conversation.

### What's Involved

Participants pray at home for 30 minutes each day, and meet together with retreat guides within a group once a week for 90 minutes, for listening, prayer and spiritual conversation.

There are five 90 min group meetings. These sessions are guided by trained providers of the First Spiritual Exercises.

### Your Commitment

Spend 30 minutes daily in personal prayer.

Willingness to commit to four weeks of the retreat and attend five weekly group meetings.

A willingness to participate in group sharing.

**To register or for more information contact [info@jisa.org.au](mailto:info@jisa.org.au)**

## Some of our Ignite Conference Youth



The youth and young adults of our Parish Family would like to thank you for your financial support in making our attendance at this year's Ignite Youth Conference possible – your generosity is very much appreciated. Over 1400 Catholic youth from all over southeast Queensland attended this year's gathering and it was an extraordinary time to be reminded of our belonging to a universal faith and the unique bonds that tie us together. Thank you once again to the entire Parish for your support and making this faith experience possible.

## Calling all Musicians

All Parish musicians are reminded of the invitation to attend the Archdiocesan music workshop for Parish musicians. On Saturday, 26 October at All Saints Church at Albany Creek, Liturgy Brisbane is coordinating a music workshop for all involved in parish music ministry. The presenters are Christopher Trikalis, Director of Music at the Cathedral of St Stephen and Michael Mangan, composer, musician and education consultant at Liturgy Brisbane.

All parish musicians are invited to attend and we hope to car pool to ensure as many musicians as possible can be part of the workshop. Please contact Michael Fitzpatrick: [mfitzpatrick@ozemail.com.au](mailto:mfitzpatrick@ozemail.com.au). As always, we are grateful for the ministry of all our musicians.

## LOOKING AHEAD

### Mark in your Diary



To mark the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening and blessing of St Catherine of Siena Church at Sippy Downs

### Archbishop Mark Coleridge

will preside at the 8.00am anniversary Mass

**Sunday 13 October.**

This is a celebration for the entire Parish and all parishioners are invited to join the Sippy Downs community.



The annual Parish one day Men's Retreat will be held at the Sunshine Coast Hockey Club on **Saturday, October 26** from 8:30 to 6pm. The retreat leader will be Deacon Peter Pellican



This year, All Saints falls on Friday, 1 November and All Souls' Day is on Saturday, 2 November. Traditionally here in our Sunshine Coast parish, we especially remember all those who have died in the past 12 months and Mass will be offered for them at 9.00am at Stella Maris.



The annual Women's Retreat will be at Stella Maris Primary School on Saturday, **23 November**. Once again we will welcome women from across our Parish Family and the wider Sunshine Coast to a day of fun, friendship & formation.



Traditionally here at Stella Maris, we have celebrated the **nine day novena** leading up to Christmas called *Simbang Gabi*. This year, plans are well underway and we are incorporating the many different groups that make up our Parish Family. This year, the Mass will be at 6.00am 22 December culminating in the great celebration on the morning of 24 December. *All Welcome*

# St Vincent de Paul St Gerard Majella Conference Maroochydore Report to Parish for 2023-2024

We wish to express our gratitude to all Parishioners for your generous support of St Vincent de Paul Society at Maroochydore and advise you of our activities over the past financial year. Since our Conference commenced on 7<sup>th</sup> November 1982, we have grown into the largest Conference in Queensland. We have 33 Members, 14 Associate Members and 4 Associate Life Members. No paid staff operate in our Support Office, we are all volunteers. We open 3 days per week and 1479 contacts came through our doors, enabling us to help 3670 people over the past year. Day-to-day assistance is made up of food parcels, digital food vouchers, pharmacy vouchers for prescriptions and emergency fuel cards. We also pay for work boots where appropriate, to enable our companions to gain employment. When people need items from the Vinnies Shop next door, we give them Vinnies Cards supplied by the Society. We receive donated fresh food from OZ Harvest and Aldi. Urban Angels provide us with frozen meals. The total value of assistance provided this last financial year ending 30 June 2024 was \$156,294.17. St Gerard Majella Conference actively supports families struggling with the cost of their children's education. Our conference members raise funds for our "Smart Start for Students Fund", with \$5730.00 raised from BBQs at Buntings and weekly Italian lessons given by a qualified conference member. Shamus Conway and team notably contributed both time and talent to these sausage sizzles.



Vincetians play a vital role in assisting those in need. We are often the only people who listen to their stories who aren't paid to do so. When individuals seek our help, we give them our time and listen carefully to the underlying story which has led them to our door. Based on an interview assessment, we visit their home to help with furniture, offer educational help in the form of the Children's Education Fund for their children or give them a voucher to help put food on the table. We don't have appointments for interviews, our doors are open to those in need. Beyond these essential tasks, some Vincetians contribute by picking up furniture from donors which is then taken to the Vinnies Shop and made available for needy people. We also have Vincetians working at the front desk inputting critical data into our computer system.

As well as our own education funding, the Society in Queensland runs the Children's Education Fund which is open to students from low-income families throughout Queensland. The total funds supplied by SVDP QLD and given out through Conferences in November was \$910,666.64, totally sourced from Society funds. Our share of the funds was \$17,867 and our own Regional Council topped up this amount by \$2,253 so that 90 children from 51 families locally benefited from this 'hand up'.

A relatively new program called Keeping Queenslanders Housed has helped several of our Companions to stay in their rental unit after receiving a large increase in their rent at the end of a Lease. The KQH pays the rent increase up to \$100 a week for 26 weeks. The most important thing is to keep a roof over your head, as there are no vacant units in our area.



The CEO Sleepout at Maroochydore Beach in June raised \$110,000 for our Region. Mario Barbagallo from Maroochydore Conference participated in this year's Sleepout with his sleeping bag, a pillow and two sheets of cardboard for comfort. He raised over \$5000.00. Money raised in 2023 was used in relation to the purchase of 90 nights emergency accommodation, rental of caravan sites, purchase of a tent, payment of 19 weeks rent, relocation costs, storage registration of residential van and purchase of essential white goods and furniture. The remaining funds to help with Diocesan investments are quarantined for any future capital works opportunities, including partnerships with the Society's Housing Company, Vinnies Housing.

Our regular fundraisers are the Winter and Christmas Appeal. We can always rely on wonderful support from parishioners in both instances. Our three Catholic schools all helped us to help others by donating tents, toiletries, and funds. The toiletries help us prepare shower packs for homeless people.

Our SVDP Bursary is awarded to encourage students to demonstrate respect and empathy towards those in need. These students have shown exceptional compassion in their daily lives. Min Bennett received the Tertiary Bursary for Siena Catholic College, Amelia Kay was awarded the Primary Bursary for Siena Primary, and Lucy Mackie was granted the Bursary for Stella Maris in November 2023.

As we look back on Christmas 2023, we provided 140 Christmas Hampers with generous contributions from parishioners and our three catholic schools. Olga Girle and her team worked hard to present beautiful hampers for these families and individuals. We look on Christmas as a holy season and the people who received our hampers were surely blessed.

We seek to expand our membership so that our 'good works' can continue. If you're interested in learning more about our work, please speak to Vincetians you see at Mass. Our new members are Paul Casey and Tony Hanon. VALE to two members we lost this year, Judy McLaren and Max Lennox, please pray for them.

Finally, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to all of you for your unwavering support, as your generosity consistently shines through whenever we ask. Your kindness is deeply appreciated, and we are genuinely thankful.

*Carmel Barbagallo—President 28/9/2024*