



**St John
Vianney**
Parish Morisset



**FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR B ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER SUNDAY
07 JULY 2024**

In today's Gospel Jesus is rejected, by the people of his home town Nazareth, and it was a sad occasion for him. '

Jesus had come back home, and dearly wanted to share his gifts with his own people. But instead of being welcomed, he found people watching him, studying him, and scrutinizing him. They refused to believe in him. He is only Joseph the carpenters son!

In 2009, 'Britain's Got Talent,' a woman made her way to the stage and said she wanted to sing like one of Britain's most acclaimed stars. The judges for the contest barely concealed their amusement.

As Susan Boyle's beautiful voice delivered note after note, the shocked audience stood and applauded. Boyle had been judged unfairly by those who assumed they knew what to expect from her.

Jesus freely offers his wisdom and his mighty deeds, but human beings are free to respond,

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land, the Awabakal People who, long before us lived, loved, educated and raised their children on this Country. We pay our respects to Elders past and present and we recognise the young people who are our future. We acknowledge all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families in our communities. We respect their deep physical and spiritual connections to Country through their stories, traditions and living cultures.

PARISH LEADERSHIP TEAM: Uta France
John France

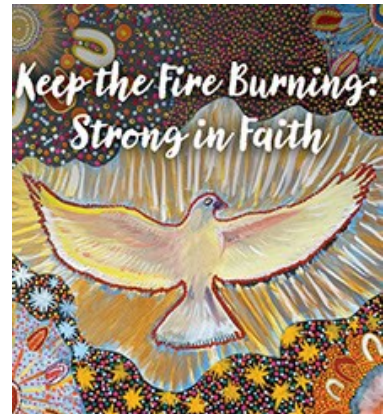
PRIEST SUPERVISOR: Fr Joseph Figuardo

SACRAMENTAL PRIESTS: Fr Greg Barker VG
Fr Darryl Mackie
Fr Raphael Madukwe
Fr John Purnell

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL: Juliet Hutchins
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Morisset Parish Facebook : <https://www.facebook.com/stjvparish>
Morisset Parish Instagram : https://www.instagram.com/stjvparish_morisset/



UPCOMING WORSHIP TIMES :

Saturday	6th July 5pm Family Mass—Morisset
Sunday	7th July 9.30am Mass—Morisset
Saturday	13th July 5pm Mass—Cooranbong
Sunday	14th July 9.30am Mass—Morisset
Saturday	20th July 5pm Family Mass—Morisset
Sunday	21st July 9.30am Mass—Morisset
Tuesday	23rd July 9.30am Liturgy—Morisset
Friday	26th July 10.30am Mass—Morisset
Saturday	27th July 5pm Mass—Cooranbong
Sunday	28th July 9.30am Mass—Morisset
Tuesday	30th July 9.30am Liturgy—Morisset
Friday	2nd August 10.30am Mass—Morisset
Saturday	3rd August 5pm Family Mass—Morisset
Sunday	4th August 9.30am Mass—Morisset

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FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Year B **— Reflection 7th July 2024**

In today's Gospel true to the proverb, we hear that no prophet is honored by their own people, and Jesus is rejected by the people of Nazareth.

Jesus was back and wanted to share his gifts with his people. But instead of being welcomed, he found people watching him, studying him, and scrutinizing him. In effect they were saying 'Who does he think he is?' Why did they take offense at him? They didn't/couldn't/wouldn't believe. The real question was can anything good happen among us?' Jesus accomplished very little in Nazareth.

In 2009, 'Britain's Got Talent,' a woman made her way to the stage and said she wanted to sing like one of Britain's most acclaimed stars. The judges for the contest barely concealed their amusement, and after a few minutes, the audience was whispering their doubts and criticisms.

As Susan Boyle's beautiful voice delivered note after note, the shocked audience stood and applauded. Boyle had been judged unfairly by those who assumed they knew what to expect from her.

Three days after that broadcast, in her Herald Scotland column, Colette Douglas-Home, called Boyle's story a modern parable and a rebuke to the human tendency to judge others based on physical appearances, Now in the middle of winter 2024, it's easy to focus on signs of disaster all around us. Today's Gospel suggests when we do so, God is amazed and saddened at our lack of faith.

We aren't called to save the world.

Our call is to be part of the 10% who believe in God and in God's faith in us. If we have the courage to believe, we can be the ones to announce the good news in such a way, others begin to believe.

In the light of the Scripture today, we pledge to create an environment where fear of differences is replaced by encouraging all people to share their gifts. The world often pushes us to compete or conform, but God calls us to a different way: working together, needing each other, being the body of Christ.

May we in all the upheaval and chaos around us learn to act justly, love tenderly and walk humbly with the God who works with us towards a new heaven and earth.

John France

QUESTION BOX

Recently it was brought to the attention of the PPC, that often parishioners have matters of faith questions, and are not sure where to go with them for answers.

In an effort to help people with their questions, please place your question in the stainless steel mailbox outside the parish secretaries office, in the Callinan Centre, and the questions will be answered.

POINTS TO PONDER

Traditions have always been an important dimension of celebrating faith. Each age is a time of special grace, including our age of high technology.

Did You Know?

I went to Mass during Ordinary Time, but the priest wasn't wearing Green. Why?

Typically, the priest will be wearing green at Mass on Sundays during this time. However, some Sundays and weekday Masses are special days and white may be worn (or the occasional red). They may be in order of importance: Solemnities, Feasts, Obligatory Memorials, Optional Memorials. Some examples are: The Most Holy Trinity, *Corpus Christi*, Christ the King.

What is the Communion of Saints?

Without the intense focus that we have during Lent and Advent, Ordinary Time can be a good time to explore and reflect also on the lives of the saints on their feast days. As we follow the saints feast days there is much to be learnt and to ponder for our lives - what significance can we find and relate to our own season. Some saints you might like to check out are St. Thomas Aquinas - January 28, Our Lady of Fatima - May 13, St. Kateri Tekakwitha - July 14, St. Ignatius of Loyola - July 31, St. Augustine - August 28, St. Francis of Assisi - October 4, and St. John Paul II - October 22.

Other liturgical seasons have 'things to do' such as fasting, social justice... so how can you make

Ordinary Time special too?

What a great time to focus on the day-to-day life of Jesus. Find time to learn about the Saints. Find new ways to pray – this might come out of your study of the Saints. Create or rejuvenate your home prayer space. Spend time in nature and gain an even deeper appreciation for the wonderful creation that God has gifted us with. As we learn through the humanity of Jesus in this time so too can we learn to be more like Christ in our human world.

I'm not Catholic, how can I experience ordinary time? What can it mean to me?

With the hustle and bustle of our busy world it can be difficult to find order in the chaos. Ordinary Time comes to us after two of those very busy times in the religious, and secular, world - Christmas and Easter. Finding time to get reorganised, to breathe and to refocus on the importance of relationship, being in nature and reflecting on our lives cannot be understated. What a great time to find Christ in the small moments of a day.

NAIDOC WEEK

During NAIDOC Week (7 – 14 July) the Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle and Catholic Care Social Services Hunter-Manning will be participating in a community event in Newcastle.

As people of the Gospel, we remain committed to the task of closing the gap, healing the wounds, addressing systemic disadvantage and strengthening our relationship with our First Nations brothers and sisters. We are guided by the example of Jesus who untiringly sought out the sick, the poor, the vulnerable and the excluded in his messianic ministry among us.

Ecumenical Prayer Service-Christ Church Anglican Cathedral

Sunday 7th July 1.45pm 52 Church St Newcastle

BAPTISM PREPARATION PROGRAM

Baptism is a happy event and a time to ponder God's loving gifts in our lives. For those seeking baptism for their children our baptism preparation programs will usually run in the evenings on the second Tuesday of the Month starting at 7pm, bookings are essential. Our next Program will be held on **Tuesday 9th July 2024**. Bookings can be made online at the link at: <https://forms.office.com/r/wZtatkt01V> or by contacting our Parish Office.

POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTION FOR JULY 2024

We pray that the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick confer to those who receive it and their loved ones the power of the Lord and become ever more a visible sign of compassion and hope for all.

SEA SUNDAYS-JULY 21& 22

Catholics around Australia are being asked to reflect on and support seafarers over two Sea Sundays this year. Without seafarers, we would not have most of the items we rely on for daily living. They work tirelessly to bring into our ports products that sustain us and our economy. The two Sea Sundays – to be held on July 21 and 28 – will give an even greater opportunity for Catholics to pray for and support seafarers.

APPOINTMENT OF PRINCIPAL

Bishop Michael Kennedy has accepted the panel recommendation for the appointment of Mrs Freda Pascoe as the Principal of St Francis Xavier Primary Belmont, commencing Term 1 January 2025.

St Vincent de Paul –Thank You

The Morisset St Vincent de Paul Conference, would like to thank everyone for their generous donations to the recent Winter Cash Appeal. The ability to assist people in our community is made possible by your generosity. These donations help provide assistance to people wherever and whenever it is needed.

PARISH VISION

To help the PPC develop a succession plan and a parish vision for the future, the PPC is proposing that a questionnaire, canvassing the opinions of parishioners, be conducted at Mass in the coming weeks. This questionnaire will seek to find out the model of Parish parishioners would prefer, and how they could contribute with the implementing of their preferred model and ministry.

Whatever is the preferred model of parish, it will only work if people are prepared to contribute with their stewardship.

aMeN Camino-2024

Once again Diocesan pilgrims will be visiting the Church of St Patrick & St Bridget Cooranbong, as a part of the aMeN Camino 2024.

Their visit will include celebrated prayer and liturgy afternoon tea, and stories about the history of the church. The expected arrival is around 3pm on Monday 5th August.

The aMeN Camino takes place over five consecutive days. Pilgrims walk an average of 20km per day through the beautiful landscape of bush, beach and beyond which we are blessed to have in our backyard.

School Holidays

SJV School commenced their midyear school holidays on Friday. (8th-19 July)

Holiday Fun

Hey kids! Join us for fun, friendship, faith, and Olympic fever!

You are invited to this holiday's fun program on **Tuesday 16th July from 10.00am-2.00pm**. The day will give you a chance to spend time with your friends or make new friends, joining in our Olympic themed day.

Sessions are open to all children in primary school and will include team games, challenges, craft, bible stories, music and delicious food, all for free! Morning tea and lunch provided. Join us at St Patrick's Hall, Northcote Ave, Swansea

Registrations are essential and places are limited so join now. Register no later than Friday 12th July Contact: 0417 773 444

No Tuesday Liturgy

There will be **No** Tuesday Liturgy during the School Holidays. **8-19 July**.

Friday Mass will continue.- 10.30am

SUPPORTING THE CLERGY / 1st Collection

If you would like to make contributions to support the Clergy / 1st Collection please do so at Mass in the BLUE bucket or electronically using the Online Payments button on the Parish Website Home page, Diocese App, Electronic Funds Transfer Only Bank Account Name: Morisset Parish Presbytery BSB: 066739 No: 100004062 Ref: 1st Collection, SURNAME or Donation or contact the parish office to set up a direct debit.

SUPPORTING OUR PARISH / 2nd Collection

If you would like to make contributions to support our Parish please do so at Mass via the RED bucket or our Parish Electronic Funds Transfer Only Account the details are: Account Name: Morisset Parish Church BSB:066739 Account Number: 100004064 please use one of the following Payment References PG + your giver number or PG + SURNAME or SURNAME you can also use the Online Payments or Planned Giving button on the Parish Website Home page or the Diocese App. If you are considering taking up **planned giving** you may like to know that **a percentage of the contributions are tax deductible**. If you would like to know more or set up planned giving please contact the Parish Office.

WEEKEND ROSTERS			
		<u>THIS WEEK</u>	<u>NEXT WEEK</u>
<u>PRESIDERS</u>	5PM 9.30AM	Mass Mass	Mass Mass
<u>PROCLAIMERS:</u>	5PM 9.30AM	R Hay H White	L Hutchinson R Hay
<u>PSALMIST:</u>	5PM 9.30AM	K Amon J France	M Foo K Lendon
<u>GIFTS</u>	5PM 9.30AM	K Lendon L McRae P Melvey	P Robertson B Cox J Hutchins K Amon
<u>SERVERS</u>	5PM 9.30AM	M Melvey F Dyson R Lawandos	M Melvey V Paulo
<u>AV</u>	5PM 9.30AM	J Vipan E Lawandos	D Peterson U France
<u>WELCOMERS</u>	5PM 9.30AM	P Melvey C Lawandos	H White A Walker G Walker
<u>CHURCH CLEANING</u>	COOR MOR	XXXX B Hutcheson D Whitten	K Lendon C Lawandos K Lendon

The Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle has an abiding commitment to promote the safety, welfare and wellbeing of children and vulnerable adults.

*Our Parish supports The Diocese in its zero-tolerance approach to abuse. Every one of us must each day commit ourselves individually and collectively to safeguard each child and every vulnerable person to whom we interact with. **Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.***

If you have any concerns for a child or vulnerable adult please contact the Office of Safeguarding by Phone: 02 4979 1390 or Email: childprotection@mn.catholic.org.au, or visit their website for further information: www.officeofsafeguarding.org.au

UPCOMING FEAST DAYS MEMORIALS AND SOLEMINITIES

- SAINT BENEDICT (M) - 11TH JULY
- SAINT BONAVENTURE (M) - 15TH JULY
- SAINT MARY MAGDALENE (F) - 22ND JULY
- SAINT JAMES (F) - 25TH JULY
- SAINTS JOACHIM AND ANNE (M) - 26TH JULY
- SAINTS MARTHA, MARY AND LAZARUS (M) - 29TH JULY
- SAINT IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA (M) - 31ST JULY
- SAINT ALPHONSUS MARY DE LIGUORI (M) - 1ST AUGUST
- SAINT DOMINIC (M) - 3RD AUGUST
- SAINT JOHN VIANNEY (M) - 4TH AUGUST
- THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD (F) - 6TH AUGUST

Please pray for all those who are sick: in hospital or at home, especially those living with a life threatening disease:

Anna Dussin, Mary Carapiet, Monica Gray, Koby Smith, Annette Boyd, Mary Monaghan, Clare Wallington, Donna Hazzard, Pam Mullaly, Tintumol Thomas, Peter Martyn, Bernadette Martin, Bruce Gillett.

Recently Deceased: Joan Gillett

Please pray for those who have been called to eternal life may they always be in our prayers.



Prayer Requests for the Bulletin

If you would like the parish to pray for a family member who is sick, recently deceased or you would like remembered please call or email the parish office or complete a prayer card for each person and place in the mail box near the parish office door. Cards are available at the back of the church and at the Parish Office.

All prayer requests require permission from a family member or the person. Due to Australian privacy laws.

An Act of Spiritual Communion

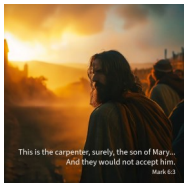
My Jesus,
I believe that You
are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.
I love You above all things,
and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment
receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as if You were already there and unite
myself wholly to You.
Never permit me to be separated from You.
Amen.



Live stream Mass every Sunday at 9.30am at www.mn.catholic.org.au/places/live-stream



We are committed to the
**NATIONAL CATHOLIC
SAFEGUARDING STANDARDS**



SUNDAY PRAYER SERVICE
Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B
Aboriginal and
Torres Strait Islander Sunday
Sunday 07 Jul 2024

The Introductory Rites
Acknowledgement of Country

We Acknowledge the Awabakal and Darkinjung nations as the Traditional Custodians who have walked upon and cared for this land our parish encompasses for thousands of years, and honour and pay respect to, Elders past, present and emerging. We acknowledge the continued deep spiritual attachment and relationship of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples to this country and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of reconciliation.

Gathering

The Lectionary/Roman Missal or a Bible may be placed on a table together with a candle and a cross.

Sign of the Cross

Leader:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All:

Amen.

Greeting

Leader:

Blessed be Jesus who makes us one,
and strengthens us by the power of his Spirit.

All:

Blessed be God forever.

Introductory Remarks

Leader (in these or similar words):

Friends in Christ,
although we cannot celebrate the Eucharist this day,
we gather in God's name
for when two or more come together
God is always with us.
We worship in union with the whole Church
keeping this day of the Lord holy.

ATSI Sunday Introduction

Leader:

Today, on the 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time, we join the Australian Bishops and the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council in celebrating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday. As Australians, we are fortunate to share our home with the world's oldest continuing culture.

On this day, we honour and acknowledge God's presence in the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, who have upheld their rich and diverse Cultural Traditions for thousands of years. We give thanks for the deep and enduring legacy of these ancient peoples and their contributions to our Continent.

Let us also take a moment to recognise and appreciate the land on which our Parish is situated and the people who have nurtured it over time. Together, let us continue to cultivate a spirit of unity and respect for all cultures and traditions within our community.

Opening Rite
LITANY OF PRAISE

Leader:

Before listening to the Word of God let us praise the Lord Jesus Christ who has raised us to new life.

A brief period of silence follows.

Leader:

Lord Jesus, you are the wisdom of God: Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, you come to us in our weakness: Christ, have mercy.

All: Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, your grace is enough for us: Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

All:

Amen.

Opening Prayer

Leader:

Let us pray.

All pause for silent prayer.

God of all kindness

Jesus loved little children

for he was meek and humble of heart.

Teach us to learn his ways

and be gentle people of peace.

We ask this through Jesus Christ,

with the Holy Spirit,

for ever and ever.

Lord Jesus,

though we may at times

be rejected and ridiculed,

give us strength to bear witness

to the truth of God's message.

We make this prayer through

our Risen Lord Jesus.

All:

Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

Ezekiel 2:2-5

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

The people are rebellious; they shall know there will be a prophet in their midst.

The spirit came into me and made me stand up, and I heard the Lord speaking to me. He said, 'Son of man, I am sending you up to the Israelites, to the rebels who have turned against me. Till now they and their ancestors have been in revolt against me. The sons are defiant and obstinate; I am sending you to them, to say, "The Lord says this." Whether they listen or not, this set of rebels shall know there is a prophet among them.'

To indicate the end of the reading, the reader acclaims:

The word of the Lord.

All reply:

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 122. R. v.2

**(R.) Our eyes are fixed on the Lord,
pleading for his mercy.**

1. To you have I lifted up my eyes,
you who dwell in the heavens:
my eyes, like the eyes of slaves
on the hand of their lords. **(R.)**

2. Like the eyes of a servant
on the hand of his mistress,
so our eyes are on the Lord our God
till he shows us his mercy. (R.)
3. Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy.
We are filled with contempt.
Indeed all too full is our soul
with the scorn of the rich,
with the proud man's disdain. (R.)

Second Reading

2 Corinthians 12:7-10

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to the Corinthians
I will glory in my infirmities so that the power of Christ may dwell in me.

In view of the extraordinary nature of these revelations, to stop me from getting too proud I was given a thorn in the flesh, an angel of Satan to beat me and stop me from getting too proud! About this thing, I have pleaded with the Lord three times for it to leave me, but he has said, 'My grace is enough for you: my power is at its best in weakness.' So I shall be very happy to make my weaknesses my special boast so that the power of Christ may stay over me, and that is why I am quite content with my weaknesses, and with insults, hardships, persecutions, and the agonies I go through for Christ's sake. For it is when I am weak that I am strong.

To indicate the end of the reading, the reader acclaims:

The word of the Lord.

All reply:

Thanks be to God.

Gospel

Reader:

From the holy Gospel according to **Mark**

All:

Glory to you, O Lord.

Mark 6:1-6

A prophet is despised only in his own country.

Jesus went to his home town and his disciples accompanied him. With the coming of the sabbath he began teaching in the synagogue and most of them were astonished when they heard him. They said, 'Where did the man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been granted him, and these miracles that are worked through him? This is the carpenter, surely, the son of Mary, the brother of James and Joset and Jude and Simon? His sisters, too, are they not here with us?' And they would not accept him. And Jesus said to them, 'A prophet is only despised in his own country among his own relations and in his own house'; and he could work no miracle there, though he cured a few sick people by laying his hands on them. He was amazed at their lack of faith.

Reader:

The Gospel of the Lord.

All:

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

All are seated.

Reflection on the Word

A short period of reflection may be observed.

Q. Have you ever had an experience like that of Jesus when he returned home?

Q. Have you ever reacted to an old friend in the way Jesus' childhood neighbours did?

Q. Have you experienced an unlikely or unexpected encounter with the presence of God?

Q. Why do some people find change and growth threatening?

Q. What do you feel is the message of this passage for a contemporary audience?

Profession of Faith

Leader:

In union with the whole Church
let us profess our faith.

All:

**I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,**

At the words that follow, up to and including the Virgin Mary, all bow.

**who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayer of the Faithful

Leader: Today, as we celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday, we recognize and honour the diverse Cultures and histories of the First Australians. Let us come together in a Spirit of unity and respect, bringing our Prayers and worries before God.

Reader: Let us pray for our Holy Father, Pope Francis, all priests and religious and laity, especially those who are working with First Nations Peoples. That we may stand firm in the teachings of Christ and strong in proclaiming the Gospel. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: We pray for all World Leaders that they strive to attain peace, justice and equality for all people. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: We pray for our Elders in our Communities, that they will be guided by the Holy Spirit and lead us in maintaining the dignity and value of each person. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: We pray for our youth, that they will listen to and follow Jesus of the Gospel in everything that they do. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: We pray for all peoples, both First Nations people and non-Indigenous people, that we will all learn to walk together and serve and respect each other. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: We pray for the gift of compassion that we may reach out to all who are oppressed, especially to women and men who struggle for equality and fullness of life. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: We pray for all who are sick, that they will be comforted by Christ's healing touch. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: We pray for everyone who has died, that they will sleep with Christ in eternal life. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: God, our refuge and our strength, grant that what we ask in faith we may truly obtain. Through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

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The Lord's Prayer

Leader:

At the Saviour's command
and formed by divine teaching,
we dare to say:

All:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,
now and forever.
Amen.**

The Concluding Rite

Blessing

Leader:

May the Lord be with us
and protect us
now and for ever.

All make the sign of the cross during the blessing.

All:

Amen.

Dismissal

Leader:

Let us go in the peace to love and serve the Lord.

All:

Thanks be to God.

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FAITH MATTERS: The Sacred Heart

Since the 16th century, the Church has assigned special devotions to each month of the year, June is devoted to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. ROSEMARY MCALLISTER PUBLISHED JUNE 25, 2024

Since the 16th century, the Church has assigned special devotions to each month of the year, June is devoted to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. This day of solemnity is held on the first Friday following the Feast of Corpus Christi which happened to be June 7 this year, and a group gathered in the Diocesan Library for Formation Friday to explore the historical and cultural context of this devotion. Those gathered expressed how the image and devotions of the Sacred Heart of Jesus were part of their upbringing. This image hung on the wall of most Catholic households, I still have the image that hung in my grandparents lounge room, one participant recalled the image hanging in their grandparent's bedroom, another spoke of deciding to buy a particular house because this image was the first thing they saw when they walked into the property, another recalled weekly Friday devotions that occurred in classrooms and the home. While the image and devotional prayers were well known its origins were not. The most significant source for the devotion to the Sacred Heart known today was Margaret Mary Alacoque (1647–1690), a nun of the Order of the Visitation of Holy Mary, who claimed to have received apparitions of Jesus Christ between 1673 and 1675 in the Burgundian French village of Paray-le-Monial.

As she prayed before the Blessed Sacrament in her community chapel, she saw Christ's heart pierced and bleeding with flames and a crown of thorns. According to St Margaret Mary, 'He told me to behold his heart which so loved humanity. Then he seemed to take my very heart from me and place it there in his heart.' Her spiritual director a young Jesuit priest saw her visions to be authentic as they were rooted in Scripture and tradition and these experiences were recorded.

Fast forward 200 years and Pope Leo XII was about to undergo surgery at the age of 89 and in his contemplative prayer he rereads a letter from a cloistered nun who claims she has received powerful visions from the Lord. In her letter she made a bold request, Jesus wants to consecrate the entire world to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Pope Leo XII promised that if he pulled through the surgery, he would do just this, after prayer and consultation he made this consecration in 1899, 125 years ago this year. The consecration has been renewed every year by every pope since then, Pope Leo XII on the eve of the new century and by Pope John Paul II in 1999 on eve of the new millennium.

If you enter our own Sacred Heart Cathedral in Hamilton, you will see images of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and to the left a side chapel devoted to Margaret Mary Alacoque.

Alacoque believed that in her apparitions Jesus promised twelve specific blessings to those who practice devotion to his Sacred Heart. These promises can be viewed in the side chapel.

If we look to number nine of the promises, I will bless those places wherein the image of My Sacred Heart shall be exposed and venerated, this might explain why the image of the Sacred Heart was in so many homes in times gone by.

One thing has not changed, and that is the condition of the heart. It is seen as a centre of emotion, a place of prayer and decision. We listen from the heart and act from the heart. In 2024 we can look at our contemporary society and consider "where is the heart?" Pope Francis announced earlier this month that he is preparing to write a document dedicated to the devotion of the Sacred Heart to "illuminate the path of ecclesial renewal, but also to say something significant to a world that seems to have lost its heart."

Pope Leo XII saw the beginning of a materialistic society in 1899 and wrote about this in the encyclical Rerum Novarum, On Human Labour. This groundbreaking document released during the height of the industrial revolution and child labour was the beginning of a list of church documents highlighting concerns for humanity and our world. These documents along with the wisdom from the Hebrew prophets and Jesus' recorded actions form the foundations of the Catholic Social Teachings which are centred on the heart, love, mission and outreach.

Pope Leo's act of consecration was pastoral and prophetic, he had a deep desire to entrust all of humanity to the Heart of Christ. This acts as a symbol for Jesus' love for us, but also provides us with a reminder that we are called to love one another.

Our next Formation Friday, 5 July will focus on relationships and the Trinity explored through the Divine Dance. To register and to find out what is happening in the library go to: www.mn.catholic.org.au/places/library



**KEEP THE FIRE
BURNING!
BLAK, LOUD
AND PROUD**

7-14 JULY 2024



NAIDOC 2024

ECUMENICAL PRAYER SERVICE

Coinciding with National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday, all are welcome to attend this year's NAIDOC WEEK 2024 Ecumenical Prayer Service.

The theme this year is "Keep the Fire Burning. Blak, Loud and Proud!" Celebrate and honour the rich cultural heritage and contributions of our First Nations people.

Venue: Christ Church Anglican Cathedral grounds, 52 Church St NEWCASTLE

Time: 1:45pm for 2pm service

Date: Sunday 7 July 2024

*Optional Cathedral tower climb after the service,
weather permitting, limited numbers.*

RSVP please via QR code by Wednesday 3 July

