



**St John  
Vianney**  
Parish Morisset



**TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR B 13 OCTOBER 2024**

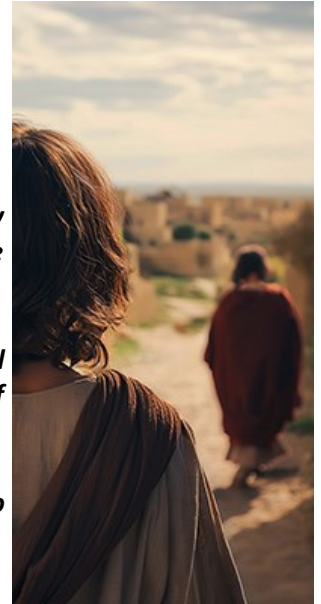
*Today's Gospel is very challenging. We hear a man put this question to Jesus, 'Good master, what must I do to inherit eternal life?'*

*On the face of it, he was a good and honourable. Well, not as far as the Gospel was concerned.*

*The whole episode raises many questions. Does it mean we have to live in poverty to follow Jesus? Does it mean we are to have no lasting relationships in order to take on the role of the disciple?*

*The Life of the poor, with its hardship and suffering is, not set forth in Mark's Gospel as an ideal for the Christian disciple. But neither is the desire for possessions and the accumulation of wealth.*

*How might the words in this Gospel challenge me to "sell"- literally or figuratively- in order to follow Jesus more closely?*



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  
Mal Melvey  
Pam Melvey  
Kerry Lendon  
Rod Hay

**PARISH SECRETARY:** Rosanna Suckling

**PARISH OFFICE:** 60 Yambo Street, Morisset, PO Box 87, Ph: 02 4973.6859  
**Office Hours:** 9.00 am to 2.00pm—Monday to Friday (except public holidays)  
(We ask that you make an appointment to come to the office)  
**Morisset Parish Office email:** [morparish@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:morparish@mn.catholic.org.au)  
**Morisset Parish Web site:** [www.vianneymorisset.org](http://www.vianneymorisset.org)  
**Morisset Parish Facebook :** <https://www.facebook.com/stjvparish>

**UPCOMING WORSHIP TIMES :**

Saturday	12th October 5pm Mass—Cooranbong
Sunday	13th October 9.30am Mass—Morisset
Tuesday	15th October 9.30am Liturgy—Morisset
Friday	18th October 10.30am Mass—Morisset
Saturday	19th October 5pm Family Mass—Morisset
Sunday	20th October 9.30am Mass—Morisset
Tuesday	22nd October 9.30am Liturgy—Morisset
Friday	25th October 10.30am Mass—Morisset
Saturday	26th October 5pm Mass—Cooranbong
Sunday	27th October 9.30am Mass—Morisset
Tuesday	29th October 9.30am Liturgy—Morisset
Friday	1st November 10.30am Mass—Morisset
Saturday	2nd November 5pm Family Mass—Morisset
Sunday	3rd November 9.30am Mass—Morisset

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## TWENTY-EIGHTTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Year B —

### Reflection 13th October 2024

If I try to put myself in the position of the young man who approaches Jesus, I find Mark's Gospel for this Sunday truly confronting. Like the young man, I seek to obey the commandments (though maybe not always perfectly) and, like the young man, I hope for eventual union with God after my death. However, Jesus told him, "There is one thing you lack." For the young man, his love for his material wealth kept him from taking up Christ's invitation to follow him. This left me questioning just what it is that I am lacking. Perhaps the Gospel today is an invitation for each of us to examine our relationship with God.

When Christ said, "It is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God", the disciples, too, were left with doubts and questioned, "In that case, who can be saved?" These were men who had left everything behind to follow Christ. His words reassured them that anyone who had left everything behind for the sake of the Gospel were assured eternal life.. "For men it is impossible, but not for God: because everything is possible for God."

Some are called to devote their lives to God as priests or religious, but what of the rest of us? We know, as we are told in the letter to the Hebrews, that "the word of God is alive and active", so we need to pay attention. We know that God offers us unconditional love, but we also know that, at the end of our time, we face a judgement:

"everything is uncovered and open to the eyes of the one to whom we must give an account of ourselves".

It may be helpful to us, as we each examine our relationship with God, to find guidance in Christ's answer to the Pharisees, who tried to test Jesus by asking him what was the most important commandment in the law.

He answered: "*You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind.* This is the first and most important of the commandments. But there is another one like it: *You shall love your neighbour as yourself.* The whole law and the prophets are founded on these two commandments". (Matt.22:37-40)

God, our Creator, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, wants us in right relationship, with God at the front and centre of all that we do and in all our relationships with others.

How do we know how to achieve this? Perhaps we can be guided by Solomon's words:

"I prayed, and understanding was given to me;  
I entreated, and the spirit of Wisdom came to me."

Let us pray for the wisdom to discern what God wants of us.  
Pam Melvey

### 2025 Year C Liturgical Book Orders

If you would to order for the new liturgical year "Break Open the Word" or an "Ordo" or "God's Word 2025" or a copy of "The New Community Bible" please complete an order form at : <https://forms.office.com/r/DbUYaABUEC> or pick up a form at the back of the church or call the parish office.

## GOSPEL

### Mark 10:17-30

*Go and sell whatever you have and come follow me.*

Jesus was setting out on a journey when a man ran up, knelt before him and put this question to him, 'Good master, what must I do to inherit eternal life?' Jesus said to him, 'Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: You must not kill; You must not commit adultery; You must not steal; You must not bring false witness; You must not defraud; Honour your father and mother.' And he said to him, 'Master, I have kept all these from my earliest days.' Jesus looked steadily at him and loved him, and he said, 'There is one thing you lack. Go and sell everything you own and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.' But his face fell at these words and he went away sad, for he was a man of great wealth.

Jesus looked round and said to his disciples, 'How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God!' The disciples were astounded by these words, but Jesus insisted, 'My children,' he said to them, 'how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.' They were more astonished than ever. 'In that case' they said to one another, 'who can be saved?' Jesus gazed at them. 'For men' he said, 'it is impossible, but not for God: because everything is possible for God.'

Peter took this up. 'What about us?' he asked him. 'We have left everything and followed you.' Jesus said, 'I tell you solemnly, there is no one who has left house, brothers, sisters, father, children or land for my sake and for the sake of the gospel who will not be repaid a hundred times over, houses, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and land – not without persecutions – now in this present time and, in the world to come, eternal life.'

### Weekday Liturgy

Liturgy in the Morisset Church will recommence this Tuesday 9.30am.

### All Saints/All Souls Day:

The whole month of November has traditionally been dedicated to the theme of death, and those who have died. The month begins with the Feast of All Saints on November 1, and the next day, with the Feast of All Souls. To help celebrate both Feast Days, Mass will be held in the Morisset Church on Friday 1st November 10.30am (All Saints) and again Friday 1st November in the Morisset Church 7.00pm (Vigil All Souls)

Parishioners will have the opportunity to submit the names of their deceased relatives and on forms provided in the coming weeks.

### **With A Light Heart**

As part of the admission procedure at a local hospital, a young nurse had to ask each patient if they were allergic to anything. If they answered yes, the allergy was printed on a band and placed on a patient's wrist. One day the nurse asked an elderly woman if she had any allergies. She replied she couldn't eat bananas as she would break out in itchy red spots. The nurse was shocked when several hours later the old woman's irate son stormed into the nurses' station shouting, "Who's responsible for labelling my mother 'bananas'?"

### **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 12th November 2024**. Bookings can be made online at the link at: <https://forms.office.com/r/wZtatk01V> or by contacting our Parish Office.

### **Parish Viability Meetings**

Over the last two years meetings have been held at various locations around the Diocese to look at the viability of parishes. These meetings have been attended by Diocesan Leaders and Governance Teams, as well as Parish Leaders, Parish Pastoral Councils and Parish Finance Councils. Information has been tabled and feedback sought from those gathered.

In 2022 Post Covid meetings were held with clergy, PFC, PPC, Principals and Diocesan Staff. These meetings were around Related Party Transactions, with the change in NSW Education Act 2016, and the possibility of a licence fee being charged. It was hoped that the licence fee would solve the financial issues parishes were experiencing as a result of Covid. The NSW Bishops would not agree to its implementation.

With the increasing costs of insurance and the impact of Covid had on parishes, it has been crucial that these meetings have explored the operation of parishes. Systems that were implemented in the 1990s have now come under review.

Working parties have been established to support parishes in their obligation to provide a car for their priest (s). These working parties are to provide clear guidelines for such things as replacement and associated costs in the running of a priest's car.

Other systems under review just to mention a few, include Priestly Sustentation and proposed changes to support the Sick and Retired Priests.

More Diocesan meetings will be held, and you will be informed of the outcomes.

In the meantime it is business as usual in our parish.

### **Melbourne Cup**

It is planned that on Tuesday 5th November 2024 there will be a Melbourne Cup function held in the Callinan Centre. If you are interested in attending contact Marcia or Michell Foo.

### **Christmas Mass Ministries.**

Christmas is fast approaching! Please review your calendars. Soon we will be seeking help with Christmas Mass ministries, and general assistance for 'Set up' and 'Pack up'

### **Catholic Mission Appeal**

The Annual Catholic Mission Appeal will be held 19/ 20 October Students of Saint John Vianney School will choose the Kingdom during October to show their priorities are in the right order. This year we are asked to support the Kingdom of God by showing a concern for the poor, particularly in Mongolia. Appeal envelopes will be on the seats October 19/20. You can also sponsor students on the 'Socktober' website.

### **WHS Issue**

The damaged and uneven concrete at the entry of the Morisset Church has been replaced.

### **LGBTIQ Liturgy**

The LGBTIQ+ forum invites you to celebrate a Diocesan liturgy with LGBTIQ+ people, their families, friends and supporters at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church. Friday 18 October Where: 16 Tighes Terrace, Tighes Hill Time: 6pm Contact:

### **Clergy and Parish Leaders Retreat**

Recently Bishop Michael, together with Clergy, Deacons and Parish Leaders from around the Diocese, spent one week gathered at Kirkton Park Pokolbin for their annual retreat.

The Retreat Director was Fr Kahalid Marogi. Fr Kahalid was born and raised in Iraq. He lived in Baghdad during the First Gulf War, while bombs rained down. Fr Khalid understands well the issues that refugees and asylum-seekers face. His family and family friends were among those who fled Iraq which eventually led to Australia in the late 1990s. He has held many ministry roles since his arrival in Australia.

### **Mistakes with Electronic Bank Transfer Payments for Collections**

Thankyou to those who regularly contribute to the parish (planned giving and second collection) and the clergy / first collection via Electronic Bank Transfer.

We have had some deposits for the clergy / first collection received into the Parish account instead of the Clergy / Presbytery account.

We ask that if you are contributing to the clergy / first collection via Electronic Bank Transfer could you please check that you are using the Following details: Account Name: Morisset Parish Presbytery BSB: 066739 No: 100004062 Reference: Surname or 1st Collection. If you need more clarification contact the Parish Office.

### 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	J France R Hay	P Melvey H White
<u>PSALMIST:</u>	5PM 9.30AM	H White L McRae	J Vipan D Whitten
<u>GIFTS</u>	5PM 9.30AM	B Cox TBA P Melvey M Melvey	F Pascoe L McRae K Lendon
<u>SERVERS</u>	5PM 9.30AM	M Melvey R Lawandos	J Lawandos V Paulo
<u>AV</u>	5PM 9.30AM	M Foo D Peterson	E Lawandos M Foo
<u>WELCOMERS</u>	5PM 9.30AM	P Melvey M Melvey	H White P Melvey
<u>CHURCH CLEANING</u>	COOR MOR	TBA R Hay C Hay	XXXX A Walker G Walker

*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 person please contact the Office of Safeguarding Phone: 02 4979 1390*

*Email: [childprotection@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:childprotection@mn.catholic.org.au),*

*or visit their website for further information:*

*[www.officeofsafeguarding.org.au](http://www.officeofsafeguarding.org.au)*

### UPCOMING FEAST DAYS MEMORIALS AND SOLEMINITIES

OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY (M) - 7TH OCT  
 SAINT TERESA OF JESUS (M) -15TH OCT  
 SAINT IGNATIUS OF ANTIOCH (M) -17TH OCT  
 SAINT LUKE (F) - 18TH OCT  
 SAINTS SIMON AND JUDE (F) - 28TH OCT  
 ALL SAINTS (S) - 1ST NOV  
 THE COMMEMORATION OF ALL THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED –2ND NOV  
 SAINT CHARLES BORROMEIO (M) - 4TH NOV  
 THE DEDICATION OF THE LATERAN BASILICA (F) - 9TH NOV  
 SAINT MARTIN OF TOURS (M) - 11TH NOV

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

Frank Simons, Anna Dussin, Mary Carapiet, Koby Smith, Annette Boyd, Mary Monaghan, Clare Wallington, Donna Hazzard, Pam Mullaly, Tintumol Thomas, Peter Martyn, Bernadette Martin, Bruce 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

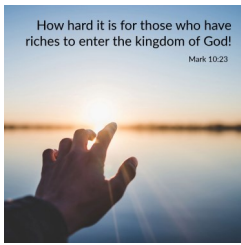
My Jesus,  
 I believe that You  
 are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.  
 I love You above all things,  
 and I desire to receive You into my soul.  
 Since I cannot at this moment  
 receive You sacramentally,  
 come at least spiritually into my heart.  
 I embrace You as if You were already there 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](http://www.mn.catholic.org.au/places/live-stream)**



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



How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God!  
Mark 10:23

## SUNDAY PRAYER SERVICE

### Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B Sunday 13 Oct 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.

#### 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 summon all to follow you: Lord have mercy.

All: Lord have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you have shown us the way to the Father: Christ have mercy.

All: Christ have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you are the promise of eternal life: Lord have mercy.

All: Lord have mercy.

Leader:

May almighty God have mercy on us,  
forgive us our sins,  
and bring us to everlasting life.

All:

Amen.

#### Opening Prayer

Leader:

Let us pray.

All pause for silent prayer.

God our Father,  
you open the doors  
and welcome all to your feast of love.  
May we ready and worthy when you call our names.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
for ever and ever.

All:

Amen.

#### The Liturgy of the Word

##### First Reading

Wisdom 7:7-11

A reading from the book of Wisdom

*In comparison to wisdom, I held riches as nothing.*

I prayed, and understanding was given me;  
I entreated, and the spirit of Wisdom came to me.  
I esteemed her more than sceptres and thrones;  
compared with her, I held riches as nothing.  
I reckoned no priceless stone to be her peer,  
for compared with her, all gold is a pinch of sand,  
and beside her silver ranks as mud.  
I loved her more than health or beauty,  
preferred her to the light,  
since her radiance never sleeps.  
In her company all good things came to me,  
at her hands riches not to be numbered.

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

The word of the Lord.

All reply:

Thanks be to God.

##### Responsorial Psalm

Ps 89:12-17. R. v.14

(R.) Fill us with your love, O Lord, and we will sing for joy!

1. Make us know the shortness of our life  
that we may gain wisdom of heart.  
Lord, relent! Is your anger forever?  
Show pity to your servants. (R.)
2. In the morning, fill us with your love;  
we shall exult and rejoice all our days.  
Give us joy to balance our affliction  
for the years when we knew misfortune. (R.)
3. Show forth your work to your servants;  
let your glory shine on their children.  
Let the favour of the Lord be upon us:  
give success to the work of our hands. (R.)

#### Second Reading

Hebrews 4:12-13

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews  
The word of God discerns the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

The word of God is something alive and active; it cuts like any double-edged sword but more finely: it can slip through the place where the soul is divided from the spirit, or joints from the marrow; it can judge the secret emotions and thoughts. No created thing can hide from him; everything is uncovered and open to the eyes of the one to whom we must give account of ourselves.

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 10:17-30**

*Go and sell whatever you have and come follow me.*

Jesus was setting out on a journey when a man ran up, knelt before him and put this question to him, 'Good master, what must I do to inherit eternal life?' Jesus said to him, 'Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: You must not kill; You must not commit adultery; You must not steal; You must not bring false witness; You must not defraud; Honour your father and mother.' And he said to him, 'Master, I have kept all these from my earliest days.' Jesus looked steadily at him and loved him, and he said, 'There is one thing you lack. Go and sell everything you own and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.' But his face fell at these words and he went away sad, for he was a man of great wealth.

Jesus looked round and said to his disciples, 'How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God!' The disciples were astounded by these words, but Jesus insisted, 'My children,' he said to them, 'how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.' They were more astonished than ever. 'In that case' they said to one another, 'who can be saved?' Jesus gazed at them. 'For men' he said, 'it is impossible, but not for God: because everything is possible for God.'

Peter took this up. 'What about us?' he asked him. 'We have left everything and followed you.' Jesus said, 'I tell you solemnly, there is no one who has left house, brothers, sisters, father, children or land for my sake and for the sake of the gospel who will not be repaid a hundred times over, houses, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and land – not without persecutions – now in this present time and, in the world to come, eternal life.'

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. Jesus told the man, 'There is one thing you lack.' What did the man lack?

Q. What prevented the man from doing as Jesus instructed?

Q. Why does Jesus insist that the kingdom of God is so difficult to enter?

Q. Is giving to charitable causes an adequate response to today's gospel?

Q. How is Jesus' radical challenge being realised in our world / your community?

## 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: Dear friends, let us bring our prayers before God who listens to all in need.

Reader: That the Holy Church will be guided by the Spirit in bringing peace and justice to all nations.

(pause)

In your mercy:

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: That by putting aside our own gain, we will ease the pain of those less fortunate than ourselves.

(pause)

In your mercy:

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: That we may show compassion in assisting people devastated by famine or poverty.

(pause)

In your mercy:

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: That the Word of God will strengthen our commitment as followers of Christ.

(pause)

In your mercy:

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: That the sick will find comfort and healing in the boundless love of God.

(pause)

In your mercy:

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: That those who have died will enter the kingdom of God.

(pause)

In your mercy:

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: Loving God, your words are truth and life. Hear our prayers and open our hearts to all who seek your truth. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen.**

## 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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*The English translation of the Psalm Responses, the Alleluia and Gospel Verses, and the Lenten Gospel Acclamations, and the Titles, Summaries, and Conclusion of the Readings, from the Lectionary for Mass © 1997, 1981, 1968, International Committee on English in the Liturgy, Inc. All rights reserved.*

*The prayers are from the English Translation of the Roman Missal © 2010 International Committee on English in the Liturgy Inc. (ICEL). All rights reserved.*

## A storyteller's legacy

It's not every day that one of Australia's finest musicians, who's worked with industry legends Prince and Led Zeppelin, performed for Queen Elizabeth II (twice), toured the world multiple times and performed on top of the iconic Sydney Opera House, ends up in a Catholic School in Aberdeen.

Madie Leeming PUBLISHED September 07, 2024

But that's exactly what happened when decorated didgeridoo player, Mark Atkins, joined St Joseph's Catholic College to open their yarnning circle and celebrate NAIDOC week.

Leading the male students in a moving didgeridoo performance as a smoking ceremony marked the new chapter in the school's history, Atkins was completely in his element.

His path to working with students isn't conventional. With a career spanning over 45 years, Atkins will be the first to tell you there's been many twists and turns leading him to where he is today.

Descending from the Yamatji people of Western Australia, Atkins is of mixed heritage; Aboriginal and Irish Australian.

"I grew up during a funny time. We were scared we were going to be taken away and assimilated into being European, and our way of life would be taken away," said Atkins.

"I was fighting all the time. My schooling wasn't like it is today. I started playing as drummer at about 10 years old and I got caught up in it."

With his career kicking off in the 1970's, Atkins said it was the 'good old days', that entailed all things rock'n'roll.

After a long stint living this lifestyle, Atkins found the need to ground himself, so went up north. This is where he first started playing the didgeridoo, a decision he says saved his life.

"I would have ended up in jail or dead. And now the didgeridoo has taken me around the world," he said.

Around the time COVID hit, Atkins slowed down for the first time in decades. This allowed him to start working with children who had similar backgrounds to him.

"I was going out bush, cutting my own logs and getting back to basics. Doing smaller, intimate gigs instead of big stages.

"I started doing these workshops with kids where I would just talk to them, about mental health and general things, I created a space where anybody could come and sit down with me," he said.

Even when the world opened up following the pandemic, working with children and keeping culture alive remained a priority for Atkins.

"A lot of culture hasn't been getting passed on. When you disconnect from the country, from the land, that's that. That's how things become extinct."

Atkins is a legendary storyteller. His music, his shows and his art in all forms is centred around story telling.

"It's something I can leave behind," he said.

For a man who has experienced incomprehensible highs and his fair share of hurdles, there is plenty of wisdom he's acquired that can be passed on to future generations.

Year 12 St Joseph's Catholic College student Griffith Lloyd said getting to play with Mark Atkins was a once-in-a lifetime experience.

"To learn from someone who has a cultural background like us and has turned his life into such a success is inspiring for us all. It reminds us that the sky is the limit and that our culture can be our superpower," Griffith said.

As for Atkins, his advice to future generations is simple.

"You need to be honest with yourself and respect yourself, because that way you learn how to deal with other people.

"And the most important thing is to follow your dreams. Don't let anybody tell you what you can and can't do. There's more than one way over."

## Advent 2024: Awaiting Hope

We are called during this holy time to wait with hope knowing the joys of what is to come with the arrival of Christ. Awaiting Hope is a Diocesan resource that invites all members of the community to gather a circle of people – family, friends, colleagues, ministry teams to reflect mystagogically on the Advent Gospels. This is an opportunity to encounter Christ where we are, to pay attention to what Christ reveals in the scripture and the living tradition of our faith, to share this, to connect it to our life now and to be changed by it.

To access the resource, go to: <https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/liturgy/liturgical-year/advent-christmas-1/>

## Pope Francis's Prayer Intention for October

We pray that the Church continue to sustain in all ways a Synodal lifestyle, as a sign of co-responsibility, promoting the participation, the communion and the mission shared among priests, religious and lay people.

## Valuable life lessons

St Clare's High School, Taree students are learning essential life skills by helping community members who need support to access hot, nutritious meals.

Brooke Cross PUBLISHED September 07, 2024

Year Ten students have regularly volunteered at the Taree Community Kitchen for nearly a decade, and the program has no plans to slow down.

Not only are students learning about the world around them, but volunteering also provides an opportunity to assist with food preparation, serve meals, and learn about the lived experiences of people in their local area.

Tanille Gardner, School Leader of Learning - Religious Education, says this initiative embodies the school's vision of helping others.

"The students' commitment to helping those who need it strengthens their faith and fosters a sense of unity and purpose within the community," said Tanille.

"Volunteering is a practical way to teach our students the Catholic values of compassion, love and hospitality."

Community Kitchen volunteer Carol Healy says their time at the Kitchen has been a positive eye-opener for many students.

"The experience is a bit of reality check as not everyone locally is as lucky as they may be, having a roof over their heads and enough food and clothes to live a comfortable life," said Carol.

The people they support at the Community Kitchen come from all walks of life, and Tanille says this has been quite a shock for participants.

"Volunteering has changed their perception of people who need help. Some of the young people were quick to assume it was those experiencing homelessness or who didn't work. However, they have met individuals who are having chemo and can't cook; others are struggling to pay their bills but have a job and home. The experience has certainly been valuable in breaking down stereotypes," she said.

Meg Norling, Volunteer Coordinator at CatholicCare, says the student's role in the kitchen is invaluable for both them and those who visit.

"Our friends who come for a meal love having the students there. I think they get quite touched by their help. It makes them feel like everybody cares, and they build connections with young people, which is lovely. The students bring such a positive energy to the place."

Meg says that on arrival, many young people exclaim they do not know how to wash up, sweep the floor, or cook a meal. However, by the day's end, they are feeling accomplished.

"It has been wonderful to witness students leaving with a sense of pride about what they have learned and achieved. Some have shared, 'I am really proud of myself.' That's lovely for those kids to value their contribution as much as we do," she said.

Student Mohammad Nooruddin says he was surprised by how many people in the Taree community needed help.

"It was a real eye-opening experience and a chance to learn first-hand about the social justice issues we discuss in class and truly understand what is happening in our community. I was surprised by how many meals they serve daily," said Mohammad.

Tanille says while students may only participate in this program for a short time while attending St Clare's, the skills and awareness this type of service brings to each individual lasts a lifetime.

"I love seeing my students evolve through this opportunity. They learn more about themselves, but it also teaches them that we should be doing something about the problems we see, not just recognising them. We can all learn something from that."

## St Joseph's, Charlestown: Annual Writing Fair

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Charlestown hosted their annual Writing Fair on Thursday 26 September.

Catholic Schools Office PUBLISHED September 30, 2024

This year's theme, Spooky Stories sparked the students' creativity, and it was amazing to see the students having fun with the theme including the many installations situated throughout the school grounds in the day to inspire the students.

St Joseph's goal is to make writing an exciting and enjoyable experience, where students can truly express themselves. When writing is explicit and meaningful, students' overall engagement improves, and it was wonderful to see their bright and smiling faces, proud and eager to share their creations.

It was especially exciting to have past St Joseph's Charlestown students in attendance from St Mary's Gateshead, who came back to support the current students, furthering the strong connection between the schools.

St Joseph's Charlestown's improvement in writing has been reflected in its NAPLAN results over the past few years, which are above the National Standard. Students are now demonstrating stronger skills in areas such as structure, grammar, and creativity, contributing to these positive results. This highlights St Joseph's commitment to fostering literacy and building confident writers across all year stages.

The Writing Fair wouldn't be possible without the incredible support of our parents, teachers, and volunteers. Special thanks to Wendy Manning for her fantastic giant spider installation, which has inspired the students and brought extra excitement to the event.

## Celebrating Socktober 2024

Catholic Schools Office PUBLISHED September 23, 2024

Over 30 schools came together to launch 'Socktober', a partnership between Catholic Mission and the Diocese of Maitland Newcastle, to raise money for children in Mongolia.

Each school is running their own fundraiser but joined in on a day in the sun at McDonald Jones Stadium to enjoy a liturgy, followed by soccer activities. The theme for 2024 is 'go and invite everyone to the banquet', and the focus is on raising money for a safe house for abandoned children in Mongolia.

Socktober aligns with World Mission Month and allows our school communities to financially support disadvantaged communities and raise awareness.

Check out the event footage at: [https://youtu.be/Bk1VXCz78\\_I](https://youtu.be/Bk1VXCz78_I)

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Words are never enough to make peace. Action is required. But words such as found in this Statement can help us understand the current situation and how we might work together to create a world which better matches both human desire and the divine plan. The Australian bishops offer this Gospel word to all who are committed to speaking the truth and working for peace in a violent world.”

Download by scanning the QR code or use the link: [bit.ly/sjs-ojep](https://bit.ly/sjs-ojep)

Archbishop Timothy Costelloe SDB  
ACBC PRESIDENT

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