



**St John
Vianney**
Parish Morisset



TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR B 25 AUGUST 2024

Today's readings are about decisions, challenges and hard choices. They are as challenging now, as they were in the days of the disciples.

Some early Christians found the teaching of Jesus too difficult, and abandoned him.

Accepting Jesus, may not be a burning issue for us, as it was for the early disciples. But there are issues in the world today, and in our lives, that may shake the foundation of our faith.

Commitment isn't always easy. It is a choice. It is a decision. It locks us into a pattern of conduct that determines all, or part of, our life. It is a commitment that is at the heart of today's readings.

What kind of commitment are we willing to make?



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

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Morisset Parish Web site: www.vianneymorisset.org
Morisset Parish Facebook : <https://www.facebook.com/stjvparish>

UPCOMING WORSHIP TIMES :

Saturday	24th August 5pm Mass—Cooranbong
Sunday	25th August 9.30am Mass—Morisset
Tuesday	27th August 9.30am Liturgy—Morisset
Friday	30th August 10.30am Mass—Morisset
Saturday	31st August 5pm Family Mass—Morisset
Sunday	1st September 9.30am Mass—Morisset
Tuesday	3rd September 9.30am Liturgy—Morisset
Friday	6th September 10.30am Mass—Morisset
Saturday	7th September 5pm Mass—Cooranbong
Sunday	8th September 9.30am Mass—Morisset
Tuesday	10th September 9.30am Liturgy—Morisset
Friday	13th September 10.30am Mass—Morisset
Saturday	14th September 5pm Family Mass—Morisset
Sunday	15th September 9.30am Mass—Morisset

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Letter From Bishop Michael Kennedy

My Dear People,

In 2020 my predecessor Bishop Bill Wright decreed that the Sunday on or immediately prior to 15 September each year would be inscribed in the liturgical calendar of the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle as the 'Perpetual Day of Remembrance'. Those familiar with the Church's liturgical calendar would recognise that 15 September is also the day for "Our Lady of Sorrows". How could any of us fail to see and understand that the abuse of children by those placed in positions of leadership and trust in the Church is one of, if not the greatest, cause of sorrow in our Church's long history.

Even the mere recognition that such abominations have occurred in our Church causes us great pain and sorrow. How much greater is the pain of those who have been abused and still suffer because of that abuse, and how much greater than our own sorrow must be the sorrow of Our Lord Jesus and his mother Mary.

"To remember" can be a deeply spiritual and religious action. In the Old Testament, God's chosen people were often exhorted to remember the many good things that God had done for them as well as remembering their own sins and transgressions. Remembering God's goodness, both to ourselves as individuals and collectively as his people, produces gratitude and hope. Remembering our transgressions, both our own personal transgressions and the transgressions of the collective Church, produces redemptive sorrow and genuine conversion.

To assist us as the Church of Maitland-Newcastle to pray in this space the Perpetual Day of Remembrance Standing Committee of the Diocesan Liturgy Council once again offers a range of resources for use in our parishes, schools, agencies, groups, and homes. It has been determined that the resources this year include only minor changes from last year since later this year my office will undertake a review into the best way for us as a community to observe the Perpetual Day of Remembrance.

The resources for 2024 are available on the diocesan website for parishes and schools who wish to begin their preparation. There is something there for everyone including Diocesan agencies, individuals, households and community groups. Resources - Perpetual Day of Remembrance I commend these resources to you and your local community for our remembering and praying.

Yours in Christ Most Reverend

Michael Kennedy Bishop of Maitland-Newcastle

GOSPEL

John 6:60-69

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Lord, whom shall we go to? You have the words of everlasting life.

After hearing his doctrine many of the followers of Jesus said, 'This is intolerable language. How could anyone accept it?' Jesus was aware that his followers were complaining about it and said, 'Does this upset you? What if you should see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before?'

'It is the spirit that gives life,
the flesh has nothing to offer.

The words I have spoken to you are spirit
and they are life.

'But there are some of you who do not believe.' For Jesus knew from the outset those who did not believe, and who it was that would betray him. He went on, 'This is why I told you that no one could come to me unless the Father allows him.' After this, many of his disciples left him and stopped going with him.

Then Jesus said to the Twelve, 'What about you, do you want to go away too?' Simon Peter answered, 'Lord, who shall we go to?'

You have the message of eternal life, and we believe; we know that you are the Holy One of God.'

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Year B — Reflection 25th August 2024

Over the past 4 Sundays our readings from Ch 6 of John's Gospel have taken us on quite a journey, from the story of the multiplication of the loaves & fishes & the long discourse on its meaning. Interestingly, Psalm 33 is used for 3 Sundays, but with a different selection today, possibly to emphasise our acknowledgement & thanksgiving for God's support.

All 3 readings today have a common theme—that of making decisions & it would appear that nothing much has changed over the centuries in that regard.

-The 1st Reading tells the story of the decision adopted by the tribes of Israel, when Joshua asked his people to choose between the gods of their ancestors & the gods of the Amorites, in whose land they were now living. There were 2 convincing factors that helped the tribes decide— 1: The memory of all that God had done for them by bringing them out of exile in Egypt and 2: The social pressure & support of a covenant community.

Joshua's words made it very clear that a choice had to be made! There was no doubt about his decision so they aligned themselves to him, thus showing their desire to acknowledge God's power & remain his people.

-The 2nd Reading from St Paul outlines the role of husbands & wives & compares them to Christ & the Church- using the key words "love", "sacrificed", "clean", "washing" & "glorious" thereby comparing the way Christ treats the body of the Church- we are "it's living parts".

-The Gospel story continues from last Sunday, when Jesus offered himself as food & drink. We hear that some of the followers objected in a very forceful way- they misunderstood the meaning of his words "if you do not eat the flesh of the Son of Man & drink his blood, you will not have life in you". But his response to their objections is firm & assertive, even slightly confronting & many of his disciples left him & didn't return!

We, too, can be confronted with choices & decisions & perhaps we've also been challenged with the same question that Jesus posed to Simon Peter: "Do you also wish to go away?"

Have we experienced times when we might like to go away? -- perhaps there have been times when we have questioned our faith or how God could "allow certain things to happen, particularly when there is so much evil, death & destruction in our world today!

But, Simon Peter responded "Lord, to whom can we go? Like Peter, do we choose to turn towards Christ to embrace his love & mercy or turn away from him? Let us pray that we will always say "yes" to the Holy Spirit WITHIN us which animates us & brings us ever closer to God & therefore to a way of life which brings truth, beauty & goodness into our world.

God has given us many gifts, including our free will- He never compels us & He asks us every day. St. Mary MacKillop said in 1890, "If we have love in our hearts, we shall have God with us"

"Understanding is the reward of faith. Do not seek to understand in order to believe, but believe so that you may understand" St. Augustine of Hippo. Heather White

Fr Camillus Nwahia

Fr Camillus is going on-loan to the Military Ordinariate for a three-year period. He has enlisted into the Royal Australian Air Force, and on Monday commenced three-months of basic training at the Officer Training College in East Sale, Victoria. He will then be posted to an Air Force base in Australia to begin his military chaplaincy. The Military Ordinariate in Australia is always in need of Catholic chaplains, so we thank Fr Camillus for responding to this need in the Church in Australia.

ACBC Social Justice Statement

In this year's statement, the Australian bishops reflect on the state of the world around us and how misinformation (sharing information that is false but believed to be true), and even disinformation (knowingly sharing false information) are often part of the causes of civil unrest, violence, and war.

Truth and Peace have a way of going together. That's the theme of this year's Social Justice Statement from the Australian Catholic Bishop's Conference - Truth and Peace: A Gospel Word in a Violent World. You can download the statement ([here](#)). Social Justice Sunday is celebrated in our communities on the last Sunday in August, this year it's on 25 August.

Throughout August and September, the Hunter Community Alliance is hosting listening sessions across Newcastle, Maitland, Lake Macquarie, Port Stephens and the Upper Hunter – bringing together a vast range of community groups to build relationships and work together on housing pressures and energy transition.

Zoom Discussion: 2024-2025 Social Justice Statement - Truth and Peace: A Gospel Word in a Violent World

In the 2024-2025 Social Justice Statement, Australia's Bishops scrutinise the signs of our own troubled times. Observe the violence around us and ask why it is so. They also ask what is needed if there is to be peace.

Join us for an online Zoom discussion as we break open the document, hear responses from across our Diocese, and participate in small group discussions on how we can be peacemakers in our communities.

When: Wednesday 4 September Where: Zoom

Time: 7pm Register Here: www.eventbrite.com.au/e/truth-and-peace-exploring-the-social-justice-statement-tickets-991438247487

Perpetual Day of Remembrance

September 15, promulgated as a 'Perpetual Day of Remembrance' in our diocese, marks a day of solemn remembrance of the harm caused by a history of child sexual abuse and failure to protect children. It has two aspects: one focused on supporting survivors and the other on the prayer of the whole church. This year Perpetual Day of Remembrance Sunday falls on September 15. As a people of faith, we can pray for a change of heart as the ground of hope for a safer future for all. Special prayer resources are available online at www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/perpetual-day-of-remembrance Every person is invited to use and help disseminate as widely as possible the resource for Individuals and households. May Christ be our Light.

Hunter Community Alliance

Our Parish Leaders with Leaders from the Morisset Uniting Church, Morisset Anglican Church, and the HCA, are facilitating a 'listening session' with the Federal Member Daniel Repacholi, to be hosted by Morisset Uniting Church, 10 Stockton St, Morisset this Monday 26th August, 3.30pm-5.30pm.

Strong support has also been received from the local Vinnies Conference, as well as the Salvation Army, Baptist and Seventh Day Adventist Churches.

Church/Faith Crawl

Next month the Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle is excited to be hosting our third Church/Faith Crawl in Maitland. We'll be exploring four different faith communities and will be encouraged to ask questions and get to know our neighbours. It's on Wednesday 11 September from 9.30am. For more info or to register, visit <http://mn.shor.tn/ChurchCrawl24>

With A Light Heart

At the reception following the wedding of a young couple, the Master of Ceremonies polled the guests to see who had been married the longest. To loud applause one couple announced they had been married for sixty years.

The MC said, "What advice would you pass on to the newly-weds?"

"The woman said, "The three most important words in a marriage are, "You're probably right."

Everyone looked at the husband who immediately said, "She's probably right."

Crossing Culture: Hidden Histories

Facilitated by Aunty Louise Campbell and Craig Duncan from the Catholic Schools Office, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Wellbeing Unit, Crossing Cultures: Hidden Histories will take you on a 65,000-year journey from pre-contact to the present day.

It will deepen your knowledge and understanding of the cultural perspectives and histories of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, broadly and in your local communities.

Bishop Michael Kennedy will join Chisholm Pastoral Region clergy and parishioners for this educational cultural awareness day.

When: Saturday 31 August

Where: The Therry Centre, Cnr New England Highway and King Street, East Maitland (Entry via King Street)

Time: 8.30am to 3.30pm

Cost: \$10 pp which will include morning tea and a light lunch.

Payment is to be made on the day

ENQUIRIES: Helen B - M: 0439 334 000

Call for Special Religious Education teachers

The Teachers of Special Religious Education in our Diocese undertake a vital evangelising role, educating children and young people, forming them in the Catholic faith.

Fortunately, there are amazing, generous people who play an important role in contributing to the formation of children.

Unfortunately, there are not enough teachers to meet the demands of all the classes needed. Many children are missing out.

If you would like to learn more about this ministry, we invite you to attend an Encouragement Day in Newcastle on Monday 16th September.

For information or registration contact Nicki Graham on 0417 773 444 or register by email: admin@huntersre.com.au

aMeN caMiNo – Seasons of Creation Weekend Retreat

Join us for an aMeN caMiNo weekend experience during this year's Season of Creation at the beautiful Myall Coast. This caMiNo is suitable for both beginners and experienced walkers. It offers a one- or two-day experience on September 7th and 8th.

For more information visit our website: mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/faith-formation/amen-camino

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 10th September 2024**. Bookings can be made online at the link at: <https://forms.office.com/r/wZtatkt01V> or by contacting our 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 Vipan J France	U France D Whitten
<u>PSALMIST:</u>	5PM 9.30AM	P Melvey D Joyce	D Joyce R Hay
<u>GIFTS</u>	5PM 9.30AM	H White K Lendon M Melvey P Melvey	B Cox K Amon J Hutchins
<u>SERVERS</u>	5PM 9.30AM	M Melvey R Lawandos	M Melvey F Dyson J Lawandos
<u>AV</u>	5PM 9.30AM	U France E Lawandos	J Vipan M Foo
<u>WELCOMERS</u>	5PM 9.30AM	K Lendon C Lawandos	J France K Lendon
<u>CHURCH CLEANING</u>	COOR MOR	M Shamley A Walker G Walker	XXXX B Hutcheson D Whitten

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,

or visit their website for further information:

www.officeofsafeguarding.org.au

UPCOMING FEAST DAYS MEMORIALS AND SOLEMINITIES

- SAINT MONICA (M) - 27 AUG
- SAINT AUGUSTINE (M) - 28 AUG
- THE PASSION OF SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST (M) - 29 AUG
- SAINT GREGORY THE GREAT (M) - 03 SEPT
- EMBER DAY— 6TH SEPT
- SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM (M) - 13TH SEPT
- THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS (F) - 14TH SEPT
- SAINTS CORNELIUS AND CYPRIAN (M) - 16TH SEPT
- SAINTS ANDREW KIM TAEON, PAUL CHONG HASANG AND COMPANIONS (M) - 20TH SEPT
- SAINT MATTHEW (F) - 21ST SEPT

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

Phillip Thompson, 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.

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

Recently Deceased: Les Findley



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

Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year B

Social Justice Sunday

Sunday 25 Aug 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.

Welcome Social Justice Sunday

On this Social Justice Sunday, Australia's Bishops invite us to reflect on what we, as Christians, are called to do in a world wracked by war and violence.

Truth is often the first casualty in war. The Gospel calls us to embrace the fundamental truth that every person on earth has a God-given dignity which cannot be taken away or ignored. From this truth flows the realisation that there is no 'us' or 'them'. Everyone on earth, whatever our race or creed or status, is a sister, a brother. We are all children of God. Keeping this truth before us is the key to overcoming violence and conflict. Armed not with guns and missiles, but with love for our sisters and brothers, we are invited to speak of peace and to take action to promote peace in a violent world.

On this Social Justice Sunday, let us re-commit ourselves to cultivating a culture of peace by following Jesus who is the way, the truth and the life and the Prince of Peace.

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 have shown us how to love: Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, you call us to serve you: Christ, have mercy.

All: Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you have the words of everlasting life: Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Opening Prayer

Leader:

Let us pray.

All pause for silent prayer.

God on high

your son Jesus inspired Peter
to be a rock of faith for the Church.

Increase our faith in you.

When we are unsure of the right path
give us strength to follow in your way.

We ask this through Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
for ever and ever.

All:

Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

Joshua 24:1-2. 15-18

A reading from the book of Joshua

We will serve the Lord God, because he is our God.

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel together at Shechem; then he called the elders, leaders, judges and scribes of Israel, and they presented themselves before God. Then Joshua said to all the people: 'If you will not serve the Lord, choose today whom you wish to serve, whether the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are now living. As for me and my House, we will serve the Lord.'

The people answered, 'We have no intention of deserting the Lord and serving other gods! Was it not the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors out of the land of Egypt, the house of slavery, who worked those great wonders before our eyes and preserved us all along the way we travelled and among all the peoples through whom we journeyed. We too will serve the Lord, for he is our God.'

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

The word of the Lord.

All reply:

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 33:2-3. 16-23. R. v.9

(R.) Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

1. I will bless the Lord at all times,
his praise always on my lips;
in the Lord my soul shall make its boast.
The humble shall hear and be glad. (R.)

2. The Lord turns his face against the wicked
to destroy their remembrance from the earth.
The Lord turns his eyes to the just
and his ears to their appeal. (R.)
3. They call and the Lord hears
and rescues them in all their distress.
The Lord is close to the broken-hearted;
those whose spirit is crushed he will save. (R.)
4. Many are the trials of the just man
but from them all the Lord will rescue him.
He will keep guard over all his bones,
not one of his bones shall be broken. (R.)
5. Evil brings death to the wicked;
those who hate the good are doomed.
The Lord ransoms the souls of his servants. (R.)

Second Reading

Ephesians 5:21-32

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

This is the great mystery, it applies to Christ and the Church.

Give way to one another in obedience to Christ. Wives should regard their husbands as they regard the Lord, since as Christ is head of the Church and saves the whole body, so is a husband the head of his wife; and as the Church submits to Christ, so should wives to their husbands, in everything. Husbands should love their wives just as Christ loved the Church and sacrificed himself for her to make her holy. He made her clean by washing her in water with a form of words, so that when he took her to himself she would be glorious, with no speck or wrinkle or anything like that, but holy and faultless. In the same way, husbands must love their wives as they love their own bodies; for a man to love his wife is for him to love himself. A man never hates his own body, but he feeds it and looks after it; and that is the way Christ treats the Church, because it is his body – and we are its living parts. For this reason, a man must leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one body. This mystery has many implications; but I am saying it applies to Christ and the Church.

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 **John**

All:

Glory to you, O Lord.

John 6:60-69

Many of Jesus' disciples who were listening said,

"This saying is hard; who can accept it?"

Since Jesus knew that his disciples were murmuring about this,

he said to them, "Does this shock you?"

What if you were to see the Son of Man ascending

to where he was before?

It is the spirit that gives life,

while the flesh is of no avail.

The words I have spoken to you are Spirit and life.

But there are some of you who do not believe."

Jesus knew from the beginning the ones who would not believe and the one who would betray him.

And he said,

"For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by my Father."

As a result of this,

many of his disciples returned to their former way of life and no longer accompanied him.

Jesus then said to the Twelve, "Do you also want to leave?"

Simon Peter answered him, "Master, to whom shall we go?"

You have the words of eternal life.

We have come to believe

and are convinced that you are the Holy One of God."

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. What historical reality might be captured by the description of disciples not accepting Jesus' teaching?

Q. In what ways can John, chapter 6, be seen as a defence of early Christian belief and practice?

Q. Why does Jesus appear to simply accept that some people do not believe what he says?

Q. How might the Twelve have responded to so many people leaving Jesus after this gospel event?

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 intentions to the Lord who hears all in distress.

Reader: That the Church, as God's one human family,
may recognise the unity of all God's people in
every nation, race and tongue.

In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That all world leaders may foster an increase of justice and charity for refugees and asylum seekers.

In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That we may give loving support to members of our community who have suffered oppression or persecution in their homeland.

In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That people applying for protection in our country may have the grace of God with them in times of uncertainty.

In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That all who are ill may have the grace of God with them in their need.

In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That all those who have died in the love of Christ may come to know eternal life with God the father of all.

In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Loving God, your words are spirit and life. Hear our prayers and grant us the strength we need to serve your human family with compassion. We make this prayer 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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Truth and Peace

In this year's statement, the Australian bishops reflect on the state of the world around us and how misinformation (sharing information that is false but believed to be true), and even disinformation (knowingly sharing false information) are often part of the causes of civil unrest, violence, and war.

Brendon Mannyx PUBLISHED August 20, 2024

My kids were fighting. Someone had said something that wasn't true. The argument was getting louder, and in frustration, there was a whack. And then tears. When I could finally get them to calm down and listen to each other, it turns out it was all a misunderstanding. When they were able to listen to each other, we could find a way forward.

Truth and Peace have a way of going together. That's the theme of this year's Social Justice Statement from the Australian Catholic Bishop's Conference - Truth and Peace: A Gospel Word in a Violent World. (You can download the statement here). Social Justice Sunday is celebrated in our communities on the last Sunday in August, this year it's on 25 August.

In this year's statement, the Australian bishops reflect on the state of the world around us and how misinformation (sharing information that is false but believed to be true), and even disinformation (knowingly sharing false information) are often part of the causes of civil unrest, violence, and war. Even in our own communities, conflicts can arise when we fail to properly listen to others and choose to act on partial knowledge or untruths.

Through the gospels, we discover in Jesus an invitation to be peacemakers.

"The making of peace is a great task for humanity. It is a work to be done, an art to be learnt and practised... God wants to work with us in the making of peace and waits for us to say yes to the gift."

At the heart of peacemaking, is the desire to be in genuine relationship with our fellow humans – to know, understand, and more deeply appreciate the story of the other. It is only in knowing the truth of another's journey, that we can find pathways for peace together – both on a global and local level.

The statement ends with some practical steps that we can all take in our own communities. These steps for creatively working for peace begin with the recognition that no one sees the whole picture.

"None of us speaks the whole truth, which is why truth-speaking and peace-making belong to the whole community. The violence in Australia and other parts of the world make it all the more urgent that all who believe in Jesus Christ work together with everyone of good will, all who love truth, to show the world that there is a realistic way to peace, a genuine peace built upon speaking truth and building trust."

Even now, in our local communities, we can engage in opportunities to listen, build relationships, and work towards a better future.

FAITH MATTERS: Human Library - Preparing for Season of Creation

Season of Creation is celebrated in September each year by members of the World Council of Churches. This Season begins on September 1, the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation and ends on October 4, the Feast Day of Saint Francis of Assisi, well known as the Patron Saint of Ecology.

Mary O'Connor PUBLISHED August 20, 2024

Pope Francis' 2015 encyclical "Laudato Si' – Care for Our Common Home" is a call for all Catholics to respect the Earth and to praise and honour God through our engagement with creation. Many would argue that alongside world peace the greatest issue facing the world today (all peoples, regardless of religious affiliation) is ecology and the environment, which encompasses; weather and the effects of this on famine and loss of shelter, extinction of species, degradation of air quality, pollution, sustainable energy and so much more.

This topic is such a huge, confusing and confronting area for many people. Our Christian faith implores us to "Love one another as I have Loved You" (John 13:34) and the Our Father describes "Thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven". These integral teachings of our Catholic faith matter, they ask us to love the earth and all in it, as created by God, as we are loved by God. We are asked to remember that God has willed us to meditate on and care for our common home. As Christians we know that we should be people of contemplation and people of action, but how do we do this? Who do we turn to for advice? Are there others in the community that we can work with to effect change? As always, when you need information, you should turn to a library! The Diocesan Resource Centre Library is excited to be able to offer a Human Library experience entitled "In Preparation for Season of Creation 2024". Our Human Books will be Sr Carmel Moore rsj, who in the past has presented weekend and weeklong retreats on the theme of "Contemplation and Laudato Si'" and Ms Maryanne Murray, a Diocesan teacher, who has worked with Sr Carmel in this field. Once both books have presented their chapters, the readers are encouraged to ask questions of the books, those questions you cannot ask of a printed book. With the knowledge shared and the wisdom and understanding that comes from active listening, we, the readers, will have a chance to prepare ourselves to participate fully in the various activities of the 2024 Season of Creation, under the theme "To Hope and Act with Creation".

We invite you to register for this event

Date: Friday 30 August 2024 Time: 10.15am

Place: Diocesan Resource Centre Library – 12 Tudor Street, Newcastle West Registration: <https://forms.office.com/r/Q3Wuzg0L2P>

or email domnlibrary@mn.catholic.org.au

For more information please contact Diocesan Librarian Mary O'Connor on 02 4923 0682 or mary.oconnor@mn.catholic.org.au

Season of Creation – Creation Sings

Saturday 21 September 2024, 2-4pm, Sacred Heart Cathedral. All in the Newcastle, Hunter and Manning community are invited to gather to sing in praise and wonder of creation as a celebration of the Season of Creation. In the spirit of community choirs, we will learn a song, pray, and enjoy afternoon tea. Register at <https://forms.office.com/r/xKCr907ew6>

Please bring a cutting of a favourite plant. We will exchange our cuttings during the prayer. Those who love taking photos of nature can join the Season of Creation Photography initiative and send your image/s to rose.mcallister@mn.catholic.org.au by 16/09/24. The images will be displayed at Creation Sings.

Season of Creation: Wonder – Weaving – Healing

Join Catholic Earthcare and their Season of Creation Convocation for three special events in September.

Thurs 12 and Fri 13 September - online keynote presentations, workshops, discussions and spiritual experiences

Sat 14 September at Diocesan Resource Centre - hear about and discuss regenerative projects within and beyond our diocese and consider how we can contribute. Morning tea and lunch supplied as part of registration.

Information/Registration at: www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1231165

Christian Initiation Formation Day

'Tilling the Soil of Christian Initiation' is a Formation Day for all parishioners, particularly those who are involved in the Ministry of Christian Initiation with Adults, Children of a Catechetical Age, and Children and their Families via the Sacraments of Initiation.

Please gather with friends and colleagues from other parishes on Saturday 14 September, Toohey Room @ Cathedral House Hamilton, 9.30am to 3.30pm.

This is an opportunity to immerse ourselves in the foundations of this important ministry, to share our wisdom and questions and to get to know other ministers. Morning tea and lunch provided. Details and registration via the QR Code.

For enquiries or registration assistance contact sharon.murphy@mn.catholic.org.au P 4979 1134.



Art and Spirituality Workshop

Creation of art provides an opportunity for a deepening awareness of oneself and the world, and can act as a catalyst for evoking the Spirit. Art is a means to see-to-re-search and find the living meaning of what it means to open the heart. Everyone has the ability to create art, but in order for it to be theological, the artist needs to explore ways that it makes sense of faith. Opening the heart through art involves making meaning through the creation, then reflecting on the art itself and the unfolding the moment-to-moment direct experience of the process.

This workshop will provide an opportunity to awaken the Spirit through the beauty of God's creation, prayer, and reflection. Participants will engage in art making experiences which will nourish their faith.

Date: Friday 13 September (9am-3pm)

Venue: Kilaben Bay Community Centre

Cost: \$25 per person

Register at: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/art-and-spirituality-workshops-2024-tickets-808605269127>

Hunter Men's Rosary Crusade

The pilgrimage travels to four Churches over 6.5kms. The starting point is at Sacred Heart Cathedral, 841 Hunter St Newcastle West at 11.00am on 14th September. Pilgrims will walk to the Immaculate Heart of Mary (Islington), St Mary's Star of the Sea (Newcastle) St Joseph's (Merewether) returning to the Sacred Heart Cathedral at approximately 1.00pm.

Register before 7 September at: <https://forms.office.com/r/q5fkj1HdgW>