



**St John
Vianney**
Parish Morisset



TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR B 18 AUGUST 2024

This Sunday scripture invites us to, “taste and see the goodness of the Lord.” This goodness is given to us in many ways.

For a couple of weeks now, our readings, especially the Gospels, have continued to tell us that Jesus is the bread of life.

We, believe that the mode of his presence is beyond our understanding. Of course, an act of faith is required. But those who believe that God is present in all things and in all places, his unique and special presence in the Eucharist, is not a problem.

At times some people behave like the Jews, assuming that they can analyse and understand the mystery of the Body of Christ, with limited human insight, and the wisdom of this world.

St Paul warned: ‘Be careful about the sort of lives you live, like intelligent people and not senseless people’.



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

UPCOMING WORSHIP TIMES :

Saturday	17th August 5pm Family Mass—Morisset
Sunday	18th August 9.30am Mass—Morisset
Tuesday	20th August 9.30am Liturgy—Morisset
Friday	23rd August 10.30am Mass—Morisset
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

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PPC News

The Parish Pastoral Council will meet this coming Wednesday 21st August 9.30am. Among the many pastoral issues to be discussed will be the issue of 2024 "THE WAY FORWARD" for the parish.

First Communion

This Saturday evening at the Vigil Family Mass, Jackson, Byron and Maddison Darke will be making their First Holy Communion. Welcome Jackson, Byron and Maddison.

Appointment of Principal

Mr Mark Konik has been appointed as Principal of St John Vianney Primary School Morisset, Mark will commence in this role January 2025. Mark will replace Mrs Freda Pascoe who has been appointed Principal at St Francis Xavier Belmont 2025.

GOSPEL

John 6:51-58

My flesh is real food and my blood is real drink.

Jesus said to the crowd:

'I am the living bread which has come down from heaven.
Anyone who eats this bread will live for ever;
and the bread that I shall give
is my flesh, for the life of the world.'

Then the Jews started arguing with one another: 'How can this man give us his flesh to eat?' they said. Jesus replied:

'I tell you most solemnly,
if you do not eat the flesh of the Son of Man
and drink his blood,
you will not have life in you.
Anyone who does eat my flesh and drink my blood
has eternal life,
and I shall raise him up on the last day.
For my flesh is real food
and my blood is real drink.
He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood
lives in me
and I live in him.
As I, who am sent by the living Father,
myself draw life from the Father,
so whoever eats me will draw life from me.
This is the bread come down from heaven;
not like the bread our ancestors ate:
they are dead,
but anyone who eats this bread will live for ever.'

TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Year B — Reflection 18th August 2024

The Real Presence of Christ in the Blessed Eucharist is a fundamental belief of our Catholic Faith. For the last three Sundays this has been the focus of the readings from John's Gospel. We believe that God continues to speak to us through the Scriptures. While the Gospels have been written by men, their words have been inspired by the Spirit and, so, we seek to learn from them.

Two weeks ago, we heard Christ's words: "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never be hungry; he who believes in me will never thirst." It is not physical nourishment Christ was talking about, but rather spiritual fulfilment. If we listen to Christ's words and let them guide the way we live, we can be truly satisfied.

Just last week we heard how Christ told the Jews, "I am the bread of life..I am the living bread which has come down from heaven. Anyone who eats this bread will live for ever; and the

bread that I shall give is my flesh, for the life of the world." Not only did they have no understanding of what he was talking about, they were scandalised. We hear these words repeated at the start of the Gospel reading this week but Christ goes further: "Anyone who does eat my flesh and drink my blood has eternal life... He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood lives in me and I live in him."

To the Jews this was blasphemous. They believed that contact with blood made them ritually unclean, but Jesus was not talking about the physical flesh and blood of an ordinary man. He was referring to the Real Presence of the glorified Christ, who had suffered and died for our salvation, had risen from the dead and ascended to be with his Father in heaven.

In the Mass, after the priest has accepted the offerings of the bread and wine brought up by the people, he prays, "Make holy these gifts, we pray, by sending down your Spirit upon them like the dewfall, so that they may become for us the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ," and the bells ring, signalling something wonderful is about to happen. The words of the Consecration, spoken by the Priest, echo Christ's words to his disciples at the Last Supper. The invitation is extended to us too.

We believe that the spiritual reality of the Sacrament is that, while the appearance of the bread and wine remain the same, a transubstantiation has taken place with the Priest's words of consecration, and their essence has become the Body and Blood of the Risen Christ. Our belief is an act of Faith!

When we receive the Eucharist, we are united more intimately with Christ. We are strengthened as individuals and as a community by sharing in the participation of the sacrifice of the Mass. How blessed are we to have the opportunity and what a wonderful promise Christ has made us! Pam Melvey

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?

THE BREAD AND WINE FOR CELEBRATING THE EUCHARIST

319. Following the example of Christ, the Church has always used bread and wine with water to celebrate the Lord's Supper.

320. The bread for celebrating the Eucharist must be made only from wheat, must be recently made, and, according to the ancient tradition of the Latin Church, must be unleavened.

322. The wine for the celebration of the Eucharist must be from the fruit of the vine natural, and unadulterated, that is, without admixture of extraneous substances.

323. Diligent care should be taken to ensure that the bread and wine intended for the Eucharist are kept in a perfect state of conservation: that is, that the wine does not turn to vinegar nor the bread spoil or become too hard to be broken easily.

Social Justice Sunday

Social Justice Sunday is fast approaching and will be celebrated on Sunday 25th August. This year's Social Justice Statement from the Australian Bishops is entitled Truth and Peace: A Gospel Word in a Violent World. The statement will be officially launched on 20th August.

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 St. Peter's Catholic Church London, they have weekly husband's marriage seminars.

At the session last week, the priest asked Giuseppe, who said he was approaching his 50th wedding anniversary, to take a few minutes and share some insight into how he had managed to stay married to the same woman all these years.

Giuseppe replied to the assembled husbands, "Wella, I've tried to treat her nicea, spenda da money on her, but besta of all is, I tooka her to Italy for the 25th anniversary!"

The priest responded, "Giuseppe, you are an amazing inspiration to all the husbands here!

Please tell us what you are planning for your wife for your 50th anniversary?"

Giuseppe proudly replied, " I gonna go pick her up."

The Feast of the Assumption 15 August

On Thursday 15th August the Church honored Mary, the humble maid of Nazareth, with the Feast of the Assumption, a day for joy and celebration.

As we celebrate the glorification of Mary, we also remembered that everything wasn't easy for her. In fact, the opposite would be nearer the truth.

She had to live her life in the darkness of faith. For her there were no short cuts. She not only had to hear the word of God but do it.

May we learn from Mary, to believe and hope and love, and may our longing too, bring us to enjoy with her, the communion with Jesus that is our heart's desire and the goal of our existence.

Let us pray that we may share Mary's childlike trust in God as our Father. Let us listen to our heart's desires, and commit ourselves to follow our deepest longings, like Mary.

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 Local council candidates and the Federal

Member Daniel Repacholi, to be hosted **by Morisset Uniting Church, 10 Stockton St, Morisset Monday 26th August, 3:30pm-5:30pm**

At the session, we meet each other over refreshments, **listen** and **share** our stories about key pressures impacting our families across generations.

Things such as:

Growing cost of housing, and homelessness

The changing energy market and climate.

A safe, prosperous Hunter with a sustainable future with good jobs for future generations

Other issues impacting our families here in Morisset

Note this is not a candidates' forum (the polies will be listening to us!)

'Booing and heckling' are not permitted.

(All ages encouraged – children under 18 will need to be accompanied by a responsible adult).

Pope Francis's Prayer Intention for August 2024

We pray that political leaders be at the service of their own people, working for integral human development and for the common good, especially caring for the poor and those who have lost their jobs.

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.

Magdalene Award 2024

To see photos from the 2024 Mary Magdalene Award ceremony, visit the Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle website.

www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/mission-and-outreach/magdalene-award-2024

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>

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.

UPCOMING FEAST DAYS MEMORIALS AND SOLEMINITIES

- SAINT BERNARD (M) - 20 AUG
- SAINT PIUS X (M) - 21 AUG
- QUEENSHIP OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY (M) - 22 AUG
- SAINT BARTHOLOMEW (F) - 24 AUG
- 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

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 U France	J Vipan J France
<u>PSALMIST:</u>	5PM 9.30AM	R Hay P Melvey	P Melvey D Joyce
<u>GIFTS</u>	5PM 9.30AM	H White L McRae H White	H White K Lendon M Melvey P Melvey
<u>SERVERS</u>	5PM 9.30AM	J Lawandos V Paulo	M Melvey R Lawandos
<u>AV</u>	5PM 9.30AM	E Lawandos M Fowler	U France E Lawandos
<u>WELCOMERS</u>	5PM 9.30AM	TBA M Melvey	K Lendon C Lawandos
<u>CHURCH CLEANING</u>	COOR MOR	XXXX R Hay C Hay	M Shamley 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,

or visit their website for further information:

www.officeofsafeguarding.org.au

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

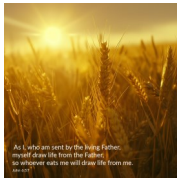
My Jesus,
I believe that You
are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.
I love You above all things,
and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment
receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as if You were already there and unite
myself wholly 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 Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B Sunday 18 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.

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 prepared a banquet for us: Lord, have
mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, you feed us with your body and blood: Christ, have
mercy.

All: Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you are the way to the Father: Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Opening Prayer

Leader:

Let us pray.

All pause for silent prayer.

God, our helper and friend
you welcome all people with one embrace
and include strangers and refugees.
Help us to offer the hand of Christian friendship,
especially to those who come from other places.
We ask this through Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
for ever and ever.

All:

Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

Proverbs 9:1-6

A reading from the book of Proverbs

Come and eat my bread; drink the wine I have prepared.

Wisdom has built herself a house,
she has erected her seven pillars,
she has slaughtered her beasts, prepared her wine,
she has laid her table.

She has despatched her maidservants
and proclaimed from the city's heights:
'Who is ignorant? Let him step this way.'

To the fool she says,
'Come and eat my bread,
drink the wine I have prepared!
Leave your folly and you will live,
walk in the ways of perception.'

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. 10-15. 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. Revere the Lord, you his saints.
They lack nothing, those who revere him.
Strong lions suffer want and go hungry
but those who seek the Lord lack no blessing. (R.)
3. Come children, and hear me
that I may teach you the fear of the Lord.
Who is he who longs for life
and many days, to enjoy his prosperity? (R.)
4. Then keep your tongue from evil
and your lips from speaking deceit.
Turn aside from evil and do good;
seek and strive after peace. (R.)

Second Reading

Ephesians 5:15-20

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

Be watchful that you may know the will of God.

Be very careful about the sort of lives you lead, like intelligent
and not like senseless people. This may be a wicked age, but
your lives should redeem it.

And do not be thoughtless but recognise what is the will of the Lord. Do not drug yourselves with wine, this is simply dissipation; be filled with the Spirit. Sing the words and tunes of the psalms and hymns when you are together, and go on singing and chanting to the Lord in your hearts, so that always and everywhere you are giving thanks to God who is our Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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 6:51-58

My flesh is real food and my blood is real drink.

Jesus said to the crowd:

‘I am the living bread which has come down from heaven. Anyone who eats this bread will live for ever; and the bread that I shall give is my flesh, for the life of the world.’

Then the Jews started arguing with one another: ‘How can this man give us his flesh to eat?’ they said. Jesus replied:

‘I tell you most solemnly, if you do not eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you will not have life in you.

Anyone who does eat my flesh and drink my blood has eternal life, and I shall raise him up on the last day.

For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink.

He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood lives in me and I live in him.

As I, who am sent by the living Father, myself draw life from the Father, so whoever eats me will draw life from me.

This is the bread come down from heaven; not like the bread our ancestors ate:

they are dead, but anyone who eats this bread will live for ever.’

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. Why do you think this extended image of the ‘Bread of Life’ appears only in the gospel of John?

Q. Why was Jesus’ imagery so confronting for his audience?

Q. In what ways is the reception of communion sustaining of faith?

Q. What does it mean to ‘live eucharistically’?

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 needs to the Lord, who is near to all who call.

Reader: That the Church will work towards uniting the scattered people of God through a new evangelisation of spreading the Good News.

In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That as our parish community shares in the real food and real drink of Christ, we will be nourished in our mission to help those in need.

In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That those who have received Holy Communion for the first time may always treasure it as a precious gift.

In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That all organisations who work with the homeless and disadvantaged will be supported in their work and bring Christ to all.

In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That all who are ill, weary or burdened may find strength in the Bread of Life from heaven.

In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That the dead, having shared the Bread of Life at this table, will be granted eternal life at the Lord’s heavenly banquet.

In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Loving God, you nourish your people with the true flesh and blood of Christ Jesus. Hear our prayers that we make at your table and bring us to eternal life with you. 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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Decorate Your Space: National Child Protection Week 2024

Decorate Your Space invites our communities—including Catholic Schools, St Nicholas, CatholicCare Hunter-Manning, and Parishes—to decorate a space in a way that uniquely reflects their commitment to children's safety and wellbeing in line with the theme of National Child Protection Week 'Every conversation matters' for the chance to win some fantastic prizes.

'Decorate Your Space' is the evolution of the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle's highly successful 'Decorate Your Gate' initiative, which was held as part of National Child Protection Week in 2022 and 2023. Our communities can still decorate their gate if they choose, or they can decorate their fence, wall, door, desk, or floor – the only limit is your imagination!

Prizes

Parishes can enter for the chance to win \$500.

How to enter

To enter, simply submit your entry in jpeg format (max 3 images) along with a 150-word description explaining what your entry means and how it is connected to this year's theme, 'Every conversation matters.'

While we welcome video content to be created, these entries will not be accepted as part of Decorate Your Space.

Entries will be judged based on:

- Creativity
- Involvement from children and communities
- Visibility or presence at your site
- Relevance to this year's theme.

Deadline: 5pm Friday 6 September 2024

Upload here: <http://mn.shor.tn/DYGenter>

What else is happening?

All Diocesan agencies can access a variety of dedicated resources on the Office of Safeguarding website. These resources are designed to equip our staff and young people with the skills and strategies to identify, respond to, and seek assistance in a range of unsafe situations.

We will continue to add resources in the lead-up to National Child Protection Week, so be sure to check back regularly for more information on how you can get involved.

To learn more about Decorate Your Space, National Child Protection Week, and access resources from the Office of Safeguarding – [click here](#).

Contact

For any questions relating to National Child Protection Week, please contact:

Noumali Roddenby-Jenkins

Executive Support, Office of Safeguarding

P: 02 4979 1155

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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.

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

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

LITURGY MATTERS: Creation Sings

YOU are invited to come along and be part of our very first Creation Sings!

Louise Gannon rsj PUBLISHED August 13, 2024

Why? Because we are celebrating the Season of Creation which begins on Sunday 1 September and goes through to Friday 4 October.

Why these dates? Joining the Orthodox church and World Council of Churches, Sunday 1 September is designated by the Vatican as the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation and Friday 4 October is the Feast of St Francis of Assisi whose life and love for all of God's creation is celebrated well beyond the Catholic Church.

The 'Season of Creation' is a wonderful point of unity, ecumenical at its heart, and reaching out beyond the Christian Church to all who share a love and concern for creation. This year the theme is 'To hope and act with Creation.' You can read Pope Francis' 2024 message here.

There are many resources available and these find their foundation in [Laudato Si](#) Pope Francis' 2015 Encyclical Letter 'On Care for our Common Home', and his more recent Apostolic Exhortation [Laudate Deum](#) which focuses on the climate crisis and is addressed to all people of good will.

Of all Pope Francis' writings, [Laudato Si](#) found a home in the hearts and minds of a range of Catholics, Christians, governments and community groups around the world. Many have developed Laudato Si Action Plans. Our schools – both staff and students - picked it up with passion. There is much that interested parishes could gain from engagement with their school communities in this space.

All this brings me to Creation Sings, an event which is part the Diocesan Liturgy Council's recent initiative, [Sacred Heart Beat](#). To read more about that click on the link.

Creation Sings, as its name suggests, is a singing event along the lines of the many communal choirs that are so popular at the moment. This celebration of the Season of Creation will take place in the Sacred Heart Cathedral on Saturday afternoon 21 September beginning at 2.00pm. We will start in the tradition of community choirs and learn a song together in praise of creation. This learning will be followed by a prayer during which we will sing our song.

The prayer will also feature photos of your favourite places in creation that invite you towards wonder, awe and peace. To submit your photos please email them to rose.mcallister@mn.catholic.org.au by 16 September.

The prayer will celebrate God's call for us to be good stewards of creation. Please bring cuttings of your favourite plants to exchange with other participants. In this way we all take home something new to plant, to nurture and to grow in our garden.

After the prayer, and once we have sung our hearts into one voice in praise and wonder of creation, we will move across to Cathedral House to continue the celebration with a wonderfully fresh afternoon tea.

Creation Sings is for everyone who shares a mind and heart 'to hope and act with creation'. Think about the title for a moment. We 'hope and act with creation' because we are part of creation. And so, in us and through us, creation sings!

Please spread the word. You are welcome to turn up on the day without registering. Those who register will receive a video of the song we are going to learn and the lyrics. Registration also assists us with catering for afternoon tea.

For further information and registration click here.

We look forward to seeing you and all your family and friends at Creation Sings.

Other ways of celebrating the Season of Creation include:

Season of Creation Weekend. Further information and registration details are here.

The Season of Creation Formation Friday on 6 September in the Diocesan Library beginning at 1.00pm. Register here: <https://forms.office.com/r/U0q0qUp4JQ>

Thursday 12 and Friday 13 September online keynote presentations, workshops, discussions and spiritual experiences are available. Information/Registration at: <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1231165>

Saturday 14 September people are gathering at the Diocesan Hub in the Resource Centre, Newcastle West to hear about and discuss regenerative projects within and beyond our diocese, and to consider how we can contribute. Morning tea and lunch supplied as part of registration. Information/Registration at: <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1231165>

Diocesan Liturgy [Council](#) Update

To keep abreast of the work of the Diocesan Liturgy Council click on the link and then the 'Council News' drop-down menu where you will find the latest meeting Report.

Don't attend Sunday Mass regularly? Tell us why

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference (ACBC) is running a survey to investigate why some Australian Catholics do not participate regularly in Sunday Mass.

Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle PUBLISHED August 13, 2024

As the Diocese embarks on a journey of mission and evangelisation, share your views to help the ACBC and Church leaders understand why Catholics don't regularly attend Mass.

This is an opportunity to share your experiences and we encourage you to share your feedback. Complete the anonymous survey in 10 minutes.

The survey closes on 20 August.

Read more details about the survey and [complete it here](#).

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

