



**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR B 10 DECEMBER 2023**

*In today's Gospel we hear the lonely but insistent voice of John the Baptist an eccentric who lived in a no man's land, and survived on the strange diet of locusts and honey, urging us to 'make a straight way for the Lord'.*

*We might think of Advent, as the season of Christian 'road works,' with John the Baptist as our overseer.*

*The word straight stands for honesty and right living. Crooked on the other hand stands for dishonesty, cheating deceit and so on.*

*If there is a crooked attitude, or some crooked way of behaving or some crooked relationship that needs to be straightened out, let us try to do so this Advent.*



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 PRIEST:** Fr John Purnell

**PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL:** Juliet Hutchins  
Mal Melvey  
Pam Melvey  
Kerry Lendon  
Rod Hay

**PARISH SECRETARY:** Rosanna Suckling

OFFICE: 60 Yambo Street, Morisset, PO Box 87, Ph: 02 4973.6859  
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(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>  
Morisset Parish Instagram : [https://www.instagram.com/stjvparish\\_morisset/](https://www.instagram.com/stjvparish_morisset/)  
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(Please submit all Bulletin Notice requests to the parish office by 2pm Wednesdays)

Email the Parish Office to Subscribe for an Electronic Bulletin .

**UPCOMING WORSHIP TIMES :**

Saturday	9th December 5pm Mass—Cooranbong
Sunday	10th December 9.30am Mass—Morisset
Tuesday	12th December 9.30am Liturgy—Morisset
Saturday	16th December 5pm Family Mass—Morisset
Sunday	17th December 9.30am Mass—Morisset
Tuesday	19th December 9.30am Liturgy—Morisset
Saturday	23rd December 5pm Mass—Cooranbong
Sunday	24th December 9.30am Mass—Morisset
Sunday	24th December 6pm Christmas Eve Mass Morisset Showground
Monday	25th December 9.30am Christmas Day Mass Morisset Church
Saturday	30th December 5pm Mass—Cooranbong
Sunday	31st December 9.30am Mass—Morisset

## **Reflection for Second Sunday of Advent Year B — 10th December 2023**

The appearance of the Lord Jesus to Israel began with the ministry of John the Baptist in the desert & by the River Jordan. All four Evangelists present the work of John as a prologue to the public ministry of Jesus.

Similar to the Book of Genesis, Mark speaks of “the beginning”- but this time it’s the beginning of the Gospel of Jesus, the Messiah, the Son of God.

It opens with a desert scene where John, a character embedded in his desert surroundings, is spreading the message of repentance to all the people. Some of the Scribes & Pharisees saw him as being possessed by demons because of his solitary lifestyle, having a strange diet of locusts & wild honey & wearing a garment made from camel skin- however, he knew from experience that being in the desert helped him to focus his mind on his mission to announce the coming of Jesus. How often did Jesus retreat to a quiet place to restore his thoughts & energy? Certainly crowds of people flocked to hear John him speak as they had not heard the voice of a prophet in their land for a long time.

They were convinced that God was again speaking to his people, reassuring them that their famine & drought days were about to end- that “their hunger & thirst would NOT be for bread & water-but for hearing the word of the Lord” (Am 8:11).

The Israelites had no positive vision for their lives or dreams. They knew where they had come from, but they didn’t know where they were going, as everything was based on what they had already seen & could see -they did not know how to see with “the eye of faith” .

We, too, need a positive vision for our lives -a vision for the future that is not determined by our past or even present circumstances.

Our Liturgical preparation for Christmas, the Season of Advent, commenced last Sunday when we were told to “Be awake, on guard & ready to welcome the Master of the house”, whose time of coming is unknown to us.

We use various symbols in the Church to help us focus on the importance of this Season.

-The Advent wreath- GREEN & CIRCULAR, symbolises strength & represents the fulfilment of time being achieved as we await the coming of Jesus.

-The 3 PURPLE candles suggest penance & fasting & the royal colour of the coming King.

-The PINK candle represents our joy & expectation as we wait.

During the coming weeks, for sure, we will be busy shopping for food, gifts, sending cards, making phone calls & perhaps attending parties— but how much time will we set aside to prepare for & celebrate the Birthday of Jesus? After all, without his birth there would be NO Christmas!

Amidst all our preparations we can easily fail to hear that voice calling to us, reminding us to “prepare the way of the Lord”. Let us pray that we don’t get so bogged down by all our activities that we miss the Miracle !

The words of the Collect in today’s Mass urge us to pray that “no earthly undertaking will hinder those who set out in haste to meet Jesus”.

St Mary MacKillop’s words in 1889- “We must hold ourselves in readiness for God’s will whichever way things go” —She suggests that we find our own version of ‘the wilderness’ so that we are prepared for the times when the God of surprises knocks on the door of our heart.

“The wilderness will lead you to your heart where I will speak”.  
Hosea 2:14. Heather White

## **St John Vianney Primary School, Morisset recognises International Day of People with Disability**

With International Day of People with Disability on Sunday 3 December, students at St John Vianney Primary School, Morisset recently engaged in a modified Literacy block aimed at promoting and raising awareness of the messages associated with this day.

International Day of People with Disability (#IDPWD), is an annual day that promotes community awareness, understanding and acceptance of people with disability.

In 2023, we are being asked to work together to make the world a better and fairer place for people with a disability.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS OFFICE PUBLISHED NOVEMBER 30, 2023

Read below, the variety of learning activities St John Vianney students took part in to engage with the sentiment of IDPWD.

Kindergarten

Kindergarten students were read three stories that articulate different diverse needs:

‘Turning Cartwheels’ by Amy Adeney

‘Round Fish-Square Bowl’ by Tom Skinner

‘What will you make today’ by Maura Pierlot

**Year 1** collaborated on constructing an Acrostic poem about DIVERSITY and used available resources to create models that showed what ‘diversity’ means to them.

**Year 2** learned about Braille and practiced writing their name in Braille. They then decorated headbands with their name written in Braille.

**Year 6** created messages using the Communicating with Braille code and completed the brainstorm activities. They proposed creative solutions to everyday situations that people with disabilities may face

You can learn more about International Day of People with Disability at: <https://www.idpwd.com.au/>

## **Bishops Appointments Macquarie Pastoral Region (Watagan Deanery)**

A couple of recent appointments by Bishop Michael Kennedy will significantly affect the Macquarie Pastoral Region-(Watagan Deanery).

Mr Christopher Voigt (currently Parish leader at Toronto) is the successful candidate for the position of Manager Bishop’s Office and so Toronto will be without leadership from January 2024.

As all would be aware Fr Greg Barker is now both Parish Priest and Vicar General Therefore Fr Greg Barker has been appointed as Administrator of Toronto while Toronto discerns possibilities for its future governance with the Chancellor.

Priests assisting Fr Greg Barker in the parishes of Booragul, Boolaroo-Warners Bay, St Joseph’s Toronto, as well as St John Vianney Morisset are Fr Raphael Madukwe, effective 31 January 2024 until further notice. • Fr Darryl Mackie, effective 31 January 2024 until further notice. Fr Darryl is returning to the Diocese after being on loan to Sydney where he has been chaplain to St Vincent’s Hospital. Fr Darryl will be part time in the parish (s) and part time in the Inter-Diocesan Tribunal. He is replacing Mrs Jane Dunn who has retired as Director. Deacon Naveen has also been appointed to the region, and will continue his discernment/formation towards priesthood under the direction of Fr Greg Barker

Fr Priyantha Fernando has been appointed as Assistant Priest, assisting Fr George Anthicad in the six parishes of the Maitland area, effective 31 January 2024 until further notice.

## **Cooranbong Cemetery**

This notice is to advise parishioners of recent developments at Cooranbong Church.

As most people would be aware our parish has a cemetery in the grounds of St Patrick and St Bridgid Church Cooranbong, which is beautifully maintained by Parish Volunteers.

Since the opening of the new Sports Complex, people have used the Babers Rd extension, to park their cars in the cul-de-sac adjacent to the cemetery, to access the Sporting Complex.

This has led to people constantly walking through the cemetery and over the graves, besides cutting the boundary fence, removing the posts and throwing them into the adjacent lagoon, to gain easy access to the Complex. The private cemetery which must comply with CCNSW legislation, has now become a public thoroughfare, which has also attracted motorbikes.

Council was approached some months ago, to see if it would consider making a southern pedestrian access to the new Sporting Complex, outside of the Church/Cemetery boundary off Babers Rd.

It has taken Council four months to respond to the request. The response being that it will be reviewing the matter in the coming six weeks. Taking the Christmas holidays into consideration, this probably means that it will be mid-February, before we hear anything from Council.

Meanwhile, acting on advice given by the Diocesan Legal Team, the Parish Leadership Team together with the groundsman, erected private property signs. This has not been well received by some locals who have systematically removed the signs.

In the meantime, we wait on advice from Council.

## **St John Vianney School News.**

- The Principal of Saint John Vianney Mr Simon Devlin is retiring at the end of 2023.
- Mrs Freda Pascoe will continue as SJV Principal.
- Mrs Emma Walsh has been appointed as the new Religious Education Coordinator
- Mrs Cassie Tuck has accepted a full time permanent primary coordinator role at Kilaben Bay for 2024.
- SJV Primary School featured in this week's Dio Update, for their participation in the International Day of People with a Disability.

## **Bishop Michael Kennedy Christmas Message.**

While Christmas may not be our holiest day of the year, it is often our most joyful. For the birth of the child Jesus – the Son of God born in human flesh – expresses most tenderly the love that God has for us, his closeness to us, and his desire that we draw closer to him and to one another.

Christmas and the child Jesus do indeed draw us closer together around him. It seems to be the time of year that we most desire to be together, and so we come together in these Christmas weeks for all manner of gatherings as workmates, as friends, as neighbours, and as family.

Christmas also seems to be the time in which we reflect upon the year that has just been and the year that is about to begin. There is something more profound happening here than Christmas merely coinciding with the New Year period. Rather, I encourage us all to more consciously bring our year that has just been to our Lord Jesus, to present it to him with all its joys and challenges, to reflect in his light on how we have fared in our choices and actions, and to seek his guidance, grace, and blessing upon our lives and plans for the year ahead.

As I reflect on the past 12 months to bring them to the Lord, I

would like to share four things with you

First, personally it was a big year for me as God's changing plans for me unfolded in my move from Armidale to Maitland-Newcastle. This came as a surprise to me, but it gave me the opportunity to renew my trust in God and my commitment to serve. I reflect with gratitude on the warm welcome, open hearts, and human kindness that I have received here from so many people both within and outside the Church.

Second, at a local level I am reminded of the deep sorrow that gripped our community earlier this year after the Hunter bus tragedy. The loss of precious life shook many of us to the core as we mourned together. But we also prayed together and supported one another through this profound grief. In that time of darkness, we witnessed the grace of God and the best of human nature.

Third, the most significant event of the year at a national level was probably the Voice referendum. Whilst both the result and the tone of some of the campaigning may have been disappointing to some, I think the whole process highlighted a couple of things on which we as a nation should be proud and can build for the future: Australians are greatly concerned for wanting better lives and outcomes for our indigenous people, and it is possible for good people to reach different conclusions about the best way to achieve desired goals and outcomes, in which case listening to each other is crucial.

Fourth, at a global level, we were shocked and horrified by the Hamas attack on Israel, reminding us of the hatred that can be stirred up in human hearts and, as a result, just how precarious peace can be. Our thoughts continue to be with those living in the midst of the ongoing conflict in Gaza, as well as those in Ukraine. In the face of such violence, we are called to be instruments of peace, to pray earnestly, and to strive for understanding. For those with eyes to see, these events also brought about many acts of solidarity and kindness.

So, this Christmas we bring to the Lord a year of both darkness and light, sorrow and joy, grief and hope. I'm sure your own life too which you bring to the Lord reflects this same interplay of good and evil in some way, as does mine. Our world and each of our lives need the faith, hope, and love of God who in the Child Jesus brings us together. I wish you a truly joyful Christmas and blessed new year. + Michael Kennedy.

## **Christmas**

As you are probably aware Christmas Eve 2023 is on Sunday 24th December.

### **Mass Times 23/24/25. December**

Saturday 23rd December Vigil Mass 5pm Cooranbong. Church  
Sunday 24th December Mass 9.30am Morisset. Church.  
Sunday 24th (Christmas Eve) Mass 6pm Morisset Showground.  
Monday 25th (Christmas Day) Mass 9.30am. Morisset Church.

## **CHRISTMAS EVE WORKING BEE**

Thank you to everyone who volunteered to help set up the Morisset Showground for our Christmas Eve Mass. A working bee to help arrange the chairs and stage etc will be held on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December at 12 midday.

People involved in the Liturgical Ministries at Christmas will be contacted shortly. Fr Priyantha Fernando will be with us at Morisset 23/24/25 December.

## **Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for December 2023**

We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the centre of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.

**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, Bank Account Name: CCF BSB: 062815 No: 00328161 Ref: 5016 1st Collection or set up a direct debit contact the parish office for this option.

**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 deposit directly into the Parish Account our details are: Account Name: CCF BSB:062815 Account Number: 00328161 one of the following Payment References are required by CCF for all deposits: 5004 or 5004 + SURNAME or 5004 + PG + your Giver Number, or 5004 + PG + SURNAME, or you can use the Online Payments 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 SOLEMNITIES**

- SAINT LUCY (M) - 13TH DEC
- SAINT JOHN OF THE CROSS (M) - 14TH DEC
- THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD VIGIL (S) - 24TH DEC
- THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD DAY (S) - 25TH DEC
- SAINT STEPHEN (F) - 26TH DEC
- SAINT JOHN (F) - 27TH DEC
- THE HOLY INNOCENTS (F) - 28TH DEC
- THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH (F) - 31ST DEC
- SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD (S) - 1ST JAN
- SAINTS BASIL THE GREAT & GREGORY NAZIANZEN (M) - 2ND JAN

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

Annette Boyd, Mary Monaghan, Clare Wallington, Donna Hazzard, Pam Mullaly, Mary Johnson, Tintumol Thomas, Les Findley, Peter Martyn, Bernadette Martin, Joan Gillett, Bruce Gillett.



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

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

**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.



**Our Parish supports The Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle 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 minister and interact with. If you have any concerns for a child or vulnerable adult please contact the Office of Safeguarding P:02 4979 1390 or 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).**

**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)**





## SUNDAY PRAYER SERVICE

### Second Sunday of Advent B

Sunday 10 Dec 2023

### The Introductory Rites

#### Acknowledgement of Country

We Acknowledge the Traditional Custodians who have walked upon and cared for this land for thousands of years. 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. We especially acknowledge the Awabakal and Darkinjung peoples who were the original custodians of the land this parish sits on.

#### 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 Christ  
who will come again in glory.

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.  
In union with the whole Church,  
we await the coming of the Lord.

#### Opening Rite

##### LITANY OF PRAISE

Leader:

God's kindness brings hope to the world.  
To prepare ourselves to hear his Word  
let us praise the Lord Jesus Christ.

A brief period of silence follows.

Leader:

Lord Jesus, you call us to repent: Lord, have mercy.

**All: Lord, have mercy.**

Christ Jesus, you walk the straight path of justice and peace:

Christ, have mercy.

**All: Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you have promised a new heaven and a new earth:

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.

Almighty God,  
a voice cries out  
to make the paths straight and the mountains low.  
In this Advent let nothing stop us  
from preparing the way of the Lord.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
for ever and ever.

All:

Amen.

#### The Liturgy of the Word

##### First Reading

**Isaiah 40:1-5. 9-11**

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

*Prepare the way for the Lord.*

'Console my people, console them'  
says your God.  
'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem  
and call to her  
that her time of service is ended,  
that her sin is atoned for,  
that she has received from the hand of the Lord  
double punishment for all her crimes.'  
A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness  
a way for the Lord.  
Make a straight highway for our God  
across the desert.  
Let every valley be filled in,  
every mountain and hill be laid low,  
let every cliff become a plain,  
and the ridges a valley;  
then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed  
and all mankind shall see it;  
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'  
Go up on a high mountain,  
joyful messenger to Zion.  
Shout with a loud voice,  
joyful messenger to Jerusalem.  
Shout without fear,  
say to the towns of Judah,  
'Here is your God.'  
Here is the Lord coming with power,  
his arm subduing all things to him.  
The prize of his victory is with him,  
his trophies all go before him.  
He is like a shepherd feeding his flock,  
gathering lambs in his arms,  
holding them against his breast  
and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

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

The word of the Lord.

All reply:

**Thanks be to God.**

## Responsorial Psalm

**Ps 84:9-14. R. v.8**

**(R.) Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.**

1. I will hear what the Lord God has to say,  
a voice that speaks of peace,  
peace for his people.  
His help is near for those who fear him  
and his glory will dwell in our land. **(R.)**
2. Mercy and faithfulness have met;  
justice and peace have embraced.  
Faithfulness shall spring from the earth  
and justice look down from heaven. **(R.)**
3. The Lord will make us prosper  
and our earth shall yield its fruit.  
Justice shall march before him  
and peace shall follow his steps. **(R.)**

## Second Reading

**2 Peter 3:8-14**

A reading from the second letter of St Peter

*We wait for new heavens and a new earth.*

There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget: that with the Lord, 'a day' can mean a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow to carry out his promises, as anybody else might be called slow; but he is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to be brought to change his ways. The Day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then with a roar the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart, the earth and all that it contains will be burnt up.

Since everything is coming to an end like this, you should be living holy and saintly lives while you wait and long for the Day of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in flames and the elements melt in the heat. What we are waiting for is what he promised: the new heavens and new earth, the place where righteousness will be at home. So then, my friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace.

**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.**

*Make straight the paths of the Lord.*

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah:

Look, I am going to send my messenger before you;  
he will prepare your way.

A voice cries in the wilderness:  
Prepare a way for the Lord,  
make his paths straight,

and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of

his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

**Reader:**

The Gospel of the Lord.

**All:**

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

*All are seated.*

## Reflection on the Word

- Q. Can you recall a time when you have had to consciously prepare yourself for what you were about to do?
- Q. Why is the wilderness an appropriate image for preparation?
- Q. Why does the gospel writer go to such lengths to associate John with the prophecies of history?
- Q. How does this gospel passage relate to the Advent season?
- Q. How can we continue to prepare the way for the Lord?

## 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.**

## Prayers of the Faithful

**Leader:** Dear friends, let us bring our prayers before the Lord,  
who is our hope and our salvation.

**Reader:** That our Holy Father Pope Francis will be a sign  
for all the world of Christ's presence in our  
midst.

In your mercy:

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

**Reader:** That through Christ's coming, priests and  
bishops will be renewed in their dedication of  
service to the people of God.

In your mercy:

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

**Reader:** That the poor and lowly may discover God's  
great deeds and be filled with the joy of his  
love.

In your mercy:

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

Reader: That warring groups and nations will put down their arms and instead collaborate on building a just and safe world.

In your mercy:

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

Reader: That there will be a just distribution of food throughout the world.

In your mercy:

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

Reader: That, in our preparations for Christmas, we will not forget those who are lonely or marginalised.

In your mercy:

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

Reader: That all who are sick will find deliverance from their suffering, especially those who we know and love.

In your mercy:

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

Reader: That all who have died will share in the eternal salvation of God, especially those who we know and love.

In your mercy:

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

Leader: Lord God, the coming of our Saviour was foretold by the prophets. Hear our prayers, and help us to build a straight path for our Lord by embracing your will for our world through Jesus. 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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### LITURGY MATTERS: Exuberant Praise and Worship

When engaging and addressing the spirituality of young people, it is important to understand where they are, especially in light of an eclectic and uncertain world. As more young people find ways to navigate this ever-changing society, providing them with spiritual guidance can strengthen their connection and growth with their faith.

### FIONA DUQUE EXUBERANT PRAISE AND WORSHIP TEAM PUBLISHED NOVEMBER 28, 2023

While research has looked at the declining connectedness of young people with traditional religion and their tentative exploration of spirituality, our young people are passionate when it comes to social justice. They have become aware, proactive and advocate for many issues, and they can communicate and gain support like no other generation. They crave a more inclusive, sustainable, authentic world based in integrity.

As “young people need integrity and authenticity when searching for their faith.” (Bouma, 2006, p. 99), then how can we, as a community of faith, provide that space for our young people?

The parish of MacKillop (Charlestown, Gateshead, Redhead) is trying to do just that. It is working on creating more contemporary and engaging forms of prayer to better connect with everyone and with the young people as a priority. Music is a central part of this endeavour. In the [Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy](#), we read the importance given to sacred music. It reads that the “musical tradition of the universal Church is a treasure of inestimable value, greater even than that of any other art (and is) to be preserved and fostered with great care (so) the whole body of the faithful may be able to contribute that active participation which is rightly theirs” [a.112,114].

I invite you to hear how MacKillop Parish is building this 'treasure':

*As we navigate the ever-changing landscape of our Catholic journey, it is with joy and anticipation that we share with you an exciting initiative born out of a shared dream and commitment to invigorate our liturgical experiences.*

*Over the past six months, a dedicated group of like-minded Catholics have been meeting to address a pressing concern within our beloved faith community – the limited involvement of teenagers and young adults in parish life.*

*The idea was sparked by the MacKillop Parish Priest Fr Tony Potts and has since been shared with all parishes across the diocese.*

*Fuelled by a shared passion for fostering meaningful prayer experiences beyond Mass, our diverse team has been working diligently to bring forth a new and exuberant opportunity for worship.*

*Recognizing the desire of people of all ages especially our youth, for more contemporary and engaging forms of prayer, we are thrilled to introduce our upcoming "Exuberant Catholic Praise and Worship Nights." These monthly gatherings aim to provide a space where the spirit of our faith can be expressed through Scripture, preaching, catechesis, personal testimony, prayer and the uplifting power of contemporary music.*

*Our team, consisting of over 40 members, has already witnessed a remarkable level of interest and attendance during our planning phase. This response serves as a testament to the real need within our community for an event that provides opportunity to pray and worship in addition to mass. We believe it is the calling of the Catholic Church to respond to this need and provide avenues for spiritual growth that resonate with all members of our faith community.*

*The heart of our Praise and Worship Nights lies in the inclusivity of our approach. We extend a warm invitation to all members of our faith community to join us in shaping this exciting new venture. If you have a passion, talent, or simply a strong desire to contribute to something meaningful, we welcome you to lead or join one of our dynamic teams:*

1.
  1. Music (musicians and singers)
  2. Greeters
  3. Marketing
  4. Hospitality
  5. Stage crew
  6. Logistics
  7. & more...

*The time is ripe for you to make your mark and be an integral part of this vibrant expression of our faith. Whether you are musically inclined, have a flair for marketing, possess organisational skills, or simply want to contribute in any capacity, we invite you to contact*

*Father Tony: [tony.potts@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:tony.potts@mn.catholic.org.au) if you are interested or attend the next meeting:*

*Wednesday 21st February 2024  
Refreshments provided 5:30. Meeting commences at 6pm.  
Function Room, MacKillop Parish Pastoral Centre  
7 Milson Street, Charlestown.*

*Let us come together as a community, inspired by the Holy Spirit, to create a space where the vibrancy of our faith shines brightly. Together, we can make a lasting impact and provide our youth with the meaningful prayer experiences they seek.*

*Fr Tony and the MacKillop Praise and Worship Team*

Back to Fiona...

Across the diocese some other parishes are exploring more meaningful worship connections with young people. Sugarloaf Wallsend-Shortland is one.

The Diocesan Liturgy Council is considering other initiatives. A new opportunity to be offered in 2024 is "Sing to the Lord." This is focusing on the ministry of cantor and singer and will offer an opportunity that nurtures music ministers and connects them with others across the diocese.

See [HERE](#) for details.

Does this excite you? Get you thinking? What possibilities might you explore in your own parish?

How are you being called to respond?

Bouma, G. (2006). *Australian Soul: Religion and Spirituality in the 21 Century*. New York: Cambridge University Press

### **Diocesan Liturgy Council Update**

To keep abreast of the work of the [Diocesan Liturgy Council](#) you can review the Report published on the website after each meeting. (Click on Council News). The September report is available. The October and November meetings were cancelled.

### **Acknowledgements**

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