



**St John  
Vianney**  
Parish Morisset



**THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR B 10 NOVEMBER 2024**

*In today's Gospel Jesus is portrayed as overturning the 'status quo' of his day. He was not content to accept a system of corruption .*

*Jesus begins by warning the crowd about the scribes. The scribes were learned men who were supposed to know what God desired and follow through on it, while teaching God's ways to others. Underneath their show however, the scribes were insincere and even stole from the widows.*

*Jesus points out to us something that is beyond the naked eye. We can see the proof of this through the Gospel story. It is the widows tiny amount, that counts in Gods sight, more than the riches of the rich.*

*Today, we are challenged to embrace the path of authentic Christian discipleship based on the teaching and example of Christ. Only by dying to power and domination and rising to humility, simplicity and servanthood, can we be a catalyst for renewal and agents of the Gospel.*



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

**PARISH LEADERSHIP TEAM:** Uta France  
John France

**PRIEST SUPERVISOR:** Fr Joseph Figuardo  
**SACRAMENTAL PRIESTS:** Fr Greg Barker VG  
Fr Darryl Mackie  
Fr Raphael Madukwe  
Fr John Purnell

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

**PARISH SECRETARY:** Rosanna Suckling

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

**UPCOMING WORSHIP TIMES :**

Saturday	9th November 5pm Mass—Cooranbong
Sunday	10th November 9.30am Mass—Morisset
Tuesday	12th November 9.30am Liturgy—Morisset
Friday	15th November 10.30am Mass—Morisset
Saturday	16th November 5pm Family Mass— Morisset
Sunday	17th November 9.30am Mass—Morisset
Tuesday	19th November 9.30am Liturgy—Morisset
Friday	22nd November 10.30am Mass—Morisset
Saturday	23rd November 5pm Mass—Cooranbong
Sunday	24th November 9.30am Mass—Morisset
Tuesday	26th November 9.30am Liturgy—Morisset
Friday	29th November 10.30am Mass—Morisset

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## Feast of Christ the King -24th November

If anyone has a significant birthday to celebrate, or would like to renew their wedding vows, or has lost a partner recently, it is planned that at the 9.30am Mass, on the Feast of Christ the King, parishioners will be able to celebrate these events.

If you are interested in receiving a special blessing to acknowledge these milestones, please complete the online form at: <https://forms.office.com/r/VazV4M0fiL> or the hard copy ones at the back of the church and place in the box provided.

## Christmas

Thank you to the people who have already volunteered to help with the Christmas Masses.

If you can help with the Christmas Mass Ministries, or general assistance for 'Set up' and 'Pack up' Please complete a 'sign up' sheet online at: <https://forms.office.com/r/Cer8Rr35Lt> Or the hard copy ones at the back of the church and place in the box provided.

Christmas Mass Times will be announced when the availability of priests is determined.

## Chancery News

### Parish Priest Appointment to Inner Newcastle, Mayfield and Stockton

I am pleased to inform you that I am appointing Fr Greg Barker V.G. as Parish Priest of Inner Newcastle, Mayfield, and Stockton, effective from 1 January 2025.

I am most grateful to those who submitted an expression of interest and to Fr Greg for taking on this significant appointment in addition to his responsibilities as Vicar General.

Bishop Michael Kennedy.

## GOSPEL

### Mark 12:38-44

*This poor widow has put more in than all who contributed.*

In his teaching Jesus said, 'Beware of the scribes who like to walk about in long robes, to be greeted obsequiously in the market squares, to take the front seats in the synagogues and the places of honour at banquets; these are the men who swallow the property of widows, while making a show of lengthy prayers. The more severe will be the sentence they receive.'

He sat down opposite the treasury and watched the people putting money into the treasury, and many of the rich put in a great deal. A poor widow came and put in two small coins, the equivalent of a penny. Then he called to his disciples and said to them, 'I tell you solemnly, this poor widow has put more in than all who have contributed to the treasury; for they have all put in money they had over, but she from the little she had has put in everything she possessed, all she had to live on.'

## THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Year B — Reflection 10th November 2024

In the patriarchal society of biblical times widows were in a particularly vulnerable situation. A daughter remained the possession of her father until she married; then she became the possession of her husband. If she was widowed and there was no male relative to take responsibility for her, she and her estate became the responsibility of the Synagogue officials.

We hear two remarkable stories of widows today. Firstly, we hear the story of the widow and her son, who, in a drought-stricken land, were facing starvation. Her faith in God's promise, spoken by his prophet, Elijah, was so great, that she shared the last of the very little food she and her son had left with the prophet. Her faith was justified in that her jar of meal and her jug of oil were not emptied while the drought remained. Then

Mark's Gospel tells us of a poor widow, who put every last penny she had into the temple treasury, in contrast to the wealthy who contributed a lot more, but only from the plentiful surplus they had. This can be seen as an act of great generosity and faith, of putting all her trust in her belief that somehow God would provide.

However, we may see more in this, when we take into account Jesus' words: he warns, "Beware of the scribes .. who swallow the property of widows, while making a show of lengthy prayers." Christ detested hypocrisy. We know from the account of Jesus' anger, when he drove the money changers out of the temple, that he was far from happy about what the temple had become – a place that was not focused on the worship of God but, rather, had become a place of business, where the poor were often abused. Too often, the officials, who were responsible for the care of the widows, were guilty of exploitation and using the widows' property for their own purposes. Was the widow in this case also still feeling pressured to pay her dues to the temple? Jesus warns that the penalty will be severe for those guilty of exploitation

Perhaps there is also a warning in this for us as a Church, as a community and as individuals, that we need to take seriously our responsibility to the needy and the vulnerable and be prepared to give more than just a fraction of what we can spare.

In the letter to the Hebrews, we are reminded of the one who gave everything for us. Christ, the perfect high priest, offered himself once and for all to do away with sin and so earn our salvation and continues to intercede for us. When we remember how much has been done for us, surely it is an incentive for us to do more than we are doing at the moment and take the faith and generosity of the two widows as an example. Pam Melvey

## Vinnies Christmas Appeal

The local Vinnies Conference will conduct their Christmas Appeal on the Weekend of the Sat 30th November and Sun 1st December. –(First Sunday in Advent)

## Resumption of Communion from the chalice at Mass.-

A few points for our parish to consider before this is reintroduced

- 1 Are appropriate sanitising protocols in place.
- 2 Are metal Chalices available for use.
- 3 Do we have sufficient formed Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion to offer the Chalice at each Mass •
- 4 Do we have enough formed Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion willing to consume the Precious Blood remaining after Communion at each Mass.

## Thank you

Thank you to everyone who helped out to put on the Melbourne Cup Luncheon that was held on Tuesday it was a great day. Thank you to those who attended we raised \$433 for the parish. Marcia and Michell Foo.

ST. JOHN VIANNEY PRIMARY SCHOOL MORISSET

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[www.morisset.catholic.edu.au](http://www.morisset.catholic.edu.au)

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## 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 Tabernacle

The Tabernacle is a box-like, or dome-like vessel for the exclusive reservation of the consecrated Eucharist. It is normally made from metal and is lockable and secured to the wall to prevent the consecrated elements within, from being removed without authorisation.

The Catholic Church holds to the doctrine of transubstantiation, which is the belief that the body and blood of Christ continue to be present in the bread and wine even after Mass is concluded. Therefore, a tabernacle serves as a secure and sacred place in which to store the Blessed Sacrament for carrying to the sick and others who cannot participate in Mass, or as a focus for the prayers of those who visit the church.

### With A Light Heart

His mother was trying to get the sauce out of the bottle to put the finishing touch to his sandwich.

Just then, the doorbell rang, and the little boy ran to answer it. "Is your Mummy at home?" the visitor asked. "Yes," he said, "She's in the kitchen hitting the bottle."

### Mercy Sisters Ecology Fellowship Program

This program is for emerging leaders in Integral Ecology awareness and animation who desire to be part of the ongoing enhancement and development of reflective action for Gospel justice in response to the cries of Earth. There are 5 components of the Program committed emerging leaders will engage and complete to better enable them and their communities to respond to ecological challenges.

Applications for the fully funded 2025-2026 Mercy Sisters Ecology Fellowship Program close on Monday 18 November. Find out more about the program and how to apply: [https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5acea6725417fc059ddcc33f/t/67049b914d3947588f61acb7/1728355220931/20241008\\_ISM\\_APNG+Mercy+Integral+Ecology+Fellowship+2025-26.pdf](https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5acea6725417fc059ddcc33f/t/67049b914d3947588f61acb7/1728355220931/20241008_ISM_APNG+Mercy+Integral+Ecology+Fellowship+2025-26.pdf)

### Advent 2024: Awaiting Hope

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

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

### Caritas Australia's Lebanon Crisis Appeal

Lebanon is currently facing a dire crisis, and the need for your support has never been greater. Communities are being devastated by conflict and economic instability, leaving countless families without access to basic needs like food, water, and medical care. Our Caritas Australia partners on the ground are doing everything they can, **but they desperately need your help.**

Please show your *love for Lebanon* and donate today to help supply essential items such as food, shelter, and medical aid, as well as long-term support to rebuild communities.

Donate today: [www.caritas.org.au/lebanon](http://www.caritas.org.au/lebanon)

### Caritas Australia's Global Gifts are Christmas Cards with purpose!

Every card you buy helps build brighter futures for children, women and men experiencing hardship and poverty.

By putting your compassion into action and shopping for the Global Gifts of your choice you will bring hope and joy to the world's most vulnerable and communities, while giving your loved ones a meaningful Christmas card.

View the range of Global Gifts: [www.globalgifts.org.au](http://www.globalgifts.org.au)

### Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for November

We pray that all parents who mourn the loss of a son or daughter find support in their community and receive peace and consolation from the Holy Spirit.

### St Pius X Windale students create their own book 'Torn Apart'

"It's so great to see the joy on the kids faces and how excited they are to bring their ideas to life. They can claim they're an author and illustrator from early primary school," Sami Bayly Catholic Schools Office PUBLISHED November 05, 2024

For the second year in a row, author and illustrator Sami Bayly has inspired budding storytellers at St Pius X Primary School, Windale.

St Pius X Primary School students launched their story *Torn Apart* on Monday, November 4 which follows the journey of a red kangaroo who starts to wreak havoc on Awabakal country.

"It starts to make the lives for a lot of the beautiful animals nearby quite intense and unpleasant. The story shows how animals can come together and bring peace back to their homes," Ms Bayly said.

For an entire week, students worked closely with Sami who carefully guided them through each step of the creative process - from brainstorming ideas and developing characters to illustrating scenes and crafting a compelling narrative.

"I think it's really special for kids whether they're going through a tough time, they can read a book and they can escape. It encourages imagination and encourages so much education and knowledge of the world around you."

### 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 December 2024**. Bookings can be made online at the link at: <https://forms.office.com/r/wZtatkt01V>

### Nominations now open!

Nominations are now open for the annual EMMAUS Awards. The EMMAUS Awards recognise the contribution of our staff in schools, celebrating the achievement of excellence in Catholic Schools.

Catholic Schools Office PUBLISHED October 11, 2024

Now is the time to start thinking about nominating a worthy colleague, or your school community, in a range of categories including.

Innovation, Leadership, Excellence in Teaching, School Support, Catholic School Community, First Five Years of Teaching, Vocational Education Teaching, Sisters of St Joseph Lochinvar Education.

[Click here to nominate online](#). Nominations close on Friday 22 November. [Click here for further information on the CSO website](#).

**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 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.

<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	L Hutchinson P Melvey	H White K Lendon
<u>PSALMIST:</u>	5PM 9.30AM	J France U France	J France J France
<u>GIFTS</u>	5PM 9.30AM	K Lendon H White K Tonkin TBA	P Melvey D Whitten S Matthew
<u>SERVERS</u>	5PM 9.30AM	M Melvey C Lawandos	R Lawandos V Paulo
<u>AV</u>	5PM 9.30AM	U France E Lawandos	J Vipian D Peterson
<u>WELCOMERS</u>	5PM 9.30AM	Cameron Family C Lawandos	J France A Walker G Walker
<u>CHURCH CLEANING</u>	COOR MOR	J Scully R Hay C Hay	XXXX A Walker G Walker

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

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

**Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.**

*If you have any concerns for a child or vulnerable person please contact the Office of Safeguarding Phone: 02 4979 1390*

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

*or visit their website for further information:*

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

**UPCOMING FEAST DAYS MEMORIALS AND SOLEMNITIES**

THE DEDICATION OF THE LATERAN BASILICA (F) - 9TH NOV  
 SAINT MARTIN OF TOURS (M) - 11TH NOV  
 SAINT JOSAPHAT (M) - 12TH NOV  
 PRESENTATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY (M) - 21ST NOV  
 SAINT CECILIA (M) - 22ND NOV  
 OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE (S) - 24TH NOV  
 SAINT ANDREW (F) - 30TH NOV  
 SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER (M) - 3RD DEC  
 SAINT AMBROSE (M) - 7TH DEC  
 THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY (S) - 9TH DEC

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

Nancy Overton, Ross Dickson, Betty Smith, Frank Simons, Anna Dussin, Koby Smith, Annette Boyd, Mary Monaghan, Clare Wallington, Donna Hazzard, Pam Mullaly, Tintumol Thomas, Peter Martyn, Bernadette Martin, Bruce Gillett.

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



**Prayer Requests for the Bulletin**

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

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

**An Act of Spiritual Communion**

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



**Live stream Mass every Sunday at 9.30am at [www.mn.catholic.org.au/places/live-stream](http://www.mn.catholic.org.au/places/live-stream)**





**SUNDAY PRAYER SERVICE**  
**Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary**  
**Time Year B**  
**Sunday 10 Nov 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 show us the way to the Father: Lord, have mercy.

**All: Lord, have mercy.**

Christ Jesus, you gave your life for our salvation: Christ, have  
mercy.

**All: Christ, have mercy.**

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

**All: Lord, have mercy.**

**Leader:**

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

**All:**

**Amen.**

**Opening Prayer**

**Leader:**

Let us pray.

*All pause for silent prayer.*

God of light  
you ask us to listen to your voice  
and stand ready to meet Jesus  
when he comes again.  
Help us to keep our lamps lit  
and stay awake  
so that we are ready to answer your call.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
for ever and ever.

**All:**

**Amen.**

**The Liturgy of the Word**

**First Reading**

**1 Kings 17:10-16**

A reading from the first book of the Kings

*The widow made a little scone from her flour meal and brought it to Elijah.*

Elijah the Prophet went off to Sidon. And when he reached the city gate, there was a widow gathering sticks; addressing her he said, 'Please bring a little water in a vessel for me to drink.' She was setting off to bring it when he called after her. 'Please' he said, 'bring me a scrap of bread in your hand.' 'As the Lord your God lives', she replied, 'I have no baked bread, but only a handful of meal in a jar and a little oil in a jug; I am just gathering a stick or two to go and prepare this for myself and my son to eat, and then we shall die.' But Elijah said to her, 'Do not be afraid, go and do as you have said; but first make a little scone of it for me and bring it to me, and then make some for yourself and for your son. For thus the Lord speaks, the God of Israel:

"Jar of meal shall not be spent,  
jug of oil shall not be emptied,  
before the day when the Lord sends  
rain on the face of the earth."

The woman went and did as Elijah told her and they ate the food, she, himself and her son. The jar of meal was not spent nor the jug of oil emptied, just as the Lord had foretold through Elijah.

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

The word of the Lord.

**All reply:**

**Thanks be to God.**

**Responsorial Psalm**

**Ps 145:7-10. R.v.2**

**(R.) Praise the Lord, my soul!**

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith forever  
who is just to those who are oppressed.  
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,  
the Lord who sets prisoners free. **(R.)**
2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,  
who raises up those who are bowed down.  
It is the Lord who loves the just,  
the Lord who protects the stranger. **(R.)**
3. The Lord upholds the widow and orphan  
but thwarts the path of the wicked.  
The Lord will reign for ever,  
Zion's God, from age to age. **(R.)**

## Second Reading

### Hebrews 9:24-28

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

*Christ offered himself only once to take the faults of many on himself.*

It is not as though Christ had entered a man-made sanctuary which was only modelled on the real one; but it was heaven itself, so that he could appear in the actual presence of God on our behalf. And he does not have to offer himself again and again, like the high priest going into the sanctuary year after year with the blood that is not his own, or else he would have had to suffer over and over again since the world began. Instead of that, he has made his appearance once and for all, now at the end of the last age, to do away with sin by sacrificing himself. Since men only die once, and after that comes judgement, so Christ, too, offers himself only once to take the faults of many on himself, and when he appears a second time, it will not be to deal with sin but to reward with salvation those who are waiting for him.

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

The word of the Lord.

All reply:

Thanks be to God.

## Gospel

Reader:

From the holy Gospel according to **Mark**

All:

Glory to you, O Lord.

### Mark 12:38-44

*This poor widow has put more in than all who contributed.*

In his teaching Jesus said, 'Beware of the scribes who like to walk about in long robes, to be greeted obsequiously in the market squares, to take the front seats in the synagogues and the places of honour at banquets; these are the men who swallow the property of widows, while making a show of lengthy prayers. The more severe will be the sentence they receive.'

He sat down opposite the treasury and watched the people putting money into the treasury, and many of the rich put in a great deal. A poor widow came and put in two small coins, the equivalent of a penny. Then he called to his disciples and said to them, 'I tell you solemnly, this poor widow has put more in than all who have contributed to the treasury; for they have all put in money they had over, but she from the little she had has put in everything she possessed, all she had to live on.'

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.

QQ. Has this week's reflection changed your ideas about this passage?

Q. Why does Jesus promise such a severe sentence for the scribes?

Q. What group in our society is the equivalent of the 'widows' of Jesus' time?

Q. How do you think the disciples reacted to Jesus' comment about the widow?

## Profession of Faith

Leader:

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

All:

**I believe in God,  
the Father almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth,  
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,**  
*At the words that follow, up to and including the Virgin  
Mary, all bow.*

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

## Prayer of the Faithful

Leader: Dear friends, let us bring our prayers before the Lord,  
who shows justice to those in need.

Reader: That the Holy Church will promote works of charity and  
service to the poor in all parts of the world.  
In your mercy:

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

Reader: That those who feel the strain of sacrifice through  
giving will find comfort in the Lord's favour.  
In your mercy:

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

Reader: That those who direct the economy will work for the  
well-being of all people.  
In your mercy:

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

Reader: That our community assembled here to share the Lord's  
sacrifice will receive the promise of salvation.  
In your mercy:

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

Reader: That all the sick and housebound may know the  
strength of Christ's presence with them.  
In your mercy:

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

Reader: That those who have died will celebrate Christ's victory  
over death in the kingdom of God.  
In your mercy:

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

Leader: Loving God, you are generous and compassionate. Hear  
our prayers, and help us to find gratitude in our hearts  
for the gift of Jesus in the Eucharist. 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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## Christian Meditation

You're invited to join the WCCM Meditation Community for their next event on Saturday 30 November. It starts at 9.30am at the Diocesan Resource Centre. Morning tea is provided. Donations of \$10 are appreciated. Contact Anne for more info by emailing [annecuskelly@hotmail.com](mailto:annecuskelly@hotmail.com) or phoning 0407 436 808.

## Liturgy Matters: plants, altars and chalices

I could begin by asking you which of the three words in the title of this article doesn't fit. If you read on you will see they are a natural fit!

Louise Gannon rsj PUBLISHED November 05, 2024

As I have indicated in a previous Liturgy Matters article, we have been facilitating a lot of liturgy formation, particularly in the Maitland Catholic Region where today, 25 people participated in the second retreat formation day, 'Ministering at Two Tables'. About 40 people participated in the same formation on Saturday 26 October.

As I was doing my final preparation for that Saturday, I was reminded of one of my favourite Pope Francis quotes about liturgy.

The liturgy is the work of Christ and of the Church, and as such it is a living organism, like a plant, which cannot be neglected or mistreated. It is not a bronze or marble monument; it is not a museum piece. The liturgy is living, like a plant, and should be cultivated with care. Furthermore, the liturgy is joyous, with the joy of the Spirit, not of a worldly feast, with the joy of the Spirit. That is why, for example, a liturgy with a funereal tone does not make sense. It is always joyous, because it sings the praises of the Lord.

(Address of his holiness Pope Francis to members of the Italian association of teachers and practitioners of liturgy. Clementine Hall | Thursday, 1st September 2022)

I find the image of liturgy as a living plant which needs constant tending and cultivation not only attractive, but deeply insightful.

'Tending' and 'cultivating' its sacramental and liturgical life is exactly what the Maitland Catholic Region is doing through its extensive formation journey. The participants' evaluations so far, indicate insights that will assist them with this work. Some of their most common insights include:

A deeper appreciation of our rich Catholic understanding of sacrament and liturgy.

There is far more to Catholic Liturgy than Mass.

The overall Catholic structure of liturgy, and particularly within Eucharist, with the emphasis on the two tables of Word and Sacrament, so closely related that they form one table from which the people are fed.

The critical importance of silence.

That liturgy functions as a dialogue, most importantly in the Liturgy of the Word, where God speaks to God's people and, having listened, the people respond together.

The difference between reading and proclaiming. For a start the proclaimer looks at the people and the people look at the proclaimer because God is speaking!

A deeper understanding of the Liturgy of the Eucharist, particularly that the first element is called 'The Preparation of the Gifts'. It is not the 'Offertory'. The offering happens in the Eucharistic Prayer.

The understanding that informs the Church's insistence that Communion be given from the altar not the tabernacle. I receive back who I have become! Exceptions to this should be rare.

Communion is a communal activity, so look at your brothers and sisters in the communion procession. The time for personal prayer is when the communion procession has finished.

Eye contact between all ministers and the Assembly is critical.

The celebrant of the liturgy is the Assembly, the people. The priest is the presider.

Liturgy is a verb not a noun and it is a communal activity, not personal.

There is far more flexibility and possible diversity than people imagine.

Of course, the chief liturgical gardener in the diocese is the Bishop. He is the one who leads our 'tending' and 'cultivating' of liturgy. We have all seen over the past eighteen months the care with which Bishop Michael Kennedy tends the liturgical plant in the diocese.

As the chief gardener, Bishop Michael has recently communicated with parishes on two important matters that 'tend' our celebration of the Eucharist.

Firstly, on 23 May 2024, he wrote to the clergy, requesting their assistance to ensure people are given communion from the altar rather than the tabernacle, pointing out that this is the expectation of the Church.

It is most desirable that the faithful, just as the Priest himself is bound to do, receive the Lord's Body from hosts consecrated at the same Mass and that, in the cases where this is foreseen, they

partake of the chalice (cf. no. 283), so that even by means of the signs Communion may stand out more clearly as a participation in the sacrifice actually being celebrated.

(General Instruction of the Roman Missal a 85)

Secondly, on 23 October 2024 Bishop Michael wrote to Parish Leaders lifting the restriction on the reception of Communion from the Chalice that was put in place during the COVID-19 pandemic. He has asked parishes to discern whether, when and how Communion from the Chalice will be reintroduced within the parish. To assist with this discernment, the Diocesan Liturgy Council has prepared a 'Pastoral Guidance' document which is available here. Please approach your Parish Leader if you would like to read Bishop Michael's letter.

These are just two recent examples of the many ways Bishop Michael tends and cultivates the beautiful living plant that is the liturgical life of the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle.

We all need to participate in this work in our parish and school communities. For the liturgy to be alive and not a museum piece, we all need to take responsibility, we all need to engage in formation, we all need to be open to conversion, and we all need to be the change we would like to see. For a start, we could put aside our missals and parish bulletins, we could look at the people speaking to us, and we could sit up the front. I know, even that sounds like a revolution to some.

At each of the formation sessions in Maitland we have asked people to put aside their personal agendas, and to be attentive and open to what is revealed when we pay attention to what the Church says in its liturgical books and documents. People did that, and their openness to listening and reflecting enabled us all to have wonderfully rich and, dare I say, enjoyable experiences of formation.

How are you, personally and as a member of your community, tending and cultivating the living plant of liturgy? Please let us know if you would appreciate a companion to accompany you and assist in the development of a formation pathway that suits your community. E: [worshipandprayer@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:worshipandprayer@mn.catholic.org.au)

Hopefully, you now appreciate the connection between our three words: plants, altars and chalices. Who would have thought! Keep pondering.

### **Pet blessing attracts all sizes from Great Dane to Bearded Dragon**

Pets great and small were packed in the car and brought to St Joseph's East Maitland recently for the church's third Annual Pet Blessing.

Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle PUBLISHED November 04, 2024  
This piece was originally featured in the Maitland Mercury - 25 October 2024.

Pets great and small were packed in the car and brought to St Joseph's East Maitland recently for the church's third Annual Pet Blessing.

There were all kinds of dogs from a Great Dane and German Shepherd on the larger side, to a Chihuahua on the smaller side who sat politely as Father George Anthicad blessed them with holy water.

But the smallest pet by far was Harley the bearded dragon, who waited patiently in his carrier for his turn.

Held on Tuesday, October 22, the pet blessing is held each year near the Feast Day of St Francis, who is the Catholic church's patron saint of animals and the environment.

Chisholm pastoral region Youth Ministry Coordinator Rebecca Piefke said the pet blessing is an opportunity to bring people together.

"It's great to see everybody come together and be happy to be together, and really build that community spirit," she said.

Animal lover Margaret Beavers attended the pet blessing with her Maltese terrier Eddie, and said she thinks of the blessing as a bit of protection for him.

"It's my pet insurance having him blessed," she said.

Eddie, who is 8, was given to Ms Beavers during the COVID pandemic by her daughter.

"I said I'm not allowed to have a dog and I don't want to have a dog, and I'm telling you now he's not coming in my bedroom, she said mum you do what you like with him," she said.

"That night I locked him in the laundry and he cried and scratched on the door half the night until I got up and opened the door and he ran in and got on the end of my bed and that's where he's been ever since."

Before blessing each animal with holy water, Father George Anthicad shared with the crowd that animals have a part in all human life, and that St Francis loved all living things.

That evening, St Joseph's church also held the Youth Mass outside so the pets could join in.

### **Synod calls for all baptised Catholics to help chart a path forward**

Pope Francis' three-year consultation on the future of the Church concluded at the weekend, outlining challenges and proposing ways for all the baptised to be involved in charting a path forward. Source: NCR Online.

Recommended changes include overhauling training for future priests, greater lay involvement in selecting bishops, expansion of women's ministries and a revision to Church law to mandate greater transparency and accountability throughout the Church.

The 51-page Final Document was approved and published after three years of tens of thousands of listening sessions, continental assemblies and two major summits in Rome.

It stops short of proposing certain dramatic changes – such as the restoration of the female diaconate or greater recognition of LGBTQ Catholics – that many reform groups have sought during the multiyear project known as the Synod on Synodality.

But neither does it close the door on such possibilities. The Synod's document notes that access to the diaconate for women "remains open" and calls for a Church that does not exclude people because of their "marital situation, identity or sexuality."

The document, which was produced by some 400 delegates from around the world, caps a legacy initiative for Francis – inviting one of the world's oldest institutions to consider how it might become more inclusive and better capable of listening to all its members.

In remarks following the document's approval by the Synod body, the Pope approved its publication.

Francis said that he hoped the document would be a "gift to the people of God."

He said that he did not intend to publish an apostolic exhortation, a magisterial document typically published at the conclusion of the Synod offering the Pope's own reflections.

Instead, he said, the document already contains "highly concrete indications" to guide the Church's mission.

The Pope also noted the work of the special study groups on some of the most contentious issues that surfaced throughout the three-year process. Their work is expected to continue through June 2025.

FULL STORY

[Synod's final report calls for all baptised Catholics to shape the future Church \(By Christopher White, NCR Online\)](#)