



TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR B 15 SEPTEMBER 2024

In the Gospel for the 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Jesus asks his disciples : “Who do you say that I am?”

Today we are asked the very same question, “Who do you say Jesus is?” Prophet, teacher, good guy, mad man, insane person, miracle worker, saviour. Who is He to us?

Christianity is not a theory to be studied but a life to be lived. Jesus called for followers, i.e. people moving forward with him, not lifeless statues.

This Sunday, we the Church of Maitland-Newcastle, by decree of Bishop Bill, have nominated today as “Perpetual Day of Remembrance Sunday”, which has its own readings.

This is when we remember the harm caused by our history of child sexual abuse in our Diocese.



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	14th September 5pm Family Mass—Morisset
Sunday	15th September 9.30am Mass—Morisset
Tuesday	17th September 9.30am Liturgy—Morisset
Friday	20th September 10.30am Mass—Morisset
Saturday	21st September 5pm Mass—Cooranbong
Sunday	22nd September 9.30am Mass—Cooranbong
Tuesday	24th September 9.30am Liturgy—Morisset
Friday	27th September 10.30am Mass—Morisset
Saturday	28th September 5pm Family Mass—Morisset
Sunday	29th September 9.30am Mass—Morisset
Saturday	5th October 5pm Family Mass—Morisset
Sunday	6th October 9.30am Mass—Morisset
Friday	11th October 9.30am Mass—Morisset



TO HOPE AND ACT WITH CREATION

SEASON OF CREATION 2024

The firstfruits of hope

(Rom 8:19-25)

Action as a sign of the firstfruits of hope

• You don't see hope, hope is like a seed you have to be patient and nurture it with water to make it grow. If you don't include hope, the seed might not grow. We know sometimes the seed might die, but hope reminds us to keep planting other seeds.

• The firstfruits of hope are born when we work collectively, regenerating peace and harmony in all Creation and with Creation, nurturing peaceful coexistence, fidelity, honesty, and transparency among the whole cosmos.

• The Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty (FFNPT) is a global initiative that strives for an international regime that complements the Paris Agreement in addressing the still-growing supply of fossil fuels. It is a concrete action that can serve as a compass for a hopeful future.

• The FFNPT is a call for a transformation, not just adjusting our GHG outputs, but which points to a change of life that goes to phasing down and out of fossil fuel production.

• Action as the firstfruits of hope can look like many different things: advocacy campaigns, sustainability initiatives, and educational formations to help upskill Christian communities in their awareness of how care for Creation is central to our faith.

• The firstfruits of hope can be seen when we think and work collectively, when we recognize how we depend on Creation, when we listen to the cries of the Earth and the cries of the poor, when we listen to the voices of our global neighbors impacted by climate change, when we listen to the prophetic voices of indigenous sisters and brothers, when we listen to the different creatures that are going extinct and the ones still striving to live, when we listen to the voices of young people and children, when we learn from the slow and powerful cycles of life of different species, ecosystems, and biomes, when we work together with Creation and all creatures for a better future.

For more information on the FFNPT go to: <https://fossilfuel treaty.org/home>

The Way Forward

Parishioners who did not have the opportunity to vote for their preferred model of parish have an opportunity to cast their vote this weekend. The cutoff date for voting is this weekend 14/15 September. Voting forms are at the Church door. Place the completed forms in the box provided.

Or you can vote online. Contact the Parish Office for assistance. 49736859.

GOSPEL

Mark 8:27-35

You are the Christ ... the Son of Man was destined to suffer much.

Jesus and his disciples left for the villages round Caesarea Philippi. On the way he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say I am?' And they told him. 'John the Baptist,' they said, 'others Elijah; others again, one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he asked, 'who do you say I am?' Peter spoke up and said to him, 'You are the Christ.' And he gave them strict orders not to tell anyone about him.

And he began to teach them that the Son of Man was destined to suffer grievously, to be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes, and to be put to death, and after three days to rise again; and he said all this quite openly. Then, taking him aside, Peter started to remonstrate with him. But, turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said to him, 'Get behind me, Satan! Because the way you think is not God's way but man's.'

He called the people and his disciples to him and said, 'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it.'

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Year B — Reflection 15th September 2024

It seems every day we face significant challenges. Our world itself is facing the threats posed by climate change and so we pray in our Season of Creation Prayer that we may "hear and heal Creation, to hope and act together with her, so that the first fruits of hope may blossom." Just last Sunday, Safeguarding Sunday, we were challenged to commit to "cultural change that will help the Church be a place that respects the dignity of all children and adults at risk and empowers and listens to all people, especially those who are vulnerable."

Today, each one of us is confronted with a very personal challenge. We are asked to examine our personal relationship with Christ. "**Who do you say I am?**" We call ourselves Christians, but how does that impact on how we live our lives? In Australia we are quite sheltered from persecution. I don't think any of us considers the possibility of being burnt alive in our Church, when we attend Mass. However, let us not forget that this has happened to other Christians in other places. What does it mean to us when we hear Christ's words: "if anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake and for the sake of the gospel, will save it."?

Perhaps for us "taking up our cross" means following the example of Christ in how we live our lives. In faith, we believe that Christ preached a message of unconditional love and forgiveness. Through his suffering and death on the Cross, Christ earned the salvation of us all. Most of us are never asked to contemplate giving up our lives, though some have accepted martyrdom for Christ's sake. What we are asked to do is to love God and love our neighbour. This can mean putting others' real needs ahead of our own selfishness. It also means that we need to be prepared to forgive others for any offences they have inflicted upon us.

In a recent daily meditation Father Richard Rohr wrote of Jesus' teaching and lived example of forgiveness: "Among the most powerful of human experiences is to give or receive forgiveness... That's not surprising, because forgiveness is probably the only human action that reveals three goodnesses simultaneously! When we forgive, we choose the goodness of others over their faults, we experience God's goodness flowing through ourselves, and we also experience our own goodness in a way that surprises us. This is an awesome coming together of power, both human and divine."

Let us then take up the challenge of bearing our cross, by showing we are Christians by our love – our love of God and of each other; by our willingness to forgive and by our willingness to put the needs of others before our own. Let us remember the words from James' letter when he talks about Faith: "if good works do not go with it, it is quite dead." Pam Melvey

Perpetual Day of Remembrance

Perpetual Day of Remembrance Sunday

This Sunday, we the Church of Maitland-Newcastle, by decree of the late Bishop Bill Wright, have nominated today as "Perpetual Day of Remembrance Sunday"

This is when we remember the harm caused by our history of child sexual abuse in our Diocese.

Today, there is a sense of diminishment in terms of the Church's moral stature in society, and there is precious little trust left in Church leaders after the Royal Commission.

This is not a time for defensiveness or despair. Rather, it must be a time of humility that we must seek to rebuild and renew. We do this by reclaiming not the former prestige and affluence, but the essential quality for Christian living and witness.

We must make the cross of Christ, living the discipleship of powerlessness and vulnerable trust, the cornerstone of the Church again. Only then, can our voice be credible.

We are called to be an alternative community that welcomes, protects and cares for the most vulnerable.

The Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle and our Parish of St John Vianney have an absolute and abiding commitment to promote the safety and wellbeing of all children.

Cuppa Sunday

Everyone is welcome to join in a cuppa this Sunday after 9.30am Mass at Morisset in the Callinan Centre.

In the Parish This Week

Wednesday: The Parish Pastoral Council will meet.

Thursday: The Parish Finance Council will meet.

Friday: Bishop Michael Kennedy will visit the parish to confer the Sacrament of Confirmation on Friday evening at 7pm in the Morisset Church. Please pray for the children and their families.

SJV School News

On Friday the 20th September, SJV School is having Grandparents Day / Book Week celebrations.

Everyone welcome to enjoy the fun! Costumes optional? The day is as follows:

9:15am -Book Parade

9:45am -Liturgy in the Hall (approximate time)

10:15am - Open Classrooms

11am - Morning Tea for Grandparents in Hall.

Clergy and Parish Leaders Retreat

From Sunday 29th September until Friday 4th October Clergy and Parish Leaders from around the Diocese will gather at Kirkton Park Pokolbin for their annual retreat. The Retreat Director will be Fr Kahid Marogi.

Fr Khalid was born and raised in Iraq and has been in Australia for two decades.

Having lived in Iraq during the First Gulf War, one of a small number who stayed at the seminary in Baghdad while bombs rained down, Fr Khalid understands well the issues refugees and asylum-seekers face. He has held many ministry roles since his arrival in Australia in the 1990's.

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 ARRANGEMENT OF A CHURCH

Places for the faithful should be arranged with appropriate care so that they are able to participate in the sacred celebrations, duly following them with their eyes and their attention.

It is desirable that benches or seating usually should be provided for their use. Care should be taken to ensure that the faithful be able not only to see the Priest, the Deacon, and the readers but also, with the aid of modern technical means, to hear them without difficulty.

In accordance with the structure of each church, the Blessed Sacrament should be reserved in a tabernacle in a part of the church that is truly noble, prominent, conspicuous, worthily decorated, and suitable for prayer. The tabernacle should be irremovable, be made of solid and inviolable material that is not transparent and be locked in such a way that the danger of profanation is prevented to the greatest extent possible.

Near the tabernacle a special lamp should shine permanently to indicate the presence of Christ and honour it.

Consequently, it is preferable that the tabernacle be located either in the sanctuary, apart from the altar of celebration, or even in some chapel suitable for the private adoration and prayer of the faithful, and connected to the church and readily noticeable by the Christian faithful.

With A Light Heart

A priest had an important appointment with the bishop in the city but couldn't find a parking spot. Because he was running so late, he took a chance and left his car in a no parking zone.

He placed a note under the windscreen wiper that read: "I have circled the block ten times. If I don't park here, I'll miss my appointment with the bishop. Forgive us our trespasses."

When he returned two hours later, he found a parking ticket and a note from the parking inspector. It read: "I've circled this block for ten years and if I don't give you a ticket I'll lose my job.

Lead us not into temptation."

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 8th October 2024**. Bookings can be made online at the link at: <https://forms.office.com/r/wZtatkt01V> or by contacting our Parish Office.

Mistakes with Electronic Bank Transfer Payments for Collections

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

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

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

LGBTIQ Liturgy

The LGBTIQ+ forum invites you to celebrate a Diocesan liturgy with LGBTIQ+ people, their families, friends and supporters at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church.

Date: Friday 18 October Where: 16 Tighes Terrace, Tighes Hill Time: 6pm Contact: LGBTIQ@mn.catholic.org.au

SUPPORTING THE CLERGY / 1st Collection

If you would like to make contributions to support the Clergy / 1st Collection please do so at Mass in the BLUE bucket or electronically using the Online Payments button on the Parish Website Home page, Diocese App, Electronic Funds Transfer Only Bank Account Name: Morisset Parish Presbytery BSB: 066739 No: 100004062 Ref: 1st Collection, SURNAME or Donation or contact the parish office to set up a direct debit.

SUPPORTING OUR PARISH / 2nd Collection

If you would like to make contributions to support our Parish please do so at Mass via the RED bucket or our Parish Electronic Funds Transfer Only Account the details are: Account Name: Morisset Parish Church BSB:066739 Account Number: 100004064 please use one of the following Payment References PG + your giver number or PG + SURNAME or SURNAME you can also use the Online Payments or Planned Giving button on the Parish Website Home page or the Diocese App. If you are considering taking up **planned giving** you may like to know that **a percentage of the contributions are tax deductible**. If you would like to know more or set up planned giving please contact the Parish Office.

WEEKEND ROSTERS			
		<u>THIS WEEK</u>	<u>NEXT WEEK</u>
<u>PRESIDERS</u>	5PM 9.30AM	Mass Mass	Mass Mass
<u>PROCLAIMERS:</u>	5PM 9.30AM	M Foo L McRae	K Lendon S Matthew
<u>PSALMIST:</u>	5PM 9.30AM	P Melvey K Lendon	L Hutchinson M Shamley
<u>GIFTS</u>	5PM 9.30AM	P Robertson K Tonkin TBA	B Cox P Melvey A Walker G Walker
<u>SERVERS</u>	5PM 9.30AM	R Lawandos V Paulo	M Melvey J Lawandos
<u>AV</u>	5PM 9.30AM	U France J Vippan	D Peterson E Lawandos
<u>WELCOMERS</u>	5PM 9.30AM	M Melvey A Walker G Walker	Cameron Family J Hutchins
<u>CHURCH CLEANING</u>	COOR MOR	XXXX R Hay C Hay	F Dunn 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

UPCOMING FEAST DAYS MEMORIALS AND SOLEMNITIES

- THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS (F) - 14TH SEPT
- SAINTS CORNELIUS AND CYPRIAN (M) - 16TH SEPT
- SAINTS ANDREW KIM TAEON, PAUL CHONG HASANG AND COMPANIONS (M) - 20TH SEPT
- SAINT MATTHEW (F) - 21ST SEPT
- SAINT PIUS OF PIETRELCINA (M) - 23RD SEPT
- SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL (M) - 27TH SEPT
- SAINT JEROME (M) - 30TH SEPT
- SAINT THERESE OF THE CHILD JESUS (M) - 1ST OCT
- THE HOLY GUARDIAN ANGELS (M) - 2ND OCT
- SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI (M) - 4TH OCT

Please pray for all those who are sick: in hospital or at home, especially those living with a life threatening disease:
 Frank Simons, Anna Dussin, Mary Carapiet, 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.



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





If any want to become my followers,
let them deny themselves and
take up their cross and follow me.

Mark 8:34

SUNDAY PRAYER SERVICE

Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time B & Perpetual Day of Remembrance Sunday 15 Sep 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.

Perpetual Day of Remembrance.

As we mark our diocesan 'Perpetual Day of Remembrance' which holds before us our history of child sexual abuse and the reality of its continual unfolding for those directly and indirectly affected, we, the faithful, are called to pray.

In the Light of Your Love

God with us,
you have made us in your image,
and filled us with the breath of your divine life.
Through the life of Jesus
you show us the way to live in the light of your love.
Create a clean heart in us O God.
Where people are disempowered
may we shine the light of your justice.
Where there is privilege and prestige
may we shine the light of your humility.
Where there is dishonesty and denial
may we shine the light of your truth.
Where transparency is lacking, and agendas are hidden,
may we shine the light of your integrity.
Where there is fear
may we shine the light of your courage.
Where there is judgement
may we shine the light of your compassion.
Where there is disrespect
may we shine the light of your love.
Where people feel silenced
may we shine the light of your word.
Where people feel excluded

may we shine the light of your acceptance.
Where there is sin
may we shine the light of your forgiveness.
Create a clean heart in us O God.
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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 built your Church on a firm foundation:
Lord, have mercy.
All: Lord, have mercy.
Christ Jesus, your love is eternal: Christ, have mercy.
All: Christ, have mercy.
Lord Jesus, you are the Christ, the son of the living God: 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 mercy
you give pardon and peace to sinners
for your love knows no bounds.
Give us hearts that remember your mercy.
May we always be ready to forgive others
when they do wrong.
We ask this through Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
for ever and ever.

All:

Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

Isaiah 50:5-9

A reading from the prophet Isaiah
I gave my body to those who struck me.
The Lord has opened my ear.
For my part, I made no resistance,
neither did I turn away.
I offered my back to those who struck me,
my cheeks to those who tore at my beard;
I did not cover my face
against insult and spittle.

The Lord comes to my help,
so that I am untouched by the insults.
So, too, I set my face like flint;
I know I shall not be shamed.
My vindicator is here at hand.
Does anyone start proceedings against me?
Then let us go to court together.
Who thinks he has a case against me?
Let him approach me.
The Lord is coming to my help,
who dare condemn me?

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

The word of the Lord.

All reply:

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 114:1-6. 8-9. R. v.9

**(R.) I will walk in the presence of the Lord,
in the land of the living.**

1. I love the Lord for he has heard
the cry of my appeal;
for he turned his ear to me
in the day when I called him. (R.)
2. They surrounded me, the snares of death,
with anguish of the tomb;
they caught me, sorrow and distress.
I called on the Lord's name.
O Lord my God, deliver me! (R.)
3. How gracious is the Lord, and just;
our God has compassion.
The Lord protects the simple hearts;
I was helpless so he saved me. (R.)
4. He has kept my soul from death,
my eyes from tears
and my feet from stumbling.
I will walk in the presence of the Lord
in the land of the living. (R.)

Second Reading

James 2:14-18

A reading from the letter of St James

Faith without good works is dead.

Take the case, my brothers, of someone who has never done a single good act but claims that he has faith. Will that faith save him? If one of the brothers or one of the sisters is in need of clothes and has not enough food to live on, and one of you says to them, 'I wish you well; keep yourself warm and eat plenty,' without giving them these bare necessities of life, then what good is that? Faith is like that: if good works do not go with it, it is quite dead.

This is the way to talk to people of that kind: 'You say you have faith and I have good deeds; I will prove to you that I have faith by showing you my good deeds – now you prove to me that you have faith without any good deeds to show.'

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 8:27-35

You are the Christ ... the Son of Man was destined to suffer much.

Jesus and his disciples left for the villages round Caesarea Philippi. On the way he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say I am?' And they told him. 'John the Baptist,' they said, 'others Elijah; others again, one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he asked, 'who do you say I am?' Peter spoke up and said to him, 'You are the Christ.' And he gave them strict orders not to tell anyone about him.

And he began to teach them that the Son of Man was destined to suffer grievously, to be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes, and to be put to death, and after three days to rise again; and he said all this quite openly. Then, taking him aside, Peter started to remonstrate with him. But, turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said to him, 'Get behind me, Satan! Because the way you think is not God's way but man's.'

He called the people and his disciples to him and said, 'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it.'

Reader:

The Gospel of the Lord.

All:

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

All are seated.

Reflection on the Word

A short period of reflection may be observed.

Q. What message emerges from the gospel passage for you?

Q. Why did the gospel writer make reference to the passage from Isaiah in the words of the crowd?

Q. What might have happened next in the life of the man who was healed?

Q. Why was Jesus so keen to keep his actions quiet?

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 turn to the Lord who hears the prayers of all in need.

Reader: That Pope Francis, our Bishop Michael, and all clergy will be blessed as they dedicate their lives to all followers of Christ. In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That all Christian Churches will be brought together in the unity of one Gospel. In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That just as Christ welcomed the children, all young people struggling with faith and uncertainty will be blessed with the Lord's favour. In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That the Holy Spirit will bless this parish community by providing us with good judgement during our discernment of "The Way Forward", and may we find the strength to offer our gifts for the betterment of our community. In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That all members of our church community will be true to the Gospel not only through faith, but through good works done to the glory of your name. In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That all the sick and distressed will be relieved in their suffering by your grace, In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That those who have died will walk with God in the land of the living, In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Loving God, you are just and compassionate to all. Hear the prayers of your followers gathered today, and help us to take up our cross in faith with you. 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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FAITH MATTERS: Trinitarian Ecology

Spring has sprung! The days are becoming warmer, the birds are rising earlier to greet the sunrise, flowers are starting to bloom. Spring regenerates us as we move from the cold months, it is a season that transforms us as it enhances our human senses and as a result contributes to our overall wellbeing.

Rosemary McAllister PUBLISHED September 10, 2024

We are blessed to celebrate the Season of Creation in the southern hemisphere as it provides the optimum advantage to engage with creation and develop a grounding relationship with our mother earth. It is wonderful to see a world engaged in the Season of Creation providing bountiful opportunities to explore.

This past week I was fortunate to tune into a presentation titled, The Artist and the Theologian: Contemplating Creation. Angela Manno was the artist and Elizabeth Johnson, CSJ, the theologian. The presentation combined a feast of images, music, and readings that drew the audience into contemplation, compassion, and wonder at the glory, diversity, and suffering of the living world.

The presentation is now freely accessible at: The Artist and the Theologian: Contemplating Creation - YouTube

The past week has also been an opportunity to learn about particular people who like Pope Francis have an ecological heart, one such person is our Denis Edwards.

Many thanks to our Diocesan seminarian, Anton Perera who is currently completing his theological studies for allowing his research on Denis Edwards to be included in this article.

Denis Edwards (1943- 2019) was a priest, a teacher, a prolific author and one of Australia's expert theologians who has been engaged in the dialogue between science and religion, contributing to the developing field of ecological theology.

One of the themes Denis Edwards focuses on is Trinitarian ecology and suggests the diversity of creatures is to be seen as the self-expression of the Trinity. 'An eagle in flight, a wildflower in its delicate beauty, an ecosystem, and the biosphere of Earth can in its own be seen as a self-expression of the Creator, and thus, as an image of God.' [1] Edwards acknowledges St. Bonaventure's saying, that the diverse creatures are works of art reflecting divine wisdom. 'God created the perceptible world as a means of self-revelation. Thus, each creature represents the divine wisdom, while the universe is a book reflecting, representing and describing the Maker, the Trinity.'

Edwards claims, 'that the interrelationships that characterize creation, including the ecological relationships that characterize life on Earth, spring from the relational life of the Trinity.' [2]

In the Christian understanding of the Holy Trinity, God is relational. The fourth century theologian Basil of Caesarea (330-379A.D.), 'developed the notion that the divine persons are with each other in a communion ('Koinonia' in Greek), St. Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274 A.D.) stated that God, relation and essence are one and the same, God's being is relational, the persons-in-relationships are what God is.' [3] The Greek word '

'Perichoresis' denotes the divine being in communion. According to Edwards the radical intimacy of the divine persons points unity in diversity, thus, 'Christian theology sees the diversity of creatures as springing from the overflowing abundance of this divine Perichoresis.' [4] All creatures exist and have their very being in the divine 'perichoresis' or divine communion, so no one is excluded and each one is interconnected and interdependent.

This is the advice we are given today to protect and enhance the natural world in which we live and relate to one another in and through the Blessed Trinity. Further we are called to personal and communal transformation to integral ecological conversion to reduce the consumeristic culture.

Edwards recognized the intrinsic value, dignity and utility of all creatures. In a Trinitarian theology of creation, everything that exists springs from the divine communion and will find its fulfillment in this communion. The natural world can survive without humanity, but humanity cannot survive and has no future without the natural world.

This call to live in relationship and communion with the world speaks directly to this year's Season of Creation theme, "To hope and act with Creation" and the symbol is "The first fruits of hope". Creation is groaning in the pains of childbirth (Romans 8:22), this biblical image pictures the Earth as a mother, groaning as in childbirth. The times we live in show that we are not relating to the Earth as a gift from our Creator, but rather as a resource to be used. How can we live in communion with our mother earth to create deep trinitarian relationships and perichoresis? How can we nurture the first fruits, so they are nourished, maintained and sustained now and into the future?

There is a need to contemplate and act.

If you would like to learn more about the work of Denis Edwards visit the DoMN Library and to access reflections with Denis Edwards, go to:

<https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/faith-formation/faith-formation-resources/>

Denis Edwards, "Ecology at the heart of Faith": 'Human beings within the community of life: made in the image of God' (Maryknoll:Obris, 2006), 15.

Denis Edwards, "The Diversity of life and the Trinity", Lutheran Theological Journal 46. No. 2. Aug 2012:93.'

Ibid.

Denis Edwards (ed), "For your immortal Spirit is in all things: the Role of the Spirit in Creation" Earth Revealing; Earth Healing: Ecology and Christian Theology (Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 2001), lixv-9.

Remembrance and Connection

As we pause in remembrance this September to acknowledge the devastation caused to victims, survivors, and the families of those who experienced child sexual abuse within the Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle, we are reminded of the importance of connectedness and compassion to support in healing.

Leanne Beckhouse PUBLISHED September 07, 2024

For those that have been harmed or traumatised, healing is a complex and sometimes elusive goal. Although many people pursue healing at some stage in their lives, the question of how to achieve it can be overwhelming.

Many experts may suggest a certain approach, but as a Case Worker specialising in child sexual abuse, I have learned that this is a lifelong process, and everyone must follow their own unique path.

For many who have suffered religious based trauma, it can be hard to feel safe enough to reach out to others to achieve connection. For others, it can be hard to imagine why some people are unable to "let it go". If we all work to find

understanding and compassion whenever we can, together we may find a better way to move forward.

Larry* is a survivor who has taught me a lot about what it is to carry the lifelong burden of childhood trauma and in particular, where connection and spirituality can aid in healing and growth. He said many survivors struggle in isolation and darkness every day.

"There is a void in our lives, an emptiness that dulls the spark of humanity, and life becomes a grind to just endure," Larry said.

"I see spirituality as providing meaning in my life. It provides me with a connection to others and points me towards a power greater than myself, whatever way you conceptualise that power.

"I am reminded by our First Nations brothers and sisters that when I look into nature, when I gaze at a starry sky and when I marvel at the light of the moon, I am being connected to something greater than me," he said.

Larry, along with many other survivors, access the support of Zimmermann Service Healing and Support within the Diocese's CatholicCare agency.

Zimmerman Service Healing and Support aims to provide psychosocial support and confidential assistance to anyone who has been impacted by sexual abuse within the Diocese.

Recognising that healing is a journey not an end goal, Zimmerman Service acknowledges the profound trauma experienced by many at the hands of trusted individuals. To build a safer world for future generations, we must continue to remember and learn from the past.

For more information on services contact 4923 0636 or email ZimmermanService@healingandsupport.org.au

Support can also be sought from The Clergy Abused Network (C.A.N) by contacting 0408 909 950 or 0408 515 149.

Perpetual Day of Remembrance

This year September 15, our Perpetual Day of Remembrance, is a Sunday.

Resources to support the community's prayer response are available on the diocesan website.

The range of resources enables everyone to participate in whatever way is most authentic, from lighting a candle and perhaps saying a prayer in your home, to joining with others at Mass on Sunday September 15.

For more information visit [mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/perpetual-day-of-remembrance/](https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/perpetual-day-of-remembrance/)

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.

A new offering from Caritas Australia's Catholic Earthcare program.

This guide outlines a 4-step cycle of self-assessment, reflection, planning and action that complements the global Laudato Si' Action Platform. It is designed to help you initiate practical, meaningful change within your parish, school, household or organisation as you plan and take action to live Laudato Si'.

Sign up to receive your free copy! At: <https://www.caritas.org.au/LSAP-Guide>