



**St John  
Vianney**  
Parish Morisset



**TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR B 08 SEPTEMBER 2024**

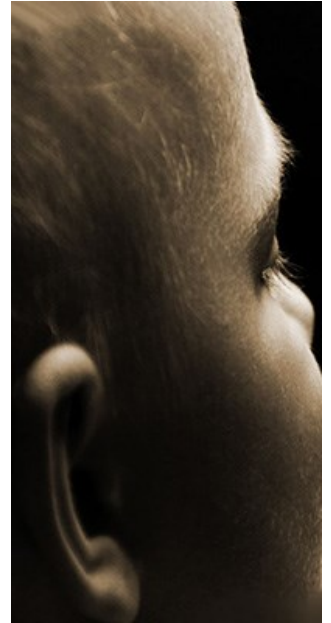
*Today's Gospel concerns the cure of a handicapped man. For that reason we might dismiss it as having no relevance. But, in truth, all of us have got our handicaps.*

*In one way or another, many of us are wounded. In some people, inner wounds have lead to drink or depression. In others the same inner wounds have bred a need to prove themselves, to be successful, to win and to dominate.*

*The first step in the road to healing, is to recognize our wounds. Then counselling may be called for, to unravel the origins of these wounds.*

*The cry of a needy person may reach our ears, but unless it reaches our heart, we will not hear the persons pain, and it is unlikely that we will respond.*

*In touching the ears and tongue of that handicapped man, Jesus also touched his wounded heart. It was that above all, that made the man new.*



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 | 7th September 5pm<br>Mass—Cooranbong       |
| Sunday   | 8th September 9.30am<br>Mass—Morisset      |
| Tuesday  | 10th September 9.30am<br>Liturgy—Morisset  |
| Friday   | 13th September 10.30am<br>Mass—Morisset    |
| Saturday | 14th September 5pm<br>Family Mass—Morisset |
| Sunday   | 15th September 9.30am<br>Mass—Morisset     |
| Tuesday  | 17th September 9.30am<br>Liturgy—Morisset  |
| Friday   | 20th September 10.30am<br>Mass—Morisset    |
| Saturday | 21st September 5pm<br>Mass—Cooranbong      |
| Sunday   | 22nd September 9.30am<br>Mass—Cooranbong   |
| Tuesday  | 24th September 9.30am<br>Liturgy—Morisset  |
| Friday   | 27th September 10.30am<br>Mass—Morisset    |
| Saturday | 28th September 5pm<br>Family Mass—Morisset |
| Sunday   | 29th September 9.30am<br>Mass—Morisset     |

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# TO HOPE AND ACT WITH CREATION

SEASON OF CREATION 2024

*The firstfruits of hope*

(Rom 8:19-25)

## SEASON OF CREATION PRAYER 2024

Triune God, Creator of all,

We praise you for your goodness, visible in all the diversity that you have created, making us a cosmic family living in a common home.

Through the Earth you created, we experience love and nourishment, home and protection.

We confess that we do not relate to the Earth as a Mothering gift from you, our Creator. Our selfishness, greed, neglect, and abuse have caused the climate crisis, loss of biodiversity, human suffering as well as the suffering of all our fellow creatures.

We confess that we have failed to listen to the groans of the Earth, the groans of all creatures, and the groans of the Spirit of hope and justice that lives within us.

May your Creator Spirit help us in our weakness, so that we may know the redeeming power of Christ and the hope found in him. May the groans of the Spirit birth in us a willingness to serve you faithfully, so that we may hear and heal Creation, to hope and act together with her, so that the firstfruits of hope may blossom.

Loving and Creator God, we pray that you will make us sensitive to these groans and enable us to have the same compassion as that of Jesus, the redeeming Lord. Grant us a fresh vision of our relationship with Earth, and with one another, as creatures that are made in your image.

In the name of the one who came to proclaim the good news to all Creation,  
Jesus Christ.  
Amen.

## GOSPEL

**Mark 7:31-37**

**He makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.**

Returning from the district of Tyre, Jesus went by way of Sidon towards the sea of Galilee, right through the Decapolis region. And they brought him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they asked him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, put his fingers into the man's ears and touched his tongue with spittle. Then looking up to heaven he sighed; and he said to him, 'Ephphatha,' that is, 'Be opened.' And his ears were opened, and the ligament of his tongue was loosened and he spoke clearly. And Jesus ordered them to tell no one about it, but the more he insisted, the more widely they published it. Their admiration was unbounded. 'He has done all things well,' they said 'he makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.'

## TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Year B — Reflection 8th September 2024

In today's Gospel Jesus cures a deaf man who is not a Jew and has a speech impediment. The man is brought out of a world of silence, into one where he can hear and speak clearly, and so be able to participate fully in the life of the community.

The ability to hear and speak are two great gifts, but like all great gifts they can be taken for granted or even misused.

Next Sunday 15th September, has been designated as Child Protection Sunday. Child Protection Sunday recalls to us, our task of ensuring that children in our churches and schools, can grow, talk and play safely. The day carries great weight, because we know that in the past, too many people entrusted with the care of children, exploited and abused them.

The community was also trapped in silence, when responding to the sexual abuse of children.

Children were not listened to, and those who heard did not believe, or failed to report it. This was a silent world in which children suffered

As Christians we need to challenge false standards, and not allow ourselves to be caught up in them. As Christians we need to hear the word of God and put it into practice in our lives.

Jesus taught us to live in right relationships with everyone and everything around us. - John France

## The Way Forward

Parishioners who did not have the opportunity to vote for their preferred model of parish last weekend, have an opportunity to cast their vote this weekend. The cut off date for voting is 14/15 September. Voting forms are at the Church door, or you can vote online. Contact the Parish Office for assistance. 49736859.

## Safeguarding Sunday – 8 September 2024

The Catholic Church in Australia will mark Safeguarding Sunday 2024 on the 8th of September, at the conclusion of National Child Protection Week.

This year Safeguarding Sunday has adopted the theme of National Child Protection Week - "Every conversation matters". Embracing this theme, we are reminded that every conversation about safeguarding matters. Children and adults at risk are more likely to raise concerns and issues in an organisation that empowers and listens to them, and creating space for children and adults to have a say in decisions that affect them is an integral part of every safe organisation. This year Safeguarding Sunday has adopted the theme of National Child Protection Week - "Every conversation matters". Embracing this theme, we are reminded that every conversation about safeguarding matters. Children and adults at risk are more likely to raise concerns and issues in an organisation that empowers and listens to them, and creating space for children and adults to have a say in decisions that affect them is an integral part of every safe organisation.

## National Police Remembrance Service

This year, Bishop Michael Kennedy is hosting the National Police Remembrance Service in the Sacred Heart Cathedral on Friday 27 September. There will be a police march to the Cathedral beginning at 9.30 and the Service will begin at 10.00am. We encourage as many as possible from across the diocese to gather for this service as an expression of our support of and prayer for the members of the Police Force and particularly those who have died in the last 12 months. We look forward to seeing you there.

## Confirmation

Bishop Michael Kennedy will confer the Sacrament of Confirmation on our candidates Friday 20th September at 7pm. Please remember the children and their families in your prayers as they prepare for this event.

## Parish Viability Meetings.

Leaders of our parish will be attending Parish Viability meetings, that have been scheduled for September

These meetings are very important for planning the ongoing sustainability of Parishes

The dates are as follows: • Tues 24th Sept, 10am-12.30pm, followed by Lunch:

Muswellbrook Workers Club, 15-17 Sydney St, Muswellbrook •

Wed 25th Sept, 10am-12:30pm, followed by Lunch: Club Forster, 19 Strand St, Forster •

Fri 27th Sept, 10am-12.30pm, followed by Lunch: Parish Hall, Warners Bay •

Thurs 26th Sept, 6:30pm by Zoom

## 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](mailto:LGBTIQ@mn.catholic.org.au)

## Perpetual Day of Remembrance

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

**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 Preparation of the Gifts

At the beginning of the Liturgy of the Eucharist the gifts which will become Christ's Body and Blood are brought to the altar. First of all, the altar or Lord's table, which is the centre of the whole Liturgy of the Eucharist, is made ready when on it are placed the corporal, purificator, Missal and chalice

The offerings are then brought forward. It is a praiseworthy practice for the bread and wine to be presented by the faithful. They are then accepted at an appropriate place by the Priest or the Deacon to be carried to the altar.

The procession bringing the gifts is accompanied by the Offertory Chant, which continues at least until the gifts have been placed on the altar.

## With A Light Heart

A businessman finds himself in serious financial trouble. His business has gone under, so he decides to ask God for help. He begins to pray like never before.

"God, please help me. I've lost my business and if I don't get some money soon, I'm going to lose my house too. Please let me

win this Saturday's Lotto. It's worth twenty million dollars."

Saturday night arrives, and no one wins the major prize, so the man prays even harder. "God, please let me win the Lotto. I've lost my business and my house and now I'm about to lose my car."

The following Saturday night comes and goes and still the man is luckless. This time he gets on his knees and prays. "My God, why have you forsaken me? I've lost my business, my house and now my car. My children are starving. I don't ask You for help, and I have always been a good servant of yours. I go to Mass and help my neighbours. Please let me win next Saturday's Lotto just this one time so I can get my life back in order. This I beg of You.

Suddenly, there is a blinding flash of light as the heavens open. The man is overwhelmed by the voice of God himself.

The voice said ' For my sake and yours, you can start by buying a ticket."

## Christian Initiation Formation Day

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

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

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

For enquiries or registration assistance contact [sharon.murphy@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:sharon.murphy@mn.catholic.org.au) P 4979 1134.



## Baptism Preparation Program

Baptism is a happy event and a time to ponder God's loving gifts in our lives. For those seeking baptism for their children our baptism preparation programs will usually run in the evenings on the second Tuesday of the Month starting at 7pm, bookings are essential. Our next Program will be held on **Tuesday 10th September 2024**. Bookings can be made online at the link at: <https://forms.office.com/r/wZtatkt01V> or by contacting our Parish Office.

## 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 details located on page 4 of this newsletter.

## Pope Francis's Prayer Intention for September 2024

That each of us listen with our hearts to the cry of the Earth and of the victims of environmental disasters and the climate crisis, making a personal commitment to care for the world we inhabit.

**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.

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

*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 SOLEMINITIES**

- SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM (M) - 13TH SEPT
- THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS (F) - 14TH SEPT
- SAINTS CORNELIUS AND CYPRIAN (M) - 16TH SEPT
- SAINTS ANDREW KIM TAEON, PAUL CHONG HASANG AND COMPANIONS (M) - 20TH SEPT
- SAINT MATTHEW (F) - 21ST SEPT
- 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

**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](http://www.mn.catholic.org.au/places/live-stream)*



We are committed to the  
**NATIONAL CATHOLIC  
SAFEGUARDING STANDARDS**



## SUNDAY PRAYER SERVICE

### Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

### Year B

### Sunday 08 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.

#### 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 open the ears of the deaf: Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, you give courage to those who are afraid: Christ, have mercy.

All: Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you love the lowly and the poor: 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 our help  
you call us together as one  
united in Jesus, our saviour and brother.  
Help us to care for each other  
and work together in Jesus' name  
so that we may build a kingdom of peace.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
for ever and ever.

All:

Amen.

#### The Liturgy of the Word

#### First Reading

Isaiah 35:4-7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

*Then the ears of the deaf shall be opened and the tongues of the dumb speak.*

Say to all faint hearts,  
'Courage! Do not be afraid.  
'Look, your God is coming,  
vengeance is coming,  
the retribution of God;  
he is coming to save you.'  
Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
the ears of the deaf unsealed,  
then the lame shall leap like a deer  
and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy;  
for water gushes in the desert,  
streams in the wasteland,  
the scorched earth becomes a lake,  
the parched land springs of water.

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.1

(R.) Praise the Lord, my soul!

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,  
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 bound down,  
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

### James 2:1-5

A reading from the letter of St James

*Has not God chosen the poor of the world to inherit the kingdom?*

My brothers, do not try to combine faith in Jesus Christ, our glorified Lord, with the making of distinctions between classes of people. Now suppose a man comes into your synagogue, beautifully dressed and with a gold ring on, and at the same time a poor man comes in, in shabby clothes, and you take notice of the well-dressed man, and say, 'Come this way to the best seats'; then you tell the poor man, 'Stand over there' or 'You can sit on the floor by my foot-rest.' Can't you see that you have used two different standards in your mind, and turned yourselves into judges, and corrupt judges at that?

Listen, my dear brothers: it was those who are poor according to the world that God chose, to be rich in faith and to be the heirs to the kingdom which he promised to those who love 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 7:31-37

*He makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.*

Returning from the district of Tyre, Jesus went by way of Sidon towards the sea of Galilee, right through the Decapolis region. And they brought him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they asked him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, put his fingers into the man's ears and touched his tongue with spittle. Then looking up to heaven he sighed; and he said to him, 'Ephphatha,' that is, 'Be opened.' And his ears were opened, and the ligament of his tongue was loosened and he spoke clearly. And Jesus ordered them to tell no one about it, but the more he insisted, the more widely they published it. Their admiration was unbounded. 'He has done all things well,' they said 'he makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.'

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: Conscious that each person is precious in the eyes of the Lord, let us place our prayers before God who is kind and merciful, and rich in compassion.

Reader: That the Holy Church will have eyes open to the needs of all its faithful, and be ever-vigilant in protecting and safeguarding children and vulnerable people. In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That the visit of Pope Francis to Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Timor Leste and Singapore will be an occasion of great blessing for all peoples of those nations. 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 those whose lives have been traumatised through abuse, may find the courage to share their story and to find lasting peace and healing. In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That all who are ill may experience God's healing and presence, especially those who are part of our families and community. In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That all who have died will inherit the kingdom prepared for them by the Lord, especially those who were family members and part of the community. In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Lord God, you open our ears with your healing touch. Hear our words as we speak to you and grant us the strength to help all in need as we do your will. 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: Truth and Peace**

One way we can start to be peacemakers is to ensure we are at peace within ourselves first and develop good relationships with others and foster neighbourliness.

Rosemary McAllister PUBLISHED September 03, 2024

Last week I was blessed to be invited as a Dominican Associate to a gathering with our local religious sisters from the various orders to listen to Sr Mary Pellegrino CSJ from Baden, Pennsylvania. Sr Mary invited us into reflection while delivering her presentation titled "Prophetic Witness - Prophetic Communities tell the truth, grieve and express hope".

Sr Mary took us on a journey. As a group of religious sisters and associates we were invited to contemplate on and discuss aspects of:

Telling the truth in a society that lives in illusion

To grieve in a society that practices denial

Express hope in a society that lives in despair

What struck me was the concerns Sr Mary focused on were similar to those raised in the recently released Social Justice Statement, Truth and Peace, A Gospel Word in a Violent World.

During group discussions many people raised the issue of the impact of AI on society. This led me to explore some of the direct influences of AI technology at a micro level of our everyday

human existence. What I discovered was that digital platforms are part of what is being coined as attention economy and this can relate directly to displacement of lifestyle behaviours. In the attention economy your attention is the product and clients, who are typically advertisers, pay for this product. It is in the best interest of service providers to get as much of your attention as possible, this means that digital environments are designed to promote what's being called extended non-deliberative engagement. This basically means digital environments are designed to keep you there for a long time without you thinking about what you're doing or why you're doing it. Have you noticed that mini-series on streaming services automatically play the next episode encouraging you to binge watch the whole series at once? Algorithms pick up on time you spend viewing something online and fill your feed with similar content enticing you to spend your money on just about anything. While we all have freedom to make choices it is becoming progressively more difficult to discern if our choices are being manipulated and controlled, which makes us question what is the truth. The Social Justice Statement raises the point, 'Artificial Intelligence adds a very powerful new tool to the kit of those who want to spread disinformation, allowing them to generate photographs, videos and audio messages which mislead and deceive'. p.4. The quietness of manipulation is permeating through anything related to technology which weaves itself into human reality. We are fed propaganda with every news station we tune into, and it all depends on the ideology held by the owner of the company to determine which points of view we are fed.

Pope Francis said nine years ago "We are not living an era of change but a change of era". Sr Mary highlighted for attendees that about every 500 years the world goes through some massive changes. I think we are in the mix of this change now. While times are turbulent and truth is distorted, to remain centred we must endeavour to find peace. Sr Mary enlightened us with two opposing concepts to conclude the day, Force of Empire and Fostering Neighbourliness. Like the Social Justice statement, the two concepts are truth and peace. 'The making of peace is a great task for humanity. It is a work to be done, an art to be learnt and practised. But the fulness of peace can come only as revelation, a gift from the God who wants to give it but who will not force it upon us. God wants to work with us in the making of peace and waits for us to say yes to the gift.' p.10.

The Social Justice Statement provides some simple ways we can find peace, the first two are:

'Start with yourself. Invite God to nurture peace in your heart. Examining the things that happened over the course of your day when you pray before bedtime is a good practice. Ask yourself how you responded to conflicts. Did you reach out in friendship and love to others, show kindness or offer or receive forgiveness? Ask God for the grace to make peace in your life.' p.11.

The statement also encourages us all to be peacemakers, act small but think big, to act locally but think globally.

One way we can start to be peacemakers is to ensure we are at peace within ourselves first and develop good relationships with others and foster neighbourliness.

There are several opportunities that we invite you to which we hope you will find peace and foster a spirit of neighbourliness.

Formation Films featuring 'The Tree of Life' will be held on Saturday 7 September (lunch provided). To register go to: <https://forms.office.com/r/GbNTPA2DWt>

This coming weekend you are welcome to join us on the aMeN caMiNo weekend retreat at the Myall Coast. For more information go to: <https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/faith-formation/amen-camino/>

## 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](mailto:rose.mcallister@mn.catholic.org.au) by 16/09/24. The images will be displayed at Creation Sings.

## Art and Spirituality Workshop

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

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

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

**Venue: Kilaben Bay Community Centre**

**Cost: \$25 per person**

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

## Youth Alpha

Alpha is a safe space to explore life, purpose and the Christian faith, ask questions, and share your point of view. Alpha is free and everyone is welcome.

When: Starts Friday October 4th, 2024 Time: 6:30pm - 8:30pm

Location: Parish Hall @ 31 Vista Parade, Kotara NSW 2289

Contact: [gabriel.logan@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:gabriel.logan@mn.catholic.org.au)



## Wisdom of the Heart: Contemplative Workshop Series 2024

This series is designed to energise and strengthen your spiritual journey and will suit both beginners and experienced practitioners of meditation and other disciplines. Workshops are held in a comfortable and peaceful local environment with access to parklands.

When: Saturdays 12 & 19 October, 9 & 16 November from 2pm – 5.30pm

Mercy Centre, 20 Union Street, Tighes Hill (Newcastle).

All 4 workshops in this series: \$250 Waged or \$200 Concession.

Individual workshops: \$75 Waged or \$50 Concession.

Workshop Series – [wisdomspiritualityservices.com.au](http://wisdomspiritualityservices.com.au)

## Revelation in the Old Testament

The units from the Christian Formation Course are now being offered as short courses.

Over five weeks we will cover:

- The nature of God revealed in the Hebrew Scriptures
- The different types of literature found in the Hebrew Scriptures
- The cycle of biblical themes: creation, call, covenant, exodus, exile
- The call of the prophet
- Biblical prayer.

When: Tuesdays, 15th October - 12th November. Time: 6:00pm-9:00pm

Where: Diocesan Resource Centre Cost: \$60

REGISTER HERE: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/christian-formation-course-unit-3-tickets-1003286967327>

## Join us to celebrate the Season of Creation in 2024 at our Catholic Earthcare Convocation!

We are called together during this convocation to 'wonder', 'weave' and 'heal' Earth and the whole of creation.

Gather online during Day 1 and 2 to engage in keynote presentations, workshops, discussions and spiritual experiences. Day 3 gather together in diocesan hubs to transform learning into action. (There is an online option if you are unable to attend a hub)

For more information go to: <https://www.caritas.org.au/soc-convocation/> or email [catholicearthcare@caritas.org.au](mailto:catholicearthcare@caritas.org.au)

## Season of Creation: A time to start your Laudato Si' Action Plan journey

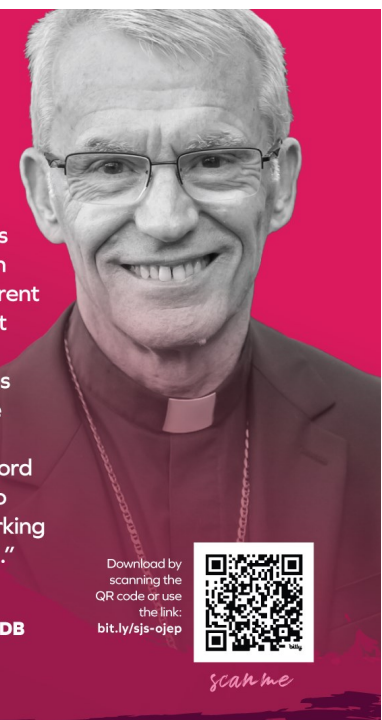
The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference have invited everyone to live Laudato Si' by creating a Laudato Si' Action Plan and Caritas Australia's Catholic Earthcare program is here to support you!

Catholic Earthcare's Australian Guide to Laudato Si' Action Planning includes:

- an introduction to Laudato Si' and the Laudato Si' Action Platform
- a process to create and implement your action plan: Self-assess – reflect – plan – act - review
- ongoing support of the Earthcare community.

When you join Earthcare, you join a whole community of people committed to living Laudato Si'. Together, we can learn how to better care for the Earth and each other.


Join our Earthcare community to receive your free Australian Guide to Laudato Si' Action Planning.



“Words are never enough to make peace. Action is required. But words such as found in this Statement can help us understand the current situation and how we might work together to create a world which better matches both human desire and the divine plan. The Australian bishops offer this Gospel word to all who are committed to speaking the truth and working for peace in a violent world.”

Download by scanning the QR code or use the link: [bit.ly/sjs-ojep](http://bit.ly/sjs-ojep)

**Archbishop Timothy Costelloe SDB**  
ACBC PRESIDENT



scan me