



**St John
Vianney**
Parish Morisset



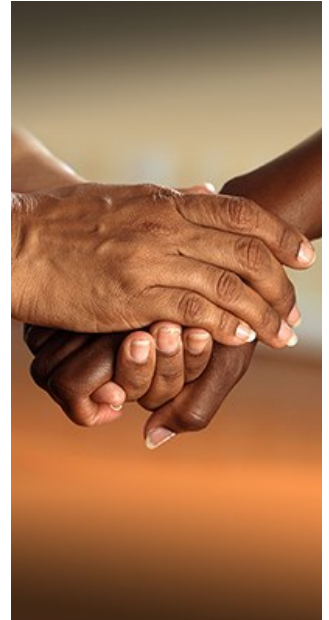
SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER YEAR B 05 MAY 2024

Love, or charity, has often been described as the primary Christian virtue. If there was any doubt as to why it should be so, today's Gospel should dispel it.

What does loving as a Christian mean?

The goal of true religion is not just learning doctrines and following moral principles. Those are important, but they are not the heart of the matter.

Religion is not simply an intellectual legality; it must be an experience of God's presence as a loving encounter with the Source of all that is. That's why more people are drawn to God by the experience of the love of others, than by logical argument



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>
Morisset Parish Instagram : https://www.instagram.com/stjvparish_morisset/
(Please submit all Bulletin Notice requests to the parish office by 2pm Wednesdays)

UPCOMING WORSHIP TIMES :

- | | |
|----------|--------------------------------------|
| Saturday | 4th May 5pm
Family Mass—Morisset |
| Sunday | 5th May 9.30am
Mass—Morisset |
| Tuesday | 7th May 9.30am
Liturgy—Morisset |
| Friday | 10th May 10.30am
Mass—Morisset |
| Saturday | 11th May 5pm
Mass—Cooranbong |
| Sunday | 12th May 9.30am
Mass—Morisset |
| Tuesday | 14th May 9.30am
Liturgy—Morisset |
| Friday | 17th May 10.30am
Mass—Morisset |
| Saturday | 18th May 5pm
Family Mass—Morisset |
| Sunday | 19th May 9.30am
Mass—Morisset |
| Tuesday | 21st May 9.30am
Liturgy—Morisset |
| Saturday | 25th May 5pm
Mass—Cooranbong |
| Sunday | 26th May 9.30am
Mass—Morisset |

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Reflection for Sixth Sunday of Easter Year B — 5th May 2024

“I call you friends” —such powerful, comforting words spoken by Jesus today!

Generally, we refer to Jesus as our Saviour, Redeemer, ever-present Helper, but do we ever consider calling him “a friend” as He thinks of us?

The heart of divine revelation & the Christian message is the same -LOVE- the amazing love that God gives freely to us & the love we return to Him, “As the Father loved me so have I loved you”. By doing so we demonstrate that we are ready & willing to be His modern day Disciples.

The 1st Reading tells the interesting story of Peter, who was addressing a mixed crowd of Christians, Jews & Pagans when suddenly the Holy Spirit descended upon them & once again they were amazed to find that they were all speaking in their different tongues. He was so moved by this event & the reaction of the whole assembly that he immediately baptised all of them in the name of Jesus, regardless of their faith, while proclaiming the greatness of God.

The 2nd Reading continues to emphasise the message that God is Love & everyone who loves demonstrates the fact that they come from God & are prepared to follow him in their lives.

The Gospel of John was written decades after the death of Jesus, following very turbulent times. The Jerusalem Temple, the very centre of Jewish life, had been destroyed by the Romans & the Jewish communities were under great pressure, as well as the emerging communities proclaiming Jesus as Christ the Redeemer. Today’s message expands the powerful effect of the love of Jesus for His Father & reminds His disciples of the purpose of His life on earth, while emphasising His commandment to them - “Love one another as I have loved you - you are my friends- do as I have commanded you”

In our world today it very important for us to take the mission of Family Life seriously, as was the case in apostolic times. In recent times, Covid lockdowns, School & Church closures caused considerable impacts to the lives of people & especially Families. The Family is the basic cell of Society & the Church is where the Gospel takes root- it is the place where we learn to practice what it really means to love, pray, forgive,celebrate & serve !

Our Families are more than places of pastoral need or recipients of Church welfare - in fact, they are sources of grace, witness & Missionary power - all of which find their strength in the unceasing love of our Greatest Friend- Jesus !

Faith isn’t magic, it’s a choice to trust God even when we are sad or confused. It is, by nature, purposeful & persistent, hopeful & prayerful. If we focus on loving God we will be rewarded with His love & goodness which in turn will flow from us to others.

St Mary MacKillop said in 1870 “God’s love is too deep for words to express” Heather White

St John Vianney’s Knitting Group

Will be holding a Raffle to raise funds to purchase wool used to knit our “Wrap with Love” rugs. Our group was established in the Parish quite a few years ago & is a member of this International Organisation which donates the rugs to needy recipients worldwide as well as local Communities, wherever the need arises.

The Raffle Prize will be a beautiful handmade rug- the perfect Mother’s Day Gift!

Tickets -\$2 each or \$5 for 3- will be sold after the weekend Masses for the next few weeks & will

be drawn prior to Mothers Day on May 12th. Thank you for your support.

Parish Pastoral Council-Parish Assembly

The PPC met during the week and much discussion focused on the upcoming Parish Assembly, to be held after the 9.30am Mass, Sunday June 2nd.The Assembly process will not be held with the same format to which many of us are accustomed.

The sole aim of the this Assembly is to discern, the direction and path the parish needs to take moving forward.

A Parish Pastoral Assembly is a body of faith-filled parishioners and the ordained, through which everyone works together as co-responsible partners in furthering the mission of Christ in our Parish.

Fr Greg Barker VG and PP Boolaroo/Warners Bay, together with Fr Matthew Muller VG and Chancellor and Canonical Advisor will attend the Assembly to answer any questions.

Over the coming weeks leading up to the Assembly, a written report of parish finances, together with a report explaining how the parish has evolved to where it is today, will be available for your perusal..

aMeN CaMiNo

For several years the Diocesan Pastoral Office, has conducted the aMeN CaMiNo.

Again it is planned that the aMeN CaMiNo will be conducted in August 2024.

The vision behind the Hunter-based Camino is to bring together people from across the Diocese, including staff and parishioners, to take on a physical and spiritual journey surrounded by God's creation. In total, pilgrims walk almost 100km. Along the way they take in sacred Aboriginal sites and rolling vineyards in the Upper Hunter, beautiful bushland in the Watagans and Glenrock national parks, picturesque Lake Macquarie, stunning beaches, and finally the urban sprawl of Newcastle. The aMeN CaMiNo includes pre-arranged encounters with Aboriginal elders, the Bishop and Morisset parishioners. They each provided pilgrims with insightful glimpses into our Diocese's rich history, including Mary MacKillop's visit to Cooranbong.

The purpose of pilgrimage is journey. Camino has a long and established Christian history, it means ‘road’ or ‘way’. A famous Camino is St James Way or Camino de Santiago in Spain. The first Christian movement in the 1st Century was known as ‘The Way’. The aMeN CaMiNo is a response to a desire to be in communion with each other and our sacred earth. It is an opportunity to pause from routine, immerse yourself in reflection, contemplation and to provide a moment of space for each person to be conscious of God’s gift of Grace.

Amen is the word Christian’s use to say ‘Yes, we are on our way to God.’ By joining us on the “aMeN CaMiNo”, you are saying yes to something in your heart which is calling you.

The aMeN caMiNo takes place over five consecutive days. The pilgrimage starts at St John’s Chapel, Maitland and concludes at the Sacred Heart Cathedral, Hamilton. Pilgrims will walk an average of 20km per day through the beautiful landscape of bush, beach and beyond which we are blessed to have in our backyard.

The pilgrims will arrive at Cooranbong on Monday 5th August approx. 3pm.

Confirmation

Bishop Michael Kennedy, will confer the sacrament of confirmation to our candidates on Friday evening 20th September 2024.

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 14th May 2024**. Bookings can be made online at the link at: <https://forms.office.com/r/wZtatkt01V> or by contacting our Parish Office.

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?

Mother's Day

Mother's Day is a very old idea. This idea dates to the ancient Egyptians, who celebrated a day to honour Isis, the mother of the pharaohs. The Egyptians were not the only ones who felt the need to honour their mothers. The ancient Greeks celebrated a day to honour Rhea, the mother of the gods. The Romans built a temple to the mother of the gods, named Magna Mater.

The early Christians celebrated a day to honour Mary, the mother of Jesus. Later, English Christians expanded the celebration to honour all mothers. This English holiday was called "Mothering Sunday."

When the English colonists came to America, they did not have time for Mothering Sunday, so the holiday was not celebrated in America.

During the U.S. Civil War, mothers on both sides of the war lost sons. The country was very sad. Grieving mothers from both sides had meetings.

In 1868, Ann Reeves Jarvis started a committee to help families get back together after the war. This committee tried to establish a "Mothers' Friendship Day" for mothers who had lost sons in the war.

In 1914, the U.S. Congress passed a law which designated the second Sunday in May as Mother's Day.

In Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, and Ireland, Mother's Day is celebrated on the same day as in the United States — the second Sunday in May. People mark the day in the same way that they do in the United States. Children give their mothers cards, gifts, and flowers.

Church Projectors

For some weeks now, our Morisset church has been operating with one projector, instead of two, because one had failed. The remaining projector, is also reaching its end of life.

Two new projectors are scheduled to be installed during the coming week.

With A Light Heart.

Florence was a conceited woman who was aware of her faults. One day after Mass she was talking to her parish priest and said, "Father, this morning I spent almost an hour looking into the bedroom mirror admiring my beauty. Is that cause for concern? Should I go to confession?" "Actually, no," the priest replied after thinking for a moment. "You only have to confess sins, not errors in judgement."

Pope Francis' prayer intention for May 2024

Let us pray that men and women religious and seminarians, grow in their own vocational journey through human, pastoral, spiritual and community formation, that leads them to be credible witnesses of the Gospel.

Sacramental Team News

Recently the Sacramental Team met with Fr Darryl Mackie to discuss the Sacraments of Initiation, and the possibility of introducing a weekday Mass for both parishioners and pupils.

After much discussion and consultation with the clergy and the school, it was decided that Mass would be celebrated in the Morisset Church on Fridays at 10.30am. The Mass will commence next Friday 10th May, with the Primary Students attending. All parishioners welcome.

Question Box

At the PPC meeting held during the week, it was brought to the attention of the meeting, that often parishioners have matters of faith questions, and are not sure where to go with them for answers.

In an effort to help people with their questions, it was proposed that the stainless steel mail box outside the parish secretaries office, could be used for this purpose and the questions will be answered.

Sacred@Seven with Gen Bryant

From leading music ministry in her local parish, to performing for Pope Francis at World Youth Day, Genevieve Bryant is a much sought-after music minister and guest speaker who travels around Australia and the world, spreading the love of God through her gift of music.

Gen is joining us to share her amazing story and to encourage us all to step out in faith and to use the gifts that we have been given to impact this world.

Gen and her band members will also be leading the music ministry at Sacred@Seven.

Date: Wednesday 15th May 2024. Event Address: 841 Hunter Street, Newcastle West 2303

Location: Toohey Room next door to the Sacred Heart Cathedral Time: 6.30pm: Gen Bryant Talk (Stepping out in Faith - Using your gifts)

7.30pm- 8.30pm: Sacred@Seven - Fr Anthony Coloma (Praise and Worship, Testimony, Scripture, Preaching and Adoration)

Register: <https://forms.office.com/r/bs1TRP7CCN>

Christian Formation Course

Expressions of Interest for 2024/2025 Christian Formation Course are now open.

Are you wanting to know more about Christianity and develop a deeper understanding of the Catholic Church? The Christian Formation Course (CFC) is a learning experience that allows participants to explore the foundational elements of the Catholic Faith Tradition. This one-year course introduces participants to scripture, theology, church history, sacramental life and liturgy.

- The Course runs across twelve (12) months and comprises eight (8) units

- All who complete the Course are awarded a diocesan Certificate in Christian Formation

By engaging in the course, it is hoped participants will:

- become more confident in understanding the Catholic faith
- grow in their capacity to reflect on their life's journey
- realise that Christian faith is nurtured in community
- be affirmed in their gifts for participating in the life of the faith community
- grow in awareness of what it means to be a responsive member of the faith community

Commencing on Tuesday 23 July, no prerequisite formation or qualification is required to enrol. To find out more, go to www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/faith-formation/christian-formation-course/

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 or set up a direct debit contact the parish office for this option.

SUPPORTING OUR PARISH / 2nd Collection

If you would like to make contributions to support our Parish please do so at Mass via the RED bucket or 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 2nd Collection you can 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 Melvey P Melvey	P Melvey K London
<u>PSALMIST:</u>	5PM 9.30AM	J Vipan L Hutchinson	P Robertson M Shamley
<u>GIFTS</u>	5PM 9.30AM	H White K Tonkin A Dussin	H White 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	E Lawandos M Foo	J France E Lawandos
<u>WELCOMERS</u>	5PM 9.30AM	K London J France	Cameron Family A Walker G Walker
<u>CHURCH CLEANING</u>	COOR MOR	XXXX A Walker G Walker	J Scully D Whitten

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 adult please contact the Office of Safeguarding by Phone: 02 4979 1390 or Email: childprotection@mn.catholic.org.au, or visit their website for further information: www.officeofsafeguarding.org.au

UPCOMING FEAST DAYS MEMORIALS AND SOLEMINITIES

- THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD— 12TH MAY
- SAINT MATTHIAS (F) - 14TH MAY
- PENTECOST— 19TH MAY
- OUR LADY, HELP OF CHRISTIANS (S) - 24TH MAY
- THE MOST HOLY TRINITY—26TH MAY
- THE VISITATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY (F) - 31ST MAY
- SAINT JUSTIN (M) - 1ST JUN
- THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST—2ND JUN
- SAINTS CHARLES LWANGA AND COMPANIONS (M) - 3RD JUN
- SAINT BONIFACE (M) - 5TH JUNE
- THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS (S) - 7TH JUN

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

Brenda Hutcheson, Koby Smith, Mick Styles, Sr Patricia Adams rsm, Annette Boyd, Mary Monaghan, Clare Wallington, Donna Hazzard, Pam Mullaly, Tintumol Thomas, Pat Findley, Les Findley, Peter Martyn, Bernadette Martin, Joan Gillett, Bruce Gillett.

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

Remembrance: Carmel Brereton, Emily Williams, Les Fowler, Grace Lyons, Cornelius Lyons



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





SUNDAY PRAYER SERVICE Sixth Sunday of Easter Year B Sunday 05 May 2024

The Introductory Rites Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples as Australia's First Peoples and the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the land on which we work, live and learn. Especially the Awabakal and Darkinjung nations who are the traditional owners of the land our Parish encompasses. We honour and pay respect to, Elders past, present and emerging, we acknowledge the spiritual culture of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples across Australia, 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 Christ who has redeemed us and raised us to new life.

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.
United with the whole Church,
we celebrate the joy of Easter
and keep 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 are the sacrifice that takes our sins away: Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, you teach us how to love: Christ, have mercy.

All: Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you have chosen us to bear fruit that will endure: Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Leader:

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

All:

Amen.

Opening Prayer

Leader:

Let us pray.

All pause for silent prayer.

Almighty God,
may the joy of the risen Lord
bring us unity and peace.
Send your Spirit into our hearts
and help us to remember
everything that Jesus has taught us.
We make this prayer through Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
for ever and ever.

Lord Jesus,
as the Father loves you,
so you have loved us.

May we remain in your love
and follow your commandments.

We make this prayer through
our Risen Lord Jesus.

All:

Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

Acts of the Apostles 10:25-26. 34-35. 44-48

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles
The gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out upon the gentiles also. As Peter reached the house Cornelius went out to meet him, knelt at his feet and prostrated himself. But Peter helped him up. 'Stand up,' he said, 'I am only a man after all!' Then Peter addressed them: 'The truth I have now come to realise' he said, 'is that God does not have favourites, but that anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him.'

While Peter was still speaking the Holy Spirit came down on all the listeners. Jewish believers who had accompanied Peter were all astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit should be poured out on the pagans too, since they could hear them speaking strange languages and proclaiming the greatness of God. Peter himself then said, 'Could anyone refuse the water of baptism to these people, now they have received the Holy Spirit just as much as we have?' He then gave orders for them to be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ. Afterwards they begged him to stay on for some days.

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

The word of the Lord.

All reply:

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 97:1-4. R. see v.2

(R.) The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power.

1. Sing a new song to the Lord
for he has worked wonders.
His right hand and his holy arm
have brought salvation. (R.)

2. The Lord has made known his salvation;
has shown his justice to the nations.
He has remembered his truth and love
for the house of Israel. (R.)
3. All the ends of the earth have seen
the salvation of our God.
Shout to the Lord all the earth,
ring out your joy. (R.)

Second Reading

1 John 4:7-10

A reading from the first letter of St John
God is love.

My dear people,
let us love one another
since love comes from God
and everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God.
Anyone who fails to love can never have known God,
because God is love.
God's love for us was revealed
when God sent into the world his only Son
so that we could have life through him;
this is the love I mean:
not our love for God,
but God's love for us when he sent his Son
to be the sacrifice that takes our sins away.

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

The word of the Lord.

All reply:

Thanks be to God.

Gospel

Reader:

From the holy Gospel according to John.

All:

Glory to you, O Lord.

John 15:9-17

No one can have greater love than to lay down his life for his friends.

Jesus said to his disciples:

'As the Father has loved me,
so I have loved you.

Remain in my love.

If you keep my commandments
you will remain in my love,
just as I have kept my Father's commandments
and remain in his love.

I have told you this
so that my own joy may be in you
and your joy be complete.

This is my commandment:

love one another,
as I have loved you.

A man can have no greater love
than to lay down his life for his friends.

You are my friends,

if you do what I command you,
I shall not call you servants any more,

because a servant does not know
his master's business;

I call you friends,

because I have made known to you
everything I have learnt from my Father.

You did not choose me,
no, I chose you;

and I commissioned you
to go out and to bear fruit,
fruit that will last;
and then the Father will give you
anything you ask him in my name.
What I command you
is to love one another.'

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.

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: Brothers and sisters, remaining in Christ's love, we offer
our prayers to the Lord.

Reader: That our Holy Father, Pope Francis, will teach
the Catholic faith with confidence and clarity.
In your glory:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That nations will live in peace through Christ's
commandment of love. In your glory:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That married people will live in the Lord's
command of love through their joys and
sorrows. In your glory:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That our parish community may bring God to
all people around us through Christ's message
of love for our neighbour. In your glory:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That all the sick will be strengthened by our
care, especially those who are members of our
family and community. In your glory:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That everyone who has died will live in the eternal love of God, especially those who were members of our family and community. In your glory:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: God our Father, we are called to love one another. Hear our prayers, strengthen us through your law and grant us complete joy of life in 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:

Through the resurrection of his Son
God has redeemed us and made us his children.
May the Lord bless us with joy
and fill us with fruits of the Spirit.

All make the sign of the cross during the blessing.

All:

Amen.

Dismissal

Leader:

Let us go in peace. Alleluia.

All:

Thanks be to God.

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"Tilling the Church: Theology for an Unfinished Project." Zoom Discussion.

The last 2 sessions for Tilling the church will be:

- Wednesday 15 May: Chapter 5. The Future-Oriented Past
- Wednesday 19 June: Chapter 6. The Art of Faithfulness and Conclusion

To register go to: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/tilling-the-church-theology-of-an-unfinished-project-tickets-708150125087>

FAITH MATTERS: The Faith Journey

ROSEMARY MCALLISTER PUBLISHED APRIL 30, 2024

There is something very special about sharing a journey with others. It presents an opportunity for relationships to be formed and questions to be explored when there are similar intentions for undertaking the quest.

I have been privileged to accompany several groups in the Christian Formation Course over the last few years and I am constantly amazed at the impact the formation has on each person. Individuals come with their own seeking, longing, need for healing, understanding of God and the Church and it is through this face-to-face learning experience that allows participants to explore their life's journey and their faith within a safe environment. Groups are often intergeneration which brings a range of life experiences and different perspectives to the course enabling each participant to learn and grow from one another.

This one-year course introduces participants to scripture, theology, church history, sacramental life and liturgy. By engaging in the course it is hoped participants will:

- explore their relationship with Jesus and feel the call of discipleship
- grow in their capacity to reflect on life's journey in the light of Christian faith
- become more confident in articulating their faith
- realise that Christian faith is nurtured in community
- experience together the power of God's revelation in the sources of Christian Tradition
- engage in forms of learning which affirm and deepen their baptismal call
- be affirmed in their gifts for participating in the life of the faith community
- grow in awareness of what it means to be a responsive member of the faith community

Bishop Michael Kennedy writes,

"Growing up in a committed Catholic household I was blessed with role models who demonstrated ways of the faith to me from the time I was born. My faith formation continued through my years of schooling, being a teacher, when I entered the seminary and continues today even as your Bishop. I understand all families do not look like mine, and everybody's life journey is not the same as mine, but developing a deeper understanding of what it means to be a Catholic and disciple of Jesus Christ is a lifelong learning process for everybody.

At the heart of Christian formation is our deepening understanding and acceptance of the kerygma, that is, the initial proclamation of the Gospel which leads to the encounter with Jesus Christ that offers us the gift of a new life and provides us a vision of seeing the world with loving, compassionate and merciful eyes. The way in which Jesus formed his disciples creates the model we are invited to follow: he did not merely impart teaching, but he shared his life with them and invited them to "Follow him", that is, to imitate him in word, action, and attitude. He taught them to pray not only in words but in actions.

The Christian Formation Course has been a great contributor to Catholic life in this diocese, with over 250 people formed since 1993. The course is based on adult learning methods that involves on-going dialogue and engagement with the material and the staff. The course encourages participants to witness the revelation of God through the human experience, which is most manifest in Jesus, the Christ.

Participants will explore their life's faith journey and understandings about Jesus, and inspiring them to live more deliberately as his disciples. It is through this exploration that participants share in the enrichment that comes from more

fully gaining an understanding of what Catholics believe and why. It is my hope that many people engage with the Christian Formation Course as a beginning or continuance of the journey of their living more informed and engaged with Christ in their life."

Expressions of Interest are now open 2024/25 Christian Formation Course, which will commence on 23 July. To find out more about the Christian Formation Course, visit: <https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/adult-faith-formation/christian-formation-course/>

Standing on the Shoulders: TWEC dinner to celebrate rich history

Join us for our 2024 TWEC Dinner on Friday 31 May. Read more about it below.

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When you go about your daily life, who taught you everything you know?

Parents, family, teachers and friends are the first things that come to mind.

But who taught them?

When you think about it, we are all "Standing on the Shoulders" of those who raised us as we venture further into life. And it's the same for almost everything around us.

Our Diocese is moving forward thanks to the legacy and work of so many people and events – past Popes, Bishops, priests, sisters, Synods, and numerous others.

One of these groups is the Sisters of St Joseph and their Tenison Woods Education Centre (TWEC).

Established in 1993, TWEC was created to make adult faith formation more accessible.

The Centre was named in honour of Fr Julian Edmund Tenison Woods, whose concern for the poor settlers and their families in colonial South Australia led him, with St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, to found the Sisters of St Joseph.

Over the years, the Sisters have offered faith formation that is not merely knowledge-based, but one that respects the wisdom gained from life experience and is attentive to God's presence in life and in the living tradition of the Catholic community.

Hundreds of people have been "formed" by the courses on offer at TWEC, including The Christian Formation Course – that still runs in our Diocese today – and Taste and See. Both were designed to increase a person's understanding of Catholicism through things like scripture, theology, history, liturgy and more. In 2017 TWEC was placed into the care of the Diocese, the Sisters of St Joseph and what is now known as the Tenison Woods Education Community (TWEC) continues to have a profound impact on our Diocese.

This legacy and impact will be celebrated at the 2024 TWEC Dinner – an annual event since 1995.

Initially, it served as a fundraiser for the centre, but now it is a celebration and a thank you for all it has done.

Everyone is welcome to join! When: Friday 31 May

Where: Victor Peters Suite, 841 Hunter Street, Newcastle West

Cost: \$40 pp includes buffet meal and guest speaker presentation.

Dinner Registration link: www.eventbrite.com.au/e/twec-dinner-library-opening-tickets-872278206597

Who is our Guest Speaker – Kelly Paget?

Kelly Paget may not be a name you are familiar with, but it is one you should get to know. Last year, she was one of just five Australians whom Pope Francis chose to participate in the Synod of Bishops in Rome.

At our TWEC dinner, Kelly will speak about this experience and what she has done throughout her ministry career.

This career began in parish and school-based roles before she joined the Catholic Diocese of Broken Bay as a Team Leader at Catholic Youth Broken Bay in 2012. Then in 2019, Kelly began a 12-month secondment as Senior Advisor to the Diocesan Administrator to support him during the interim period without a Bishop. Following the appointment of Most Rev Anthony Randazzo as Bishop, her role evolved to Chancellor and Executive Officer of the Office of the Bishop.

Late last year, Bishop Anthony invited her to lead the newly established Mission Broken Bay, so her current role is Chancellor and Director of Mission.

New Life in God's Spirit Seminar

Are you open to allowing God to activate the gifts of the Holy Spirit, which you received in Baptism? The Immaculate Conception of Mary, Charismatic Prayer Group have been gathering for more than 40 years. They eagerly invite you to experience a six-week, 'New life in the Spirit Seminar'. This is an opportunity for you to journey with others to encounter Jesus, through the Holy Spirit. There will be music for Praise and Worship, guest speakers and discussion groups.

Location: Diocesan Resource Centre 12 Tudor Street (corner of Tudor and Parry Street), Newcastle West-adjacent to the Sacred Heart Cathedral.

Time: 6.30pm-8.30pm Start date: Monday 20 May Cost: Free. Simply register your name and contact details by calling or texting Bernadette Barlow on 0425 270 613. You can also register on the night. All are welcome!

BBI Short Course: Ethical Foundations: Human Dignity Mondays 20 & 27 May, 4pm -5:30pm

Human dignity is at the heart of all ethical and moral reasoning. What do we mean by human dignity? Why is it so important, that without it, we cannot properly act toward others, develop economic systems or know what is good or bad care of another human being?

Register to join us at the Diocesan Resource Centre, at home or as a parish group at <https://forms.office.com/r/7uMVUncy4f>

Magdalene Award: Nominations are open

Nominations are open for the 2024 Mary Magdalene Award! For more information or to make a nomination, visit www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/mission-and-outreach/council-for-women/magdalene-award-2024



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