



**St John
Vianney**
Parish Morisset



TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR B 22 SEPTEMBER 2024

In the Gospel this Sunday, we see the apostles fighting over who would be the first in Jesus' kingdom. The mistake that the apostles had made, was to put the position, first.

But Jesus told them that his kingdom was not about seeking honour and glory for oneself, but about serving others.

Humans love power! They love titles and awards, and getting to rub elbows with the 'in' crowd, and having the most 'likes' on Facebook.

Jesus is telling us today, If you want to be truly great, and powerful, and truly number one in my kingdom, then turn power into service. Don't 'lord it over.' Don't abuse or exploit or take advantage.

Serve!



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

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(We ask that you make an appointment to come to the office)
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Morisset Parish Web site: www.vianneymorisset.org
Morisset Parish Facebook : <https://www.facebook.com/stjvparish>

UPCOMING WORSHIP TIMES :

Saturday	21st September 5pm Mass—Cooranbong
Sunday	22nd September 9.30am Mass—Morisset
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
Saturday	12th October 5pm Mass—Cooranbong
Sunday	13th October 9.30am Mass—Morisset
Tuesday	15th October 9.30am Liturgy—Morisset
Friday	18th October 10.30am Mass—Morisset

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TO HOPE AND ACT WITH CREATION

SEASON OF CREATION 2024

The firstfruits of hope

(Rom 8:19-25)

The different dimensions of hope

•Christian hope is not superficial, it's concrete. Our hope is rooted in God's character, promises, and actions.

•Needs for metanoia, ecological conversion, and reconciliation with the Earth. The Spirit is the one guiding our conversion, leading us deeper into the comprehension of being a cosmic family.

•Repairs the broken relationship between humans and Earth, human creatures and other creatures, humans and God. Repair and repentance.

•To change the system, we must change our mindsets.

•Important for us is to listen to the voices that cry out and groan, communities who are losing land and livelihoods due to climate change, species and ecosystems being lost, victims of extraction and fossil fuel industries.

•Active hope in our Christian communities can be seen in the care of Creation, hearing the voice of the poor, hearing the cries of the Earth.

•Hope inspires us to act; because we are hopeful we can act and so see what we hope for. Because we are hopeful we are willing to act.

•Collective action creates grounding hope for those suffering from climate anxiety, being overwhelmed that time is running out. Christian hope fuels transformative action.

•Transformation takes time, we have to be patient. Hope is also a process, requires patience.

•Hope is faith in the things we do not see, hope is knowing that tomorrow will be better because Christ is resurrected, He defeated all evil. Life overcomes all things.

•Active hope is a non-monetary value that has the power to change the world.

GOSPEL

Mark 9:30-37

The Son of Man will be delivered into the hands of humanity ... All who wish to be first must make themselves the servants of all.

After leaving the mountain Jesus and his disciples made their way through Galilee; and he did not want anyone to know, because he was instructing his disciples; he was telling them, 'The Son of Man will be delivered into the hands of men; they will put him to death; and three days after he has been put to death he will rise again.' But they did not understand what he said and were afraid to ask him.

They came to Capernaum, and when he was in the house he asked them, 'What were you arguing about on the road?' They said nothing because they had been arguing which of them was the greatest. So he sat down, called the Twelve to him and said, 'If anyone wants to be first, he must make himself last of all and servant of all.' He then took a little child, set him in front of them, put his arms round him, and said to them, 'Anyone who welcomes one of these little children in my name, welcomes me; and anyone who welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.'

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Year B — Reflection 22nd September 2024

Our Readings today emphasise the ever-existing battle between good & evil- the virtuous person in the 1st Reading, & Jesus in the Gospel. We hear how both of them suffer greatly at the hands of the godless & as James notes in the 2nd Reading, we observe in the disciples their battle being waged between good & evil. As we thank God for the good within us we must also acknowledge the part of ourselves that is drawn to evil & humbly seek His mercy.

The Book of Wisdom is one of the books that fill the gap between the Hebrew Scriptures & the Christian Bible, having originated in the Jewish Community in Alexandria, Egypt, in the generation before the birth of Jesus.

The "Virtuous" refers to the faithful, observant Jew living in a cosmopolitan environment while being surrounded by pagans & Jews who have given up their religious traditions. It sums up the Jewish teaching about the suffering of the virtuous at the hands of the 'godless', by drawing on the complaints of Jeremiah in the book of Isaiah.

For Christians, it points to Jesus & how His way of silent protest irritated the religious leaders of His time.

The words of the Psalm are brief but express our complete trust in God.

The Second Reading compares the wisdom of the virtuous to the fruits of the godless, whose jealousy & ambition lead to disharmony & wicked deeds, whereas Wisdom is pure, peaceable, considerate & compassionate.

Mark's Gospel follows a definite pattern—Jesus is often pictured as being on the move!

But here we see Him taking the role of a great teacher- He finally sits down, surrounded by the disciples & His wish is to calm their agitated spirits & enable them to get much needed rest after their long walk. They begin to pick up on some of the concern & uneasiness of Jesus himself as He speaks to them about His forthcoming passion, death & resurrection, but they fail to understand the significance of it all. He then spells out the obligations for those who choose to follow Him. Their first reaction is one of fear as He tells them that His followers must be "the last of all & the servant of all". Their second reaction is jostling for first place but He quickly tells them that service always comes first in His Kingdom!

On reaching the house in the city, He shows His patience with them & asks what they were discussing on the way, but they remained silent. Since they had been childish, to demonstrate his point He took a child from the crowd & placed him in their midst! This action was quite a surprise as it was unusual for a Rabbi to be seen with a child who was considered to be a "non-person" in Jewish Society! Jesus' action here was to present the child as an example of greatness in the Kingdom of God—one who is innocent, humble, full of love & awe!

Two questions we could ask ourselves —

What is your own idea of greatness? How do you expect to attain it?

St.Mary MacKillop said in 1900 "There is no true generosity without self-sacrifice" Heather White

2025 Year C Liturgical Book Orders

If you would to order for the new liturgical year "Break Open the Word" or an "Ordo" or "God's Word 2025" or a copy of "The New Community Bible" please complete an order form at : <https://forms.office.com/r/DbUYaABUEC> or pick up a form at the back of the church or call the parish office.

Moving Forward 2024

The Parish Pastoral Council met during the week, where it was announced that Option B, the 'Shared Parish Priest Model' was the preferred option of parish, from the recent voting.

The decision by the parish has now been submitted to the Bishop who will reflect and discern the way forward. While we wait for the Bishop's decision, the parish will remain under the leadership of Uta and John.

Now is the time to begin discerning teams that will support the ministry of a shared parish priest. The task of reimagining an active Parish Pastoral Team, Parish Pastoral Council, and Liturgy Team, together with training for Safeguarding requirements, needs to commence to support this chosen model.

Here is some information on these teams and how they might look:

Now the task of establishing an active Parish Pastoral Team, Parish Pastoral Council, and Liturgy Team, together with training for Safeguarding requirements, needs to commence to support this chosen model.

The Parish Pastoral Team (the doers) will be a group of people, (5) who will be responsible for the co-ordination and implementation of the Parish Pastoral Plan 1. Identity and Community 2. Worship and Prayer, 3. Formation and Education, 4. Mission and Outreach, 5. Leadership and Structure.

The Team will exercise the role of the day-to-day life and functioning of the parish, in partnership with the shared Parish Priest. The Team will meet regularly with the shared Parish Priest. The Team will attend to detailed programming, allocation and the co-ordination of parish tasks, and any necessary adaptation to changing circumstances.

The Parish Pastoral Council (the advisors) will be a group that is representative of the entire parish (6-8) and will function in accordance with the Code of Canon Law. The PPC will investigate and weigh matters which bear on pastoral activity and formulate practical conclusions regarding them. (Canon 511) Its responsibilities, therefore, include the preparation and evaluation stages of decision-making.

The Liturgy Team serves the parish community in promoting principles and practice of the sacred liturgy. The liturgy Team is to be of service to the parish community by understanding its principles and practice such that, the liturgy is contemporary, appropriate and relevant for the community who gathers.

Would you be interested in being part of one of these teams?

Parish Pastoral Assembly is a 'faith filled' group where all parishioners through which priests and people work together as co-responsible partners in furthering the mission of Christ in their own parish.

Very shortly a date will be announced for us to gather as a parish at an Assembly to consider our future.

At this Assembly the necessary tools for Decision Making will be explained in detail and calls for volunteers will be made. It is not necessary to have experience, just a willingness to learn is essential.

Update on Cooranbong Cemetery

As you are aware since the construction of the new Cooranbong Sporting Complex, we have been having issues with people using the Cooranbong Cemetery as an easy access point to this new Complex.

With the new CCNSW legislation and the cemetery being heritage listed, the parish was fearful that if measures weren't taken to address access to the sporting fields, it would be in breach of its obligations in the management of the cemetery .

Bishop Michael Kennedy has granted permission to subdivide and eventually excise a portion of land in order to adjust the

northern boundary of the St Patrick's and St Brigid's Catholic Cemetery in Cooranbong. This subdivision will alleviate the present problem that we now have.

Bishop Michael is thankful for the parish's efforts to identify and manage risks to prevent more damage to the cemetery. The next steps required in drafting a plan of subdivision, survey, and necessary lodgements with Lake Macquarie City Council for the proposed boundary adjustment have commenced.

WHS Issue

The concrete entry at the Morisset Church needs repair. The concrete has become very uneven especially in the vicinity of the 'breezeway' and has become a WHS Risk.

The path will be removed and replaced during the upcoming school holidays.

Parish Viability Meetings.

Leaders of our parish will be attending a Parish Viability meeting, that has been scheduled for Friday 27th September, 10am-12.30pm, at Warners Bay, Parish Hall, followed by Lunch.

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

With A Light Heart

A Catholic doctor, known for his successful treatment of the infirmed, had a waiting room full of people one Monday morning. One of the patients, a little old woman, turned up all bent over. She shuffled into the waiting room leaning on a cane. When her turn came, she hobbled into the doctor's office, and, amazingly, emerged several minutes later walking erect with her head held high.

Another patient who was also waiting was astonished. He went up to the old lady and proclaimed, "A miracle! It's a miracle! You walked into the doctor's office all bent over and now you're walking with a straight back. Please tell me, what did the doctor do?"

The old lady answered, "Miracle my foot. He gave me a longer cane."

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.

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	K Lendon S Matthew	U France D Peterson
<u>PSALMIST:</u>	5PM 9.30AM	L Hutchinson M Shamley	M Foo S Matthew
<u>GIFTS</u>	5PM 9.30AM	B Cox P Melvey A Walker G Walker	L & G Hutchison L McRae H White
<u>SERVERS</u>	5PM 9.30AM	M Melvey J Lawandos	M Melvey V Paulo
<u>AV</u>	5PM 9.30AM	D Peterson E Lawandos	J Vipan T Alexander
<u>WELCOMERS</u>	5PM 9.30AM	Cameron Family J Hutchins	H White K Amon
<u>CHURCH CLEANING</u>	COOR MOR	F Dunn A Walker G Walker	A Dussin B Hutcheson 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 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 SOLEMINITIES

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
 OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY (M) - 7TH OCT
 SAINT TERESA OF JESUS (M) -15TH OCT
 SAINT IGNATIUS OF ANTIOCH (M) -17TH OCT
 SAINT LUKE (F) - 18TH OCT
 SAINTS SIMON AND JUDE (F)

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



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



Anyone who welcomes one of these little children in my name, welcomes me; and anyone who welcomes me, welcomes not me but the one who sent me. Mark 9:37

SUNDAY PRAYER SERVICE

Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

Sunday 22 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 humbled yourself for our sake: Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, you are the wisdom of God: Christ, have mercy.

All: Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you call us to live a life of service: 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.

Living God

you are generous and kind and call us to work in the fields of your kingdom.

May we always be thankful

for the many gifts you have given us.

Help us to use these gifts wisely so that we may build your kingdom on earth.

We ask this through Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,

for ever and ever.

All:

Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

Wisdom 2:12, 17-20

A reading from the book of Wisdom

Let us condemn him to a most shameful death.

The godless say to themselves,

'Let us lie in wait for the virtuous man, since he annoys us and opposes our way of life, reproaches us for our breaches of the law and accuses us of playing false to our upbringing.

Let us see if what he says is true,

let us observe what kind of end he himself will have.

If the virtuous man is God's son, God will take his part and rescue him from the clutches of his enemies.

Let us test him with cruelty and with torture, and thus explore this gentleness of his

and put his endurance to the proof.

Let us condemn him to a shameful death

since he will be looked after – we have his word for it.'

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

The word of the Lord.

All reply:

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 53:3-6. R. v.6

(R.) The Lord upholds my life.

1. O God, save me by your name; by your power, uphold my cause. O God, hear my prayers; listen to the words of my mouth. (R.)
2. For proud men have risen against me, ruthless men seek my life. They have no regard for God. (R.)
3. But I have God for my help. The Lord upholds my life. I will sacrifice to you with willing heart and praise your name for it is good. (R.)

Second Reading

James 3:16 – 4:3

A reading from the letter of St James

Justice is the harvest of peacemakers from seeds sown in a spirit of peace.

Wherever you find jealousy and ambition, you find disharmony, and wicked things of every kind being done; whereas the wisdom that comes down from above is essentially something pure; it also makes for peace, and is kindly and considerate; it is full of compassion and shows itself by doing good; nor is there any trace of partiality or hypocrisy in it. Peacemakers, when they work for peace, sow the seeds which will bear fruit in holiness. Where do these wars and battles between yourselves first start? Isn't it precisely in the desires fighting inside your own selves? You want something and you haven't got it; so you are prepared to kill. You have an ambition that you cannot satisfy; so you fight to get your way by force. Why you don't have what you want is because you don't pray for it; when you do pray and don't get it, it is because you have not prayed properly, you have prayed for something to indulge your own desires.

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 9:30-37

The Son of Man will be delivered into the hands of humanity ... All who wish to be first must make themselves the servants of all.

After leaving the mountain Jesus and his disciples made their way through Galilee; and he did not want anyone to know, because he was instructing his disciples; he was telling them, 'The Son of Man will be delivered into the hands of men; they will put him to death; and three days after he has been put to death he will rise again.' But they did not understand what he said and were afraid to ask him.

They came to Capernaum, and when he was in the house he asked them, 'What were you arguing about on the road?' They said nothing because they had been arguing which of them was the greatest. So he sat down, called the Twelve to him and said, 'If anyone wants to be first, he must make himself last of all and servant of all.' He then took a little child, set him in front of them, put his arms round him, and said to them, 'Anyone who welcomes one of these little children in my name, welcomes me; and anyone who welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.'

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. Why might Jesus have wanted to go away secretly to instruct his disciples?

Q. Have you ever had the disciples' experience of completely missing an important point?

Q. What are the attributes of being 'first' in our contemporary society?

Q. How is it possible to be first by making yourself last of all?

Q. Who do you need to be more welcoming toward?

Profession of Faith

Leader:

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

All:

**I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,**

At the words that follow, up to and including the Virgin Mary, all bow.

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

Prayer of the Faithful

Leader: Dear friends, let us bring our needs to the Lord, who is near to all who call.

Reader: That the Lord will watch over the Holy Church with peace, mercy and wisdom from above.

In your compassion:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That nations and leaders will seek the way to peace by putting aside conflict and ambition.

In your compassion:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That, through faith, our community will encourage children and young people to receive Christ.

In your compassion:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That, as servants of the Lord, we may put others first and strive to build a community of peace and sincerity.

In your compassion:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That all those who are sick or housebound will be upheld by God's healing power.

In your compassion:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That all who have died will receive the Lord Jesus Christ through the promise of eternal life.

In your compassion:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Loving God, you guide us through your Gospel of truth. Hear our prayers and grant us the words and deeds we need to serve others in your name. 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: Humanity in the Season of Creation

We are in the middle of Season of Creation, and I have been reflecting on all the ways we are asked to care for Creation. We are called to be present in nature, to care for the earth, to thank God for the gift of creation.

Mary O'Connor PUBLISHED September 17, 2024

From the website seasonofcreation.org, "we join our sisters and brothers in the ecumenical family in prayer and action for our common home." I value the fact that the Season of Creation is an ecumenical event, that asks us to both act and pray, but my reflections have led me to believe that one large part of creation is often forgotten during this season, the human creation.

Over the last few weeks, I have been called upon to take the next step in the role of carer in my family. In doing this I have spent many moments sitting in silence with my Aunt Mary, as she fell asleep, many moments preparing breakfast and cups of tea for my elderly and increasingly frail mother-in-law, many moments sitting with my teenage children as they talk about trying to find their way in the world. In my moments of contemplation, I have thought of all those people in our community who have no one to care for them, no one to be with them in an increasingly busy

and complex world. As I walk, very slowly, with my elderly aunt to the dining room in her aged care home I note the people who do not leave their rooms, do not smile, do not have visitors. I wonder about how we, as a community, are really caring for the whole human creation, how we can possibly care for all the lonely, sick, hungry and homeless. As I ponder this I also stop and introduce myself and my aunt to the other residents in the care home, "I'm Mary and this is my Aunt Mary", my aunt pipes up with, "Yes, two Marys!" Some introduce themselves to us, others turn away. Is it the attempt at conversation that scares them? Is it my aunt's Down Syndrome that makes them uncomfortable? Is it confusion, related to dementia or another medical condition? Regardless, I will say hello the next time I encounter them in the dining room or hallways, I will smile at them, I will keep attempting to connect with them. Why? Because just as we care for the cuddly Koalas, just as we care for the majestic trees, so we should care for people, and see them as the intricate creation of God, created in God's own image, just as we are created in God's image.

The comments from the staff in her home that Mary is so lucky to have a family that cares for her, visits her regularly, makes sure she is eating, entertained and not lonely makes me both proud and so very sad. Sad that other people do not get such love. Sad that many older people in our community are missing out on daily family or social interactions. How can I, as one person, effect change? I can pray, I can continue to make my visits to Aunt Mary a chance for her and I to connect with others. I can give thanks for the many staff who work in aged care who really see the people they work with, who really care for the whole person. I can write this column and encourage others to reach out, to volunteer, to make connections, to care for creation. It takes courage, it takes self-confidence or self-belief, a belief that we are the people of God and by reaching out we can show the face of God in the world to others. Start with a smile, with eye contact.

I must admit to being physically and emotionally tired as I have stepped into this new phase of my life. A few nights ago, as I fell into bed with aching legs and a head throbbing and full of scrambled thoughts one phrase kept pushing through the noise - Be Not Afraid. I stopped and tried to remember the words to this hymn.

Be not afraid

I go before you always

Come follow me

And I will give you rest (Be Not Afraid - Songwriter: Robert J Dufford)

Be Not Afraid. I went looking for the phrase in the Bible, hundreds of variations of it appear throughout the Old & New Testaments. One of the iterations of the phrase that truly spoke to my heart and soul at this time is in John's first letter. It simply says, "There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear" 1 John 4-18. In this Season of Creation 2024 let us feel no fear and let us sow love amongst all we encounter.

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>

SEASON OF CREATION REFLECTION by Nick Brodie

Today's Gospel reveals a fearfulness in the disciples' response to Jesus. Afraid of asking too many questions, they almost seem to prefer being ignorant rather than admit the limits of their own understanding. Strangely, this self-imposed ignorance does not prevent them from posturing for position. What a warning for the Church this episode seems to offer!

While this excerpt of Mark's Gospel is often interpreted in terms of the virtue of humility, the other aspect of Jesus' point is easily overlooked. Every Christian is called to be 'last of all and servant of all'. Ours is a faith of humble service.

The scriptures repeatedly make the point that faith is always embedded in creation. A mountain, a road, a town, and a house all frame the action in this episode. Because the Church exists wherever its members go our beliefs and prayers are not restricted to church buildings. We take our faith on roads, into our homes and towns, and even up mountains.

Given this, our faith compels us to have a special care for all of creation. As Jesus clearly intimates, by humbly serving created things we express our love of the Creator who made them all.

© Nick Brodie

CatholicCare says thank you

CatholicCare Social Services Hunter-Manning is excited to announce that we have raised more than \$16,000 for our Community Programs.

Elizabeth Symington PUBLISHED September 17, 2024

It's all thanks to the community's generous support of our 2024 Make a Difference appeal.

Our five Community Kitchens serve more than 1,000 meals a week, and our Refugee Hub has helped hundreds of people from refugee and vulnerable migrant backgrounds settle in Australia over the last twelve months.

"CatholicCare is so grateful for the community's support, these funds will go directly to helping local people who are doing it tough," Volunteer Coordinator Meg Norling said.

"Without our generous donors and passionate volunteers we would not be able to do this vital work, every dollar makes a difference and helps us keep up with the rising need across the Hunter and Manning regions."

Demand is higher than ever. Every day, we see new faces at our services. Sadly, we expect this to continue as more people struggle with the rising cost of living.

It's people like Trudy*, whose pay cheque is not quite enough to cover her weekly expenses, or Craig*, who is couch surfing between his friend's house or sleeping in his car.

No matter the background, everyone is welcome at our services. We're striving for the day when our kitchens are no longer needed. However, for now, they are having a huge impact in our local communities.

If you'd like to learn more about what CatholicCare does, or find other ways to support them throughout the year, visit www.catholiccare.org.au

Silver jubilee reflections

An elderly priest recently commented to me that a priest's 25th anniversary of ordination is a good time to reflect because it is usually about the halfway point in his life of active ministry.

Bishop Michael Kennedy PUBLISHED September 07, 2024

I recall being very reluctant to answer God's call to the priesthood. People have often asked me "why did you want to become a priest?" The truth is that I didn't want to be a priest, but I sensed God wanted me to – so I did it. I figured that God who knows me better than I know myself, and who loves me and wants me to be happy probably has a better plan than I do so I placed my trust in him. It was the best decision of my life.

My first 25 years as a priest have not always been easy and sometimes it has been hard. But I recall my mother saying to me during my first year in the seminary that everybody's life is hard. The great joy I have also experienced in my priestly life and ministry has taught me that perseverance through challenges is frequently the hard road we walk that leads to happiness and fulfilment.

At the 25-year mark of my priestly ministry I have found myself thinking a lot about three things:

First, priesthood is not something you do on your own. A priest exists in relationship with the rest of the faith community, especially those he serves. I am conscious of and filled with gratitude for the many people who have been my companions and collaborators along the way. My parents and family, relatives, parishioners, other priests and bishops, religious sisters, teachers, volunteers, office workers. So many people have helped to form me as a priest and have worked with me to help spread the Gospel of Our Lord. As Saint Paul liked to emphasise, there are many gifts but always the same Spirit; we are many parts, one body, one mission.

Second, the effectiveness of a priest boils down to his humanity: to his patience and kindness, to his love of God and neighbour. People can tell if their priest stops praying or stops loving them; there is something not quite right about him – he will lose his joy, and the people will notice.

Pope Saint John Paul II said, "in order that a priest's ministry be credible and acceptable he must mould his human personality in such a way that it becomes a bridge and not an obstacle for others in their meeting with Jesus Christ the Redeemer of humanity" (Pastores Dabo Vobis 43).

Third, I need faith without fear. Some may think that the opposite of faith is atheism, but it's really fear that holds us back from having a completely trusting faith in God. The fear that can hold me back is the fear that God might ask too much of me – more than I'm prepared to give. This is where the example of the Virgin Mary and so many of the saints give me encouragement that God will never ask more than he knows I can give with the help of his grace.

I have been so fortunate to have encountered and experienced God in my life in the person of Jesus Christ. I hope that my life and ministry as a priest helps others to also know the tremendous joy and hope that comes from an encounter and enduring relationship with our Lord Jesus in the community of his Church.

Advent 2024: Awaiting Hope

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

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

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