



**St John
Vianney**
Parish Morisset



THE MOST HOLY TRINITY YEAR B 26 MAY 2024

Baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit

Today we celebrate the greatest mystery of our faith, namely the mystery of the Trinity. God is Father, Son and Spirit. God is one. God is three. How can it be? Sounds like a puzzle.

This Feast is not so much something to be talked about, as something to celebrate, pray and live. Faith gives us access to another world, the world of the eternal, the world of God.

In God the Father we have a Father, who cares deeply about us. In Jesus we have a Brother who died for us, and who promised to remain with us always. And in the Holy Spirit, we have a Comforter, who guides us to the kingdom of eternity.



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	25th May 5pm Mass—Cooranbong
Sunday	26th May 9.30am Mass—Morisset
Tuesday	28th May 9.30am Liturgy—Morisset
Friday	31st May 10.30am Mass—Morisset
Saturday	1st June 5pm Family Mass—Morisset
Sunday	2nd June 9.30am Mass—Morisset
Tuesday	4th June 9.30am Liturgy—Morisset
Friday	7th June 10.30am Mass—Morisset
Saturday	8th June 5pm Mass—Cooranbong
Sunday	9th June 9.30am Mass—Morisset
Tuesday	11th June 9.30am Liturgy—Morisset
Friday	14th June 10.30am Mass—Morisset
Saturday	15th June 5pm Family Mass—Morisset
Sunday	16th June 9.30am Mass—Morisset

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Holy Trinity Year B — Reflection 26th May 2024

If we research images of the Trinity on the Internet we find various artists have tried to put a human face to it with a venerable, white bearded figure, a younger man seated on his right side and the image of a dove or a tongue of fire hovering overhead. Others present a geometric design of three equal but interlocking parts and a common centre to try to explain the nature of our Triune God – three persons in the one God. However, none of these can come close to explaining this wonderful mystery, which we accept in faith, though we cannot fully comprehend it

We express this faith whenever we make the sign of the Cross; when we recite the Creed in Mass (I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and Son); when we accept the final blessing; when we baptise our children “in the name of the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit”.

Why, then, can we believe? The Trinity, as such, is not mentioned in the Old or New Testaments, though there is much scriptural evidence. It was only at the Council of Nicaea in 325, that the doctrine of Trinity – three persons in the one God – was defined as an article of faith and the Nicene Creed promulgated.

When we look for scriptural evidence we can look to Deuteronomy: “The Lord is God indeed, in heaven above as on earth beneath, he and no other. Keep his laws and commandments.”

This God is constant in his love for his chosen people and faithful in his promises to them, despite the many time they turn away from him. The Holy Spirit was active throughout the Old Testament. He is mentioned 86 times (in 27 of the books). In Exodus the focus is on the Spirit of Wisdom; in Judges the Holy Spirit breathes courage and strength. There are also more the three hundred prophecies of the coming of the Redeemer who will come to suffer and die, to be resurrected and so bring salvation to His people.

We see these prophecies fulfilled in the New Testament. The Gospels give us the account of this New Covenant Christ made with all of human kind. His message of forgiveness and unconditional love was there for all. What is asked of us is the we love God and love our neighbour, that we model the harmony of the Trinity in our relationships with others.

We became part of the Body of Christ at our Baptism; we were strengthened with the gifts of the Holy Spirit at Confirmation. At Pentecost we were called to be witnesses and now, today, like the disciples, we are called to be part of the great commissioning: “Go therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commands I gave you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.” We can take great reassurance in that final promise.

Pam Melvey

Can you help CatholicCare Social Services Hunter-Manning make a difference?

A single mum, three couples from Afghanistan, a university student, and dozens of school students – these are just a few of the people CatholicCare Social Services Hunter-Manning has supported in the last couple of months.

As a not-for-profit organisation, We can't do this work without the generosity of our community. Can you help us to support more?

Donate to our 2024 Make a Difference appeal now:
www.mycause.com.au/page/345965/make-a-difference

Sacramental Program

It is now time to begin the process of welcoming families into the preparation of sacraments, at St John Vianney Morisset. Parents who will be accompanying their children in preparation for the sacraments, attended a meeting in the Callinan Centre on Wednesday evening, where the process was explained.

The group leaders are looking forward to working with the children in their faith journey. The new process will commence at Family Mass on Saturday 1st June 2024.

Bishop Michael Kennedy will confer the sacrament of Confirmation on the Children on Friday 20th September 7pm in the Morisset Church.

For those families with children who are 8 years old or older and would like to start their Sacramental Journey this year the first sacrament they will receive is **Reconciliation** preparation classes commence at 4.15pm on Sat 1st June 2024 we will meet outside St John Vianney Church located at 60 Yambo St Morisset.

Children who have already been Confirmed but have not received the sacrament of **Reconciliation** are to attend these preparation classes also.

Catholic Schools Week

Last Friday marked the opening of Catholic Schools week. It was marked with a liturgy in the Cathedral that was a bit different. It was called a Praise and Worship Liturgy of the Word, with Bishop Michael as the presider. The liturgy certainly opened the ears hearts and minds of the several hundred students and staff, who gathered to hear what it might mean to follow Jesus in practical terms.

Freda Pascoe SJV Principal, together with the school Captains and members of the Parish Leadership Team, were honoured to be part of the congregation in attentive presence, who exemplified a full conscious and active participation of the liturgy.

Hopefully there is a place for more praise and worship style liturgies in our in our diocese as a whole.

Parish Assembly

The Saint John Vianney School Community and St John Vianney Parishioners, are invited to a Parish Assembly, to be held after the 9.30am Mass, next Sunday June 2nd. The Assembly will not have the same format as in previous years. The sole aim of the Assembly is to discern the direction and path the parish needs to take moving forward.

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 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.

Diocesan Resource Centre events

Venue: Diocesan Resource Centre, Corner of Tudor & Parry Streets, Newcastle West.

1 June at 11am, the Formation film will be Peace by Chocolate. Lunch, coffee & tea provided. Registration: <https://forms.office.com/r/SvvXE86e1v>

7 June at 10:15am, Children's story time will feature Wombat Stew. Registration: <https://forms.office.com/r/FeJ4gyXBu4>

7 June at 1:00pm, Formation Friday's theme is The Sacred Heart of Jesus Registration: <https://forms.office.com/r/P7siS03nLz>

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? Baptism

The word “baptism” is derived from Latin and Greek words meaning to immerse or to plunge in water. Historically people have participated in Baptism by being dipped or immersed in water, having water poured on their heads, or even just splashing some water on the head of the person being baptized.

Originally the minister of Baptism was the overseer (bishop). Later presbyters (priests). But over the years, official RCC teaching about the minister of Baptism has evolved. A layperson can baptise when a priest or deacon is not readily available.

Baptism is not a thing. It is an initiation into the community of believers. The Community of believers, therefore, has a major responsibility to support and promote the healthy Christian development of all its members. Just as parents, family, and friends promote the physical, mental, and intellectual development of babies and children, so too parents, family, and Christian communities bear a heavy responsibility to promote and support the Christian faith and values development of their babies and children. In the baptism ceremony the parents agree to raise their child in the faith of the Church. The role of the godparent is to support the parents in this commitment.

The Church requires that at least one godparent is fully initiated; ie received the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. A baptised person from another Christian Church or community may act as a witness together with the Catholic godparent.

Godparents are to be at least sixteen years of age. Sometimes parents choose a godparent with additional agendas in mind; e. g. as guardian of their child should anything happen to them. However, it is not specific to being a godparent. It is something that can be stipulated in a legal will.

With A Light Heart.

1 One Easter Sunday the Priest told his congregation, “My good people, I have here in my hands three sermons: a \$100 sermon that lasts five minutes, a \$50 sermon that lasts 15 minutes, and a \$20 sermon that lasts a full hour. We’ll take up the collection to see which one you want.”

2 A Priest was talking to a parishioner who, despite working two jobs, was always there for Sunday Mass. He hoped that she was coming to hear his carefully prepared sermons. He thanked her profusely for being so faithful about attending church so regularly. “Yes,” she said, “it’s so relaxing after a long week of work to come to church, sit down on the sofa cushions, and not have to think about anything.”

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 11th June 2024**. Bookings can be made online at the link at: <https://forms.office.com/r/wZtatkt01V> or by contacting our Parish Office.

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.

Synod of Bishops: Australian Summary of 2024 Consultation

We are pleased to report the publication of the Australian Summary of the 2024 Consultation was released last week. The Australian Summary is based on the reflections received from 25 geographical dioceses, three Eastern Church eparchies and 13 other organisations.

DIocese OF MAITLAND-NEWCASTLE PUBLISHED MAY 21, 2024

The Australian Summary and the Diocesan testimonies can be accessed on the Synod webpage: <https://catholic.org.au/synodalchurch>

The Diocese has also prepared a summary document: Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle A Synodal Church in Mission XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops Towards October 2024

It explores the question: How can we enhance the differentiated co-responsibility in the mission of all the members of the People of God?

Diocesan feedback can be accessed [by clicking here](#).

We are now awaiting the Second Assembly of the Synod, which is due to begin with a retreat for the participants on 30 September.

Celebrating National Volunteer Week

To acknowledge the hard work of volunteers across the Diocese, we’re taking a moment to say thank you for their incredible contribution during National Volunteer Week.

DIocese OF MAITLAND-NEWCASTLE PUBLISHED MAY 21, 2024

National Volunteer Week is Australia’s largest annual celebration of volunteering and is happening from 20 to 26 May.

This special event provides an opportunity to highlight the important role of volunteers in our community and invites people not currently volunteering to give it a go.

This year’s theme is Something for Everyone. It recognises the diverse talents people bring to their different roles and encourages others to consider what they could do to support their community.

Nicki Graham, who volunteers in several spaces across Newcastle, including CatholicCare’s Community Kitchens and on her Parish Pastoral Council, says it’s a great opportunity to help others.

On Saturday night, she volunteered at our Civic Park Food Van for the first time.

“Saturday night was freezing cold, and the rain was pouring down, so we set up under a shelter outside Subway,” she explains.

“I kept thinking ‘when my shift finishes, I have a home to go to with a hot shower and a warm bed but there are many in our community who don’t have that luxury.’

“Jesus told his disciples to love one another. As followers of Christ, we are asked to do the same. What can we do to be that message of love to our fellow brothers and sisters?

“Through volunteering for just a few short hours we are letting people know that they are not forgotten, they are loved.

“In the cold, wet conditions of Saturday night, my heart was warmed by the kindness I saw around me, the gratitude of the guests we served, and the dignity bestowed upon them through CatholicCare’s outreach.”

There are so many volunteering opportunities available across the Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle. To find out how you can help, visit the [Diocese website](#) or the [CatholicCare website](#).

Last year, we spoke to a number of volunteers to find out why they do it. Hear from them in the video at: <https://youtu.be/DBSaF5ekf8>

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 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 + 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 J France	H White D Whitten
<u>PSALMIST:</u>	5PM 9.30AM	L Hutchinson D Whitten	J France J Hutchins
<u>GIFTS</u>	5PM 9.30AM	P Robertson B Cox K Amon TBA	A Dussin A Walker G Walker
<u>SERVERS</u>	5PM 9.30AM	M Melvey C Lawandos	C Lawandos V Paulo
<u>AV</u>	5PM 9.30AM	M Foo J Vipan	J Vipan U France
<u>WELCOMERS</u>	5PM 9.30AM	H White K Amon	J France H White
<u>CHURCH CLEANING</u>	COOR MOR	M Shamley R Hay C Hay	XXXX A Walker G Walker

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

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

If you have any concerns for a child or vulnerable 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 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
- THE MOST IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY (M) - 8TH JUNE
- SAINT BARNABAS (M) - 11TH JUNE
- SAINT ANTHONY OF PADUA (M) - 13TH JUNE
- SAINT ALOYSIUS GONZAGA (M) - 21ST JUNE

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

Monica Gray, Brenda Hutcheson, Koby Smith, Mick Styles, 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.



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 The Most Holy Trinity Year B Sunday 26 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 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 are our saviour and brother: Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, your Spirit is with us always: Christ, have mercy.

All: Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you have been given all authority on heaven and earth from the Father: 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 most high

since the dawn of time you have rejoiced in your creation.

In love you sent your Son to save the world

and by your Holy Spirit you guide us and give us peace.

Draw near to us so that we may be one with you.

We make this prayer in the name of the blessed Trinity for ever and ever.

Lord Jesus,

through your body and blood

we are brought to eternal life.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All:

Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

Deuteronomy 4:32-34. 39-40

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy

The Lord himself is God in heaven above and on earth below: there is no other.

Moses said to the people: 'Put this question to the ages that are past, that went before you, from the time God created man on earth: Was there ever a word so majestic, from one end of heaven to the other? Was anything ever heard? Did ever a people hear the voice of the living God speaking from the heart of the fire, as you heard it, and remain alive? Has any god ventured to take to himself one nation from the midst of another by ordeals, signs, wonders, war with mighty hand and outstretched arm, by fearsome terrors – all this that the Lord your God did for you before your eyes in Egypt?

'Understand this today, therefore, and take it to heart: The Lord is God indeed, in heaven above as on earth beneath, he and no other. Keep his laws and commandments as I give them to you today so that you and your children may prosper and live long in the land that the Lord your God gives you for ever.'

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

The word of the Lord.

All reply:

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 32:4-6. 9. 18-20. 22. R. v.12

(R.) Happy the people the Lord has chosen to be his own.

1. The word of the Lord is faithful and all his works to be trusted. The Lord loves justice and right and fills the earth with his love. (R.)
2. With his word the heavens were made, by the breath of his mouth all the stars. He spoke; and they came to be. He commanded; they sprang into being. (R.)
3. The Lord looks on those who revere him, on those who hope in his love, to rescue their souls from death, to keep them alive in famine. (R.)

4. Our soul is waiting for the Lord.
The Lord is our help and our shield.
May your love be upon us, O Lord,
as we place all our hope in you. (R.)

Second Reading

Romans 8:14-17

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans
You have received the Spirit that makes you God's own children,
and in that Spirit we call God: Father, our Father!
Everyone moved by the Spirit is a son of God. The spirit you
received is not the spirit of slaves bringing fear into your lives
again; it is the spirit of sons, and it makes us cry out, 'Abba,
Father!' The Spirit himself and our spirit bear united witness that
we are children of God. And if we are children we are heirs as
well: heirs of God and coheirs with Christ, sharing his sufferings
so as to share his glory.

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 **Matthew**

All:

Glory to you, O Lord.

Matthew 28:16-20

Baptise them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of
the Holy Spirit.

The eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where
Jesus had arranged to meet them. When they saw him they fell
down before him, though some hesitated. Jesus came up and
spoke to them. He said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has
been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all the
nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the
commands I gave you. And know that I am with you always; yes,
to the end of time.'

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: Sisters and brothers, united in our baptism through the
Holy Trinity, let us bring our intentions before God.

Reader: That our Holy Father, Pope Francis., will
continue to lead the Church in worship of the
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. In your glory:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That leaders who impact society will be moved
by the Holy Spirit to bring about justice and
peace. In your glory:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That all struggling with their faith will be
granted hope and may return to the Church as
children of God. In your glory:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That, as we come to the end of Laudato Si
Week, we will continue to apply our skills and
talents to care our environment, planting seeds
of hope as we go. In your glory:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That the many people who generously
volunteer their time for the wellbeing of others
will be appreciated by our community. In your
glory:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That, in acknowledging the mistreatment of
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, we
will contribute to the healing process for those
who are hurting and for our whole nation. In
your glory:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That our parish community may be true
believers in the unity and love of the Father,
Son and Holy Spirit. In your glory:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That all who are sick and housebound will be
comforted through the Spirit of truth. In your
glory:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That, through the Holy Trinity, everyone who
has died will find their home with the Lord. In
your glory:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: God our Father, through the Holy Trinity we are
baptised in your name. Hear our prayers and help us to
honour the gifts you give us through the Father, the Son
and the Holy Spirit. 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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LITURGY MATTERS: 'Praise and Worship' in a Catholic community

Last Friday we marked the opening of Catholic Schools Week with a liturgy in the Cathedral that was a bit different. Indeed, some people said they got a bit of a shock. Many left saying, 'best ever!' Bring on more shocks I say!!

LOUISE GANNON RSJ PUBLISHED MAY 21, 2024

We called it a 'Praise and Worship Liturgy of the Word'. Yes, we were in the Cathedral and yes, Bishop Michael Kennedy was the presider.

As with all good liturgy preparation, we began months ago with a representative group sitting around a table reflecting on previous Catholic Schools Week (CSW) liturgies – a Mass in 2023, a Liturgy of the Word in 2022.

The theme for Catholic Schools Week 2024 is 'Follow me'. And so, we pondered what type of liturgy might best open the ears, hearts and minds of these young people, firstly to hear Jesus inviting them to follow him, and secondly to know what following Jesus might mean for them in practical terms.

One of my oft-used sayings is, 'The Holy Spirit is flapping around' and indeed she was! We were delighted when Amanda Mohr, the Ministry Co-ordinator at St Pius X Adamstown (SPX),

said that Gen Bryant was working at their school the very week of the CSW liturgy, and that SPX could move things around so Gen could lead the music for that liturgy.

If you don't know Gen Bryant, I suggest you check out her website where she describes herself as a 'composer, performer and music minister'. She is one of Australia's leading young Catholic musicians. Gen has deep faith. She is a woman of great grace. She is a powerhouse of passion and energy. She is beautiful and charismatic in an unassuming way. If I had to find one word to gather all that in, I would say she is a woman of integrity. She walks her talk! Gen's availability enriched our long-awaited first step in a diocesan 'Praise and Worship' style liturgy.

One of the constant challenges with school liturgies, be they local or diocesan, is the passivity of the Assembly. There is nothing worse than a church full of people who don't open their mouths, and whose faces radiate well-behaved boredom. I cringe when I hear the measure of good liturgy being espoused as 'the kids were well behaved!'

And so, on Friday, to have more than 300 students and staff on their feet, opening their mouths in prayer and song, and their hearts in attentive presence, exemplified a full, conscious and active participation that we have only dreamed of previously. The Holy Spirit was indeed 'flapping around'.

While the majority of the feedback is effusively positive, there are some other comments which need to be heard and considered. One, heard a few times, was that the liturgy was 'too evangelical'. What do we Catholics mean when we say that? This is something we all need to reflect on, as together, we keep developing and nurturing the liturgical life of this Church of Maitland – Newcastle.

I don't think 'too evangelical' means energetic music or clapping or actions. A common criticism of Catholic liturgy is that it is too sombre, too solemn, too stripped back, too controlled. Indeed, it is not too far a stretch to say many people find it lifeless and have totally disengaged. As we know, most Catholics don't participate in Sunday liturgy.

Interestingly Catholic liturgy is of its nature 'praise and worship.' Check out paragraph 7 in the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy.

To paraphrase one of Fr Richard Lennan's common quotes, the Church's catholicity is marked by diversity. The same is true of the Church's Liturgy. While our liturgy celebrates our unity, it does so via a rich treasury of rites and prayers meant to enable the wide diversity of the Catholic faithful to express their thanks and praise to God with meaning and integrity.

I believe there is a place for more 'praise and worship' style liturgies in our parishes, our schools, and the diocese as a whole. Not always, but sometimes. Not for everyone, but for some. Take a look at the faces in our schools and Churches. We are a people of great cultural diversity. Many of our brothers and sisters who come from other cultures find our Australian liturgy a pale reflection of what they are used to.

Our liturgical diet needs to be diverse. On Pentecost Sunday I went to the 9.30 am Mass in the Cathedral. It was solemn Catholic liturgy at its best. It was very different to our CSW liturgy. Across the liturgical life of our Church of Maitland – Newcastle the choice of liturgy is not either/or. Catholic is always both/and. We need to make space for legitimate liturgical difference.

The challenge in preparing 'Praise and Worship' liturgies is to ensure they are indeed Catholic. By this I mean that the hymns and the prayers and everything else that comprises the liturgy, does articulate and celebrate our Catholic faith.

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Let's return to the comment about the liturgy being 'too evangelical.' Evangelical Christianity is a different expression of Christian Faith to our Catholic expression. We have much in common with our sisters and brothers who belong to evangelical Christian churches. Indeed, there is much we could learn from them. What marks our difference is our theology. You hear this difference in many of the hymns sung in evangelical churches. When I hear them, I know that they are not articulating our Catholic faith.

In Catholic 'praise and worship' we use Catholic music not Christian music. That is an important part of what Gen Bryant brought to our CSW 'Praise and Worship Liturgy of the Word'. Hymns that sang our Catholic faith. Hymns that prepared the Assembly to pray the prayers. Hymns that opened their ears and their hearts to hear the Word of God call them precious and honoured and loved. Hymns that settled their hearts and called their attention to listen to Bishop Michael Kennedy's homily. Hymns that invited people to commit to following Jesus. Hymns that were primarily about us rather than me.

Gen Bryant is one of many Catholic composers writing wonderful music for liturgical use. Not all hymns, particularly Christian hymns, are appropriate for the liturgy. Some are more appropriate for personal prayer and retreat or reflection settings. There is little to no need for us to be using Christian music in our Catholic liturgy.

Three things marked our 'Praise and Worship Liturgy of the Word' as Catholic. Firstly, the centrepiece was the Word of God proclaimed. Secondly, the structure was true to the very particular structure of Catholic liturgy. The 'praise and worship' became the 'Introductory Rites'. 'Praise and worship' also in part shaped our response to the Word. Thirdly, as already mentioned the hymns and the prayers articulated our Catholic faith. You might like to look at the People's Booklet which will give you an idea of how the liturgy unfolded. It may function as a resource for you and your community, should you want to explore this style of Catholic worship. If you would like some assistance, please contact me.

It would be a rare person who left Friday's liturgy without some of the following words and thoughts echoing in their minds and hearts:

Dignity: each one of us has dignity, given by God
Raise it up! Come alive!
Your love is all I need!

We will sing! We will shout! We will go so send us out!

If the outcome of Catholic Schools Week 2024 is that our school communities know more deeply that intrinsic to following Jesus is respect for the God-given dignity of self and others, then Catholic Schools Week will have made a significant contribution to bringing about the Kingdom of God.

For our Catholic Schools Week liturgy 2024, thanks goes to:

Amanda Mohr and the St Pius X High School Adamstown staff;

Anne Millard and the Sacred Heart Cathedral Staff who were 'all hands on deck';

ASPIRE – particularly Luke Baker and students for music, Lauren Harvey, and students for the movement, and all the amazing parents who get students to rehearsals and liturgy;

Erin McCort and the Catholic Schools Office Religious Education and Spirituality Team

The representative group that first gathered to prepare the CSW 'Praise and Worship Liturgy of the Word' will gather again to review it. Our work is not yet done!

The Diocesan Liturgy Council will continue to reflect on 'Catholic Praise and Worship' as we develop 'Sacred Heart Beat', a new initiative focusing on liturgical music for formation and

celebration. We have twenty-one people participating in our first 'Sing to the Lord' cantor training and formation which will get underway in July and August 2024.

Watch this space! The Holy Spirit is flapping around!

Diocesan Liturgy Council Update

To keep abreast of the work of the Diocesan Liturgy Council go to: <https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/liturgy/diocesan-liturgy-council/> click on the link and then the 'Council News' drop down menu where you will find the latest meeting Report.

Volunteers needed at the CatholicCare Refugee Hub

The CatholicCare Refugee Hub is looking for volunteers to support its Driving and Tutoring programs.

As part of the Driving Program, you will mentor participants and help them build their skills through both practical and theory lessons. Using CatholicCare's insured fleet cars, you will also assist them in completing their logbook hours to get their license.

In the Tutoring Program, you will support primary and high school students from refugee backgrounds with their schoolwork. The program runs from 2.30pm to 5pm on Tuesdays during the school term.

For more information or to apply, visit www.catholiccare.org.au/community-programs/community-refugee-hub/volunteer/

Standing on the Shoulders: The Official Opening of the Diocesan Resource Centre and Library and the 2024 TWEC Dinner – Friday 31 May

It is with much excitement that you are invited to join us for the official opening of the Diocesan Resource Centre and Library. The Library, which stands on the site of the original Newcastle Central Catholic Library, offers our community access to resources relating to Religious Education, Scripture, Theology, Liturgy and more.

Following on from the official opening, the celebration continues with the reimagining of the TWEC dinner with guest speaker Kelly Paget, Chancellor and Director of Mission at the Diocese of Broken Bay. Kelly was amongst five Australians chosen personally by the Holy Father to participate in the General Synod of Bishops in Rome.

Library Opening – 4.30 PM Free entry. All welcome
Dinner & Speaker – 5.30 PM \$40 pp includes buffet meal and guest speaker presentation.

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



"Our history is full of injustice. Our lands and seas are full of our blood.

Nothing but a radical change in attitudes will overcome this world of pain."

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