



**St John  
Vianney**  
Parish Morisset



**THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER YEAR B 14 APRIL 2024**

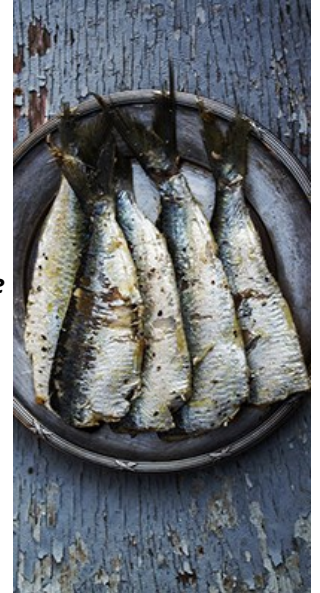
*Today's Gospel takes us on the road to Emmaus, where the disciples were slow to recognise Jesus in their midst.*

*In the weeks after Easter, a time we call the Easter season, we are made aware yet again, that Easter is more than a season.*

*Celebrating Easter is more than belief; it involves action on our part, and if we really believe that, it will be reflected in how we live.*

*It may be expressed differently in each of us, but it will be evident. We are a part of an unfinished story that unfolds daily in our lives.*

*The road to Emmaus is a story for every day life in 2024. At the end of Mass we are invited to go out into the world to love, to serve and proclaim God's grace to all.*



We acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land, the Awabakal People who, long before us lived, loved, educated and raised their children on this Country. We pay our respects to Elders past and present and we recognise the young people who are our future. We acknowledge all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families in our communities. We respect their deep physical and spiritual connections to Country through their stories, traditions and living cultures.

**PARISH LEADERSHIP TEAM:** Uta France  
John France

**PRIEST SUPERVISOR:** Fr Joseph Figuardo

**SACRAMENTAL PRIESTS:** Fr Greg Barker VG  
Fr Darryl Mackie  
Fr Raphael Madukwe  
Fr John Purnell

**PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL:** Juliet Hutchins  
Mal Melvey  
Pam Melvey  
Kerry Lendon  
Rod Hay

**PARISH SECRETARY:** Rosanna Suckling

**PARISH OFFICE:** 60 Yambo Street, Morisset, PO Box 87, Ph: 02 4973.6859  
Office Hours: 9.00 am to 2.00pm—Monday to Friday (except public holidays)  
(We ask that you make an appointment to come to the office)  
Morisset Parish Office email: [morparish@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:morparish@mn.catholic.org.au)  
Morisset Parish Web site: [www.vianneymorisset.org](http://www.vianneymorisset.org)  
Morisset Parish Facebook : <https://www.facebook.com/stjvparish>  
Morisset Parish Instagram : [https://www.instagram.com/stjvparish\\_morisset/](https://www.instagram.com/stjvparish_morisset/)  
(Please submit all Bulletin Notice requests to the parish office by 2pm Wednesdays)

**UPCOMING WORSHIP TIMES :**

Saturday	13th April 5pm Mass—Cooranbong
Sunday	14th April 9.30am Mass—Morisset
Saturday	20th April 5pm Mass—Morisset
Sunday	21st April 9.30am Mass—Morisset
Saturday	27th April 5pm Mass—Cooranbong
Sunday	28th April 9.30am Mass—Morisset
Tuesday	30th April 9.30am Liturgy—Morisset
Saturday	4th May 5pm Family Mass—Morisset
Sunday	5th May 9.30am Mass—Morisset
Tuesday	7th May 9.30am Liturgy—Morisset
Saturday	11th May 5pm Mass—Cooranbong
Sunday	12th May 9.30am Mass—Morisset
Tuesday	14th May 9.30am Liturgy—Morisset

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## **Reflection for Third Sunday of Easter Year B — 14th April 2024**

In the weeks after Easter, a time we call the Easter season, we are made aware yet again, that Easter is more than a season; it is a way of life.

Therefore, it seems appropriate that we occasionally travel back to our roots to appreciate our ancestors, and learn from their insights and accomplishments, as well as their struggles and failures.

The Easter season is also an opportunity for us to trace our spiritual roots, and to learn anew, whom we are called to be.

Many of us have traced our own physical roots. Websites like ancestry dot com, help us to examine the branches and leaves of our family tree.

Some searches affirm what we already know, while others uncover some unexpected surprises. By learning about where we came from, we can gain a better sense of who we are.

When we undertake the challenge of tracing our spiritual roots, we are blessed with mentors whose efforts can reacquaint us with those who have gone before us in faith. How the faith was preserved, protected, and passed on from mother to daughter and father to son.

The second and third generation of Christians realised that it was their responsibility to carry the good news to the ends of the earth, discriminating against no one, and welcoming all. They shared the gifts of God's love and mercy with whomever God placed on their way.

In the Acts of the Apostles, we hear how that generation of believers, attempted to live life in Jesus after his resurrection. They realised that it was their responsibility to carry the good news to the ends of the earth.

If we take nothing else with us from April's sacred texts, let it be the command to love as Jesus loves. This excludes anything that goes against love: war; violence; discrimination about race, religion, political differences, age, gender, sexual orientation.

How radically might the world be transformed if we were to take Jesus at his word:

Love one another as I love you! -John France.

## **ANZAC DAY**

On Wednesday 25th April, as a nation we stop to commemorate Anzac Day. We pay grateful respects to those who sacrificed their own lives for our country, and ultimately for the sake of a better world. We remember the pain of those who grieved, their deaths, and whose lives were changed forever by their wounding.

**To help us commemorate Anzac Day, Mass will be celebrated at 9.30am in the Morisset Church.**

## **Parish Assembly-Claim the Date**

A Parish Pastoral Assembly, to which all parishioners are invited, will be held after Mass on Sunday 2nd June. It is several years since an Assembly was held in our Parish. (Covid etc.)

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 the Church and Parish.

From this Assembly, a Pastoral Plan will be developed. This Plan is a set of goals and objectives embraced through a process of shared decision-making, which will direct the parish in its activities and decisions for the next 12 months.

It will be an opportunity for us as a parish, if we are to have a positive future,, to discover our sense of purpose and call, in our own particular setting. It will help us discern what it means to be a gathered Christian community at this time?

## **HCA- Hunter Community Alliance**

Last Wednesday evening our Parish Leadership Team, gathered with 800 other people from across the Hunter region, to participate in the HCA Founding Assembly, held in the Great Hall of the University of Newcastle.

The Hunter Community Alliance brought together diverse communities, environmental groups. unions and many religious organisations, to advance the common good, with the aim of achieving a fair just and sustainable future for the region into the future..

## **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?**

#### **Anointing of the Sick**

Prior to Vatican II, Anointing of the Sick was commonly called Extreme Unction. In practice it had become the announcer of death, and people stayed away from it as long as they could, until all else failed. As such it sometimes became a game of chicken.

Vatican II revived the Church's more complete understanding of this sacrament. It is not the sacrament of the dead. Like all sacraments, it is a life-giving encounter with the risen Christ for the living, who need healing.

We use the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick in the way it better serves the living.

## **With A Light Heart.**

One Easter a priest and a taxi driver both died and went to heaven. St. Peter was at the Pearly Gates to greet them. "Come with me," St. Peter said to the taxi driver. The taxi driver followed St. Peter to a mansion. It had everything you could imagine from a bowling alley to an Olympic-size pool. "Oh, my word, thank you," said the taxi driver.

Next, St. Peter led the priest to a rough shack with a bunk bed and a little old television set. "I think you're a little mixed up," said the priest. "Shouldn't I be the one who gets the mansion? After all I was a priest, went to church every day, and preached God's word." "Yes, that's true," St. Peter answered. "But during your Easter sermons people slept. When the taxi driver drove, everyone prayed.

## **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>

## Project Compassion

Caritas Australia would like to **THANK YOU** for supporting Project Compassion 2024. Your Project Compassion donation will help whole communities 'have life and have it to the full' (John 10:10).

If you still have your Project Compassion box or set of envelopes at home, please bring them back **ASAP**, you can still donate online by visiting our parish Project Compassion fundraising page at: <https://parishes.projectcompassion.org.au/o/morriset-catholic-parish-2264> or by calling 1800 024 413.

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO RETURN YOUR PROJECT COMPASSION ASAP.**

## Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Open Days

Have you heard of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd?

Operating out of the parish hall at Our Lady of Lourdes Beresfield in the Chisholm Parish region, the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd offers a child-focused program that meets in the specially prepared environment called "The Atrium". Following the Montessori philosophy, The Atrium is currently open on Wednesdays during the school term, with sessions for 3–6-year-olds in the morning and 6–12-year-olds in the afternoon after school. The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd are holding open days during Term 2. If you would like the opportunity to visit and learn more, please register at: <https://forms.office.com/r/9KMf55C5nz>

## 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>

## Christian Meditation – Saturday 25 May, 9.30am - 2.30pm

John and Anne Gray will lead this event, opening a space for inner silence, gratitude, love and divine beauty. The duo will lead us in Imaginative Contemplation and share the aims of the Worldwide Prayer Network.

Where: St James School Hall (Vista Parade, Kotara) – parking available on Church grounds or Street. Morning tea provided. Bring your lunch. RSVP: [annecuskelly@hotmail.com](mailto:annecuskelly@hotmail.com) or 0407 436 808 \$10 donations would be appreciated

## Sing to the Lord

Sing to the Lord is a cantor training and formation opportunity for all members of the faithful. We are looking for everyone who loves to sing and would like to have a go. To find out more and express Interest use the following link : <https://forms.office.com/r/7CGYdeXGZw>

Music teachers and musical teachers in our school system use this link : <https://forms.office.com/r/kNi51xLrsb>

## Pope Francis' prayer intention for April 2024

We pray that the dignity and immense value of women be recognized in every culture, and for the end of discrimination that they experience in different parts of the world.

## 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.

## MGL Sisters: Banquet – Pentecost Intensive at Carmel House

Discover the depths of God's love through our Banquet Intensive as we accept the invitation to radical intimacy with the Trinity. Feast on God's powerful love for you, open up to the gifts of the Spirit, savour times of powerful input, prayer, and practical workshops, and find the charismatic generosity of God unleashed in your own life of mission and discipleship.

Friday 17 May (6pm) to Wednesday 2 May (2pm) at Carmel House (345 St Andrews Road, Varroville, NSW)

Single room (\$580pp), Bunk share (\$530pp), Student (\$500pp), Day Rate (\$420pp)

We would love financial means to never be a barrier to someone attending our retreats. Contact us about sponsorship options.

For more information, visit [www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1155206](http://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1155206)

## SSEC's Annual Conference: Paul, People and Places – Saturday 4 May, 8.30 to 5pm

Join the Society for the Study of Early Christianity (SSEC) for an enlightening journey into the world of Paul the Apostle at our upcoming conference, delving into the fascinating places Paul visited and the diverse array of people he encountered. Paul's letters are filled with people and allusions to their households and cities sit tantalizing in the background. How did these people come to be the early church? And what was Paul's role in shaping the house churches in so many cities across the Mediterranean?

Whether you're a scholar, a history enthusiast, or simply curious about the life and travels of Paul, this conference promises to be an immersive and enlightening experience. Don't miss this opportunity to uncover the enduring legacy of one of history's most influential figures.

Registration link: <https://mq-ssec.org/2024-annual-conference/>

## aMeN caMiNo Information / Walk & Talk

If you are considering attending one of the aMeN caMiNos this year and want more information, please join us for the Information / Walk & Talk on Saturday 27 April commencing at 8.30am at St Columba's Parish Hall, Lockyer St, Adamstown. After an information session, we will set off on our walk, returning around 1.30pm.

Contact [formed@mncatholic.org.au](mailto:formed@mncatholic.org.au) to register or for further information. aMeN caMiNo 2024 Dates: 6-10 July, 3-7 August and 7-8 September.

## Fishing Weekend: God for Blokes

If you're looking for an opportunity to think about God, hear from other men, do some fishing, and relax you should attend the God for Blokes Fishing Weekend from 3 to 5 May. You will travel from Newcastle to Forster, food and accommodation are included in the cost. For more information or to book, visit <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1092382> or call Wayne Caruana on 0466 631 394.



**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, Bank Account Name: CCF BSB: 062815 No: 00328161 Ref: 5016 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 deposit directly into the Parish Account our details are: Account Name: CCF BSB:062815 Account Number: 00328161 one of the following Payment References are required by CCF for all deposits: 5004 or 5004 + SURNAME or 5004 + PG + your Giver Number, or 5004 + PG + SURNAME, or 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.

<b>WEEKEND ROSTERS</b>			
		<u>THIS WEEK</u>	<u>NEXT WEEK</u>
<u>PRESIDERS</u>	5PM 9.30AM	Mass Mass	Mass Mass
<u>PROCLAIMERS:</u>	5PM 9.30AM	H White J Vipan	P Melvey H White
<u>PSALMIST:</u>	5PM 9.30AM	K Lendon P Melvey	M Melvey D Joyce
<u>GIFTS</u>	5PM 9.30AM	P Robertson B Cox H White M Melvey	B Cox K Amon J Hutchins
<u>SERVERS</u>	5PM 9.30AM	M Melvey R Lawandos	J Lawandos V Paulo
<u>AV</u>	5PM 9.30AM	D Peterson J France	U France M Fowler
<u>WELCOMERS</u>	5PM 9.30AM	J France M Melvey	P Melvey P Melvey
<u>CHURCH CLEANING</u>	COOR MOR	K Lendon D Whitten	XXXX C Lawandos K Lendon


***Our Parish supports The Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle 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 minister and interact with. If you have any concerns for a child or vulnerable adult please contact the Office of Safeguarding P:02 4979 1390 or email: [childprotection@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:childprotection@mn.catholic.org.au), or visit their website for further information [www.officeofsafeguarding.org.au](http://www.officeofsafeguarding.org.au) .***

**UPCOMING FEAST DAYS MEMORIALS AND SOLEMINITIES**

- ANZAC DAY—25TH APR
- SAINT MARK (F) - 26TH APR
- SAINT CATHERINE OF SIENA (M) - 28TH APR
- SAINT ATHANASIUS (M) - 2ND MAY
- SAINTS PHILIP AND JAMES (F) - 3RD MAY
- 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

**Please pray for all those who are sick: in hospital or at home, especially those living with a life threatening disease:**  
 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.**  
 Recently Deceased: Noel Courtney



**Prayer Requests for the Bulletin**

If you would like the parish to pray for a family member who is sick, recently deceased or you would like remembered please call or email the parish office or complete a prayer card for each person and place in the mail box near the parish office door. Cards are available at the back of the church and at the Parish Office.  
 All prayer requests require permission from a family member or the person. Due to Australian privacy laws.

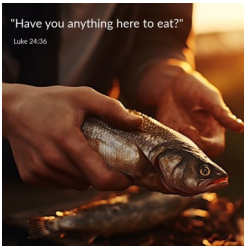
**An Act of Spiritual Communion**

My Jesus,  
 I believe that You  
 are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.  
 I love You above all things,  
 and I desire to receive You into my soul.  
 Since I cannot at this moment  
 receive You sacramentally,  
 come at least spiritually into my heart.  
 I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You.  
 Never permit me to be separated from You.  
 Amen.



**Live stream Mass every Sunday at 9.30am at [www.mn.catholic.org.au/places/live-stream](http://www.mn.catholic.org.au/places/live-stream)**





## SUNDAY PRAYER SERVICE Third Sunday of Easter Year B Sunday 14 Apr 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 open our minds to hear your word: Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, you are the sacrifice that takes our sins away: Christ, have mercy.

All: Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you fill us with your gift of peace: 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,  
we rejoice in the resurrection of Jesus  
and the power of the Holy Spirit.  
Inspire your sons and daughters to do your will  
so that we may look forward in hope  
to your promise of eternal life.

We make this prayer through Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
for ever and ever.

All:

Amen.

### The Liturgy of the Word

#### First Reading

Acts of the Apostles 3:13-15. 17-19

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

You have killed the prince of life; God, however, raised him from the dead.

Peter said to the people: 'You are Israelites, and it is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our ancestors, who has glorified his servant Jesus, the same Jesus you handed over and then disowned in the presence of Pilate, after Pilate had decided to release him. It was you who accused the Holy One, the Just One, you who demanded the reprieve of a murderer while you killed the prince of life. God, however, raised him from the dead, and to that fact we are the witnesses.

'Now I know, brothers, that neither you nor your leaders had any idea what you were really doing; this was the way God carried out what he had foretold, when he said through all his prophets that his Christ would suffer. Now you must repent and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out.'

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

The word of the Lord.

All reply:

Thanks be to God.

### Responsorial Psalm

Ps 4:2. 4. 7. 9. R. v.7

(R.) Lord, let your face shine on us.

1. When I call, answer me, O God of justice;  
from anguish you released me,  
have mercy and hear me! (R.)
2. It is the Lord who grants favours to those whom he loves;  
the Lord hears me whenever I call him. (R.)
3. 'What can bring us happiness?' many say.  
Lift up the light of your face on us, O Lord. (R.)
4. I will lie down in peace and sleep comes at once,  
for you alone, Lord, make me dwell in safety. (R.)

## Second Reading

1 John 2:1-5

A reading from the first letter of St John  
Jesus Christ is the sacrifice that takes away our sins and those of the whole world.

I am writing this, my children,  
to stop you sinning;  
but if anyone should sin,  
we have our advocate with the Father,  
Jesus Christ, who is just;  
he is the sacrifice that takes our sins away,  
and not only ours,  
but the whole world's.

We can be sure that we know God  
only by keeping his commandments.

Anyone who says, 'I know him',  
and does not keep his commandments,  
is a liar,

refusing to admit the truth.

But when anyone does obey what he has said,

God's love comes to perfection in him.

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

The word of the Lord.

**All reply:**

**Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel

**Reader:**

From the holy Gospel according to **Luke**.

**All:**

Glory to you, O Lord.

Luke 24:35-48

It was written that the Christ would suffer and on the third day rise from the dead.

The disciples told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised Jesus at the breaking of bread.

They were still talking about all this when Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you!' In a state of alarm and fright, they thought they were seeing a ghost. But he said, 'Why are you so agitated, and why are these doubts rising in your hearts? Look at my hands and feet; yes, it is I indeed. Touch me and see for yourselves; a ghost has no flesh and bones as you can see I have.' And as he said this he showed them his hands and feet. Their joy was so great that they could not believe it, and they stood dumbfounded; so he said to them, 'Have you anything here to eat?' And they offered him a piece of grilled fish, which he took and ate before their eyes.

Then he told them, 'This is what I meant when I said, while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses, in the Prophets and in the Psalms, has to be fulfilled.' He then opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, 'So you see how it is written that the Christ would suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that, in his name, repentance for the forgiveness of sins would be preached to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses to this.'

**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, through Christ's word in the scriptures, we bring our prayers before God.

**Reader:** That our Holy Father, Pope Francis, will remain a faithful teacher of the Gospel. In your glory:

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** That governments will support aid agencies to provide justice and food for the poor. In your glory:

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** That those suffering serious injury may be granted healing and peace in the risen Lord. In your glory:

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** That people who work for the wellbeing of others will be protected from all forms of violence and harm. In your glory:

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** That we will honour and cherish the gifts of Creation and work together to mitigate the threats to our environment. In your glory:

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** That all the sick and housebound will be healed with peace, especially those who we know and love. In your glory:

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** That all who have died will share in the true presence of God forever, especially those who we knew and love. In your glory:

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Leader:** God our Father, your word in the scriptures burns in our hearts. Hear our prayers and help us to understand your word by opening our minds to Christ's suffering and salvation. 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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## LITURGY MATTERS: New Life - Alleluia!

Happy Easter! For my friend Bernadette, new life abounds because on Easter Wednesday she

became a grandmother for the first time! Little Joseph Samuel has transformed Bernadette and her family.

LOUISE GANNON RSJ PUBLISHED APRIL 09, 2024

Seeing the delight on Bernadette's face and listening to the stories of Joseph's arrival brought back memories of the joy and excitement in our family when new babies arrive.

They become the focus. Our conversation is transformed. How we gather and what we do changes. What time we schedule things is different. We sing different songs, do mad dances, rock when we hold them, make funny faces and read different books.

The shopping list changes, and we frequent different shops. Who knew babies could require so many wardrobe changes!

Leaving the house if you are the parents, or preparing the house if you are the grandparents involves meticulous planning. For Bernadette this has only just begun! How exciting.

Over Easter, a similar story unfolded in many of our parishes as we baptised, confirmed and shared Eucharist with all those who, having undertaken the journey of Christian Initiation, stood before us and declared their desire to be immersed into the life, death and resurrection of Christ. We had two adults initiated at the Easter Vigil in the Cathedral, and then last Sunday night Bishop Michael confirmed another young woman.

It is a privilege to be present at these celebrations. Without exception these new Catholics shine with joy and delight and love and absolute relief that what they have longed for has finally come to be!

I've been Catholic all my life so I can become a little blasé about my faith, and disengaged from the constant call to surrender to God's love and be renewed. My hope can become a little dull, my worship a little routine. But let me tell you, such feelings are transformed in the excitement of the celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation. You can't help but be touched.

Just as Bernadette and her family will accompany Joseph and his parents, so we are called to accompany our new Catholics over the next twelve months. During this time, they hold a place honour when our parish gathers for worship.

Just as Bernadette's family will do with Joseph, we are called to wrap the newly initiated around with our care and concern as we continue to share our faith with them and invite them ever more deeply into the Church's life and mission.

And just like Bernadette's family, nothing in our parishes will be exactly the same. Why? Because the delight of new faith often draws our attention to aspects of our life that we may not have considered for some time.

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults sets out a magnificent vision for the initiation and accompaniment of those whom God is calling to Catholic life and faith. It places Initiation at the heart of parish life and designates it as the responsibility of all the baptised, not just the relevant team. If we dare to engage with this vision our whole community will find new life!

Bernadette and her family are forever changed by the arrival of Joseph Samuel. It is my hope and prayer that our parish communities are also changed and renewed by the new life that constantly comes to us through the ministry of Christian Initiation. While we continue to accompany those initiated at Easter, we will soon be invited to accompany those families who present their baptised children for confirmation and first eucharist. I hope you're all ready!

One of my favourite scripture references is from John's Gospel where Jesus says to the disciples, 'I call you friends.' People will experience the friendship of God in the friendship we extend to them. It is up to each one of us to be a friend of God to all people, and to accompany with deep care. Those who experience the call to follow God in our Catholic family.

If you and your parish would like to engage in some reimagining of the ministry of Christian Initiation, please contact us: [worshipandprayer@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:worshipandprayer@mn.catholic.org.au)

Wishing you an abundance of Easter Blessing as we celebrate our new life in Christ. Alleluia!

## Diocesan Liturgy Council Update

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

## Acknowledgements

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## **Nominations open for Magdalene Award**

Nominations are now open for the 2024 Mary Magdalene Award!  
DIOCESE OF MAITLAND-NEWCASTLE PUBLISHED APRIL 09, 2024

Established in 2015, the award aims to celebrate and honour local women who demonstrate exceptional leadership within our Diocese and embody the spirit of Mary Magdalene.

This Award is being relaunched this year, after last being presented in 2020, to coincide with the Feast Day of Mary Magdalene.

Mary Magdalene is a symbol of courage, strength, resilience, empowerment, and leadership, and inspires us to recognise and uplift the remarkable women among us.

Nominations can be made by filling in this form and emailing it to [kate.crncevic@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:kate.crncevic@mn.catholic.org.au)

Important dates to take note of are:

**Monday 3 June – Nominations close**

**Sunday 28 July - 9:30 am Mass and Awards Presentation with Bishop Michael Kennedy, Sacred Heart Cathedral, Newcastle.**

The official award presentation will follow in the Toohey Room with morning tea in the Davis Courtyard.

For more information visit the Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle website at: <https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/mission-and-outreach/council-for-women/magdalene-award-2024/>

Diocesan employees are eligible if they have an active voluntary role in their parishes or the diocesan community. Their paid work is not eligible for consideration for this award.

## **Official opening and blessing of Catherine McAuley Catholic College**

The Official Opening and Blessing of Stage 1, Block A & Stage 2, Blocks C & D Building Projects of Catherine McAuley Catholic College, Medowie was held on Thursday 4 April.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS OFFICE PUBLISHED APRIL 05, 2024

The event included a ceremony and music performances from students and teachers, as well as the blessing which was performed by Bishop Michael Kennedy around the school and its state-of-the-art facilities.

The works unveiled today included:

Construction of the main administration centre, general purpose learning areas, the early education centre, associated roadworks, infrastructure, car parking and landscaping.

Block C consisting of science labs, science preparation, theory and general-purpose learning areas, apparatus and stores, demonstration and collaboration zones and a centralised foyer space.

Block D consisting of junior and senior technological and applied science (TAS) areas including a TAS workshop, design lab, visual arts, digital technology and GPLA facilities as well as storage and services enclosures and a centralised foyer space.

The opening is a major milestone in the delivery of a leading-edge education precinct in Medowie. In addition to Catherine McAuley Catholic College, the Diocese also has the St Nicholas' Early Education Centre within the precinct and a new primary school set to commence construction imminently.

## **Diocesan Library**

The Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle Library is open for patrons at 12 Tudor Street, Newcastle West.

Opening hours:

Mondays – 10am to 6pm

Fridays – 10am to 6pm

Saturdays 10am to 2pm

## **Alpha course unites young people**

When you hear the word Catholic what comes to mind? Is it a church? A priest? Maybe it's a specific prayer or bible verse?

ELIZABETH SYMINGTON PUBLISHED MARCH 02, 2024

While these are all wonderful things, I want you to imagine a different scene. Picture a room full of young people bonding over their faith and love of Jesus. They're sharing the joy of the Gospel over food, conversation, and music.

Doesn't that sound inviting?

Well, that's exactly what happened at the University of Newcastle Catholic Society's recent Alpha course.

The society opened up a space for people to learn about Christianity, make new connections and experience personal growth.

Run with support from the Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle's Pastoral Ministries team, the program gave participants the chance to find comfort while they worked through the different things that were happening in their lives.

Attendee Joshua Latimore describes Alpha as a place to create a community and bond.

"The Alpha experience was a series of courses over 11 weeks where a small group of people, including myself, met together for a meal and a discussion, and then we watched some videos about different aspects of Christianity and then we would have a small group discussion," he explained.

"It was a really good opportunity to talk and experience growth and see what other people's perspectives on certain matters were and connect with other young people about the faith."

Josh joined the group because he was curious and wanted to meet with people who were in a similar stage of life as him.

"It was good to step out and meet new people and grow in that community and bond with others," he said.

"I loved seeing how other people connect to their faith, it allowed me to appreciate my faith more because I could see how broad and diverse the methods that God works within are."

He encourages anyone interested to attend an Alpha session.

"What do you have to lose? If you're someone who has a few questions about faith it's a great opportunity to come along and get some answers," he said.

Mary-Anne DeLuca, Mission and Outreach Officer at the Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle echoed Josh's sentiments.

"Alpha gives people the opportunity to delve deeper into important questions in life around faith, meaning, and purpose," she said.

"It is always a privilege to hear about how other people think and what they believe in and to grapple with our own ideas and motivations for believing or not believing, as we contemplate faith and its relevancy and connection to our lives and world today."

She encourages more parishes and communities to get involved with Alpha.

"This is a great opportunity for people to grow and to discover the joy of the gospel," Mary-Anne said.

"I would be so excited to share this with any person or group who may be interested in running the series."

To learn more about Alpha, visit [alpha.org.au](http://alpha.org.au)

If you're interested in attending or running an Alpha series and would like support, please email

[communityandmission@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:communityandmission@mn.catholic.org.au)