



**St John
Vianney**
Parish Morisset



FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER YEAR B 28 APRIL 2024

Today we hear of the early Christian communities as they multiplied and grew.

Many today ask, 'Why should I go to church? Why can't I worship God in my own way? Surely religion is about my personal relationship with God?'

From the earliest times, following Jesus was never just a private, personal matter. Christians came together to profess their faith in Jesus Christ, to witness to his resurrection, and live by his teachings.

There should be no such thing as a solitary Christian. Every Christian is linked to Christ and all other Christians. This is clear from the words of Jesus, 'I am the vine, you are the branches'.

The fruit which Christ desires from us is primarily that of unity among ourselves. By this all will know that we are living branches of the Vine, and by the bond that exists between us and the care we show one another.



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 | 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 |
| Saturday | 18th May 5pm
Family Mass—Morisset |
| Sunday | 19th May 9.30am
Mass—Morisset |
| Tuesday | 21st May 9.30am
Liturgy—Morisset |
| Saturday | 25th May 5pm
Mass—Cooranbong |
| Sunday | 26th May 9.30am
Mass—Morisset |

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Reflection for Fifth Sunday of Easter Year B — 28th April 2024

On this 5th Sunday of Easter, we continue to celebrate Christ's glorious resurrection, which marked the fulfillment of all God's promises to his people. We have such a wonderful image given to us in John's Gospel today, which so clearly demonstrates our relationship with Christ: on the one hand, we see our complete oneness with Christ; on the other hand, we see we are completely dependent on him. I am the true vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me, with me in him, bears fruit in plenty; for cut off from me you can do nothing. (John 15:1,5).

Prior to the advent of Christ, our Messiah, the vine was used in Old Testament times to refer to the Israelites, God's chosen people, brought out of Egypt to be planted to flourish in their promised land. However, so often they failed in their faithfulness and found themselves worshipping false gods. The redemption by Christ was sorely needed, but still many refused to accept him and the fact that his promise of salvation was offered to all.

So, what are the implications for us as Christians today? In our Baptism, we became members of the Body of Christ and, in our Confirmation, gifted by the Holy Spirit, with what we need to continue Christ's work. We are called to "bear fruit" but, to do that, we need to nurture the gifts we have been given and use them. In John's Gospel we hear of the need for proper pruning; the branches that bear no fruit are disposed of and others are carefully pruned. Sometimes, we need "pruning" to be true Christians. Sometimes we find ourselves worshipping "false gods" of money or self-interest; sometimes we put our own desires and convenience above the real needs of others; sometimes we lie or spread malicious gossip; sometimes we hold grudges and fail to forgive. We can all recall times when we have been less than Christ would want us to be. That is when we need "pruning", if we are to bear real fruit by following the example of Christ and following God's commandments: that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another as he told us to. (1 John 3:23)

John writes in his letter that "our love is not to be just words or mere talk, but something real and active." We bear fruit when we demonstrate our love for God and for each other in the way we live our lives in our families and in our community.

Pam Melvey

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 our 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.

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.

St John Vianney's Knitting Group

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

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

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

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

Cooranbong Cemetery

Most people are aware that our parish has a Catholic Cemetery and Columbarium, located in the beautiful Catholic Church grounds, of St Patrick and St Brigid Cooranbong.

Recently, the NSW Government introduced an Interment Industry Scheme, as part of the Cemeteries and Crematoria regulation 2022, -a licensing system for cemetery and crematorium operators.

To be compliant and to understand this new legislation, over the last few weeks, the Parish Leadership Team, together with Rosanna our Parish Secretary, have been attending information meetings, coordinated by CCNSW.

As a licenced cemetery operator, the parish has to comply with key licence conditions.

Some key licence conditions relate to:

- consumer contracts – standard terms and conditions explained clearly so customers can understand what they are paying for.
- cemetery maintenance – to make sure there are clear minimum standards for every cemetery.
- pricing transparency – so customers know what they are purchasing and can easily compare prices.
- customer service – to ensure operators are consistently providing quality service.
- religious, cultural, and spiritual principles– to ensure respect for religious and cultural requirements and promote understanding of the unique importance of Sorry Business to Aboriginal people.

These are just a few of the many legislated conditions, that CCNSW has introduced for cemetery operators. The Parish has until July 2024 to be fully compliant as an operator. The Leadership Team is confident that this can be achieved.

Confirmation

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

Weekday Liturgy

Tuesday liturgies will recommence this Tuesday 30th April 9.30am in the Morisset Church.

Congratulations Keyton

Congratulations to Keyton Dial, who will be making her First Holy Communion at the Vigil Mass this Saturday evening at Cooranbong.

Welcome

Please welcome Zara, Milla and Marni Kenyon to our community who will receive a "New Life in Christ" when they are baptised this weekend.

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?

What's RCIA?

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. - RCIA is a type of journey or pilgrimage; the process does not run as an academic year, and will not proceed at the same pace for all people. As in most pilgrimages, some move forward with speedy decisiveness, others move more slowly. There are three stages: becoming a catechumenate, or a learner; participating in the rite of election or enrolment; and, finally, celebrating the three sacraments of initiation, which are baptism, eucharist, and confirmation.

With A Light Heart.

A missionary nun was flying to her new assignment with a pilot in a small plane to a remote bush mission in the north of Africa. She was the only passenger.

Suddenly the pilot grabbed his chest and slumped forward. Frantically, the nun grabbed the radio and shrieked, "Mayday! Mayday! This is Sister Theresa. Please help me! Help me! The pilot has had a heart attack and I have no idea how to fly the plane. I'm alone up here with the pilot. What am I going to do?" A voice came over the radio. "This is Air Traffic Control, and I can hear you loud and clear, Sister. I'll talk you through this and get you back on the ground safely. I've had a lot of experience with this sort of emergency. Everything will be fine. Now give me your altitude and location."

She says, "Well, I'm on the small side just over five feet four inches and I'm currently sitting in the front seat."

The Air Traffic Controller gasped loudly and said, "Repeat after me. Our Father who art in heaven ..."

New Life in God's Spirit Seminar

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

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

Time: 6.30pm-8.30pm **Start date:** Monday 20 May

Cost: Free. Simply register your name and contact details by calling or texting Bernadette Barlow on 0425 270 613. You can also register on the night. All are welcome!

DoMN Library Events

Check out the events that are happening at our library next month! Everyone is welcome to attend, our address is Diocesan Resource Centre Library – 12 Tudor Street – Newcastle West (Cnr Parry Street).

• Friday 3 May – Children's Storytime

Let's have some fun with Eric Carle's Very Hungry Caterpillar – 10.15am – register using QR code or email domnlibrary@mn.catholic.org.au



• Friday 3 May – Formation Friday

Meet with other community members in the Diocesan Resource Centre Library for a chance to reflect and discuss seasons, moments and mysteries of the church and our faith – 1pm – register using QR code or email domnlibrary@mn.catholic.org.au



- Saturday 4 May – Formation Films

Join us as we watch and discuss the 2020 film Fatima. Tea, coffee and lunch will be provided – 11am – register using QR code or email domnlibrary@mn.catholic.org.au



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

The last 2 sessions for Tilling the church will be:

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

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

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>

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.

ANZAC PRAYER

GRACIOUS AND LOVING GOD,
THE CROSS OF CHRIST IS THE SIGN
OF YOUR DESIRE FOR JUSTICE
AND PEACE FOR ALL.

OPEN OUR MINDS TO YOUR VISION
AS WE REMEMBER ALL WHO SUFFERED
THROUGH AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND'S
INVOLVEMENT IN WARS, CONFLICTS AND
PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS.

GRANT ALL SERVICEPERSONS
WHO SACRIFICED HEALTH AND LIFE FOR
THE GOOD OF ALL, THE GIFT OF
YOUR DEEP PEACE.

MAY WE WHO INHERIT THE FREEDOM FOR
WHICH THEY FOUGHT BECOME
INSTRUMENTS OF YOUR PEACE
IN OUR HOMES, WORKPLACES AND WORLD.

WE ASK THIS PRAYER
THROUGH CHRIST OUR LORD.

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.

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	J Vipan M Melvey	M Melvey P Melvey
<u>PSALMIST:</u>	5PM 9.30AM	P Melvey R Hay	J Vipan L Hutchinson
<u>GIFTS</u>	5PM 9.30AM	G & L Hutchinson D Whitten S Matthews	H White K Tonkin A Dussin
<u>SERVERS</u>	5PM 9.30AM	M Melvey C Lawandos	R Lawandos V Paulo
<u>AV</u>	5PM 9.30AM	U France T Alexander	E Lawandos M Foo
<u>WELCOMERS</u>	5PM 9.30AM	K Lendon C Lawandos	K Lendon J France
<u>CHURCH CLEANING</u>	COOR MOR	P MacIntyre R Hay C Hay	XXXX A Walker G Walker

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, or visit their website for further information 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:

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

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

Recently Deceased: Anne Ferris
Remembrance: Jason Wismer.



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**



SUNDAY PRAYER SERVICE
Fifth Sunday of Easter Year B
Sunday 28 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 are the vine and we are the branches: Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, you make your home in us: Christ, have mercy.

All: Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you call us to bear fruit that will last: Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Leader:

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

All:

Amen.

Opening Prayer

Leader:

Let us pray.

All pause for silent prayer.

God our Father
there are many rooms in your house
for those who believe in you.
Help us to trust in your promises
and to follow Jesus with joy
for he is the way, the truth and the 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 9:26-31

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles
He explained how the Lord appeared to Saul and spoke to him on his journey.

When Saul got to Jerusalem he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him: they could not believe he was really a disciple. Barnabas, however, took charge of him, introduced him to the apostles, and explained how the Lord had appeared to Saul and spoken to him on his journey, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus. Saul now started to go round with them in Jerusalem, preaching fearlessly in the name of the Lord. But after he had spoken to the Hellenists, and argued with them, they became determined to kill him. When the brothers knew, they took him to Caesarea, and sent him off from there to Tarsus.

The churches throughout Judaea, Galilee and Samaria were now left in peace, building themselves up, living in the fear of the Lord, and filled with the consolation of the Holy Spirit.

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

The word of the Lord.

All reply:

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 21:26-28. 30-32. R. v.26

(R.) I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people.

1. My vows I will pay before those who fear him.
The poor shall eat and shall have their fill.
They shall praise the Lord, those who seek him.
May their hearts live for ever and ever! (R.)
2. All the earth shall remember and return to the Lord,
all families of the nations worship before him.
They shall worship him, all the mighty of the earth;
before him shall bow all who go down to the dust. (R.)
3. And my soul shall live for him, my children serve him.
They shall tell of the Lord to generations yet to come,
declare his faithfulness to peoples yet unborn:
'These things the Lord has done.' (R.)

Second Reading

John 3:18-24

A reading from the first letter of St John
His commandments are these: that we believe and that we love one another.

My children,
our love is not to be just words or mere talk,
but something real and active;
only by this can we be certain
that we are the children of the truth
and be able to quieten our conscience in his presence,
whatever accusations it may raise against us,
because God is greater than our conscience and he knows everything.

My dear people,
if we cannot be condemned by our own conscience,
we need not be afraid in God's presence,
and whatever we ask him,
we shall receive,
because we keep his commandments
and live the kind of life that he wants.
His commandments are these:
that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ
and that we love one another
as he told us to.

Whoever keeps his commandments
lives in God and God lives in him.
We know that he lives in us
by the Spirit that he has given us.

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

The word of the Lord.

All reply:

Thanks be to God.

Gospel

Reader:

From the holy Gospel according to John.

All:

Glory to you, O Lord.

John 15:1-8

All who live in me, and I in them, bear much fruit.
Jesus said to his disciples:

'I am the true vine,
and my Father is the vinedresser.
Every branch in me that bears no fruit
he cuts away,
and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes
to make it bear even more.
You are pruned already,
by means of the word that I have spoken to you.
Make your home in me, as I make mine in you.
As a branch cannot bear fruit all by itself,
but must remain part of the vine,
neither can you unless you remain in me.
I am the vine,
you are the branches.
Whoever remains in me, with me in him,
bears fruit in plenty;
for cut off from me you can do nothing.
Anyone who does not remain in me
is like a branch that has been thrown away
– he withers;
these branches are collected and thrown on the fire,
and they are burnt.
If you remain in me

and my words remain in you,
you may ask what you will
and you shall get it.

It is to the glory of my Father that you should bear much
fruit,
and then you will be my disciples.'

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, remaining in Christ's love, we offer
our prayers to the Lord.

Reader: That the Holy Church will be united in Christ
who is the vine drawing all Christians together.
In your glory:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That nations and races at war will achieve
lasting peace. In your glory:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That missionaries will be strengthened on their
journey of sharing the salvation of Christ. In
your glory:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That our parish community may always pray
confidently and remain in Christ's love. In your
glory:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That all the sick will receive strength in body
and mind. In your glory:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That everyone who has died will remain in Christ eternally. In your glory:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: God our Father, your Son is the vine, we the branches. Hear our prayers, help us to remain in you and grant us the fruits of your glory as disciples of Jesus. 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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Take some inspiration from our aMeN caMiNo and explore our Diocese

If you're ever looking for something to do with your friends and family, why not take inspiration from our aMeN caMiNo and get outside to explore our Diocese?

ELIZABETH SYMINGTON PUBLISHED APRIL 23, 2024

The aMeN CaMiNo is a response to a desire to be in communion with each other and our sacred earth. It is an opportunity to pause from routine, immerse yourself in reflection and contemplation, and provide a moment to reconnect with nature and reflect on your faith.

The aMeN caMiNo pilgrims will walk an average of 20km per day through the beautiful landscape of bush, beach, and beyond which we are blessed to have in our backyard.

This year, we are running two pilgrimages, one in July and another in August. Spots are still available, if you are interested visit our website or come along to our Walk and Talk session this Saturday 27 April from 8.30am to 1.30pm at St Columba's Parish Hall (Lockyer Street, Adamstown). After an information session, you will head off on a walk to get a taste of what the aMeN caMiNo is like.

Below are some great spots to visit, a few of them are part of our aMeN caMiNo path too!

Glenrock State Conservation Area

The Glenrock State Conservation Area is only 5km from Newcastle and is the perfect place for mountain biking, walking, exploring beaches, and more.

www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/visit-a-park/parks/glenrock-state-conservation-area

Watagans National Park

Just one hour from Newcastle, the Watagans National Park offers an array of activities, including hiking, biking, lookouts, and quiet campgrounds.

www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/visit-a-park/parks/watagans-national-park

Walka Water Works

Located in Maitland, there are several walking trails around Walka Water Works. The walk around the lagoon is approximately 3km, while the loop around the lagoon and the bush trail through the reserve is approximately 4.8km.

www.maitland.nsw.gov.au/facilities/walka-water-works

Coorangbong Swing Bridge

It's a little-known fact outside Lake Macquarie that the city is home to Australia's original Weetbix factory. The Coorangbong site adjoining Avondale College no longer makes the venerable breakfast staple, but its grand 1930s main building beside tranquil Dora Creek remains. A barely-there public driveway at the end of Victory St in Coorangbong leads to a swaying timber footbridge over the creek. Wander onwards past the former factory's imposing red-brick façade and explore the area.

<https://lakemacfamilylife.com.au/discover-coorangbong-swing-bridge/>

Newcastle Memorial Walk

The Newcastle Memorial Walk, also known as the ANZAC Walk, was built to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the ANZAC landing at Gallipoli in 1915 and the commencement of steel making in Newcastle; it acts as a magnificent memorial to the men and women of the Hunter who served their community and their country.

It links Newcastle's Strzelecki Lookout to Bar Beach and has magnificent views

<https://newcastle.nsw.gov.au/explore/things-to-do/walking-and-cycling/newcastle-memorial-walk>

Fernleigh Track

Running from Adamstown in Newcastle to Belmont in Lake Macquarie, the Fernleigh Track is a great walking and cycling path through bushland.

<https://newcastle.nsw.gov.au/explore/things-to-do/walking-and-cycling/fernleigh-track>

Pebbly Beach

Located near Forster, this is a popular trail for hiking, running, and walking, but you can still enjoy some solitude during quieter times of the day. Dogs are welcome but must be on a leash.

www.alltrails.com/trail/australia/new-south-wales/pebbly-beach

FAITH MATTERS: Engaging the Graced World

In August 2023 Fr Richard Lennan offered a series of workshops and discussions for the people of the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle around the theme of his most recent publication - "Tilling the Church: Theology for an Unfinished Project". Those who attended these events were able to listen to Fr Richard, and ask questions on issues he raised, but like any important theological or philosophical topic, the more we consider the information we have received, the more research we need to undertake and the more questions we need answered.

MARY O'CONNOR PUBLISHED APRIL 23, 2024

In the Josephite spirit of seeing a need and doing something about it, the Pastoral Ministries Formation and Education team organised a monthly online discussion group to further the exploration of the themes of this book. Each meeting is devoted to unpacking a chapter of the book and then discussing and discerning our individual role in tilling the church.

On Wednesday 17 April, 5 community members gathered online at 7pm and unpacked chapter 4 of "Tilling the Church", entitled "Engaging the Graced World". We discussed the sub chapters, Interweaving of Grace, History and the Life of the Church, The Formative Role of History, Graced Mission in a Graced World, Jesus and the Reign of God, The Church and the Reign of God, Grace and the Church as an Open System, the Catholicity and Communion of the Church. Very in-depth, but as we worked together, we felt we came to understand the questions posed in this chapter and decided that we as a group didn't have all the answers, but our role was to allow Grace into our lives and hearts and allow the Holy Spirit to work through us.

Our discussion then touched on the role of Grace in relationship, the building of relationship to strengthen church, the church community's role in constructing the path we tread, the role of the Holy Spirit in discernment and the discernment process in the Synod on Synodality. We also mused on the relationship connection with our clergy, the burden of sin and wrongdoing as a barrier preventing true relationship with others, the role of judgemental thought in preventing Grace to work in our lives, the grounding nature of family and family connections as ways to continue building relationship. A wide-ranging dialogue!

As one participant commented "I value hearing the thoughts of fellow readers. Making connections is vital to our well-being." Copies of the book "Tilling the Church: Theology for an Unfinished Project" by Fr. Richard Lennan are available for loan via the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle Resource Centre Library. For assistance with joining the library or having library materials made accessible please contact Mary O'Connor on domnlibrary@mn.catholic.org.au or 02 4083 3238. To register for the discussion group for Chapter 5 – The Future-Oriented Past, on Wednesday 15 May book at: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/tilling-the-church-theology-of-an-unfinished-project-tickets-708150977637>

How a Youth Minister is inspiring students

Last week, young people were celebrated nationwide during 2024's Youth Week.

KELLIE O'SULLIVAN PUBLISHED APRIL 23, 2024

To mark the occasion, we're shining a spotlight on Johanna Soo, a young person in our Diocese who is making a difference. As a Youth Minister at St Therese's Primary School, New Lambton, Johanna helps students with their faith formation. She inspires them through a number of different activities and by being someone they can look up to and get support from.

This year's Youth Week theme was "Express. Empower. Get Loud," and Johanna certainly embraces that theme in the school's podcast.

"It's for students from Kindergarten to Year 6. We started the podcast in Term 4 of 2023 and have continued through 2024," she explains.

"The purpose is to make Jesus real in the lives of students and give them a voice to ask questions about their faith, express themselves, and learn more about God."

Johanna also empowers the students by giving them the opportunity to regularly visit the elderly residents at St John's Villa Nursing Home in New Lambton.

"It gives them a chance to put their faith into action," she says. Johanna is passionate about inspiring other young people in our Diocese to adopt leadership roles and share their faith with younger generations.

Students transform work experience into community gift

CatholicCare Hunter-Manning's Taree Community Kitchen has welcomed some new kitchen cabinets thanks to nine hard-working students in our community.

CATHOLICCARE SOCIAL SERVICES

HUNTER-MANNING PUBLISHED APRIL 23, 2024

The students from Taree and Chatham High Schools made the items while participating in a work experience program with Bunnings Warehouse that the local Men's Shed supported.

Over the three-day program, the teens got hands-on experience while knowing they would make a difference in their community.

Executive Director of CatholicCare Hunter-Manning Gary Christensen said with the growth of the Taree Community Kitchen since it opened in 2015, there was a need for a bigger food preparation space.

"We're thrilled to be getting these cabinets installed in our Community Kitchen. We're even more excited knowing our community's collaborative effort has made this come to life," he said.

"We're so grateful to Bunnings, the Teen School Group and Taree Manning River Men's Shed for getting on board to support this initiative and helping us to ensure we can continue serving food to those who need it most in the local community."

Read more about the generous donation in this story from the Manning River Times - Students transform Bunnings work experience into community gift at: <https://www.manningrivertimes.com.au/story/8589993/taree-students-transform-bunnings-work-experience-into-community-gift/>

