



**St John  
Vianney**  
Parish Morisset



**SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR B 28 JULY 2024**

*In today's Gospel, we hear the account of the miraculous feeding by Jesus, of the crowd with five loaves and two fish. It was a display of astonishing generosity and compassion on his part.*

*Generosity should have a central place in the life of every Christian, and we get many opportunities in our everyday dealings with one another to practice it. It is not only about giving things, but more especially about giving of ourselves, our energy, and our love.*

*There is a tendency today, to go for the big gesture and neglect the small gesture. Hence, we may be tempted to think, because our contribution is small, it will make no difference. So, we excuse ourselves from doing anything. But everything helps. Sometimes a small deed takes on an importance far beyond its actual value. Besides our example may trigger a response in others.*

*Enough crumbs make a loaf*



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>

**UPCOMING WORSHIP TIMES :**

|          |  |
|----------|--|
| Tuesday  | 23rd July 9.30am<br>Liturgy—Morisset   |
| Friday   | 26th July 10.30am<br>Mass—Morisset     |
| Saturday | 27th July 5pm<br>Mass—Cooranbong       |
| Sunday   | 28th July 9.30am<br>Mass—Morisset      |
| Tuesday  | 30th July 9.30am<br>Liturgy—Morisset   |
| Friday   | 2nd August 10.30am<br>Mass—Morisset    |
| Saturday | 3rd August 5pm<br>Family Mass—Morisset |
| Sunday   | 4th August 9.30am<br>Mass—Morisset     |
| Tuesday  | 6th August 9.30am<br>Liturgy—Morisset  |
| Friday   | 9th August 10.30am<br>Mass—Morisset    |
| Saturday | 10th August 5pm<br>Mass—Cooranbong     |
| Sunday   | 11th August 9.30am<br>Mass—Morisset    |
| Tuesday  | 13th August 9.30am<br>Liturgy—Morisset |
| Friday   | 16th August 10.30am<br>Mass—Morisset   |

*DISCLAIMER: Unless otherwise stated, the advertisements placed in this bulletin are placed by independent third parties who have no legal relationship with the Diocese. The activities or services of the advertisers are not supervised or controlled in any way by the Diocese. The Diocese is not in a position to endorse the advertisers or the services provided and makes no representation about those matters. Accordingly, the Diocese cannot accept any responsibility for the advertisers or the activities or services that are the subject of these advertisements.*

## **SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Year B — Reflection 28th July 2024**

As we progress through the Sundays in Ordinary Time, which, as previously mentioned, is anything BUT Ordinary - we are presented with the day-to-day activities in the life of Jesus — His Mission was to go out with His disciples teaching them how to convey His Father's message to the people, who were waiting expectantly for the promised Messiah.

There was no distinction made between Jews & Gentiles - God's redeeming power was attainable by all who heard & believed His words. Maybe you could describe these people who gathered in their thousands as a "captive audience"! Regardless, they patiently followed Him, eager to learn about this Heavenly Father whose message was one of equality, love & mercy to all who believed.

Yes, all the stories are very familiar to us - working miracles, teaching & sometimes even feeding the constant crowds who followed Jesus' movements are the overriding themes during these weeks in Ordinary Time.

Perhaps, as an exercise during these weeks, in order to fully comprehend the amazing power that Jesus possessed & witness His deep concern for the people, maybe we could try to imagine OURSELVES in these crowds, so as to actually FEEL the effects of His words & actions. They were hungry for the knowledge He was giving them & overcome by the miracles He performed, as a result of their faith in Him. We would also witness His deep CONCERN for their physical welfare, which, at times was not so obvious to the disciples! So the crowds who had come to be spiritually fed by Jesus' words had sometimes been physically fed as well.

There is also a similar theme in the other Readings today — The beautiful response to the Psalm echoes our dependence on God's goodness & mercy, "The hand of the Lord feeds us, He answers all our needs"

Paul's Letter to the Ephesians urges his followers to lead a life comparable to their vocation, by acting charitably, selflessly, with gentleness & patience. Quite a task for his disciples to achieve, given their working conditions! So, are we prepared to achieve the same outcome when we encounter similar situations?

In our 21st Century world today, there are countless numbers of people, so many needs, so many things to be done that the situations seem impossible. Yet, Jesus only asks that we give Him what we have, little as it may seem. Then He gives thanks for it & quite often we find out that things work out well beyond our imaginings. May we be attentive to these miracles that happen when we realise that we have all we need to make a difference - if we only put our trust in Jesus!

We, His followers, are made up of two parts- body & soul- both requiring nourishment & attention. In the prayer He taught us, He urged us to ask the Father to "give us this day our daily bread" - this bread can refer to Himself, the Bread of Life that we receive in Communion, but it also refers to the food we need for sustenance each day.

The Gospel also reveals Jesus' concern that NONE of the leftover food is wasted, as He urges the disciples to collect all the leftover scraps - "pick up the pieces left over, so that nothing gets wasted"! Sadly, today, we live in an age of incredible wastefulness— a "throwaway" society, where huge amounts of food are dumped every day.

May we learn to share freely our personal & material gifts with ALL who are in need of them. Since there will never cease to be someone in need on the earth I therefore command you "Open your hand to the poor & needy neighbour in your land". Deuteronomy 15:10-11

"God is our merciful Father & the source of all comfort, He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others". 2 Cor 1:3-4

St. Mary MacKillop said in 1890 "Let us show love in our acts".  
Heather White.

### **Moving Forward- St John Vianney Parish-2024**

At the last PPC meeting discussion was held around the outcomes from the Parish Assembly, and what it means for the parish moving forward in 2024.

From discussion it became clear, that before we move forward, and a questionnaire presented to the parish, more clarity and explanation is required around governance. This will be undertaken over the coming weeks. Whatever model of parish is chosen, we are attempting to understand a way of being a synodal parish. Together we strive to show our community what it means to be the Body of Christ, and individually to make real the presence of God in our everyday encounters in whatever ministry we find ourselves.

Our mission is to evangelise to proclaim Christ, the Good News of God's love for all. All our pastoral activities must, therefore, both flow from our personal response to Christ and be carried out in the spirit of the Gospel.

That in the parish everyone will have the opportunity and formation to make their contribution to the life and mission of the Parish.

This is what Pope Francis said recently about Synodality. 'Synodality is a way of "journeying together" – of living out our faith – that calls for speaking and listening to one another and the Holy Spirit in order to find a path forward in addressing the issues facing the Church in our day as we work to carry out our mission of making known the Good News of salvation in Jesus Christ.

So, what does this mean for us?  
To be continued next week

### **aMeN Camino-2024**

Once again Diocesan pilgrims will be visiting the Church of St Patrick & St Bridget Cooranbong, as a part of the aMeN Camino 2024. Their visit will include celebrated prayer liturgy and afternoon tea, as well as stories about the history of the church. The expected arrival is around 3pm on Monday 5th August. If anyone could help with hospitality to the pilgrims, we would be happy to hear from you. Contact John or Uta.

### **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?**

#### **Striking of the Breast.**

The striking of the breast is a devotional gesture. It is a sign of sorrow for sin, the root of which was thought to be in the heart. This was a gesture familiar among ancient people and is found in the Christian Scriptures, in the parable of the publican.

#### **Sign of the Cross**

The Sign of the Cross came into use as a religious gesture of blessing during the Middle Ages. It takes several forms. The big Sign of the Cross is made with the hand, touching first the forehead, then the breast, left shoulder, and finally the right shoulder. While doing it, it is common to add an expression of faith in the Trinity. The little Sign of the Cross is made by tracing a small cross on the forehead, mouth, and breast. In ancient times it was made with one finger only on the forehead

### **Parish Office**

The Parish Office will be closed from 2pm Friday 26th July until 9am Monday 12th August. For urgent matters call the parish office number to speak to a member of the PLT.

## **With A Light Heart**

Age had taken its toll on the elderly woman's body so when the parish began offering stretch and limbering up classes, she quickly signed up. But after one class she quit.

When asked what the problem was, she said, "I bent, twisted my body, gyrated, jumped up and down and perspired for more than an hour. By the time I got my leotard on, the class was over."

## **Report From Bishop Michael Kennedy**

With the death of Bishop Bill Wright, many initiatives started by Bishop Bill were put on hold, including the Diocesan Synod which commenced in 2019.

When Bishop Michael Kennedy was installed as Bishop of Maitland/Newcastle, he appointed an Implementation Committee to review the Governance of the Diocese.

This review has now concluded with recommendations presented to the bishop. Bishop Michael has now acknowledged the report in the form of a letter to the Diocese.

### **Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,**

At the end of last year, I advised you of a review and changes in two of our important Diocesan teams, Religious Education & Spirituality and Pastoral Ministries. I am pleased to now advise that following regular discussion and discernment over the last several months, the Implementation Committee has provided their final report to me.

Thus, the report contains a number of recommendations that the new Director of Mission & Evangelisation (who leads the Pastoral Ministries Team) and new Head of Religious Education & Spirituality will be tasked with implementing with their teams.

The recommendations also include a review of the Governance relationships and statutes at a Diocesan level, and once reviewed, a reconstituting of the Diocesan Pastoral Council. That Pastoral Council will then be tasked with finalising the Diocesan Synod and developing a Diocesan Pastoral Plan. Work on this will begin soon, and it will take however long is required for us to ensure we achieve the best plans possible for our Diocese.

With the One body. One mission. initiative introduced by Bishop Bill Wright; it was agreed that the best outcomes are achieved when the new leaders can work with their teams in consultative ways to implement the recommendations for change. supporting our Diocese, our clergy, our parishes, our people and those beyond, and defining our path forward as a community of Christ's disciples.

Yours in Christ

Michael Kennedy. +

## **Sunday 28 July Grandparents and Elderly Sunday**

### **Do not cast me off in my old age"**

In his message for the Day of Grandparents and Elderly for this Sunday, 28 July, Pope Francis emphasises the importance of valuing and respecting the lives of older individuals. He notes that growing old is often seen as a sign of blessing in the Bible, but also acknowledges the struggles many seniors face with loneliness, abandonment, and social isolation

Elder abuse is a serious issue that affects millions of older adults worldwide. Elder abuse refers to the intentional or neglectful acts that cause harm or suffering to an older adult. It can take many forms, including physical, emotional, sexual, and financial abuse. Happy grandparents and elder persons day!

## **Pope Francis's Prayer Intention for July 2024**

That the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick grant the Lord's strength to those who receive it and to their loved ones, and that it may become for everyone an ever more visible sign of compassion and hope.

## **Hunter Community Alliance**

Leaders from the Morisset Catholic Church, the Morisset Uniting Church, the Morisset Anglican Church, and the HCA. are planning a 'listening session' with Local council candidates and the Federal Member Daniel Repacholi, to be hosted **by Morisset Uniting Church, 10 Stockton St, Morisset Monday 26<sup>th</sup> August, 3:30pm-5:30pm**

Our parish is taking a leadership role locally, and you are invited to meet our neighbours, share, and listen, and how we can act.

**Note** this is not a candidates' forum (the polies will be listening to us!) The Gathering will be carried out in a respectful manner to a tight time frame.

**'Booing and heckling' not permitted.**

**(All ages encouraged – children under 18 will need to be accompanied by a responsible adult).**

We will meet each other over refreshments, **listen** and **share** our stories about key pressures impacting our families across generations.

**#Growing cost of housing, and homelessness**

**#The changing energy market and climate.**

**#A safe, prosperous Hunter with a sustainable future with good jobs for future generations**

**#Other issues impacting our families here in Morisset**

## **Bishop Michael Kennedy's 25th Jubilee of Ordination to the Priesthood**

Bishop Michael Kennedy invites the People of the Diocese to join him in celebrating his 25<sup>th</sup> Jubilee of Ordination to the Priesthood at a concelebrated Mass commencing at 11am in Sacred Heart Cathedral, Hamilton on 14 August 2024. Other priest and deacon jubilarians will be acknowledged at the Mass. All are welcome.

## **Season of Creation: Wonder – Weaving – Healing**

Join Catholic Earthcare and their Season of Creation Convocation for three special events in September.

Thurs 12 and Fri 13 September - online keynote presentations, workshops, discussions and spiritual experiences

Sat 14 September at Diocesan Resource Centre - hear about and discuss regenerative projects within and beyond our diocese and consider how we can contribute. Morning tea and lunch supplied as part of registration.

Information/Registration at: [www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1231165](http://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1231165)

## **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 13th August 2024**. Bookings can be made online at the link at: <https://forms.office.com/r/wZtatkt01V> or by contacting our Parish Office.

## **Sacramental Program News**

The next session for those involved in the Sacramental Process will be Saturday 3rd August in the Callinan Centre at 4pm. It is important that children are ready to commence their sessions at 4pm, and then remain for 5pm Mass. Bishop Michael Kennedy will confer the Sacrament of Confirmation Friday 20th September.

## SUPPORTING THE CLERGY / 1st Collection

If you would like to make contributions to support the Clergy / 1st Collection please do so at Mass in the BLUE bucket or electronically using the Online Payments button on the Parish Website Home page, Diocese App, Electronic Funds Transfer Only Bank Account Name: Morisset Parish Presbytery BSB: 066739 No: 100004062 Ref: 1st Collection, SURNAME or Donation or contact the parish office to set up a direct debit.

## SUPPORTING OUR PARISH / 2nd Collection

If you would like to make contributions to support our Parish please do so at Mass via the RED bucket or our Parish Electronic Funds Transfer Only Account the details are: Account Name: Morisset Parish Church BSB:066739 Account Number: 100004064 please use one of the following Payment References PG + your giver number or PG + SURNAME or SURNAME you can also use the Online Payments or Planned Giving button on the Parish Website Home page or the Diocese App. If you are considering taking up **planned giving** you may like to know that **a percentage of the contributions are tax deductible**. If you would like to know more or set up planned giving please contact the Parish Office.

| WEEKEND ROSTERS        |               |  |                                  |
|------------------------|---------------|--|----------------------------------|
|                        |               | <u>THIS WEEK</u>                                     | <u>NEXT WEEK</u>                 |
| <u>PRESIDERS</u>       | 5PM<br>9.30AM | Mass<br>Mass   | Mass<br>Mass                     |
| <u>PROCLAIMERS:</u>    | 5PM<br>9.30AM | P Robertson<br>M Melvey                              | F Pascoe<br>P Melvey             |
| <u>PSALMIST:</u>       | 5PM<br>9.30AM | K Lendon<br>J Vipan                                  | M Lawrence<br>L McRae            |
| <u>GIFTS</u>           | 5PM<br>9.30AM | L Hutchinson<br>G Hutchinson<br>A Walker<br>G Walker | P Melvey<br><br>K Tonkin<br>TBA  |
| <u>SERVERS</u>         | 5PM<br>9.30AM | M Melvey<br>V Paulo                                  | C Lawandos<br>V Paulo            |
| <u>AV</u>              | 5PM<br>9.30AM | M Foo<br>D Peterson                                  | J Vipan<br>J France              |
| <u>WELCOMERS</u>       | 5PM<br>9.30AM | P Melvey<br>K Amon                                   | H White<br>TBA                   |
| <u>CHURCH CLEANING</u> | COOR<br>MOR   | P MacIntyre<br>A Walker<br>G Walker                  | XXXX<br>B Hutcheson<br>D Whitten |

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

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

**Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.**

*If you have any concerns for a child or vulnerable person please contact the Office of Safeguarding Phone: 02 4979 1390*

*Email: [childprotection@mn.catholic.org.au](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 SOLEMNITIES

SAINTS MARTHA, MARY AND LAZARUS (M) - 29TH JULY  
 SAINT IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA (M) - 31ST JULY  
 SAINT ALPHONSUS MARY DE LIGUORI (M) - 1ST AUGUST  
 SAINT DOMINIC (M) - 3RD AUGUST  
 SAINT JOHN VIANNEY (M) - 4TH AUGUST  
 THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD (F) - 6TH AUGUST  
 ST JOHN VIANNEY— 6TH AUGUST  
 SAINT MARY OF THE CROSS (S) (MARY MACKILLOP) - 8TH AUG  
 SAINT LAWRENCE (F) - 10TH AUGUST  
 SAINT MAXIMILIAN MARY KOLBE (M) - 14 AUGUST  
 THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY VIGIL— 14 AUG

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

Anna Dussin, Mary Carapiet, Monica Gray, Koby Smith, Annette Boyd, Mary Monaghan, Clare Wallington, Donna Hazzard, Pam Mullaly, Tintumol Thomas, Peter Martyn, Bernadette Martin, Bruce Gillett.

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

**Remembrance:** Giuseppe Alessi and Giovanni Porcino



## 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)**



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



**SUNDAY PRAYER SERVICE**  
**Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**Year B**  
**Sunday 28 Jul 2024**

**The Introductory Rites**

**Acknowledgement of Country**

We Acknowledge the Awabakal and Darkinjung nations as the Traditional Custodians who have walked upon and cared for this land our parish encompasses for thousands of years, and honour and pay respect to, Elders past, present and emerging. We acknowledge the continued deep spiritual attachment and relationship of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples to this country and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of reconciliation.

**IV World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly**

**'Do not cast me off in my old age' (cfr. Sal 71:9)**

This weekend we are celebrating the IV World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly. The theme chosen by the Holy Father – “Do not cast me off in my old age” (cf. *Psalm* 71:9) – is meant to call attention to the fact that, sadly, loneliness is the bitter lot in life of many elderly persons, so often the victims of the throw-away culture.

In this year of preparation for the Jubilee, which the Holy Father wishes to be devoted to prayer, the theme of the World Day is taken from Psalm 71, the plea of an elderly person who reflects on the story of his friendship with God.

By cherishing the charisms of grandparents and the elderly, and the contribution they make to the life of the Church, the World Day seeks to support the efforts of every ecclesial community to forge bonds between the generations and to combat loneliness, in the awareness that – as Scripture states – “It is not good for man to be alone” (*Gen* 2:18).

**Prayer for the Fourth World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly 28 July 2024**

Lord, faithful God,  
 You who created us in Your image,  
 You who never leaves us alone  
 and who accompanies us through every season of life,  
 Do not abandon us, take care of us,  
 And grant us, once again,  
 The ability to discover ourselves  
 and recognise that we are Your children.  
 Renew our hearts with your Word  
 And do not allow anyone to be cast aside.  
 May your Spirit of love fill us with Your tenderness  
 And teach us to say:  
 “I will not abandon you!”  
 To those we meet on our journey.  
 With the help of your beloved Son,  
 may we not lose the taste for fraternity  
 And may we not conform to the sadness of loneliness.  
 Help us to look to the future with renewed hope,  
 And make the World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly  
 A day without loneliness, and a day abundant  
 with the first-fruits of Your peace.  
 Amen.

**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 showed concern for the hungry: Lord, have  
 mercy.

**All: Lord, have mercy.**

Christ Jesus, you bind us together in peace: Christ, have mercy.

**All: Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you feed us with the Bread of life: Lord, have mercy.

**All: Lord, have mercy.**

**Opening Prayer**

Leader:

Let us pray.

All pause for silent prayer.

God most holy  
 your gifts are all around us  
 but we do not always see them.  
 Help us to seek your goodness  
 and follow where you lead,  
 for your love for us is the greatest gift of all.  
 We ask this through Jesus Christ,  
 with the Holy Spirit,  
 for ever and ever.

All:

Amen.

## The Liturgy of the Word

### First Reading

**2 Kings 4:42-44**

A reading from the second book of the Kings

*They will eat and have some left over.*

A man came from Baal-shalishah, bringing Elisha, the man of God, bread from the first-fruits, twenty barley loaves and fresh grain in the ear. 'Give it to the people to eat,' Elisha said. But his servant replied, 'How can I serve this to a hundred men?' 'Give it to the people to eat' he insisted 'for the Lord says this, "They will eat and have some left over."' He served them; they ate and had some over, as the Lord had said.

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

The word of the Lord.

All reply:

**Thanks be to God.**

### Responsorial Psalm

**Ps 144:10-11, 15-18. R. v.16**

**(R.) The hand of the Lord feeds us;  
he answers all our needs.**

1. All your creatures shall thank you, O Lord,  
and your friends shall repeat their blessing.  
They shall speak of the glory of your reign  
and declare your might, O God. **(R.)**
2. The eyes of all creatures look to you  
and you give them their food in due time.  
You open wide your hand,  
grant the desires of all who live. **(R.)**
3. The Lord is just in all his ways  
and loving in all his deeds.  
He is close to all who call him,  
who call on him from their hearts. **(R.)**

### Second Reading

**Ephesians 4:1-6**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

*There is one body, one Lord, one faith, one baptism.*

I, the prisoner in the Lord, implore you to lead a life worthy of your vocation. Bear with one another charitably, in complete selflessness, gentleness and patience. Do all you can to preserve the unity of the Spirit by the peace that binds you together. There is one Body, one Spirit, just as you were all called into one and the same hope when you were called. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God who is Father of all, through all and within all.

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 6:1-15**

*He distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted.*

Jesus went off to the other side of the Sea of Galilee – or of Tiberias – and a large crowd followed him, impressed by the signs

he gave by curing the sick. Jesus climbed the hillside, and sat down there with his disciples. It was shortly before the Jewish feast of Passover.

Looking up, Jesus saw the crowds approaching and said to Philip, 'Where can we buy some bread for these people to eat?' He only said this to test Philip; he himself knew exactly what he was going to do. Philip answered, 'Two hundred denarii would only buy enough to give them a small piece each.' One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said, 'There is a small boy here with five barley loaves and two fish; but what is that between so many?' Jesus said to them, 'Make the people sit down.' There was plenty of grass there, and as many as five thousand men sat down. Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks and gave them out to all who were sitting ready; he then did the same with the fish, giving out as much as was wanted. When they had eaten enough he said to the disciples, 'Pick up the pieces left over, so that nothing gets wasted.' So they picked them up, and filled twelve hampers with scraps left over from the meal of five barley loaves. The people, seeing this sign that he had given, said, 'This really is the prophet who is to come into the world.' Jesus, who could see they were about to come and take him by force and make him king, escaped back to the hills by himself.

Reader:

The Gospel of the Lord.

All:

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

All are seated.

### Reflection on the Word

*A short period of reflection may be observed.*

Q. What significance can be attached to the fact that this account appears in all four gospels?

Q. In what ways is this gospel story a precursor for the Eucharistic meal?

Q. What is the effect of the miracle on the crowd?

Q. Why does Jesus 'head for the hills'?

Q. In what ways does this gospel challenge our world?

### 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 who provides for our needs, let us bring our prayers before the Lord.

Reader: That the Holy Church will be nourished by the gift of Christ's sacrifice. In your mercy:

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

Reader: That priests and bishops will continue to serve God's people faithfully. In your mercy:

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

Reader: That those living with poverty or famine will be relieved of their suffering. In your mercy:

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

Reader: That all elderly people will continue to look towards the future, with their experience and prayers, striving to build a more fraternal world. In your mercy:

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

Reader: That all grandparents will be a source of wisdom for their families, passing on the treasure of faith to their grandchildren and to the newer generations. In your mercy:

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

Reader: That our parish community may adore the sacrament in which Christ gives himself to feed all. In your mercy:

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

Reader: That all the sick will find comfort in the bread of heaven and the wine of peace. In your mercy:

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

Reader: That all those who have died will come to eternal life with Christ. In your mercy:

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

Leader: Loving Father, through his great sacrifice, Christ gives us all we need. Hear our prayers and help us to receive this Eucharist as sustenance for serving others in your name. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen.**

## The Lord's Prayer

Leader:

At the Saviour's command  
and formed by divine teaching,  
we dare to say:

All:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,  
now and forever.  
Amen.**

## The Concluding Rite Blessing

Leader:

May the Lord be with us and protect us  
now and for ever.

All make the sign of the cross during the blessing.

All:

**Amen.**

## Dismissal

Leader:

Let us go in the peace to love and serve the Lord.

All:

**Thanks be to God.**

*© The scriptural quotations are taken from the Jerusalem Bible, published and copyright 1966, 1967 and 1968 by Darton Longman and Todd Ltd and Doubleday & Co Inc, and used by permission of the publishers.*

*The English translation of the Psalm Responses, the Alleluia and Gospel Verses, and the Lenten Gospel Acclamations, and the Titles, Summaries, and Conclusion of the Readings, from the Lectionary for Mass © 1997, 1981, 1968, International Committee on English in the Liturgy, Inc. All rights reserved.*

*The prayers are from the English Translation of the Roman Missal © 2010 International Committee on English in the Liturgy Inc. (ICEL). All rights reserved.*

## FAITH MATTERS: Pilgrims on a Journey

The concept of pilgrimage is not a new one, for centuries individuals and groups have travelled to places of significance for numerous reasons.

ROSEMARY MCALLISTER PUBLISHED JULY 23, 2024

In the Christian faith tradition pilgrimage was first made to sites connected with the birth, life, crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus. Early church fathers like Saint Jerome encouraged the faithful to be pilgrims and Constantine the Great's mother Saint Helena is said to have established the concept.

Saint Helena, also known as Helena Augusta or Helena of Constantinople, is renowned for her role in promoting Christianity and her pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Helena was likely born around 250 AD in Drepanum (modern-day Turkey). She married the Roman Emperor Constantius Chlorus, and their son was Constantine the Great. Helena converted to Christianity later in life, possibly influenced by her son Constantine and in 326 AD undertook pilgrimage to the Holy Lands. She travelled to Jerusalem and Bethlehem, seeking out the sites associated with Jesus Christ's life and ministry.

During her pilgrimage, Helena is traditionally credited with several important discoveries. According to tradition, Helena discovered the True Cross (the cross on which Jesus was crucified) buried beneath the site of the crucifixion in Jerusalem. Helena also identified and helped build the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem, commemorating the sites of Jesus' crucifixion, burial, and resurrection. Helena's influence extended beyond her pilgrimage.

She supported the Christian community in various ways, including the construction of churches and the promotion of Christian practices. Over the many years the concept of pilgrimage has expanded to not only encompass the significance of the destination but also the journey along the way.

The purpose of Christian pilgrimage was summarised by Pope Benedict XVI in this way:

'To go on pilgrimage is not simply to visit a place to admire its treasures of nature, art or history. To go on pilgrimage really means to step out of ourselves in order to encounter God where he has revealed himself, where his grace has shone with particular splendour and produced rich fruits of conversion and holiness among those who believe.'

Pope Francis said, "Pilgrimage is not the same as a Vacation... Making a Pilgrimage to shrines is one of the most eloquent expressions of the faith of God's people... It would be a mistake to think that those who go on a pilgrimage live a spirituality that is not personal but rather of the masses. The reality is that the pilgrim carries within him his own history and faith and the lights and shadows of his own life. Each person carries within his or her heart a special wish and a particular prayer. Those who enter the

shrine immediately feel they are at home, welcomed, understood, and supported."

As we journey towards 2025 and the Jubilee year of 'Pilgrims of Hope' Pope Francis writes,

'Pilgrimage is of course a fundamental element of every Jubilee event. Setting out on a journey is traditionally associated with our human quest for meaning in life. A pilgrimage on foot is a great aid for rediscovering the value of silence, effort and simplicity of life.'

A pilgrimage can be challenging, it takes us out of our comfort zone as God is revealed to us through this transformational experience. Revelation occurs not only necessarily at the places we visit but also in those that we encounter and stories that are shared on the journey.

Over the coming months we pray for those who are journeying on the Diocesan aMeN caMiNo and the pilgrimage to Ireland.

On 17 August, we invite you to sample the aMeN caMiNo experience through a Community Walk and 7 & 8 September you are invited to the aMeN caMiNo weekend experience during this year's Season of Creation at the beautiful Myall Coast. For more information visit our website: <https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/faith-formation/amen-camino/>

For those wanting to learn more about pilgrimage, you are invited to the Diocesan Resource Centre on 2 August for Formation Friday's session on the Heart of Pilgrimage and 3 August our film is 'The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry.' To register go to: <https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/places/library/>

### **In the media: Sibling performers stepping out into the spotlight together**

This story was originally published in the Newcastle Herald.

Photo: Jonathan Carroll

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS OFFICE PUBLISHED JULY 23, 2024

There's no one that has your back quite like your sibling, and when you're about to perform in front of a large crowd, it's nice knowing you've got someone in your corner to calm the nerves.

This year a record number of siblings are stepping centre stage at the Civic Theatre for the 2024 ASPIRE Program kicking off from 31 July through to 3 August.

"It's good to know I have someone that is close to me," 15 year-old Charlotte Pierchorowicz said about her younger sister Darcy, 12.

"I think we both have always been very creative and it's good to have our own sort of thing, but be able to do it together," she said.

The St Mary's Catholic College students have spent the second half of their school holidays with more than 150 students across the Catholic Diocese, rehearsing ahead of opening night.

"ASPIRE definitely pushes us to be the best we can and grow as performers," Darcy said.

The students have been running lines, perfecting their positions and doing last minute costume checks in their respective dance, vocal, design, acting and instrumental ensembles.

"The most fun we've had is creating relationships with others and we're looking forward to seeing how the whole thing looks once we're on stage," Darcy said.

Sisters Cleo, 16 and Zoe, 14 are both in the dance ensemble and have done five ASPIRE shows together.

"We used to be in the same troops at dance and we dance together and practice together," Zoe said.

"I love dancing with Cleo she's always fun and having her lead, I like to watch her grow. It's really fun working with someone that you're very close to," she said.

All Saints' College Maitland student Leo Dyre, 15 plays the guitar and has been helping his sister Lily, 14 practice her singing for the show.

"It's great, we get to talk about our rehearsals after we do them and even practice together," Leo said.

"While he plays guitar, I start singing. We'll do it with a backing track, and then he'll play his part along with the backing track, and I'll just sing my part," Lily said.

This year's production is called Disconnected, which follows a story about a town crier who has been fired and find that nobody cares as they're all too consumed by their phone screens, until the internet is mysteriously cut off.

The show is entirely steered by students under the guidance of an artistic director. Tickets are available for purchase from the Civic Theatre website and box office.

### **Truth and Peace**

by Peter Arndt 06/26/2024 Office for Justice, Ecology and Peace

In 1963, the world was on the brink of nuclear war. It was at that time that Pope St. John XXIII issued his ground breaking encyclical letter, *Pacem in Terris* (Peace on Earth). It was a heartfelt plea to the Church and all people of goodwill for an end to war and for the banning of nuclear weapons. He promoted a peace which is grounded in the inalienable and inviolable dignity of every person. His successors up to the present have echoed the same impassioned plea.

In the 2024 – 2025 Social Justice Statement, "Truth and Peace: A Gospel Word in a Violent World", Australia's Bishops scrutinise the signs of our own troubled times, observe the violence around us, and ask why it is so. They also ask what is needed if there is to be peace.

In a world full of pessimism, they put their faith and hope in the possibility of peace.

Using scripture and the guidance of Pope St. John XXIII's *Pacem in Terris* and Pope Francis' *Fratelli Tutti*, we learn that peace is possible if we put our trust in Christ who is the way, the truth and the life and the Prince of Peace. It is from him that we learn about the architecture of peace. From him, we learn a commitment to the culture of encounter, the value of dialogue at all levels and the importance of seeing everyone as our sister, our brother.

The statement also provides some suggested actions to help us to build on our commitment to be peacemakers locally and internationally.

The Statement will be launched on Tuesday 20 August.

Details for ordering print copies of the statement and packs of the accompanying prayer card will be available in July. Other resources, including liturgy notes for Social Justice Sunday, 25 August, will also be available on-line by early August.

