



**St John  
Vianney**  
Parish Morisset



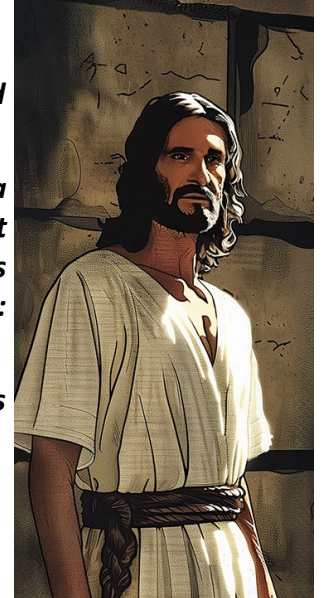
**CHRIST THE KING YEAR B 24 NOVEMBER 2024**

*Today's Feast of Christ the King enables us to once again, consider our role in the world and Christ's kingship over us and all creation.*

*In doing so, it attempts to emphasise the kind of kingship that Jesus represents ... a kingship that redefines what true authority in this world really is. It's a kingship that refuses all of the riches common to leaders of the world. It's a kingship that uses language like mercy and forgiveness. It's a kingship that can be summarized in one word: servanthood.*

*Jesus proclaimed that the kingdom of God, the governance of God, is here and now. It is not our place to put it off. It is our task to find it, to encourage it and to implement it.*

*The kingdom is wherever God's will is done on earth as it is in heaven.*



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 2264, 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 when coming in 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	23rd November 5pm Mass—Cooranbong
Sunday	24th November 9.30am Mass—Morisset
Friday	29th November 10.30am Mass—Morisset
Saturday	30th November 5pm Family Mass—Morisset
Sunday	1st December 9.30am Mass—Morisset
Friday	6th December 10.30am Mass—Morisset
Saturday	7th December 5pm Mass—Cooranbong
Sunday	8th December 9.30am Mass—Morisset
Friday	13th December 10.30am Mass—Morisset
Saturday	14th December 5pm Family Mass—Morisset
Sunday	15th December 2024 9.30am Mass—Morisset
Friday	20th December 10.30am Mass—Morisset
Saturday	21st December 5pm Mass—Cooranbong
Sunday	22nd December 9.30am Mass—Morisset

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## CELEBRATE!

This weekend at the Sunday Mass, we will be recognising the special milestones in the lives of our parishioners. We will be celebrating 7 birthdays from 18 to 98, 2 anniversaries and 2 renewal of wedding vows.

It is important that we acknowledge these special occasions, we congratulate those who will be taking part and we will be celebrating together in the Centre afterwards.

## Christmas Mass Times.

After much discussion with clergy and the VG it now appears that we can lock in Christmas Eve 7pm and Christmas Day 9.30am as the scheduled Mass times for 2024. As in the past Christmas Eve will be held at the Morisset Showground to allow for the expected larger than normal crowd, and availability of parking.

To help plan Christmas 2024, a meeting will be this Tuesday 25th November at 7pm in the Callinan Centre for those who indicated that they can help.

## Vinnies Christmas Appeal

At this time of year, with Christmas fast approaching, let us be aware of the many people in our parish area who rely on our assistance and support. On the weekend of November 30th and December 1st, the members of the Morisset Conference of St Vincent de Paul Society will be at the Masses to - once again, accept your generous donation to our Vinnies Christmas Appeal by way of cash. Also non perishable food can be placed in the hamper basket in the church. With gratitude and blessings to all.

## Christmas

Thank you to the people who have already volunteered to help with the Christmas Masses.

If you can help with the Christmas Mass Ministries, or general assistance for 'Set up' and 'Pack up' Please complete a 'sign up' sheet online at: <https://forms.office.com/r/Cer8Rr35Lt>

Or the hard copy ones at the back of the church and place in the box provided.

## GOSPEL

### John 18:33-37

*You say that I am a king.*

'Are you the king of the Jews?' Pilate asked. Jesus replied, 'Do you ask this of your own accord, or have others spoken to you about me?' Pilate answered, 'Am I a Jew? It is your own people and the chief priests who have handed you over to me: what have you done?' Jesus replied, 'Mine is not a kingdom of this world; if my kingdom were of this world, my men would have fought to prevent my being surrendered to the Jews. But my kingdom is not of this kind.' 'So you are a king then?' said Pilate. 'It is you who say it' answered Jesus. 'Yes, I am a king. I was born for this, I came into the world for this: to bear witness to the truth; and all who are on the side of truth listen to my voice.'

## CHRIST THE KING Year B — Reflection 24th November 2024

This Sunday we celebrate the Feast of Christ the King, and it is also the last Sunday in the Church's 2021 liturgical year.

The Feast of Christ the King was established by Pope Pius XI in 1925 as a spiritual weapon against what he considered at the time, destructive forces of the age, increasing atheism and secularisation.

Even though we celebrate Jesus as king, we must recognize that he was not a king, according to the ways of the world. His was a kingdom concerned with truth and life, holiness and grace,

justice, love, and peace.

The 'kingdom' was in fact the central theme of Jesus' teaching. His way of communicating to his followers was the Gospel values, that would counteract the evils in society and lead them to understand God's love, and to enjoy happiness in this life and the next.

Jesus was no ordinary man. He went out of his way to mix socially with beggars, tax collectors and prostitutes. The scandal Jesus caused in the society of his day, can hardly be imagined by people in the modern world today.

On the day of Pentecost, Jesus' disciples came to realise that they had been given the task to continue Jesus' mission of proclaiming, demonstrating and embodying God's reign. We often speak of the day of Pentecost as the 'birthday of the church,' where the disciples were first called 'Christians'. How they began to see that something new had begun, and they were called to continue this mission in every nation, in every culture and in every period. The Church does not have a mission, but the mission has a church. The Church comes to be, as the Church engages in mission, of going into the world, to be God's saving, healing and challenging presence.

Pope Francis urges us to be a Church where everyone can feel welcomed, loved, forgiven, and encouraged to live according to the Gospel. There must be a space for everyone, especially those who have been hurt, excluded, alienated. The Church will be less than what Christ intended it to be, when issues of inclusion and equality are not fully addressed.

In a world where the rules are often made by the strong and the structures of power favour the privileged, the Church must be true to its founding stories, and responsive to the presence of God. It must find ways to promote a community of equals and empower men and women disciples, to share their gifts for human flourishing and the growth of the Kingdom. The Church cannot have a prophetic voice in society if we fail to be a model of equality.

Many years ago, Mohandas Gandhi, the great Hindu religious leader in India who brought about a revolution, and an overthrow of the British empire through active love, not violence, said this about Christianity: 'Christianity has not failed, it's never really been tried'.

The challenge for us today is to discover how we here in Morisset in 2024 belong to the Kingdom of God. It is a challenge for each of us to remember that being a Christian is not a one day of the week affair.

As we celebrate the Feast of Christ the King, let us take this opportunity, to reevaluate the meaning of being Church, and the idea of genuinely trying to follow Jesus.

The Church is not to be turned into a museum, which preserves a record of what God once did, but it must engage with what the spirit is doing now, by drawing on the wisdom and life experience of God's people.

John France

ST JOHN VIANNEY PRIMARY SCHOOL MORISSET

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### **Wraps With Love.**

During the past week our fabulous 'Wrap with Love Knitters', delivered another 23 rugs and 10 Beanies to the Seafarers Mission at Hanell Street Wickham. The knitters were treated to a lovely morning tea supplied by the Catholic Chaplain Bernadette, and her volunteers. The Wraps and Beanies were later delivered to the ships and offered to those who needed a bit of warmth and comfort. The Mission to Seafarers is an ecumenical Centre working alongside Stella Maris, and provides support to the men and women who face danger every day to keep the global economy afloat

### **No Tuesday Liturgies**

Due to the demands of the festive season there will be no liturgies on Tuesday's until further notice.

### **Note to Clergy from Steve Lemos Head of Schools**

My Dear Brother Priests,

As my time in the Maitland-Newcastle Diocese comes to a close, I wish to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude for the incredible support you have provided to our schools within your parishes.

Your steadfast commitment to fostering a strong connection between parish and school has been a cornerstone of our shared mission. Through your spiritual guidance, presence, and encouragement, you have greatly impacted the faith lives and learning journeys of the students, staff, and families we serve. It has been a privilege to witness the many ways you bring the Gospel to life in our schools. Your pastoral care, sacramental ministry, and shared joy in the everyday moments of school life have been a source of inspiration and strength. In many ways, your role in the community has been the bridge that ensures the faith foundation of our schools remains vibrant and enduring.

On a personal note, I am deeply grateful for the kindness, wisdom, and fraternity you have extended to me throughout my time here. Your support has been invaluable, and your example of servant leadership has enriched my ministry. When we met, we were strangers, but I now call you, my friends.

As I prepare to take on a new role with the Diocese of Parramatta, I carry with me the memories of our mission and the inspiration of your unwavering commitment to Catholic education. Please know that your ministry matters deeply—not just to our schools but to the broader mission of the Church.

Thank you for your prayers, encouragement, and for being such a blessing to our schools and communities. I pray that God continues to bless your ministry and the vital role you play in nurturing the faith of our young people.

With deep gratitude and warm regards, Steve

### **2025-Jubilee Year**

Archbishop Christopher Prowse, Chair of the Bishops Commission for Evangelisation, Laity and Ministry is asking bishops to designate places of pilgrimage in our diocese for the Jubilee year. Bishop Michael says 'Before I designate our places of pilgrimage for the Jubilee Year in the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle, I wish to provide you the opportunity to propose to me a suitable church or shrine in your parish. To be eligible, the church or shrine would have to have some significance in terms of history, culture, beauty, or popularity, and be accessible at regular hours to enable pilgrims to enter.

After consultation with the Diocesan Pastoral Ministry Team, the Jubilee proposal from our parish and the PMT to the Bishop, is that Cooranbong become a place of Pilgrimage centred around the Feast of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop (Friday 8th August)

We wait on a response from the Bishops Office.

### **With A Light Heart**

Nigel is driving home one evening, when he suddenly realises that it's his daughter's birthday and he hasn't bought her a present. He drives to the local shopping centre, runs to the toy store, and says to the shop assistant, "How much is that Barbie in the window?"

In a condescending manner, she replies, "Which Barbie? We have Barbie Goes to the Gym for \$19.95, Barbie Goes to the Ball for \$19.95, Barbie Goes Shopping for \$19.95, Barbie Goes to the Beach for \$19.95, Barbie Goes Nightclubbing for \$19.95, and Divorced Barbie for \$265."

Perplexed, Nigel asks, "Why is Divorced Barbie \$265 when all the others are only \$19.95?"

"That's obvious," the shop assistant says. "Divorced Barbie comes with Ken's house, Ken's car, Ken's boat, Ken's furniture ..."

### **Deacon Solomon Okovido's Ordination**

If you cannot make it to Sacred Heart Cathedral on Sunday for Deacon Omeiza Solomon Okovido's Ordination, the service will be livestreamed. You can access this through the Diocesan YouTube Channel: [www.youtube.com/@catholicdiocesemn/streams](http://www.youtube.com/@catholicdiocesemn/streams)

Details are: **When:** 10am, Saturday 23 November 2024 **Where:** Sacred Heart Cathedral, 841 Hunter Street, Newcastle West

### **Together in Spirit for Palestine & Lebanon**

You're invited to join the community for an afternoon of reflective prayer and poetry for Palestine and Lebanon. It's on Saturday 30 November, from 4pm to 6pm at Nobbys Beach Reserve, Newcastle. Please bring a picnic blanket, prayer rug or camp chair. For more information call 0432 640 482 or email [diana\\_ra01@hotmail.com](mailto:diana_ra01@hotmail.com)

### **Newcastle Catholic Charismatic Thanksgiving Mass 2024**

Everyone is invited to give thanksgiving to the Lord for all that 2024 has brought during a Thanksgiving Mass on Friday 13 December at 7pm at the Sacred Heart Cathedral. Bishop Michael has kindly accepted our invitation and will be joining our other priests while presiding over the Mass. We will also be gathering for Praise and Worship at 6:30pm before the Mass and all are welcome to part of this part of the celebration.

Refreshments will be served afterwards. Please contact Mary-Anne on 0402 918 375 or Wayne on 0466 631 394 for more information.

### **Caritas Australia's Global Gifts are Christmas Cards with purpose!**

Every card you buy helps build brighter futures for children, women and men experiencing hardship and poverty.

By putting your compassion into action and shopping for the Global Gifts of your choice you will bring hope and joy to the world's most vulnerable and communities, while giving your loved ones a meaningful Christmas card.

View the range of Global Gifts: [www.globalgifts.org.au](http://www.globalgifts.org.au)

### **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 10th December 2024**. Bookings can be made online at the link at: <https://forms.office.com/r/wZtatkt01V>

## 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 contact the parish office to set up a direct debit.

## SUPPORTING OUR PARISH / 2nd Collection

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

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

*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

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE (S) - 24TH NOV  
 SAINT ANDREW (F) - 30TH NOV  
 SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER (M) - 3RD DEC  
 SAINT AMBROSE (M) - 7TH DEC  
 THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY (S) - 9TH DEC  
 SAINT LUCY (M) - 13TH DEC  
 SAINT JOHN OF THE CROSS (M) - 14TH DEC  
 THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD DAY (S) - 25TH DEC  
 SAINT STEPHEN (F) - 26TH DEC  
 SAINT JOHN (F) - 27TH DEC

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

Jackie Purnell, Nancy Overton, Ross Dickson, Betty Smith, Frank Simons, Anna Dussin, Koby Smith, Annette Boyd, Mary Monaghan, Clare Wallington, Donna Hazzard, Pam Mullaly, Tintumol Thomas, Peter Martyn, Bernadette Martin, Bruce Gillett.

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



## Prayer Requests for the Bulletin

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

All prayer requests require permission from a family member or the person. Due to Australian privacy laws.

## An Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus,

I believe that You

are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.

I love You above all things,

and I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment

receive You sacramentally,

come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You.

Never permit me to be separated from You.

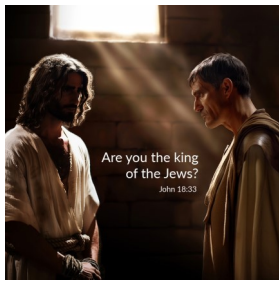
Amen.



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



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



## SUNDAY PRAYER SERVICE Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe Year B Sunday 24 Nov 2024

### The Introductory Rites Acknowledgement of Country

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

### Gathering

The Lectionary/Roman Missal or a Bible may be placed on a table together with a candle and a cross.

### Sign of the Cross

Leader:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

All:

Amen.

### Greeting

Leader:

Blessed be Jesus who makes us one,  
and strengthens us by the power of his Spirit.

All:

Blessed be God forever.

### Introductory Remarks

Leader (in these or similar words):

Friends in Christ,  
although we cannot celebrate the Eucharist this day,  
we gather in God's name  
for when two or more come together  
God is always with us.  
We worship in union with the whole Church  
keeping this day of the Lord holy.

### Opening Rite

#### LITANY OF PRAISE

Leader:

Before listening to the Word of God let us praise the Lord Jesus  
Christ who has raised us to new life.

A brief period of silence follows.

Leader:

Lord Jesus, you are Christ, the universal King: Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, all will be brought to life in you: Christ, have mercy.

All: Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you rescue those who are lost: 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,  
your son, Jesus, laid down his life and set us free  
so that we may share in his kingly glory.  
Help us to walk in his footsteps of compassion and love  
so that we may build his eternal kingdom of justice and peace.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
for ever and ever.

All:

Amen.

### The Liturgy of the Word

#### First Reading

Daniel 7:13-14

A reading from the prophet Daniel

*His sovereignty is eternal.*

I gazed into the visions of the night.

And I saw, coming on the clouds of heaven,  
one like a son of man.

He came to the one of great age  
and was led into his presence.

On him was conferred sovereignty,  
glory and kingship,  
and men of all peoples, nations and languages became his  
servants.

His sovereignty is an eternal sovereignty  
which shall never pass away,  
nor will his empire be destroyed.

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

The word of the Lord.

All reply:

Thanks be to God.

### Responsorial Psalm

Ps 92:1-2. 5. R.v.1

(R.) The Lord is king; he is robed in majesty.

1. The Lord is king, with majesty enrobed;  
the Lord has robed himself with might,  
he has girded himself with power. (R.)
2. The world you made firm, not to be moved;  
your throne has stood firm from of old.  
From all eternity, O Lord, you are. (R.)
3. Truly your decrees are to be trusted.  
Holiness is fitting to your house,  
O Lord, until the end of time. (R.)

### Second Reading

Revelation 1:5-8

A reading from the book of the Apocalypse

*The ruler of the kings of the earth ... made us a line of kings,  
priests to serve his God.*

Jesus Christ is the faithful witness, the First-born from the dead,  
the Ruler of the kings of the earth. He loves us and has washed  
away our sins with his blood, and made us a line of kings, priests  
to serve his God and Father; to him, then, be glory and power for  
ever and ever. Amen. It is he who is coming on the clouds;  
everyone will see him, even those who pierced him, and all the  
races of the earth will mourn over him. This is the truth. Amen. 'I  
am the Alpha and the Omega' says the Lord God, who is, who  
was, and who is to come, the Almighty.

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

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 18:33-37**

*You say that I am a king.*

'Are you the king of the Jews?' Pilate asked. Jesus replied, 'Do you ask this of your own accord, or have others spoken to you about me?' Pilate answered, 'Am I a Jew? It is your own people and the chief priests who have handed you over to me: what have you done?' Jesus replied, 'Mine is not a kingdom of this world; if my kingdom were of this world, my men would have fought to prevent my being surrendered to the Jews. But my kingdom is not of this kind.' 'So you are a king then?' said Pilate. 'It is you who say it' answered Jesus. 'Yes, I am a king. I was born for this, I came into the world for this: to bear witness to the truth; and all who are on the side of truth listen to my voice.'

Reader:

The Gospel of the Lord.

All:

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

All are seated.

## Reflection on the Word

A short period of reflection may be observed.

Q. Why did Pilate ask Jesus, 'Am I a Jew?'

Q. Do you think the notion of 'Christ the King' has been misused at times in history?

Q. Why might the Church choose to end the liturgical year with this particular feast?

Q. What does it mean for us that Jesus is 'king' of a kingdom filled with the sick, poor and outcast?

## Profession of Faith

Leader:

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

All:

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

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

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

## Prayer of the Faithful

Leader: Dear friends, let us bring our prayers before the Lord,  
the God of all.

Reader: That our Holy Father Pope Francis. will lead the  
Catholic Church with glory and honour.  
In your glory:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That young people will come to recognise Christ's  
kingdom in their midst.  
In your glory:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That nations will put aside prejudice and ambition to  
avoid conflict and to seek peace.  
In your glory:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That our parish community may demonstrate Christ as  
truly reigning in our hearts and homes.  
In your glory:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That all who are sick and housebound may find  
comfort in their pain and sorrow.  
In your glory:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That all those who have died will receive the grace of  
redemption and join their King in heavenly paradise.  
In your glory:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Lord God, you gave us your only Son as King of the  
universe. Hear our prayers, and help us to trust in you  
with faithfulness as we wait for the coming of Christ our  
glorious King. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

## The Lord's Prayer

Leader:

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

All:

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

## The Concluding Rite

### Blessing

Leader:

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

All make the sign of the cross during the blessing.

All:

Amen.

## Dismissal

**Leader:**

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

**All:**

## Thanks be to God.

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## LITURGY MATTERS: A word from Bishop Michael on Christian Initiation

What is often called 'The Great Commission' which Jesus handed to all his disciples and, therefore to the Church, has two elements: proclaim the Good News and baptise in my name.

Bishop Michael Kennedy Louise Gannon  
rsj PUBLISHED November 19, 2024

'Proclaim the Good News' is, in church speak, what we call 'evangelisation'. 'Baptise in my name' becomes the 'Ministry of Christian Initiation'.

What follows is Bishop Michael's recent letter to parishes and schools on the Ministry of Christian Initiation. It is made available here for everyone because the Ministry of Christian initiation is the concern of ALL the faithful. I invite you to read, reflect and engage in conversation with others.

7 November 2024

My dear Fathers, Deacons, Parish Leaders and all members of the faithful,

Having now completed eighteen months in the Diocese I have experienced a full cycle of the liturgical year and celebrated Mass with every parish and in almost every stational church.

You will have noticed the importance I place on well-celebrated liturgy. You have also heard me speak about the need for us to live as a missionary and evangelising community. The liturgy, in fact, is central to our life and mission. In this regard I wish to reflect with you on how we celebrate the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA).

This Rite, revised after the Second Vatican Council, can be a fruitful force at the heart of our parish life. When lived and celebrated properly it cannot be otherwise, as it holds in an essential unity the core ministries of the Church: Mission-Evangelisation and Initiation.

Well-appreciated and celebrated, the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults has the potential to form our parishes to be missionary and evangelising communities. I know some of you are already making the link to my expressed desire for our diocese to be focused on mission and evangelisation. Without this missionary focus, the ministry of initiation flounders. And to properly evangelise those seeking initiation we need to include members of the faithful. The two ministries do indeed exist in an essential dynamic partnership.

### Key principles for reflection

I have noticed a few areas that I hope we can focus on together to grow a parish and diocesan culture that is strong in both the ministries of evangelisation and initiation. It is my hope that together we can commit our energies to igniting a passion for these ministries amongst all the faithful. With this letter, therefore, let me plant just a few seeds by way of prompts and questions for reflection and conversation with the faithful.

The ministries of evangelisation and initiation belong to all the

faithful, not just the various parish teams involved in this ministry. How can we grow this understanding amongst the faithful? How can ordained ministers provide support while enabling what is essentially a ministry of all the faithful?

Our door must always be open to seekers. We cannot simply tell seekers to come back later when our 'initiation season' begins. We must be ready to begin the journey of accompaniment whenever a seeker approaches us. How can we reimagine our parish life and mission to meet this need?

We all need to re-immers ourselves in the vision and procedures of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. What might be a good first step in that direction for your parish community, particularly if the parish currently has nothing in place?

The processes of 'encounter' and 'accompaniment' are central to the ministry of evangelisation and Christian Initiation. How do we shape our pastoral practice to embed these processes?

Neophytes are a precious gift to any parish community and their first year of baptised life is critically important in continuing their formation and embedding them more deeply into the life and mission of the parish community. How could we grow this dimension of ministry, them to participate in the annual gathering with the bishop?

### Practical issues for immediate attention

In addition to these significant prompts and questions, I wish to focus on some more practical dimensions of the RCIA that need immediate attention by parish leaders and Initiation teams:

All those to be baptised at Easter – adults and children of a catechetical age – must participate in the Rite of Election at which I preside in the Cathedral. It is always celebrated on the First Sunday of Lent. There is a procedure for those who for exceptional circumstances are unable to be there. Instructions for this are available on the [diocesan website](#). It is important to follow through on this promptly as the Period of Purification and Enlightenment must unfold over the six weeks of Lent. All this is explained in the RCIA (a 26-30).

The Scrutinies and Presentations must be celebrated during the Lenten Season as outlined in the RCIA which explains beautifully how these rites are as much about the renewal and nourishment of all the faithful as they are for the Elect. (a 125)

The focus of the Easter Vigil is baptism and full initiation. The baptism, confirmation and communion of adults, including children of catechetical age, ideally takes place at the Vigil.

The reception of already baptised Candidates into the Full Communion of the Catholic Church can take place at any time of the year. If the readiness of these candidates aligns with Easter, this celebration is most appropriate for Easter Sunday or any of the other Sundays during the Easter Season.

### The Elect and Neophytes

As indicated in the RCIA, it is customary for the bishop to gather with the neophytes at some point during their first year of baptised life. This year, supported by the Christian Initiation Forum, I gathered with six of our neophytes to reflect on their experience of initiation and engage in catechesis on the Eucharist. The afternoon culminated in the celebration of Mass at which the community joined me in blessing the neophytes.

Good and all as that was for those who participated, I was left wondering why only six opted to come. And while it is not about numbers, it is worth reflecting on the fact that nine catechumens registered for the Rite of Election this year. Not a significant number for a diocese of our size. I am aware too that across our parishes at least another ten were baptised at Easter without celebrating a Rite of Election. This means in total, the number of neophytes was close to 20.

## Conclusion

I have continued to ponder all this for some months, and I have taken the time to write to you because I see our current reality as an opportunity and impetus to reflect together and reimagine how to nurture the ministry of Evangelisation and Initiation in our parishes in accord with the vision of the RCIA. I would like us to give some energy to this and I would like us to do it together, those in diocesan ministry supporting and accompanying parishes.

I encourage you to engage with the Diocesan Liturgy Council's Christian Initiation Forum. I am aware of the 'Come and See' resources they have prepared to support and accompany any parish who feels ready to embark on such a journey of renewal. These resources are available on the diocesan website: <https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/liturgy/sacraments/>. Click on the Reimagining the Ministry of Christian Initiation drop-down button.

I sense this is a moment, a ripe time in our life as a diocese, to focus on growing a parish and diocesan culture strong in both the ministries of Evangelisation and Initiation. We can't afford to do nothing. Think for a moment what parish life will be like in five years if we keep on doing what we've always done with no change.

I am grateful for all that you and your teams do to welcome and initiate seekers into the Church and our parish communities. In 2025 I am looking forward to more catechumens at the Rite of Election and more Neophytes at my gathering with them on 22 June. I am also looking forward to meeting catechumens, candidates and neophytes when I visit parishes across the year.

Yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Michael Kennedy

Bishop of Maitland-Newcastle



## Important message shining brightly at Sacred Heart Cathedral

You may have noticed that Sacred Heart Cathedral is looking very bright at night.

Elizabeth Symington PUBLISHED November 19, 2024

Glowing in red, it sends an important message – we stand in unity with, and are praying for, people who are persecuted for their faith.

It's all part of Red November, an initiative of Aid to the Church in Need (ACN).

The annual event calls on dioceses and public offices around the world to draw attention to and pray for persecuted Christians and make present the sufferings of our modern-day saints and martyrs.

It is an opportunity to stand in solidarity as the Body of Christ through prayer and action, united with our brothers and sisters in faith throughout the world.

"One of the primary international visuals of the initiative is the lighting of buildings in red, which reminds us of blood-stained martyrs and burned-down churches," National Director of Aid to

the Church in Need Australia & New Zealand Bernard Toutounji said.

"Their testimony and witness of faith challenges and inspires us to treasure and live out our own faith more deeply."

Communities are encouraged to take time to acknowledge what's happening worldwide due to worsening Christian persecution right across the globe.

People can support this initiative by attending any Masses or Prayer events held across Australia.

Locally, Red Wednesday will be commemorated at our 8.15am Mass at Sacred Heart Cathedral tomorrow (20 November).

ACN is encouraging people to wear red and donate to their efforts to support Christian communities worldwide.

Visit <https://rednovember.org/home> for more information.

Photo by Fr Anthony Coloma.

## Caritas Australia's Lebanon Crisis Appeal

Lebanon is currently facing a dire crisis, and the need for your support has never been greater. Communities are being devastated by conflict and economic instability, leaving countless families without access to basic needs like food, water, and medical care. Our Caritas Australia partners on the ground are doing everything they can, but they desperately need your help.

Please show your love for Lebanon and donate today to help supply essential items such as food, shelter, and medical aid, as well as long-term support to rebuild communities.

Donate today: [www.caritas.org.au/lebanon](http://www.caritas.org.au/lebanon)

## Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for November

We pray that all parents who mourn the loss of a son or daughter find support in their community and receive peace and consolation from the Holy Spirit.

**LEBANON CRISIS APPEAL**

Communities are being devastated by conflict and economic instability. Please help provide families with food, water, and medical care.

**DONATE NOW** [caritas.org.au/lebanon](http://caritas.org.au/lebanon)  
1800 024 413

Photo: Caritas Lebanon

**Celebrate the spirit of Christmas with Global Gifts.**

This Christmas, give a gift that changes the lives of those living in poverty.

[www.globalgifts.org.au](http://www.globalgifts.org.au)

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