



**St John
Vianney**
Parish Morisset



TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR B 29 SEPTEMBER 2024

There is a lot packed into the readings today, but what can we take out of them ?

The readings pose the question: Who acts on God’s behalf ? The answer is: “Whoever is not against us, is for us,” says Jesus.

Today we hear that John had a problem with someone ‘who is not one of us’. Jesus was more welcoming, and gave the leaders a lesson in openness and tolerance. Jesus said ‘Do not stop him’, if he is acting in my name he is not against us.

Often we may have a problem seeing goodness in those who belong to another social class, another team.

Whatever the reason we cannot lose sight of our mission as Christians. It is an awesome responsibility, but one we are privileged to be given.



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>

UPCOMING WORSHIP TIMES :

- Saturday 28th September 5pm
Mass—Cooranbong
- Sunday 29th September 9.30am
Mass—Morisset
- Saturday 5th October 5pm
Family Mass—Morisset
- Sunday 6th October 9.30am
Mass—Morisset
- Friday 11th October 10.30am
Mass—Morisset
- Saturday 12th October 5pm
Mass—Cooranbong
- Sunday 13th October 9.30am
Mass—Morisset
- Tuesday 15th October 9.30am
Liturgy—Morisset
- Friday 18th October 10.30am
Mass—Morisset
- Saturday 19th October 5pm
Family Mass—Morisset
- Sunday 20th October 9.30am
Mass—Morisset
- Tuesday 22nd October 9.30am
Liturgy—Morisset
- Friday 25th October 10.30am
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.



TO HOPE AND ACT WITH CREATION

SEASON OF CREATION 2024

The firstfruits of hope

(Rom 8:19-25)

How we are called to hope and act together with Creation

- To hope and act together with Creation we must truly listen to how and why Creation is groaning. We need to push for more action, we're more aware than ever of the problems.
- Creation is groaning. Creation is part of God's revelation, we must learn from and with Creation to know how to hope and act for a better future.
- Although the testimony of indigenous Christians and their spiritualities are respected, they are not listened to. Usually, Christian churches find resistance to speaking about Earth or Creation as a being, while for indigenous and original peoples this is an intrinsic part of their cosmic worldview and way of living.
- Creation groans as fossil fuel industries create greenwashing campaigns for clean energy. They are expanding their energy businesses instead of actually phasing out of fossil fuels. They talk about energy transition, but they are only doing an energy expansion to keep their profits high.
- We must acknowledge the damages caused by selfish and foolish decisions that disregard the cries of the most marginalized, including refugees, or those displaced by climate change, mining, and ecological devastation. The presence of big oil companies at COP28 we saw last year is a clear example of this.
- As resources diminish and access to them diminishes, there's more war. The inevitable result of the climate crisis will be more violence. You can't have peace without an equitable sharing of resources.
- The African wisdom of Ubuntu teaches us that the sense of self is shaped by relationships with others. It takes a village to raise a child. It takes a cosmic family to care for Creation. I am because we are, the same goes with Creation. We are nature, nature is us, we are God's hands for global and cosmic justice.

Welcome to SJV Morisset

Welcome to all the visitors to our Parish of St John Vianney during the October school holidays. The Parish of St John Vianney Morisset, was officially formed in 1947, however our Mass centre of St Patrick and St Brigid at Cooranbong, dates to the 1860's. The present Cooranbong Church celebrated its centenary in August 2006, and 150 years of Catholic presence in the area was celebrated in 2011.

It is documented that Saint Mary McKillop visited Cooranbong where she had a convent school. Up until 1966 St John Vianney Parish was part of the Diocese of Sydney, but now it is part of the Diocese of Maitland / Newcastle, with Bishop Michael Kennedy as Bishop.

The 9.30am Mass at Morisset is recorded each Sunday and uploaded to the Parish Website and Facebook later in the day, internet allowing. This allows people in nursing facilities and those away from the parish for whatever reason, to keep 'in touch' with the parish.

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Year B — Reflection 29th September 2024

The Gospel today is filled with exaggerations which we call hyperboles. Hyperboles exist to make a strong point about something. e.g. We say of a restless night – I didn't sleep all night! – When we probably did fade off a little bit at least – but we get the point!

The challenge today for me and I also guess for you, is trying to understand and explain how the gospel is 'Good News' and how it is relevant to our daily living.

The point that Jesus is making is that serious wrongdoing should be avoided at all cost and people should make the costliest sacrifices in order to avoid wrongdoing, even to the extent of cutting off a hand or a foot, or plucking out an eye.

I don't know about you, but I am pleased I'm a Catholic, because as Catholics we don't and shouldn't take the Bible literally.

Catholics believe that the scriptures, the Bible, reveal a truth in the story, in the parable.

We know within ourselves when our actions are life-giving or life-harming. Jesus' solution is simple: cut out the negative behaviour and get back on track.

In our world that encourages competitive behaviour at every turn, Jesus' attitude is a challenging one – if good is being done, why care who gets the credit for it?

Perhaps politicians would get more done if they weren't concerned about getting credit for what they do.

It seems that it is human nature to dwell much more on what makes us different, rather than on what we have in common.

Jesus also said to the disciples that anyone who gave the little ones even a cup of cold water would be rewarded.

The 'cup of cold water' is the symbol of the small kind deed. Few of us are given the chance to perform great deeds, but a small act of kindness can turn winter into summer at least briefly, for another person.

Deeds don't have to be big in order to be of help and comfort to the person for whom they are done.

There is a lot packed into the readings this Sunday, but what can we take home with us?

It is an opportunity to examine our attitudes, and commitment to Gospel values and lifestyle and ask: What kind of impression of Christian life, or what kind of impression of the Church, do we present to others?

It is an awesome responsibility but one that we are privileged to have been given.-John France

Christmas Mass Ministries.

Christmas is fast approaching! Please review your calendars. Soon we will be seeking help with Christmas Mass ministries, and general assistance for 'Set up' and 'Pack up'

First Aid Equipment

If you need to use First Aid equipment, in either of our churches for whatever reason, it is kept in the sacristy at both churches. There is also an Automatic Electronic Defibrillator (AED) permanently kept in the Morisset Sacristy. This AED is also taken to Cooranbong whenever there is a Mass/ Function held there.

Fifth Sunday of Month.

Because we have 5 Sundays in September, the Vigil Mass this Saturday evening will be held at Cooranbong 5pm.

Moving Forward 2024

It has been announced that Option B, the 'Shared Parish Priest Model' is the preferred option of parish, from the recent voting. The decision by the parish has now been submitted to the Bishop who will reflect and discern the way forward.

Migrant and Refugee Sunday

Today, this special day, which falls on Sunday the 29th of September this year, invites us to reflect on the experiences of people forced to flee their homes due to conflict, persecution, or hardship.

The Catholic Church has commemorated this day since 1914, highlighting the plight of those on the move and encouraging us to stand in solidarity with them. It is a time to express our concern for vulnerable populations, to pray for their protection and resilience, and to foster a deeper understanding of the complex realities they face.

Catholic Mission

With the theme for this year's message for World Mission Month being 'Go and Invite Everyone to the Banquet', Catholic Mission and the school community of St John Vianney will be inviting local parishioners to join with, and support, the students and staff in some special ways in 2024.

Over the next few weeks, through this bulletin, David, from Catholic Mission and Emma, from the school, will flag some ideas for how the Catholic community of Morisset and Cooranbong can be involved in the school's celebration of Mission Month, through Socktober.

The first is to invite you to visit the school on Friday, October 25, for some special Socktober-related festivities. Watch this space for more details on timings and how you, as a local parishioner, can be involved and support the students as they give expression to their call to be missionary disciples, in support of the people of Mongolia.

For more information about the work of Catholic Mission, and its support of mission projects around the world, including this year's country in focus, Mongolia.

Visit www.catholicmission.org.au or call David McGovern, Diocesan Director for Catholic Mission, on 0431 481 731.



Weekday Mass/Liturgy

Because of School holidays/ Concrete repairs/ Diocesan Retreat, there will be NO weekday Mass/Liturgy in the Morisset Church for the next two weeks.

MELBOURNE CUP Lunch

On Tuesday 7th November 2024 there will be a Melbourne Cup Lunch, in the Callinan Centre commencing at 12.30pm. If you are interested in attending contact Marcia or Michell Foo. More information as it comes to hand.

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME.

Daylight Saving begins Sunday, 6th October at 2am. (Clocks forward 1 Hour). The Saturday Vigil will remain at 5pm. 1st & 3rd weekend at Morisset, 2nd & 4th Cooranbong. If there happens to be a 5th Saturday, the Vigil is at Cooranbong.

2025 Year C Liturgical Book Orders

If you would like to order for the new liturgical year "Break Open the Word" or an "Ordo" or "God's Word 2025" or a copy of "The New Community Bible" please complete an order form at : <https://forms.office.com/r/DbUYaABUEC> or pick up a form at the back of the church or call the parish office.

Clergy/Parish Leaders Retreat

Next week Clergy & Parish Leaders together with Bishop Michael Kennedy, will be attending the annual Diocesan Retreat at 'Kirkton Park' Pokolbin, from 3pm Sunday 29th September to

Friday 4th October 10.30am.

Retreat Director will be Fr Khalid Marogi. Fr Khalid was born and raised in Iraq and has been in Australia for two decades.

Having lived in Iraq during the First Gulf War, one of a small number who stayed at the seminary in Baghdad while bombs rained down, Fr Khalid understands well the issues refugees and asylum-seekers face. He has held many ministry roles since his arrival in Australia.

Parish Viability Meetings.

Leaders of our parish attended a Parish Viability meeting, last Friday 27th September, at the Warners Bay, Parish Hall.

This meeting was important in discerning the ongoing sustainability of Parishes. One area reviewed, was the Priestly Sustentation System, which was put in place in the early 1990s.

Other areas reviewed were the car and fuel running costs by priests in their parish or diocesan ministry, and the use of credit cards.

The current Priest Car system, was also put in place in the 1990s. More information will be forthcoming when the Parish Viability meetings around the Diocese conclude. .

With A Light Heart

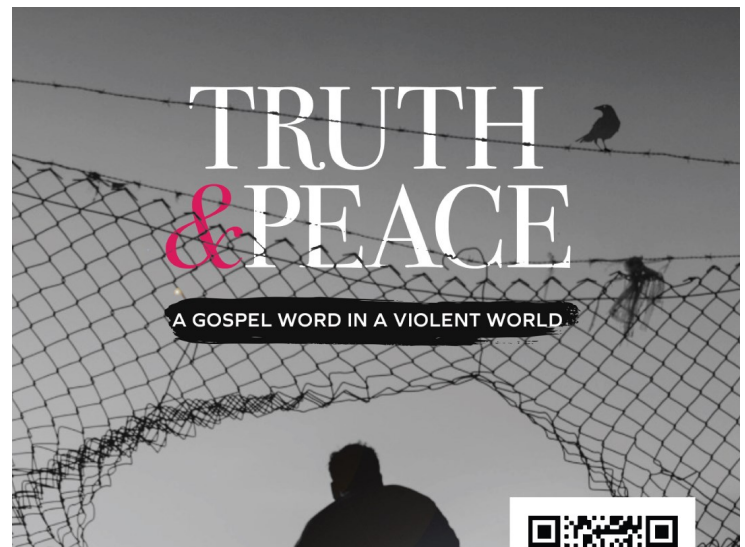
Little Mike's parents are concerned about the artwork he is bringing home from school as he only uses dark pastels, brown and black. They wonder if this could indicate a mental health problem.

They take him to a psychologist. The psychologist wants to see Mike at work, so he gives him a sheet of paper and a brand-new box of crayons.

"Yippee!" says Mike. "A whole set of crayons. All we have at school is black and brown."

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 8th October 2024**. Bookings can be made online at the link at: <https://forms.office.com/r/wZtatkt01V> or by contacting our Parish Office.



NOW AVAILABLE TO DOWNLOAD!

Download the latest Social Justice Statement by scanning the QR code or use the link:

bit.ly/sjs-ojep



scan me

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 9.30AM | Mass Mass | Mass Mass |
| <u>PROCLAIMERS:</u> | 5PM 9.30AM | U France D Peterson | P Melvey L Hutchinson |
| <u>PSALMIST:</u> | 5PM 9.30AM | M Foo S Matthew | M Melvey J Hutchins |
| <u>GIFTS</u> | 5PM 9.30AM | L & G Hutchison L McRae H White | TBA H White TBA |
| <u>SERVERS</u> | 5PM 9.30AM | M Melvey V Paulo | C Lawandos V Paulo |
| <u>AV</u> | 5PM 9.30AM | J Vipan T Alexander | J Vipan M Fowler |
| <u>WELCOMERS</u> | 5PM 9.30AM | H White K Amon | P Melvey H White |
| <u>CHURCH CLEANING</u> | COOR MOR | TBA B Hutcheson D Whitten | XXXX C Lawandos K London |

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,

or visit their website for further information:

www.officeofsafeguarding.org.au

UPCOMING FEAST DAYS MEMORIALS AND SOLEMINITIES

- SAINT JEROME (M) - 30TH SEPT
- SAINT THERESE OF THE CHILD JESUS (M) - 1ST OCT
- THE HOLY GUARDIAN ANGELS (M) - 2ND OCT
- SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI (M) - 4TH OCT
- OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY (M) - 7TH OCT
- SAINT TERESA OF JESUS (M) -15TH OCT
- SAINT IGNATIUS OF ANTIOCH (M) -17TH OCT
- SAINT LUKE (F) - 18TH OCT
- SAINTS SIMON AND JUDE (F) - 28TH OCT
- ALL SAINTS (S) - 1ST NOV

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

Frank Simons, Anna Dussin, Mary Carapiet, 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.

Recently Deceased: Monica Gray



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

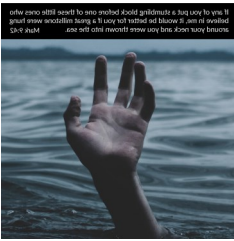
My Jesus,
I believe that You
are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.
I love You above all things,
and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment
receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as if You were already there and unite
myself wholly 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
Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Year B
Sunday 29 Sep 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 heal the wounds of sin and division: Lord, have
mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, you bring light to those in darkness: Christ, have
mercy.

All: Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you promise a reward to those who give a cup of cold
water in your name: 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
you lift us up
and showed us the path to eternal life.
May the Spirit of Jesus fill our hearts
so that we may always be ready
to choose what is right and good.
We ask this through Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
for ever and ever.

All:

Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

Numbers 11:25-29

A reading from the book of Numbers

Are you jealous on my account? Who decrees that all people may prophesy?

The Lord came down in the Cloud. He spoke with Moses, but took some of the spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders. When the spirit came on them they prophesied, but not again.

Two men had stayed back in the camp; one was called Eldad and the other Medad. The spirit came down on them; though they had not gone to the Tent, their names were enrolled among the rest. These began to prophesy in the camp. The young man ran to tell this to Moses, 'Look', he said, 'Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp.' Then said Joshua the son of Nun, who had served Moses from his youth, 'My Lord Moses, stop them!' Moses answered him, 'Are you jealous on my account? If only the whole people of the Lord were prophets, and the Lord gave his Spirit to them all!'

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

The word of the Lord.

All reply:

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 18:8. 10. 12-14. R. v.9

(R.) The precepts of the Lord give joy to the heart.

1. The law of the Lord is perfect,
it revives the soul.
The rule of the Lord is to be trusted,
it gives wisdom to the simple. **(R.)**
2. The fear of the Lord is holy,
abiding for ever.
The decrees of the Lord are truth
and all of them just. **(R.)**
3. So in them your servant finds instructions;
great reward is in their keeping.
But who can detect all his errors?
From hidden faults acquit me. **(R.)**
4. From presumption restrain your servant
and let it not rule me.
Then shall I be blameless,
clean from grave sin. **(R.)**

Second Reading

James 5:1-6

A reading from the letter of St James

Your wealth is rotting.

An answer for the rich. Start crying, weep for the miseries that are coming to you. Your wealth is all rotting, your clothes are all eaten up by moths. All your gold and your silver are corroding away, and the same corrosion will be your own sentence, and eat into your body. It was a burning fire that you stored up as your treasure for the last days. Labourers mowed your fields, and you cheated them – listen to the wages that you kept back, calling out; realise that the cries of the reapers have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts. On earth you have had a life of comfort and luxury; in the time of slaughter you went on eating to your heart's content. It was you who condemned the innocent and killed them; they offered you no resistance.

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 **Mark**

All:

Glory to you, O Lord.

Mark 9:38-43. 45. 47-48

Anyone who is not against us is for us. If your hand should cause you to sin, cut it off.

John said to Jesus, 'Master, we saw a man who is not one of us casting out devils in your name; and because he was not one of us we tried to stop him.' But Jesus said, 'You must not stop him: no one who works a miracle in my name is likely to speak evil of me. Anyone who is not against us is for us.

'If anyone gives you a cup of water to drink just because you belong to Christ, then I tell you solemnly, he will most certainly not lose his reward.

'But anyone who is an obstacle to bring down one of these little ones who have faith, would be better thrown into the sea with a great millstone round his neck. And if your hand should cause you to sin, cut it off; it is better for you to enter into life crippled, than to have two hands and go to hell, into the fire that cannot be put out. And if your foot should cause you to sin, cut it off; it is better for you to enter into life lame, than to have two feet and be thrown into hell. And if your eye should cause you to sin, tear it out; it is better for you to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell where their worm does not die nor their fire go out.'

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. How would life be different if we all adopted a position of 'anyone not against us is for us'?

Q. Why would someone using a literal interpretation of this text find it problematic?

Q. How might the teaching about cutting off what causes sin be relevant to your life?

Q. How do the people we mix with impact our ideas and actions?

Q. Who do you need to be more welcoming toward?

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 needs to the Lord, who is

Leader: Dear friends, let us bring our needs to the Lord who is compassionate to all.

Reader: That the Holy Church will be guided through the Gospel to do the Lord's will.

In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That through the knowledge of God's eternal kingdom, those who experience physical pain or disability will find strength in their daily lives.

In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That nations and leaders of government will seek peace and justice for all people.

In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That we may show compassion and understanding to people in our community suffering from mental illness or depression.

In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That all who are sick will find a renewed strength of spirit.

In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That all those who have died may rest in the Lord's heavenly kingdom.

In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Loving God, your words are truth and life. Hear our prayers and open our hearts to all who seek your truth. 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.

'See I am doing a new thing'

Some of you will recognise the title of this week's Liturgy Matters as a reference from the Prophet Isaiah 43:19a.

Louise Gannon rsj PUBLISHED September 24, 2024

Of course, people of faith know that God is always doing a new thing with each day, with each season, in every person. And we also know that every new thing is consistent with what God has done in Jesus Christ. What a new thing that was. No one expected that God would come and dwell amongst us; that the promised Messiah would be born to a very young couple with literally no place to lay the baby's head.

For years now, the Diocesan Liturgy Council, often in the good company of the Catholic Schools Office's Religious Education and Spirituality Team, has been inviting communities of faith to 'do new things' and to 'reimagine' the things we think we know so well. One of the most significant challenges of such an invitation is imagining what a new thing or a reimagined thing might look like, be like, sound like, feel like.

Spring teaches us about imagining and reimagining. New life springs from seeds planted some time ago, and from plants pruned.

And so it is with the invitation to do new things and reimagine constant things in our liturgy, our prayer and our worship. New

shoots emerge, enquiries and requests for accompaniment are made, new celebrations come to birth when the time is right and there is a readiness in the community.

It would seem that 'readiness' is in the spring air! To this readiness we can add the vision Bishop Michael Kennedy has begun to articulate, for a Church focused on mission and evangelisation, and for communities who celebrate good and life-giving prayer, worship and liturgy, and who are constantly engaged in faith formation.

I am feeling a synergy between vision and readiness, between hope and reality. So, if you think the Church is dormant, I invite you to ponder the following:

The Maitland Catholic Region has begun a focused journey into 'Forming the Sacramental Life of the Church'. For months now, Fr Andrew Doohan and I have been listening to the comprehensive dream of the leadership team and we have shaped a formation pathway to respond to the needs and hopes they have identified. We began the journey with a foundational workshop that invited participants to reflect on our deep Catholic understanding of sacrament and liturgy. About 62 people participated in two workshops, and we are scheduling a third to accommodate those who couldn't get to the first two. At the workshop, we joked about a ten-year journey that will unfold in response to need and interest, and will be paced to accommodate the busyness of people. The next step will be a formation retreat day called 'Ministering at Two Tables'.

Some months ago, the Myall Coast Parish approached me with a similar need. I met a couple of times with an extended Leadership Team, sometimes with 12 or 15 people sitting around the table sharing their needs and reflections. From that, we shaped a Formation retreat day focused on 'Forming the Liturgical Life of the Church'. We had about 20 people last Thursday, and there is an open-ended invitation for us to continue to develop further opportunities as needs and desires continue to emerge.

Several months ago, Singleton Parish requested Stepping Stones formation for new and existing bereavement ministers. The Maitland Catholic Region had a similar need, Muswellbrook Parish was invited to participate, and now Stepping Stones is being hosted by Singleton Parish with a mix of people from Muswellbrook to Maitland. Such a mix of participants enriches the formation experience for all. This group is currently in the midst of Stepping Stones formation component, We Grieve II.

In all three of these formation journeys parish communities are focused on refreshing existing liturgical ministers and forming new ministers in such a way that existing ministers become mentors for new ministers.

Formation for the ministry of Christian Initiation is both a huge need and an exciting space that the Christian Initiation Forum has been nurturing since 2019 when Nick and Diana from Team Initiation spent a day with us. Since then, lots of buds and new shoots have begun to emerge, including the development of a suite of Diocesan Resources titled 'Come and See'. These provide practical support to parishes who feel ready to reimagine this ministry in accord with the vision, principles and practice of the Rite of Christian initiation of Adults (RCIA). All resources are available on the diocesan website. [Click on the 'Reimagining ...' drop-down menu.]

Currently, the Christian Initiation Forum is excited to be accompanying the City Region as they embark on a formation journey focused on forming a new team and growing the whole community's capacity to be an initiating and evangelising community. The Church says very clearly that both ministries – evangelisation and initiation – are the responsibility of the whole parish community. We are grateful to the City Region who are

open to learning with us and for the sake of the whole diocesan community.

On Saturday, 14 September, the Christian Initiation Forum hosted its first diocesan formation day. These days are called 'Tilling the Soil of Christian Initiation'. The first day titled 'I call you friends', dug deep into the soil of God's invitation to friendship, our Catholic understanding of revelation and faith, and Mystagogical Reflection. Some participants went away to ponder how they might wake up their parish community to its responsibility for this ministry, and how they could ensure the ministry functions for the whole year. Both are big steps for parishes already hosting the RCIA.

With Bishop Michael's vision for us to be a missionary and evangelising Church, perhaps the most exciting new shoot in the prayer and liturgy landscape is Sacred Heart Beat. Sacred Heart Beat is developing a range of pastoral music strategies to reach out to a wider cross-section of people than those who usually hang out in our parish communities and particularly our worship. Earlier in the year, we had our first go at a 'Catholic Praise and Worship Liturgy of the Word'. Last Saturday, we had our first ever 'Creation Sings', which is a version of the popular community choir phenomenon. About 60 people participated and we are very happy with that start. We had a great time learning a song and then we prayed. The song we learnt was part of the prayer. We will have similar events over the next twelve months. 'Sing to the Lord' is our cantor formation process, and the first group of cantors is now well into their practicum. The Diocesan Choir invites the participation of all interested singers into the choir for our big diocesan liturgies and events. Currently there are about 70 people on the database. They participate when it suits them. Some will be part of the choir for the annual National Police Remembrance Service we are hosting in the Cathedral this Friday, 27 September. The Service starts at 10.00 am. Please come along and stand with our Police Officers as they remember their colleagues who have been killed in the line of duty or who have died.

This litany of emerging buds and shoots are just the highlights.

To go back to where I began: In part what we are endeavouring to do in diocesan ministry is help parishes and other faith communities to imagine what could be and reimagine what is. Some of the opportunities outlined above model what can be done. The invitation is always there to 'Come and See'. We are more than happy to accompany and support any community who would like to give something a go. Everything we do is available to share.

This is an exciting time and an exciting space that prompts and invites much reflection and learning together. The journey also asks a lot from us:

To be committed to ongoing faith formation and to good and life-giving prayer, worship, and liturgy requires readiness. We are not all ready. Communities are different. It is important to invite everyone and to accompany those who are ready.

It requires that each of us keeps focused on the good of the whole community. I participate in formation because the community needs me to, and the experience would be lacking something if I excluded myself.

It requires an openness and humility to stand before the mystery of God, the mystery of our Catholic faith, the mystery of our prayer and liturgy, aware that I and we do not know and understand it all, and never will. I am always forgetting some of what I thought I knew. I can always learn and deepen my appreciation of anything to do with the mystery of God.

It requires that we remember that in the celebration of Sacraments, and particularly the Eucharist, we do what the books say, while making use of the inbuilt flexibility. The Sacraments

celebrate and form us in our Catholic Faith, the life and mission of the Church. I stand humbly before that mystery open to listen and receive, and to engage in the ongoing journey of conversation which requires learning – unlearning - relearning.

'See, God is doing a new thing' in us and with us as we open ourselves to the movement of the Holy Spirit who is always calling us forward. Anything mentioned is available to any parish when you feel ready to explore possibilities. The great gift of being part of a diocese is that we lean into each other's questions and strengths, and learn together. E: louise.gannon@mn.catholic.org.au

Diocesan Liturgy Council Update

To keep abreast of the work of the [Diocesan Liturgy Council](#), click on the link and then the 'Council News' drop-down menu, where you will find the latest meeting Report.

World Day of Migrants & Refugees Prayer

God, Almighty Father,
we are your pilgrim Church
journeying towards the Kingdom of heaven.
We live in our homeland,
but as if we were foreigners.
Every foreign place is our home,
yet every native land is foreign to us.
Though we live on earth,
our true citizenship is in heaven.
Do not let us become possessive
of the portion of the world
you have given us as a temporary home.
Help us to keep walking,
together with our migrant brothers and sisters,
toward the eternal dwelling you have prepared for us.
Open our eyes and our hearts
so that every encounter with those in need
becomes an encounter with Jesus, your Son and our Lord.
Amen.

Advent 2024: Awaiting Hope

We are called during this holy time to wait with hope knowing the joys of what is to come with the arrival of Christ. Awaiting Hope is a Diocesan resource that invites all members of the community to gather a circle of people – family, friends, colleagues, ministry teams to reflect mystagogically on the Advent Gospels. This is an opportunity to encounter Christ where we are, to pay attention to what Christ reveals in the scripture and the living tradition of our faith, to share this, to connect it to our life now and to be changed by it.

To access the resource, go to: <https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/liturgy/liturgical-year/advent-christmas-1/>

Scone Parish Secretary

Scone Parish is seeking a Parish Secretary, 14 hours per week. Hours are flexible and can be worked across Tuesday to Friday.

To apply, find the vacancy advertised on the Diocese website under Careers, Diocese positions vacant:

www.mn.catholic.org.au/about/careers/positions

We encourage anyone across the Diocese who is interested in the role to apply. Please contact Fr Graham Fullick for any further information about the role on (02) 6545 9911 or 0477 720 270.