



**St John  
Vianney**  
Parish Morisset



**THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR B 03 NOVEMBER 2024**

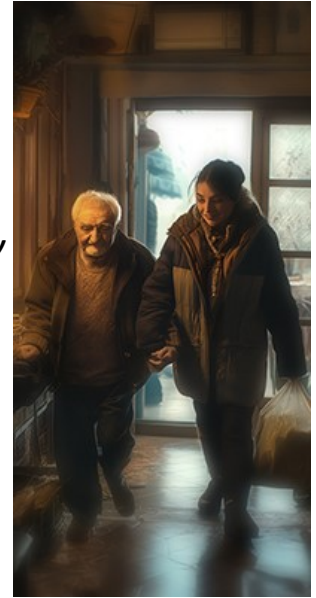
*Today's scripture readings remind us of one of the greatest truths in the Bible, that there are really only two commandments. The first is to love God, and the second is to love our neighbour.*

*The Scribe's question as to which commandment was the greatest, was one frequently discussed among the rabbis. Jesus was asked to name one, but responded by naming two.*

*Although the laws are numbered "first" and "second," they are, in truth, only one. The Scribe fully agreed with Jesus, and went on to declare that true love of God and the loving service of others are more important than elaborate practices.*

*Jesus' answer to the question from the Scribe, also reaches out to ask us, where we stand today. Are we content with fulfilling our weekly obligation, to gather and worship God, and celebrate God's goodness? Or will we carry over that celebration into the rest of the week.*

*If only loving God and our neighbour was easy!*



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 :**

- Friday 1st November 7pm  
Mass—Morisset
- Saturday 2nd November 5pm  
Family Mass—Morisset
- Sunday 3rd November 9.30am  
Mass—Morisset
- Tuesday 5th November 9.30am  
Liturgy—Morisset
- Friday 8th November 10.30am  
Mass—Morisset
- Saturday 9th November 5pm  
Mass—Cooranbong
- Sunday 10th November 9.30am  
Mass—Morisset
- Tuesday 12th November 9.30am  
Liturgy—Morisset
- Friday 15th November 10.30am  
Mass—Morisset
- Saturday 16th November 5pm  
Family Mass— Morisset
- Sunday 17th November 9.30am  
Mass—Morisset
- Tuesday 19th November 9.30am  
Liturgy—Morisset
- Friday 22nd November 10.30am  
Mass—Morisset

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## **New Altar Servers**

Our Parish would like to welcome Lisa Hutchison and Jacque Foo to the Ministry of Altar Server. The Parish is glad to have you as part of this important ministry. The Altar Server occupies a privileged place in the Liturgical celebrations. The Altar Server experiences firsthand that Jesus Christ is present in the gathered community, the table of the Word and the table of the Eucharist.

## **Melbourne Cup**

It is planned that on Tuesday 5th November 2024 there will be a Melbourne Cup function held in the Callinan Centre. If you are interested in attending contact Marcia or Michell Foo.

## **Feast of Christ the King -24th November**

If anyone has a significant birthday to celebrate, or would like to renew their wedding vows, or has lost a partner recently, it is planned that at the 9.30am Mass, on the Feast of Christ the King, parishioners will be able to celebrate these events.

If you are interested in receiving a special blessing to acknowledge these milestones, please complete the online form at: <https://forms.office.com/r/VazV4M0fiL> or the hard copy ones at the back of the church and place in the box provided.

## **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.

Christmas Mass Times will be announced when the availability of priests is determined.

## **GOSPEL**

### **Mark 12:28-34**

*This is the first commandment, and the second is similar to it.*

One of the scribes came up to Jesus and put a question to him, 'Which is the first of all the commandments?' Jesus replied, 'This is the first: Listen, Israel, the Lord our God is the one Lord, and you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: You must love your neighbour as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.' The scribe said to him, 'Well spoken, Master; what you have said is true: that he is one and there is no other. To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and strength, and to love your neighbour as yourself, this is far more important than any holocaust or sacrifice.' Jesus, seeing how wisely he had spoken, said, 'You are not far from the kingdom of God.' And after that no one dared to question him any more.

## **THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Year B — Reflection 3rd November 2024**

Today's Scripture readings remind us of one of the greatest truths in the Bible, namely there are only two commandments. The first is love of God, and the second is love of neighbour.

By rabbinical count, 'the Law' at the time of Jesus, consisted of some 613 commandments.

The Scribe's (Canon Lawyer) question to Jesus, as to which commandment was the greatest, was one that was frequently discussed among the rabbis at that time. What Jesus did in response was to put the two together, thus emphasizing the essential relatedness of them. This emphasis on love, became for Christians, the characteristic of the Christian religion.

On Friday and Saturday, the Feast of All Saints and All Souls set the tone for November, as a time to remember those who have gone before us. Our concern for the deceased should be matched by our concern for the living. It is not enough for us to worship God, if we do not embrace our neighbours. Reverence and hospitality in worship should not be in conflict; both are essential for true Christian worship. According to the Bible a religion in conflict is a distortion.

As we come to the end of the church year, now is a good time to take stock of our lives. In every moment, we are given a choice. Are there places we have strayed from the essential core of Jesus' message? Do my actions and my very being communicate reverence for God and reverence for neighbour?

When they do, like the scribe in today's Gospel, we are not far from the kingdom of God.

John France

## **Resumption of Communion from the chalice Message from Bishop Michael Kennedy 23 October 2024**

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Having received advice from the Diocesan Liturgical Council and discussed the matter extensively with the Council of Priests at several meetings I am allowing the resumption of Communion from the Chalice from the First Sunday of Advent, 1 December 2024.

Here, I call attention to a few considerations.

Whilst receiving Holy Communion under both kinds is a fuller sign, a person who chooses to receive only the Host, still receives Christ whole and entire.

A person with symptoms of cold, flu, Covid, or other virus should not share the chalice with others.

Each parish should undertake its own discernment of whether and when to implement this resumption.

Given the practical considerations it is therefore of the utmost importance for parishes to undertake proper discernment about this.

**A few points for our parish to consider are:**

**1 Are appropriate sanitising protocols in place.**

**2 Are metal Chalices available for use.**

**3 Do we have sufficient formed Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion to offer the Chalice at each Mass**

**4 Do we have enough formed Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion willing to consume the Precious Blood remaining after Communion at each Mass.**

## **Vinnies Christmas Appeal**

The local Vinnies Conference will conduct their Christmas Appeal on the Weekend of the Sat 30th November and Sun 1st December. —(First Sunday in Advent)

## **Annual Thanksgiving Mass and Luncheon**

The Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle Catholic Women's League will be hosting the Annual Mass of Thanksgiving on Thursday, 14 November at St. Paul's Church, Rutherford at 12pm.

The luncheon will follow at Telarah Bowling Club on Clarke St, Telarah at 1.00pm. Lunch is \$40.00 per person (we can cater for dietary requirements, let us know when you book in).

### **EVERYONE IS WELCOME!**

Please RSVP for the luncheon to either of the contacts below by Wednesday 6 November. Payment for the lunch will also be required before the event date. Please contact Colleen ph. 0427 327 611 or [ccanny4@bigpond.com](mailto:ccanny4@bigpond.com) or Margo ph. 0439 758 211 or [bjmnan4@bigpond.com](mailto:bjmnan4@bigpond.com)

## 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?

#### Month of the Holy Souls

One of the most ancient customs related to respect for the dead is to visit graves, place flowers on them, and pray there in memory of loved ones. This has continued throughout the centuries. During pre-Christian times, it was common for pagans to celebrate rituals related to their dead at the end of the harvest. These customs influenced Christians to do the same. The month of November has traditionally been dedicated to those who have died.

Black was considered one of the five liturgical colours in the 13th century. It was associated in the western world with the theme of death and mourning and was used for funerals and Masses for the dead until recent times. It is not used today, however. Emphasis today is on the positive and joyful theme of resurrection for funerals. The colour white is symbolic for this theme and is now used universally for funerals.

## With A Light Heart

Paddy and Mick were standing at the base of a flagpole, looking up. A woman walked by and asked what they were doing.

"We're supposed to work out the height of the flagpole," said Paddy. "but we don't have a ladder."

The woman took a spanner from her purse and loosened a few bolts. She then laid the pole down, took a tape measure from her pocket, and measured the pole. She proudly said, "Six metres, fifteen centimetres."

She then walked away.

Mick shook his head and laughed. "Well now! Ain't that just dandy! We ask for the height, and she gives us the length!"

## CatholicCare Christmas Hampers

CatholicCare Social Services Hunter-Manning have started collected donations for their 2024 Christmas Hamper Drive. The team is hoping to spread Christmas cheer by gifting hampers to people who access their Community Kitchens and often go without over the festive period. If you would like to contribute, please drop off any of the following items to one of the listed locations below.

Christmas puddings/cake & custard - Chocolates, lollies or candy canes Sweet or savoury biscuits - Tea bags, coffee, hot chocolate, sugar, Chips or popcorn.

CatholicCare office – 50 Crebert Street, Mayfield CatholicCare office – 32-34 Pulteney Street, Taree | Coles Taree | Coles Stockland Forster

## 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/>

## 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)

## 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 5th Nov 2024**. Bookings can be made online at the link at: <https://forms.office.com/r/wZtatkt01V>

## Nominations now open!

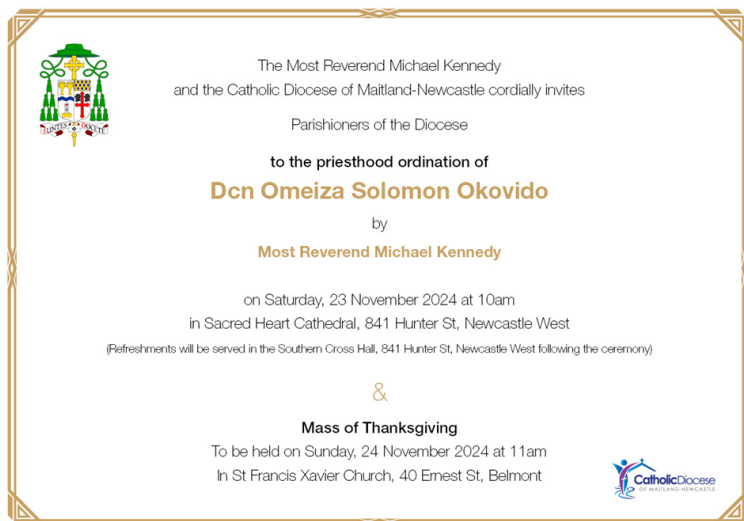
Nominations are now open for the annual EMMAUS Awards. The EMMAUS Awards recognise the contribution of our staff in schools, celebrating the achievement of excellence in Catholic Schools.

Catholic Schools Office PUBLISHED October 11, 2024

Now is the time to start thinking about nominating a worthy colleague, or your school community, in a range of categories including.

Innovation, Leadership, Excellence in Teaching, School Support, Catholic School Community, First Five Years of Teaching, Vocational Education Teaching, Sisters of St Joseph Lochinvar Education.


[Click here to nominate online](#). Nominations close on Friday 22 November. [Click here for further information on the CSO website](#).



The Most Reverend Michael Kennedy  
and the Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle cordially invites  
Parishioners of the Diocese  
to the priesthood ordination of  
**Dcn Omeiza Solomon Okovido**  
by  
**Most Reverend Michael Kennedy**  
on Saturday, 23 November 2024 at 10am  
in Sacred Heart Cathedral, 841 Hunter St, Newcastle West  
(Refreshments will be served in the Southern Cross Hall, 841 Hunter St, Newcastle West following the ceremony)

&

Mass of Thanksgiving  
To be held on Sunday, 24 November 2024 at 11am  
in St Francis Xavier Church, 40 Ernest St, Belmont



**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.

| <b>WEEKEND ROSTERS</b> |               |                                  |  |
|------------------------|---------------|----------------------------------|--|
|                        |               | <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 | J Vipan<br>M Melvey              | L Hutchinson<br>P Melvey               |
| <u>PSALMIST:</u>       | 5PM<br>9.30AM | K Lendon<br>H White              | J France<br>U France                   |
| <u>GIFTS</u>           | 5PM<br>9.30AM | P Melvey<br>A Walker<br>G Walker | K Lendon<br>H White<br>K Tonkin<br>TBA |
| <u>SERVERS</u>         | 5PM<br>9.30AM | M Melvey<br>F Dyson<br>V Paulo   | M Melvey<br>C Lawandos                 |
| <u>AV</u>              | 5PM<br>9.30AM | J France<br>T Alexander          | U France<br>E Lawandos                 |
| <u>WELCOMERS</u>       | 5PM<br>9.30AM | TBA<br>J France                  | Cameron Family<br>C Lawandos           |
| <u>CHURCH CLEANING</u> | COOR<br>MOR   | XXXX<br>C Lawandos<br>K Lendon   | J Scully<br>R Hay<br>C Hay             |

*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**

- THE COMMEMORATION OF ALL THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED –2ND NOV
- SAINT CHARLES BORROME0 (M) - 4TH NOV
- THE DEDICATION OF THE LATERAN BASILICA (F) - 9TH NOV
- SAINT MARTIN OF TOURS (M) - 11TH NOV
- SAINT JOSAPHAT (M) - 12TH NOV
- PRESENTATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY (M) - 21ST NOV
- SAINT CECILIA (M) - 22ND NOV
- OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE (S) - 24TH NOV
- SAINT ANDREW (F) - 30TH NOV
- SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER (M) - 3RD DEC

**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, 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**

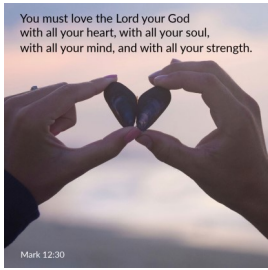
My Jesus,  
I believe that You  
are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.  
I love You above all things,  
and I desire to receive You into my soul.  
Since I cannot at this moment  
receive You sacramentally,  
come at least spiritually into my heart.  
I embrace You as if You were already there and 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**



You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.

## SUNDAY PRAYER SERVICE

### Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

#### Year B

#### Sunday 03 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 gather us from the ends of the earth: Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, you come in word and sacrament to strengthen us in holiness: Christ, have mercy.

All: Christ, have mercy.

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

All: Lord, have mercy.

Leader:

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

All:

Amen.

#### Opening Prayer

Leader:

Let us pray.

All pause for silent prayer.

God our Father

you have called us to love you with our whole being.

Help us to live out your commandment of love by serving you and loving our neighbour.

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

All:

Amen.

#### The Liturgy of the Word

#### First Reading

#### Deuteronomy 6:2-6

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy

*Hear Israel, you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart.*

Moses said to the people: 'If you fear the Lord your God all the days of your life and if you keep all his laws and commandments which I lay on you, you will have a long life, you and your son and your grandson. Listen then, Israel, keep and observe what will make you prosper and give you great increase, as the Lord God of your fathers has promised you, giving you a land where milk and honey flow.

'Listen, Israel: The Lord our God is the one Lord. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength. Let these words I urge on you today be written on your heart.'

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

The word of the Lord.

All reply:

Thanks be to God.

#### Responsorial Psalm

#### Ps 17:2-4. 47. 51. R.v.2

(R.) I love you Lord, my strength.

1. I love you, Lord, my strength, my rock, my fortress, my saviour. My God is the rock where I take refuge; my shield, my mighty help, my stronghold. The Lord is worthy of all praise: when I call I am saved from my foes. (R.)
2. Long life to the Lord, my rock! Praised be to the God that saves me. He has given great victories to his king and shown love for his anointed. (R.)

#### Second Reading

#### Hebrews 7:23-28

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

*This one, because he remains for ever, has an eternal priesthood.*

There used to be a great number of priests under the former covenant, because death put an end to each one of them; but this one, Christ, because he remains for ever, can never lose his priesthood. It follows, then, that his power to save is utterly certain, since he is living for ever to intercede for all who come to God through him.

To suit us, the ideal high priest would have to be holy, innocent and uncontaminated, beyond the influence of sinners, and raised up above the heavens; one who would not need to offer sacrifices every day, as the other high priests do for their own sins and then for those of the people,

because he has done this once and for all by offering himself. The Law appoints high priests who are men subject to weakness; but the promise on oath, which came after the Law, appointed the Son who is made perfect for ever.

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 **Mark**

All:

Glory to you, O Lord.

### Mark 12:28-34

*This is the first commandment, and the second is similar to it.*

One of the scribes came up to Jesus and put a question to him, 'Which is the first of all the commandments?' Jesus replied, 'This is the first: Listen, Israel, the Lord our God is the one Lord, and you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: You must love your neighbour as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.' The scribe said to him, 'Well spoken, Master; what you have said is true: that he is one and there is no other. To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and strength, and to love your neighbour as yourself, this is far more important than any holocaust or sacrifice.' Jesus, seeing how wisely he had spoken, said, 'You are not far from the kingdom of God.' And after that no one dared to question him any more.

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 is significant about a scribe asking Jesus about the Law?

Q. What does it mean to love God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength?

Q. Why is the qualifier of 'as yourself' important in the commandment to love your neighbour?

Q. How would our world be different if people genuinely loved their neighbours?

Q. Which aspect/s of the commandments Jesus named do you need to work on at the moment?

## 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,  
who is our strength and our shield.

Reader: That the Holy Church will grow in unity for the salvation  
of all people.

In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That those forsaken by their loved ones will find refuge  
and strength in Jesus Christ.

In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That world leaders and governments will be guided by  
God's commandments.

In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That our parish community may show charity to our  
neighbours through Christian love.

In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That all the sick, including family, and friends, may they  
find healing through God's love.

In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That all those who have died, including family and  
friends, may they dwell forever with the Lord.

In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Loving God, you reveal to us your commandments of  
love. Hear our prayers, and help us to keep your word  
by showing devotion to you and love to all humanity.  
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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## NSW Catholic Charismatic Renewal – Thanksgiving End of Year Mass

You are invited to join the NSW Catholic Charismatic Renewal for their 2024 End of Year Mass. It's an opportunity to give thanks to the Lord for all he has done this year. Fr Brian Steele will preside over the service from 10.30am at Our Lady of Fatima Church and Parish Hall in Peakhurst. Please bring a plate to share for lunch. Registrations are essential: [www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1269282](http://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1269282)

## Real Women- Placing Value on Womanhood

Having a daughter who recently welcomed her own daughter into the world, I have been reflecting on the importance of the bonds between women within the family setting, within a circle of friends, amongst work colleagues and social networks.

Rosemary McAllister PUBLISHED October 29, 2024

While May is the month devoted to Mary, I often ponder her life during the month of October as we contemplate and pray the rosary. I also reflect on Mary knowing that she would have been entering her third trimester of pregnancy, the image of the visitation not only fills by vision but all my senses.

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear." Luke 1:41-42

Having a daughter who recently welcomed her own daughter into the world, I have been reflecting on the importance of the bonds between women within the family setting, within a circle of friends, amongst work colleagues and social networks. It is in conversation with female solo travellers, that they offer speak fondly about the encounters and connections with other female travellers on the journey. Often contact details are exchanged and invitations for return visits or catch ups on future travels ventures are made.

Recently I have come to learn more about a group of women from the Boolaroo/Warners Bay parish who have been working together for over the last 17 years to bring women together to feel special, loved and spoilt.

In March 2007 Real Women's Café Nights was launched as God placed an idea firmly on the heart of late Kerrie Bush to bring real women of all walks of life together to listen and learn from one

another. Yvonne Potter who is also no longer with us, along with Sue Campbell worked together with Kerrie to bring the Real Women's vision to life.

The Café Nights who come together several times a year attracts over 150+ women at each of the gatherings to listen to a guest presenter, meet new people and develop friendships. Over the years some women have attended by themselves, and beautiful relationships have developed because of the Real Women's Cafe Nights.

There have been over 50 guest presenters over the years and recently I have felt privileged to be asked to present at the Christmas Café Night next month. The presentation will be on the diocesan annual pilgrimage, the aMeN caMiNo and will focus on its origin and progression, its benefits and impact as well as hearing insights from those who have undertaken and assisted the journeys.

If you would like to make a booking, please contact Sue on 0417 091 255

Christmas Real Women- Placing Value on Womanhood, Café Night

Date: Monday 18 November

Time: 7.30pm - 9.15pm (Tea and coffee served from 7.00pm)

Place: St Mary's Catholic Church Hall Bayview St, Warners Bay

Cost: Donation of \$15 per person. Specific diet requirements will be met as far as possible. Please advise when purchasing tickets with Sue above.

## Christian Meditation

You're invited to join the WCCM Meditation Community for their next event on Saturday 30 November. It starts at 9.30am at the Diocesan Resource Centre. Morning tea is provided. Donations of \$10 are appreciated. Contact Anne for more info by emailing [annecuskelly@hotmail.com](mailto:annecuskelly@hotmail.com) or phoning 0407 436 808.

## 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.

## Be open to the rollercoaster

Twenty-five lives in 15 years.

Elizabeth Symington PUBLISHED October 28, 2024

That's how many children have known love and stability thanks to CatholicCare Hunter-Manning foster carer Megan Powell.

From respite care through to guardianship/permanent care, Megan has welcomed children from all backgrounds to help them move forward and grow.

When it comes to why she got into foster care, the answer is simple.

"I had a lot of love to give and felt that I could shower that love on vulnerable children when they need it most," she said.

"These children have done nothing wrong; it is not their fault, they did not choose this pathway. They deserve support to become happy and healthy and go on to bigger and better things.

"It's an honour to help them and show them love."

For Megan, her journey as a carer has been full of ups and downs.

"Saying goodbye to the children is really difficult, and it is 100% the reason that most people say 'I could never do it'," she said.

"But the reality is somebody has to, and I've always maintained that I am stronger than they are so I can absorb it.

"There is no doubt that I grieve every single one of them, but I'm a big part of their life, and that outweighs it.

"I've helped set them up for a lifetime of happiness and given them the ability to bond and attach to someone and have a chance at a good life.

"I am very proud of that."

Over the 15 years, Megan has experienced many highlights, but nothing was more special than being awarded guardianship over her two sons – Noah\* and Riley\*.

In 2016, she decided to pursue becoming their legal guardian after caring for them since they were babies.

It took three and half years, but with the support of both boys' birth families, Megan was eventually granted guardianship and now has three children – her sons Noah and Riley and her biological daughter Lara\*.

"It was a long journey, but it was certainly worth it. I love them both so much," she said.

Now, as an emergency carer, Megan looks after newborn babies who have no one else to turn to.

She takes care of these children until their birth families are strong enough to welcome them back home.

"I have looked after some babies who have had a very traumatic start to life, so I do believe that I've played a part in saving their life and giving them a chance," Megan said.

At the time of writing, Megan was caring for seven-month-old William\* and had not long said goodbye to six-month-old Daisy\*.

"It's an emotional rollercoaster, but you have to be open to the wonder of foster care. The ride is definitely worth it," she said.

Early last month, Megan was recognised for her incredible work when she was nominated and became a finalist for Emergency Carer of the Year at the My Forever Family NSW Carer Recognition Awards.

She was both shocked and honoured by the nomination.

"It's very kind. It's nice to be recognised for what I've done, and will continue to do, for children in need," she said.

"I am very passionate about child protection and will continue on this pathway for as long as I can."

Megan encourages anyone thinking about becoming a foster carer to do their research and start slow with respite care.

"I've always believed people should start with respite care," she explained.

"Sometimes people go into it thinking that loving a child is enough, but that is just not the case.

"It's fantastic that you do love the children, but it's not enough because there's much more involved.

"These children often come from traumatic backgrounds and will need a lot of support to settle in.

"You have to be open to being part of a team, to be open to embracing birth family, and be willing to bring someone new, not only into your life but your whole family's lives.

"It will impact every single part of your family, so you need to make sure everyone is ready for it.

"It is life-changing and a rollercoaster of ups and downs, but it is absolutely worth it."

Since becoming a foster carer, Megan has been with CatholicCare Social Services Hunter-Manning. She says the agency is a great support and that she has had so many wonderful caseworkers over the years.

For more information on becoming a foster carer with CatholicCare, please visit [fostercare.catholiccare.org.au](https://fostercare.catholiccare.org.au)

### **Celebrating our 2024 SBAT Graduates**

St Nicholas Pathways celebrated the graduation of their latest cohort of eighteen School-Based Traineeship (SBAT) students.

Marking the culmination of a two-year training period, this achievement is the beginning of an exciting journey into a rewarding industry and further professional development

opportunities.

Our graduating SBATs have shown their ability to balance their academic studies with their professional development, highlighting their commitment to personal and professional growth. The experience they have gained not only enhances their resume but also provides a solid foundation for their future career in the education space.

The SBAT program allows participating students to work towards a qualification that can lead directly to employment, as well as an opportunity to continue their learning pathway with advanced entry into university whilst completing their HSC.

St Nicholas Pathways is excited to hear about what comes next for this talented group.

#### **The St Nicholas Pathways SBAT Program**

Running for two years (during years 11 and 12), the SBAT program comprises an online theoretical component and 100 days of paid on-the-job work placement. Students will receive face-to-face support from a St Nicholas mentor, trainer and assessor, and a registered training organisation (RTO) supervisor. Upon completion, students will have the necessary qualifications to commence their career as an early childhood educator.

Benefits of a St Nicholas Pathways school-based traineeship include:

A nationally recognised entry-level qualification in early education and care (CHC30121 Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care)

Fast-track post-secondary studies, potentially costing less time and money to obtain further qualifications in the sector

A direct pathway from school to a career

Paid on-the-job training at a St Nicholas Early Education centre or St Nicholas OOSH service

Dedicated mentors provide school-based trainees with solid support throughout the program, from sign-up to completion

Opportunities to demonstrate workplace skills and experience to prospective employers.

For more information about the St Nicholas Pathways SBAT program [click here](#).

### **Halloween and what we can do as Christians.**

Halloween, once a predominantly American celebration, has now firmly taken root in Australian society. But what exactly is Halloween? Observed on October 31st, it marks the eve (or "een") of All Saints Day on November 1st. The term "Hallow" means holy, as in "hallowed be thy name." Historically, Halloween originated as a pre-Christian Celtic festival marking the end of summer in the Northern Hemisphere. Pagans believed that the increased darkness allowed spirits to be more mischievous, leading people to leave out treats to appease them. Fiona Duque PUBLISHED October 30, 2024

With the advent of Christianity, the focus shifted to reflecting on the Communion of Saints during this period. For Christians today, Halloween can be a time to blend tradition with faith. Before sending children out for trick-or-treating, families might spend time in prayer, remembering loved ones who have passed away. Exploring family history and learning about saints, particularly those chosen during confirmation, can also be meaningful activities. Additionally, sharing the treats collected with those in need can transform Halloween into an opportunity for giving.

By understanding its origins and incorporating elements of faith, Halloween can be more than just costumes and candy—it can be a time of reflection, remembrance, and community. This approach allows families to honor the deeper, spiritual aspects of the season while still participating in the fun and festivities. Engaging in these practices can enrich the experience, making it a more holistic celebration that respects both its historical roots and contemporary customs.