



**St John
Vianney**
Parish Morisset



FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR B 17 MARCH 2024

In the Gospel today, Jesus says 'If a grain of wheat falls on the ground and dies, it yields a rich harvest'.

There is a huge paradox in all of this. A paradox is defined as a seemingly absurd or self contradictory statement, which is never the less true. A grain of wheat has to die to bear fruit. And a single grain of wheat can produce as many as seventy grains.

Jesus gave us an example. Jesus's life wasn't taken from him. He gave it, and gave it out of love of God and of us.

We must die to self in order to bear fruits of love. The dying of self is a gradual process and happens in little ways. Every act of humility involves dying of pride. Every act of love involves dying of selfishness and so on. Thus the false self dies, and the true self, made in god's image, is born and nurtured.



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 PRIEST:** Fr John Purnell
- PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL:** Juliet Hutchins
Mal Melvey
Pam Melvey
Kerry Lendon
Rod Hay
- PARISH SECRETARY:** Rosanna Suckling

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Morisset Parish Instagram : https://www.instagram.com/stjvparish_morisset/
Morisset Parish Bulletin Items: morparish@mn.catholic.org.au
(Please submit all Bulletin Notice requests to the parish office by 2pm Wednesdays)

Email the Parish Office to Subscribe for an Electronic Bulletin .

UPCOMING WORSHIP TIMES :

- Saturday 16th March 5pm
Family Mass—Morisset
- Sunday 17th March 9.30am
Mass—Morisset
- Tuesday 19th March 9.30am
Liturgy—Morisset
- Saturday 23rd March 5pm
Mass—Cooranbong
- Sunday 24th March 9.30am
Mass—Morisset
- Thursday 28th March 7pm
Holy Thursday—Morisset
- Friday 29th March 3pm
Good Friday—Morisset
- Saturday 30th March 6pm
Easter Vigil— Morisset
- Sunday 31st March 9.30am
East Sunday—Morisset
- Tuesday 2nd April 9.30am
Liturgy—Morisset
- Saturday 6th April 5pm
Family Mass—Morisset
- Sunday 7th April 9.30am
Mass—Morisset
- Tuesday 9th April 9.30am
Liturgy—Morisset

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Reflection for Fifth Sunday of Lent Year B — 17th March 2024

Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies," Jesus says, "it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit."

Just as the grain of wheat has to die in order to bear fruit, so must we die to self, to live fruitfully, and realise our full potential as human beings and children of God.

What a poor world it would be if everyone put their own personal safety, security and selfish advancement first and last, if no one was prepared to go beyond themselves. It is because people have been prepared to die to self-interest, that the most precious things that humanity possesses has been born.

As Lent progresses, we come closer to the heart and meaning of the Gospel: that Jesus must suffer and die for new life to happen. There is nothing here about rules, practices, theological formulae or perfection. Jesus embraced what is painful and frightening to achieve life on our behalf.

Today, as we approach the Holy Week, we are challenged to consider if we are alive, or living among the dead? Perhaps challenged that some of our patterns of thinking and behaving, may not be life-giving at all. Without realising it, we may for better or worse, be taking on board the values and assumptions of our culture.

Our focus should be on the will of Christ, who calls us out of the of tomb and darkness, into the light of the community and the church family.

Christians today, like those in John's community, still face the great mystery of death, and struggle with the idea that we have, that we will somehow be lost and abandoned to an unknown destiny that awaits us.

Pope Francis reminds us: "Faith must be renewed and refreshed again and again. God does not give us faith by dictating abstract truths; God revealed himself in history by entering into it with us."

Next week we celebrate Palm/Passion Sunday which leads us into Holy Week. Which is our invitation to enter more deeply into the life of Christ, which is our own life and vocation, from birth and baptism.

Jesus is in the world through us. If we do not imitate him, our world will not know Easter.

This leaves us with one question. Are we willing to risk the cost of having God's law written on our hearts? -John France

Lenten Journey

The Watagan Deanery Lenten Journey will conclude next week at Warners Bay. The day has been changed to from Tuesday 19th March to Wednesday 20th March 6.30pm.

This is to allow the clergy of the diocese to attend explanation sessions relating to the new Voluntary Assisted Dying Legislation. (VAD)

Thank you to the people who participated with the proclaiming, and the Journey of the Cross tableaux in our church last Tuesday evening.

Ministry Volunteers Holy Week Availabilities

Dear Ministry Volunteers. If you haven't already done so, could you please inform us ASAP, which services you are available to help with during Holy Week, by completing the online form at: <https://forms.office.com/r/bKbqiyHYZ5> or by calling the Parish Office. Thank you to those who already have.

Confirmation 2024

Advice has been received from the Chancery Office that Bishop Michael Kennedy, will administer the Sacrament of Confirmation in our Parish on Friday Evening 20th September.

Way of the Cross

Join us for the Ecumenical Way of the Cross
We have invited fourteen different communities to share the gift of their culture through song, movement, and story.

DIOCESE OF MAITLAND-NEWCASTLE BRENDON
MANNYX PUBLISHED MARCH 12, 2024

"At a time when the world is becoming more polarised than ever, we are invited to come and express our unity as one universal church."

That's a statement from Brendon Mannyx, Manager – Community and Mission, ahead of this year's Ecumenical Way of the Cross.

Taking place this Sunday 17 March from 3pm on the grounds of our St Joseph's Parish in Toronto, the event is inviting us into a multicultural journey of remembrance.

We have invited fourteen different communities to share the gift of their culture through song, movement, and story. Each station of the cross will be expressed through a different cultural heritage from all parts of the globe.

Recognising that we are 'one body in Christ,' it is hoped that this experience will draw us into the beauty of the rich diversity of faith expressions that are celebrated across our Diocese and broader Christian community. This tradition has been celebrated in our diocese for 56 years.

"If you have never experienced the Ecumenical Way of the Cross, we strongly encourage you to come and share the afternoon with us," Brendon said.

"Make sure to wear good walking shoes as our journey will take us through the beautiful bushland setting of Toronto parish.

Wear long pants, be sun safe, and remember the insect repellent. It is a fully immersive faith experience and we will finish with a multicultural afternoon tea."

When: Sunday 17 March, 3pm (you are invited to gather from 2pm) Where: St Joseph's Catholic Church (140 Wangi Road, Kilaben Bay)

With A Light Heart.

A school student is writing an essay on childbirth and asks his parents, "How was I born?"

His mother awkwardly answers, "The stork brought you."

"Oh," says the boy. "Well, how were you and Daddy born?"

"Um, well, the stork brought us, too, and Grandpa and Grandma."

The boy starts his essay by saying, "This report has been very difficult to write due to the fact that there hasn't been a natural childbirth in my family for three generations."

A Second Laugh

#A teenager brings her new boyfriend home to meet her parents. They're disgusted by his haircut, piercings, and manner of dress.

Later, when he leaves, the girl's mum says, "Dear, he doesn't seem to be a very nice boy."

"Oh, please, mum!" says the daughter. "If he wasn't nice, why would he be doing 500 hours of community service?"



Project Compassion



The work of Caritas Australia is only possible with generous supporters and the dedication, passion and tenacity of our local partners who implement the programs. They are the heroes on the ground working tirelessly behind-the-scenes every day to create a better future for their communities.

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from the back of the church, or by visiting our parish Project Compassion fundraising page at:

<https://parishes.projectcompassion.org.au/o/morrisset-catholic-parish-2264> or by calling 1800 024 413.

Save the Date! Friday 31 May

Join us for the official opening of the Diocesan Library which stands on the site of the original Newcastle Central Christian Library opened in 1957.

This celebration will be followed by a reimagined TWEC dinner which will acknowledge the legacy of Sisters of St Joseph and explore our future journey. More details will be shared soon.

aMeN caMiNo Information / Walk & Talk

If you are considering attending one of the aMeN caMiNos this year and want more information, please join us for the Information / Walk & Talk on Saturday 27 April commencing at 8.30am at St Columba's Parish Hall, Lockyer St, Adamstown.

After an information session, we will set off on our walk, returning around 1.30pm. Contact formed@mncatholic.org.au to register or for further information.

aMeN caMiNo 2024 Dates: 6-10 July, 3-7 August and 7-8 September.

Save the Date – The Magdalene Award is back!

The Magdalene Award recognises a woman living in, and committed to, the Diocese of Maitland Newcastle. This is a public affirmation of a life lived in ways that echo the spirit of Mary Magdalene.

This Award is being relaunched in 2024, after last being presented in 2020, to coincide with the Feast Day of Mary Magdalene.

In 2024, the recipient of this Award will have an opportunity for spiritual nourishment, a retreat experience, or a faith formation opportunity to an agreed value.

Nominations open on Monday 8 April. The winner will be announced on Sunday 28 July at 9.30am Mass at Sacred Heart Cathedral. Details about how to nominate will be released soon.

Chrism Mass

Each year during Holy Week all the faithful of the Church of Maitland-Newcastle are invited to gather with Bishop Michael Kennedy for the Chrism Mass. Here we bless and consecrate the Sacred Oils that will be used for ministry during the year.

Join us on Tuesday 26 March from 7pm at Sacred Heart Cathedral.

All are welcome, read more about it: <https://mnnews.today/liturgy-matters/2024/57932-liturgy-matters-come-on-down-to-the-chrism-mass/>

To Witness and to Accompany with Christian Hope

The Diocese is holding three workshops with Rev. Fr Kevin McGovern, a Christian ethicist and former director of Melbourne's Caroline Chisholm Centre for Health Ethics. The workshop will focus on accompanying those whom we care for that may be critically ill or at a terminal phase of their life. SESSIONS AVAILABLE:

Wednesday 20 March, 2pm -4pm and 6:30pm - 8:30pm: Input, discussion and face-to-face workshop

Suitable for staff and volunteers in parishes and staff from Catholic health and aged care providers.

Thursday 21 March, 9:30am - 12:30pm: Input, workshop and table-talks)

Suitable for Diocesan Leadership, CatholicCare, Principals and staff as well as medical and aged care staff.

Register via Eventbrite: <https://CDMN-witness.eventbrite.com.au> or phone (02) 4979-1329.

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 9th April**. Bookings can be made online at the link at: <https://forms.office.com/r/wZtatkt01V> or by contacting our Parish Office.

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

While Father Richard's visit in 2023 was short, he left our Diocese with riches which we can continue to explore together, as our church is an unfinished project and in need of tilling.

We will continue the discussion in 2024!

You are invited to discuss Father Richard's latest publication, “Tilling the Church: Theology for an Unfinished Project” chapter by chapter over the next several months online.

Wednesday 20 March: Chapter 4. Engaging the Graced World

Wednesday 17 April: Chapter 5. The Future-Oriented Past

Wednesday 15 May: Chapter 6. The Art of Faithfulness and conclusion

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

Easter Services

Holy Thursday

28th March 7PM

Good Friday

29th March 3PM

Easter Vigil

30th March 6.30PM

Easter Sunday

31st March 9.30AM

all services are in our

Morrisset Church

60 Yambo St

Morrisset

SUPPORTING THE CLERGY / 1st Collection

If you would like to make contributions to support the Clergy / 1st Collection please do so at Mass in the BLUE bucket or electronically using the Online Payments button on the Parish Website Home page, Diocese App, Bank Account Name: CCF BSB: 062815 No: 00328161 Ref: 5016 1st Collection or set up a direct debit contact the parish office for this option.

SUPPORTING OUR PARISH / 2nd Collection

If you would like to make contributions to support our Parish please do so at Mass via the RED bucket or deposit directly into the Parish Account our details are: Account Name: CCF BSB:062815 Account Number: 00328161 one of the following Payment References are required by CCF for all deposits: 5004 or 5004 + SURNAME or 5004 + PG + your Giver Number, or 5004 + PG + SURNAME, or you can use the Online Payments or Planned Giving button on the Parish Website Home page or the Diocese App. If you are considering taking up **planned giving** you may like to know that **a percentage of the contributions are tax deductible**. If you would like to know more or set up planned giving please contact the Parish Office.

| WEEKEND ROSTERS | | | |
|------------------------|---------------|----------------------------------|---|
| | | <u>THIS WEEK</u> | <u>NEXT WEEK</u> |
| <u>PRESIDERS</u> | 5PM 9.30AM | Mass Mass | Mass Mass |
| <u>PROCLAIMERS:</u> | 5PM 9.30AM | U France S Matthew | L Hutchinson D Peterson |
| <u>PSALMIST:</u> | 5PM 9.30AM | R Hay J France | H White K Lendon |
| <u>GIFTS</u> | 5PM 9.30AM | M Melvey J Hutchins K Amon | B Cox P Robertson D Whitten S Matthews |
| <u>SERVERS</u> | 5PM 9.30AM | R Lawandos V Paulo | M Melvey V Paulo |
| <u>AV</u> | 5PM 9.30AM | E Lawandos D Peterson | J Vipan M Foo |
| <u>WELCOMERS</u> | 5PM 9.30AM | H White K Amon | P Melvey A Dussin |
| <u>CHURCH CLEANING</u> | COOR MOR | XXXX B Hutcheson D Whitten | F Dunn C Lawandos K Lendon |

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

If you have any concerns for a child or vulnerable adult please contact the Office of Safeguarding P:02 4979 1390 or email: childprotection@mn.catholic.org.au, or visit their website for further information www.officeofsafeguarding.org.au.

UPCOMING FEAST DAYS MEMORIALS AND SOLEMINITIES

SAINT PATRICK (S) - 18TH MAR
 SAINT JOSEPH (S) - 19TH MAR
 PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD - 24TH MAR
 THURSDAY OF THE LORD'S SUPPER - 28TH MAR
 FRIDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD - 29TH MAR
 PASCHAL VIGIL IN THE HOLY NIGHT - 30TH MAR
 SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION - 31ST MAR
 THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD (S) - 8TH APR
 SAINT STANISLAUS (M) - 11TH APR
 ANZAC DAY—25TH APR
 SAINT MARK (F) - 26TH APR

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

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

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

Recently Deceased: Robyn Blood



Prayer Requests for the Bulletin

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

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

An Act of Spiritual Communion

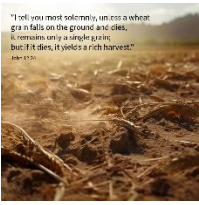
My Jesus,
 I believe that You
 are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.
 I love You above all things,
 and I desire to receive You into my soul.
 Since I cannot at this moment
 receive You sacramentally,
 come at least spiritually into my heart.
 I embrace You as if You were already there and unite
 myself wholly to You.
 Never permit me to be separated from You.
 Amen.



Live stream Mass every Sunday at 9.30am at www.mn.catholic.org.au/places/live-stream



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



SUNDAY PRAYER SERVICE

Fifth Sunday of Lent Year B

Sunday 17 Mar 2024

The Introductory Rites

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples as Australia's First Peoples and the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the land on which we work, live and learn. Especially the Awabakal and Darkinjung nations who are the traditional owners of the land our Parish encompasses. We honour and pay respect to, Elders past, present and emerging, we acknowledge the spiritual culture of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples across Australia, and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of reconciliation.

Gathering

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

Sign of the Cross

Leader:

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

All:

Amen.

Greeting

Leader:

Blessed be God
who has reconciled us through Christ
and renews us by his grace.

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.

In union with the whole Church,
we call upon the mercy of the Lord
in this season of repentance and renewal.

Opening Rite

LITANY OF PRAISE

Leader:

The Lord is rich in mercy and kindness.
Let us prepare ourselves to hear God's Word
and praise the Lord Jesus Christ.

A brief period of silence follows.

Leader:

Lord Jesus, you draw all to deepest life: Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, you submitted humbly to death: Christ, have mercy.

All: Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you are the source of eternal salvation: 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:

All: Amen.

Opening Prayer

Leader:

Let us pray.

All pause for silent prayer.

God our help
we stand in your presence
set free from sin
because of the love of Jesus.
May your grace give us strength
so that we may reach out to others
who need your love and forgiveness.
We make this prayer through Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
for ever and ever.

All:

Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

Jeremiah 31:31-34

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

The days are coming when I will make a new covenant with Israel and I will forgive their iniquity.

See, the days are coming – it is the Lord who speaks – when I will make a new covenant with the House of Israel and the House of Judah, but not a covenant like the one I made with their ancestors on the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant of mine, so I had to show them who was master. It is the Lord who speaks. No, this is the covenant I will make with the House of Israel when those days arrive – it is the Lord who speaks. Deep within them I will plant my Law, writing it on their hearts. Then I will be their God and they shall be my people. There will be no further need for neighbour to try to teach neighbour, or brother to say to brother, 'Learn to know the Lord!' No, they will all know me, the least no less than the greatest – it is the Lord who speaks – since I will forgive their iniquity and never call their sin to mind.

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

The word of the Lord.

All reply:

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 50:3-4. 12-15. R. v.12

(R.) Create a clean heart in me, O God.

1. Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.
In your compassion blot out my offence.
O wash me more and more from my guilt.
and cleanse me from my sin. **(R.)**
2. A pure heart create for me, O God,
put a steadfast spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from your presence,
nor deprive me of your holy spirit. **(R.)**
3. Give me again the joy of your help;
with a spirit of fervour sustain me,
that I may teach transgressors your ways
and sinners may return to you. **(R.)**

Second Reading

Hebrews 5:7-9

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

He learnt to obey and became for all the source of eternal salvation.

During his life on earth, Christ offered up prayer and entreaty, aloud and in silent tears, to the one who had the power to save him out of death, and he submitted so humbly that his prayer was heard. Although he was Son, he learnt to obey through suffering; but having been made perfect, he became for all who obey him the source of eternal salvation.

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.

John 12:20-33

If a grain of wheat falls on the ground and dies, it yields a rich harvest.

Among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. These approached Philip, who came from Bethsaida in Galilee, and put this request to him, 'Sir, we should like to see Jesus.' Philip went to tell Andrew, and Andrew and Philip together went to tell Jesus. Jesus replied to them:

'Now the hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.

I tell you most solemnly, unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies, it remains only a single grain; but if it dies, it yields a rich harvest.

Anyone who loves his life loses it; anyone who hates his life in this world will keep it for the eternal life.

If a man serves me, he must follow me, wherever I am, my servant will be there too. If anyone serves me, my Father will honour him. Now my soul is troubled.

What shall I say:

Father, save me from this hour?

But it was for this very reason that I have come to this hour.

Father, glorify your name!'

A voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.'

People standing by, who heard this, said it was a clap of thunder; others said, 'It was an angel speaking to him.' Jesus answered, 'It was not for my sake that this voice came, but for yours.

'Now sentence is being passed on this world; now the prince of this world is to be overthrown.

And when I am lifted up from the earth, I shall draw all men to myself.'

By these words he indicated the kind of death he would die.

Reader:

The Gospel of the Lord.

All:

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

All are seated.

Reflection on the Word

A short period of reflection may be observed.

Profession of Faith

Leader:

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

All:

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

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

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

Prayers of the Faithful

Leader: Sisters and brothers, let us make our prayers before the Lord, who saves us from all sin.

Reader: That our Holy Father Pope Francis will faithfully lead us in our Lenten commitments. In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That leaders of government will practise compassion and share their resources for the good of all. In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That, through our support of Project Compassion, people in developing nations will be able to obtain secure employment in order to build a better future for themselves and for future generations. In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: The governments and communities will work together to enhance health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, increasing their life expectancies to that of other Australians. In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That there will be immediate and lasting ceasefires in Gaza, in Ukraine, in Sudan, and all areas of conflict. In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That we will fully appreciate the gift of water and do all we can to protect our oceans and waterways from pollution and degradation. In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That all the sick will be washed in Christ's healing mercy, especially those who are

members of our families and communities. In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That all who have died will see God face to face, especially those who were members of our families and community. In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: God our Father, through belief in your son we are born into everlasting life. Hear our prayers and help us to remain free from sin and committed to Jesus through your eternal covenant. 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 bless us in all things through Christ so that we may work together in loving service.

All make the sign of the cross during the blessing.

All:

Amen.

Dismissal

Leader:

Let us go in peace.

All:

Thanks be to God.

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LITURGY MATTERS: Sing to the Lord – Don't miss this opportunity!

Do you love to sing? Do you like to belt it out, or to sing soulfully around the house, in the shower, in the car hooning around town or on long trips? Do you like to menace your family and friends with your favourite songs? Do you sing and play guitar or piano while your toddlers jump around dancing wildly? If so, read on!

LOUISE GANNON RSJ PUBLISHED MARCH 12, 2024

We all know the power of music. We hear a certain song, and it takes us right back to significant moments in our lives. Our bodies feel all the associated emotions again.

And then there is the power of music experienced as a community. We love concerts and shows. We are moved to tears. We stand and applaud. We leave energised and renewed. We love to jive and dance or jump around a mosh pit.

And there are the more recent phenomena of choirs: pub choirs, town hall choirs, classic choirs, choirs for the homeless, for those who have suffered strokes, for those living with dementia or mental health issues. There is something about singing together that calls us out of ourselves and is healing.

Music and song connect us to the depths of who we are and what we feel. Music and song connect us to others, and to the more of life which many of us call God.

It is because music is such an important aspect of our humanity that music is central to our Church's liturgical life. Some of you may be familiar with the dictum, 'We don't sing at Mass we sing the Mass!' Put simply that means that the first things to be sung at Mass are the acclamations – the Gospel Acclamation, the Acclamation of Faith and Great Amen. The Responsorial Psalm or, at the very least, the response to the psalm, and finally hymns, with those accompanying processions are the priority.

Imagine the Chrism Mass, the Easter Triduum, weddings, ordinations, Sacraments of Initiation or funerals, without music. I still remember what we sang at my dad's funeral thirty-seven years ago and my mum's ten years ago. To be able to provide such a musical gift to our community is a joy beyond measure and a gift beyond compare.

In thinking about music ministry and liturgy, it is important to consider context. What is possible in the Cathedral and what is possible at say Krumbach church is very different. This difference is to be respected. We do the best with what we have.

At the same time, as God's faithful people, we always strive for more; we always seek to grow and develop and do better. And this is where a new opportunity called 'Sing to the Lord' comes in.

Many of our parishes are still feeling the loss of a range of liturgical ministers in the wake of COVID. Even before COVID some parishes and schools had no music ministers for Sunday Mass, for Sacraments of Initiation and other significant celebrations.

Over the last couple of years the Diocesan Liturgy Council has been attentive to this experience and we have consulted with other dioceses to listen to their experiences and their pastoral responses. This listening has shaped 'Sing to the Lord.'

What is 'Sing to the Lord'?

'Sing to the Lord' provides training and formation for anyone who would like to have a go at cantoring and singing in the liturgy. It is for those already engaged in these ministries, offering an opportunity for renewal and development. It is for those who would love a place to sing and would like to have a go at cantoring or to be part of a liturgical choir. It is an invitation to everyone: to parishioners, to staff and parents in our Catholic Schools, to people working in our agencies and at Newcastle West, to people in our streets and neighbourhoods who are interested.

There is a general invitation that you will find [here](#).

There is an invitation specifically for music teachers and 'musical teachers' [here](#).

This invitation is for you to consider personally, and for you to extend to anyone you know who might be interested. A personal Invitation is always far more effective.

What are our hopes?

This is a first step in a formation process that we hope will enrich music ministry across the parishes and schools of diocese. We have a long history of generous and amazing people who have played and sung in our parishes for long years, often without any ministry support and no avenue to network with others doing the same across the diocese.

'Sing to the Lord' seeks to:

- provide people with training and formation, as well as opportunities, to sing within the liturgy as would suit individual circumstances.
- grow a network of supportive relationships amongst musicians
- endeavour over time to ensure every community has a cantor or a small choir who can support the singing of the Assembly on Sundays and at other times.
- grow a community of cantors and singers who might assist local communities with music for key events.

Even without promotion we have three people who are interested.

So people, let's get together and sing. The closing date for Expressions of Interest is 12 April 2024.

Breaking News

Watch for the soon to be launched 'Sacred Heart Beat'!

Make sure you join your local Catholic Schools at the Catholic Schools Week 'Worship and Praise Liturgy of the Word' in the Cathedral on Friday 17 May @ 10.30am

Has your parish or school learnt a Mass Setting in addition to the Mass of St Francis? We'll be asking you soon so we can all learn from and support each other.

There is going to be a lot happening in the liturgical music space. Stay tuned!

Diocesan Liturgy Council Update

To keep abreast of the work of the Diocesan Liturgy Council click on the link below and then the 'Council News' drop down menu where you will find the latest meeting Report.

<https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/liturgy/diocesan-liturgy-council/>

SJV School News

Open Day is on Tuesday April 9th (3.30-5pm) Prospective families are welcome, especially those who are looking to enrol their children in kindergarten 2025. It is an opportunity to meet the Principal and teachers. Tours of classrooms, playground, and facilities with the student leaders

Café Night Real Women Placing Value on Womanhood

Date: Monday, 18 March 2024 Time: 7.30pm - 9.15pm
Tea or Coffee served from 7.00pm Where: St Mary's Catholic Church Hall Bayview Street, Warners Bay

Guest Speaker: Iona Rossely
Iona Rossely describes herself as a speaker, author and an athlete. However, as Iona's life has taken a number of twists and turns over the years, her defining characteristic has become her deep faith and she has found her true home with

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

For Bookings contact Phone: Sue - 0417 091255 or Marie- 0429 191245.

Catholic Parish of Boolaroo/Warners Bay

Measuring good governance

While the Catholic Church is recognised by many as the oldest institution in the western world, an understanding of how the Church is governed is probably less prevalent.

[SEAN SCANLON](#) PUBLISHED MARCH 02, 2024

This, however, is important, as the governance of the Catholic Church, and more specifically our Diocese, is critical in ensuring we serve the community so that they may experience life to the fullest.

The governance of the Catholic Church is a complex structure which at its core, merges church law, spiritual guidance and administrative functionality.

The Pope, as the head of the Catholic Church, is the leader on all matters relating to faith and morals. Pope Francis is supported by the College of Cardinals, who act as advisors on all matters including administrative, financial and operational.

Bishops oversee individual dioceses and the priests who serve within those dioceses. The Bishops are accountable to the Pope and are entrusted to uphold his teachings and decisions.

Canon law governs the Church's affairs, addressing matters ranging from sacraments to governance and discipline. Additionally, councils and synods provide forums for discussion and decision-making on important issues facing the church.

The structure of the Catholic Church's governance reflects a balance between tradition and adaptability, seeking to uphold its core principles while responding to the needs and challenges of the modern world.

The Bishop, in his role as leader of the Diocese, must make decisions which help direct the Diocese. He does not do this in isolation but receives advice from his clergy through the Council of Priests and College of Consultors. He also receives advice from lay people through the Diocesan Finance Council, Diocesan Advisory Board, Pastoral Council, Social Justice Council and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Ministry Council.

The reason for this is simple; it is imperative we have the right people, with the right skills, providing the right advice that represents our values.

One of our measures of good governance is through our Diocesan Advisory Board (DAB). An independent board of individuals who provide input and advice to the Bishop in the decision making he must undertake.

The board members have visibility and input across many aspects of the broader operations, including forecasts and budgets, risk management, financial reports and strategic direction of the Diocese.

While all decisions ultimately remain with the Bishop and The Trustees, the DAB provides valuable and extensive counsel which offers diverse perspectives and varied lived experiences.

A priority for the Diocese this year is on continuing to strengthen the Diocesan Advisory Board. Reflective of the communities we serve, we strive to build a board that is made up of diverse backgrounds, genders and experience.

We encourage anyone with a background in areas such as education, childcare, social services, community housing, accounting, audit, legal, finance, banking, property, governance or risk to consider expressing their interest in joining the Board.

Some benefits of being a board member include service to the Church and wider community, fellowship, skills enhancement, and leadership, professional and personal development.

The Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle encourages applications from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, as well as people with a disability or areas in which Diocesan agencies work.

For more information visit [Join our Diocesan Advisory Board \(catholic.org.au\)](#)