



**St John
Vianney**
Parish Morisset



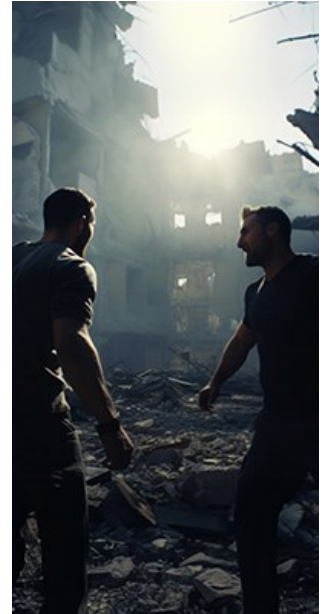
TENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR B 09 JUNE 2024

In today's Gospel Jesus said that a kingdom divided cannot stand. It doesn't require much reflection to see the truth of this. One of the things that brings good projects to a bad end, is when divisions occur.

We see countries, where there is internal conflict, torn asunder. We see the break up of families in which there is conflict.

The problem affects us on a personal level too. Each of us is a divided kingdom. We are divided within ourselves, we are pulled in opposite directions. There is a war going on inside each of us, a war between light and darkness, good and evil at the same time.

Let us turn to the Lord, to help us heal our divisions.



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>
Morisset Parish Instagram : https://www.instagram.com/stjvparish_morisset/
(Please submit all Bulletin Notice requests to the parish office by 2pm Wednesdays)

UPCOMING WORSHIP TIMES :

- | | |
|----------|---------------------------------------|
| Saturday | 8th June 5pm
Mass—Cooranbong |
| Sunday | 9th June 9.30am
Mass—Morisset |
| Tuesday | 11th June 9.30am
Liturgy—Morisset |
| Friday | 14th June 10.30am
Mass—Morisset |
| Saturday | 15th June 5pm
Family Mass—Morisset |
| Sunday | 16th June 9.30am
Mass—Morisset |
| Tuesday | 18th June 9.30am
Liturgy—Morisset |
| Friday | 21st June 10.30am
Mass—Morisset |
| Saturday | 22nd June 5pm
Mass—Cooranbong |
| Sunday | 23rd June 9.30am
Mass—Morisset |
| Tuesday | 25th June 9.30am
Liturgy—Morisset |
| Friday | 28th June 10.30am
Mass—Morisset |
| Saturday | 29th June 5pm
Mass—Cooranbong |
| Sunday | 30th June 9.30am
Mass Morisset |

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TENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Year B — Reflection 9th June 2024

‘You are out of your mind!’ Has anybody ever said that to you? No doubt most of us have heard this a time or two. If directed at us, we are in good company according to today’s Gospel.

Life is filled with challenges and often consumed with activities, whether at work or at leisure.

Today, many struggle to find time to even share a meal with their families. Time is at such a premium that often the important relationships in our lives take a back seat to the pressures of the day. It was no different for Jesus and his followers.

In today’s Gospel Jesus and his disciples were confronted by the non-believers, the naysayers, and those who feared Jesus. The scene is one of chaos, so demanding the disciples find it impossible “even to eat.” Jesus’ family, concerned with how his actions reflect on them, claim he is out of his mind. The scribes, fearful of the growing crowd, say Jesus himself is possessed. Like when Australian soldiers returned from Vietnam many years ago.

In the hustle and bustle of daily life, it is often hard to stay aware of what God has in mind for us and for others. To live each day in love, to seek the good of all rather than our selfish desires, is only possible if we are united with the love of God.

Christian discipleship demands our moral courage, integrity and fidelity. Our world as the first reading reminds us, is inflicted with evil. Christians should show a willingness to confront situations of injustice or conflict without compromising the Gospel, even at the expense of incurring ridicule from others.

May we have the courage to follow the example of Christ and live fully the demands of Christian discipleship.

John France

Welcome

Welcome to all the visitors who are attending the Parish of St John Vianney, on this Kings Birthday weekend. The Parish of St John Vianney Morisset, was officially formed in 1947, however our Mass center 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.

Parish Assembly

Morisset Parish Pastoral Assembly was held after Mass last Sunday, on the Feast of Corpus Christie 2nd June 2024 in the Callinan Centre.

Approx. forty Parishioners attended the Assembly, along with Fr Greg Barker VG, Fr Matthew Muller V.G and Canonical Advisor, Fr Joseph Figurado Priest Supervisor, and Fr Daryl Mackie Assistant Priest of the West Lake Macquarie Region. Several parishioners tendered their apologies.

The aim of the Assembly was to discern the direction and path the parish now needs to take moving forward in 2024.

After much discussion several models of parish were presented for consideration. These models will be tabled and further discussed by the PPC.

From the Assembly it became obvious that whatever model is chosen, it is of the utmost importance, that all members of the various parish pastoral teams and volunteers are compliant with current legislation, and receive appropriate formation.

Mass Attendance

You may remember that recently Bishop Michael Kennedy and the Council of Priests requested that on all the weekends during May, Parishes and ethnic communities undertake a demographic attendance count of their Mass attendance to ascertain an updated indication of the size and demographic of our worshipping communities in the Diocese.

FYI -During May our parish averaged 87 attendees at the 9.30am Sunday Mass,; And 58 at the Saturday Vigil Mass.

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?

Ember Days: What are they?

The term “ember” in this context does not refer to anything fire related. It is a corruption of the Latin phrase *quatuor tempora*, which means “four times”.

Ember days focus on the environment, climate change and stewardship of the world’s resources.

Prior to the introduction of the 1966 Missal, Ember Days were prescribed and mandatory.

Since 1966, they are no longer considered obligatory, but they are encouraged. The 1969 General Norms for the Liturgical Calendar, states that it is up to the discretion of local bishops’ conferences to decide when and how many there would be: The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference (ACBC) decided that there would be two Ember Days, both on the first Fridays of Autumn and Spring.

Observing Ember Days is a great way of acknowledging the abundance we often take for granted, thanking God for it, and consciously striving to live virtuously instead of simply as consumers.

Unless you have grown up farming, most people today (at least in the West) are quite disconnected from the feeling of dependency on creation, especially in these days of food being readily available at the mere touch of our phones. Ember Days harken back to a more rural time.

With A Light Heart.

Saint Joseph’s parish decided to organise a fundraising drive to help construct a new parish hall as the old building was beginning to crumble. The woman in charge of the of fundraising was good at persuading parishioners to contribute, and generously. However, one old parishioner, Jason, who had been in the parish for more than 50years refused to cough up even one dollar.

One Sunday after Mass the woman cornered Jason and queried why he wouldn’t donate for the new church hall.

“Well it is true to say we senior citizens are much more valuable than the younger generations’ Jason said. “But it is not in dollars and cents.”

Baffled the woman asked, “What is it then?”

“We have silver in our hair, gold in our teeth, stones in our kidneys and lead in our feet. And to top it off, we’re loaded with natural gas.” Jason said.

Vinnies Winter Cash Appeal

The Morisset Conference of the St Vincent de Paul Society, will hold their Winter Cash Appeal at the Masses on the weekend of 22nd and 23rd June 2024.

Question Box

Recently it was brought to the attention of the PPC, that often parishioners have matters of faith questions, and are not sure where to go with them for answers.

In an effort to help people with their questions, please place your question in the stainless steel mailbox outside the parish secretaries office, in the Callinan Centre, and the questions will be answered.

Stay up-to-date with Diocesan Resource Centre events

The Diocesan Resource Centre and Library were officially opened and blessed by Bishop Michael Kennedy at the end of May. The library is open three days a week and offers several events each month. Find out what is on offer by regularly checking the Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle website: www.mn.catholic.org.au/places/library

The opening hours are as follows: Mondays and Tuesdays – 10am to 6pm Saturday – 10am to 2pm

CatholicCare Refugee Hub seeks food donations

The Refugee Hub is seeking food donations to boost their OzHarvest program. The weekly OzHarvest deliveries have not been enough to support all the vulnerable families in the program so we need your help!

Refugee Hub is seeking donations of the following items:

- Rice and pasta
- Canned beans
- Vegetable oil or olive oil
- Milk powder and long life milk
- Sugar
- Plain flour
- Shower gel and/or liquid soap
- Toothpaste
- Toothbrushes

There will be a box at CatholicCare's office at 50 Crebert St, Mayfield labelled "Food Donation for Refugee Hub" where donations can be dropped off anytime Mon-Fri 9-5.

Caritas Australia – Papua New Guinea Landslide Appeal

Remote communities in Papua New Guinea have been devastated by a catastrophic landslide that struck the Enga province at 3am on Friday 24 May. Hundreds are feared dead with the UN estimating the total dead at 670 and the total affected at 4,000 which could rise due to an increased number of displaced people living in the area recently.

Caritas' international partners are on the ground, you can support their work by donating to the Landslide Appeal at: www.caritas.org.au/donate/emergency-appeals/papua-new-guinea-landslide

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 11th June 2024**. Bookings can be made online at the link at: <https://forms.office.com/r/wZtatkt01V> or by contacting our Parish Office.



Pope Francis' prayer intention for June 2024

We pray that migrants fleeing from war or hunger, forced to undertake journeys full of danger and violence, find welcome and new opportunities in the countries that receive them.



Planned Giving Tax Receipts

We greatly appreciate those who support our parish through planned giving. A percentage of those contributions are **Tax Deductible for those who complete a TAX RETURN only.**

If you require a **TAX RECEIPT** for your planned giving contributions we ask that you complete the online form at: <https://forms.office.com/r/qfepK7wa0V> or call the Parish between 9am and 2pm Weekdays.

As the number of people who request a **TAX RECEIPT** is used to **calculate the percentage claimable as a deduction** you will need to lodge your request no later than 2pm on **Friday 28th June 2024**.

We also ask that if you are **NOT completing a TAX RETURN** that you do not request a tax receipt. We can provide general receipts at your request.

Biblical Explorations: Moses and the Exodus

The exodus was one of the fundamental events that came to define God's people. It's not much of an exaggeration to say that the rest of the Bible was written as a reaction to God's decision to rescue Israel from Egypt in the exodus. Understanding the exodus helps unlock the whole Bible. Even the gospels draw on the exodus. In this subject, we'll raise some of the key questions about the exodus and think about the different ways that people have interpreted the book of Exodus. We'll also think about what the book of Exodus means in a Christian context and how the gospel writers used Exodus ideas to make sense of Jesus' life.

RSVP by 8 June to attend at the Diocesan Resource Centre, at home or in your parish.

Dates: Thursdays 20 & 27 June Time: 4:00pm – 5:30pm

Registration: <https://forms.office.com/r/6WZSV8CTnT>

Can you help CatholicCare Social Services Hunter-Manning make a difference?

A single mum, three couples from Afghanistan, a university student, and dozens of school students – these are just a few of the people CatholicCare Social Services Hunter-Manning has supported in the last couple of months.

As a not-for-profit organisation, we can't do this work without the generosity of our community. Can you help us to support more?

Donate to our 2024 Make a Difference appeal now: www.mycause.com.au/page/345965/make-a-difference

Safeguarding Is

Everyone ensuring to keep children and the vulnerable safe

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 J Vipan	P Robertson S Matthew
<u>PSALMIST:</u>	5PM 9.30AM	H White K Lendon	U France H White
<u>GIFTS</u>	5PM 9.30AM	K Lendon P Melvey D Whitten S Matthew	F Pascoe G Hutchinson L Hutchinson
<u>SERVERS</u>	5PM 9.30AM	M Melvey R Lawandos	J Lawandos V Paulo
<u>AV</u>	5PM 9.30AM	J France M Fowler	E Lawandos T Alexander
<u>WELCOMERS</u>	5PM 9.30AM	P Melvey A Dussin	K Lendon M Melvey
<u>CHURCH CLEANING</u>	COOR MOR	Cameron Family D Whitten	XXXX C Lawandos K Lendon

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

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

If you have any concerns for a child or vulnerable adult please contact the Office of Safeguarding by Phone: 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 BARNABAS (M) - 11TH JUNE
- SAINT ANTHONY OF PADUA (M) - 13TH JUNE
- SAINT ALOYSIUS GONZAGA (M) - 21ST JUNE
- SAINTS JOHN FISHER AND THOMAS MORE (M) - 22ND JUNE
- THE NATIVITY OF JOHN THE BAPTIST (S) - 24TH JUNE
- SAINT IRENAEUS (M) - 28TH JUNE
- SAINTS PETER AND PAUL VIGIL (S) - 28TH JUNE
- SAINTS PETER AND PAUL (S) - 29TH JUNE
- SAINT THOMAS (F) - 3RD JULY
- SAINT BENEDICT (M) - 11TH JULY
- SAINT BONAVENTURE (M) - 15TH JULY

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

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

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

Recently Deceased: Joyce Fren
Remembrance: Tricia Styles



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

Tenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

Sunday 09 Jun 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 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 came to gather the nations into the peace of God's kingdom:

Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

You come in Word and Spirit to strengthen us in holiness:
Christ, have mercy.

All: Christ, have mercy.

You will come in glory with salvation for your people:
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.

O God, from whom all good things come, grant that we, who call on you in our need, may at your prompting discern what is right, and by your guidance do it.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

All:

Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

Genesis 3:9-15

A reading from the book of Genesis

I will make you enemies of each other: your offspring and her offspring.

The Lord God called to the man after he had eaten of the tree. 'Where are you?' he asked. 'I heard the sound of you in the garden;' he replied 'I was afraid because I was naked, so I hid.' 'Who told you that you were naked?' he asked. 'Have you been eating of the tree I forbade you to eat?' The man replied, 'It was the woman you put with me; she gave me the fruit, and I ate it.' Then the Lord God asked the woman, 'What is this you have done?' The woman replied, 'The serpent tempted me and I ate.' Then the Lord God said to the serpent, 'Because you have done this,

'Be accursed beyond all cattle,
all wild beasts.

You shall crawl on your belly and eat dust
every day of your life.

I will make you enemies of each other:
you and the woman,
your offspring and her offspring.

It will crush your head
and you will strike its heel.'

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

The word of the Lord.

All reply:

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 129. R. v.7

**(R.) With the Lord there is mercy
and fullness of redemption.**

1. Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord,
Lord, hear my voice!
O let your ears be attentive
to the voice of my pleading. (R.)
2. If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt,
Lord, who would survive?
But with you is found forgiveness:
for this we revere you. (R.)
3. My soul is waiting for the Lord,
I count on his word.
My soul is longing for the Lord
more than watchman for daybreak. (R.)
4. Because with the Lord there is mercy,
and fullness of redemption,
Israel indeed he will redeem
from all its iniquity. (R.)

Second Reading

Corinthians 4:13-5:1

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

We believe, and therefore we speak.

As we have the same spirit of faith that is mentioned in scripture – I believed, therefore I spoke - we too believe and therefore we too speak, knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus to life will raise us with Jesus in our turn, and put us by his side and you with us. You see, all this is for your benefit, so that the more grace is multiplied among people, the more thanksgiving there will be, to the glory of God.

That is why there is no weakening on our part, and instead, though this outer man of ours may be falling into decay, the inner man is renewed day by day. Yes, the troubles which are soon over, though they weigh little, train us for the carrying of a weight of eternal glory which is out of all proportion to them. And so we have no eyes for things that are visible, but only for things that are invisible; for visible things last only for a time, and the invisible things are eternal.

For we know that when the tent that we live in on earth is folded up, there is a house built by God for us, an everlasting home not made by human hands, in the heavens.

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 3:20-35

It is the end of Satan.

Jesus went home with his disciples, and such a crowd collected that they could not even have a meal. When his relatives heard of this, they set out to take charge of him, convinced he was out of his mind.

The scribes who had come down from Jerusalem were saying, 'Beelzebul is in him,' and, 'It is through the prince of devils that he casts devils out.' So he called them to him and spoke to them in parables, 'How can Satan cast out Satan? If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot last. And if a household is divided against itself, that household can never stand. Now if Satan has rebelled against himself and is divided, he cannot stand either - it is the end of him. But no one can make his way into a strong man's house and burgle his property unless he has tied up the strong man first. Only then can he burgle his house.

'I tell you solemnly, all men's sins will be forgiven, and all their blasphemies; but let anyone blaspheme against the Holy Spirit and he will never have forgiveness: he is guilty of an eternal sin.' This was because they were saying, 'An unclean spirit is in him.' His mother and brothers now arrived and, standing outside, sent in a message asking for him. A crowd was sitting round him at the time the message was passed to him, 'Your mother and brothers and sisters are outside asking for you.' He replied, 'Who are my mother and my brothers?' And looking round at those sitting in a circle about him, he said, 'Here are my mother and my brothers. Anyone who does the will of God, that person is my brother and sister and mother.'

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.**

Prayer of the Faithful

Leader: Sisters and brothers, wherever we look across the globe and across our nation, people are suffering in many and varied ways. This week as people in our local area prepare for the first anniversary of the Hunter Valley bus accident, let us turn to our God whose mercy knows no bounds. In confidence we pray:

Reader: That the Church will work in unity for the glory of God and be a sign of hope in our troubled world. Out of the depths we cry ... Lord in your mercy

All: Hear our prayer.

Reader: That nations will put aside their divisions and work more urgently for justice and peace. Out of the depths we cry ... Lord in your mercy

All: Hear our prayer.

Reader: That we who gather here today will deepen our appreciation that all people are members of our family, our sisters and brothers, our mothers and fathers. Out of the depths we cry ... Lord in your mercy

All: Hear our prayer.

Reader: That families broken by hurt and resentment will be made whole by Christ's spirit of love. Out of the depths we cry ... Lord in your mercy

All: Hear our prayer.

Reader: That those who suffered serious injury of body and mind in the Hunter Valley bus accident, will find attentive ears, open hearts and practical assistance as with courage they continue to take one day at a time. Out of the depths we cry ... Lord in your mercy

All: Hear our prayer.

Reader: That all the sick will be renewed and sustained by the everlasting grace Christ offers, especially for those who are family, friends and members of our community. Out of the depths we cry, Lord in your mercy

All: Hear our prayer.

Reader: That those who have died, particularly in the Hunter Valley bus accident, will rest in the eternal love and peace of God. Out of the depths we cry, Lord in your mercy

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: God of boundless mercy, out of the depths of our frailty and brokenness we cry to you in faith and hope. Hear our prayers that we may truly become your disciples, brothers and sisters in Christ. We make this prayer in Jesus' name.

All: Amen.

Adapted from Universal Prayer – scripture based – Sample 1, LiturgyHelp, 10th Sunday in ordinary Time © Creative Ministry Resources Pty Ltd. Used with permission.

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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Heartfelt Handbags lift spirits

Handbags full of hope have been delivered by some passionate people in our Diocese, to a community that's feeling a "little bit forgotten".

ELIZABETH SYMINGTON PUBLISHED JUNE 01, 2024

More than 160 people are living in temporary housing in Wardell after Cabbage Tree Island was ravaged by floods in 2022, forcing them from their homes.

In a bid to make their lives a tiny bit brighter, one of our parishes – Jesus the Good Shepherd, East Lake Macquarie – began collecting donations of handbags, filled with toiletries and other treats, as a gift for the mothers on Mother's Day.

However, it's not the first time the congregation has taken action, the parish craft group, along with the Belmont Quirky Quilters, have been supporting the people of Wardell and Coraki for a number of years.

"It started back with the bushfires in 2019 – there are a couple of Sisters of Mercy up there who became involved because they are emergency chaplains," parishioner Margaret said.

"They let me know about it and our craft group wanted to see what we could do to help and because it was coming on winter we started knitting and crocheting warm things.

"The people there just needed someone to care about them.

"When the floods came through in 2022, the [Jesus the Good Shephard] craft group helped again by collecting gifts for the children at Christmas.

"And now, it's the handbags. It's been great to see the community so supportive of our work with those who are struggling," Margaret said.

"People are very kind when they know there are people in need."

The Heartfelt Handbags initiative reached more people than originally expected – donations came in from across the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle as people rushed to help.

Formation and Education Officer Nicki Graham said the influx of donations, while perhaps insignificant to some people, would go on to mean a lot to families in need.

Popular donations included bottles of shampoo, conditioner, body wash, and soaps. These items went on to form part of the contents of the "Heartfelt Handbags".

"Collecting the items was a small way for us to support people," Nicki explained.

"It's great knowing they will go to people who really need them."

They ended up filling 80 handbags.

Jess Wilkes, Program Coordinator at the temporary housing site, said any bit of support made a big difference.

"The residents are so grateful that someone is thinking about them," she said.

"The ongoing relationship from the multiple donations to the impacted community means more than what we can put into words.

"Living in a constant state of not being sure takes its toll so any kind of support we can offer the community through charities, organisations, churches and everyone who donates is pivotal in maintaining people's wellbeing out here."

So, how does it help?

Lisa*, a resident who was displaced by the bushfires in 2019, says the donations helped her feel some joy and hope.

"I am very grateful to the people who sew/crochet each stitch with love and care for those who have been knocked down through no fault of their own," she said.

"The beautiful things bring a spark of colour and care to our lives, especially to the young ones."

Another resident, Caroline*, believes the donations have a "healing effect on our hearts".

In 2022, Caroline, her husband, and their seven children had to flee their home when it was inundated with flood waters. They lost their vehicles and many belongings – resulting in "great stress and need".

While losing their home was devastating, the family also experienced great love, generosity, and kindness from many people in the community and across Australia.

"We received the most beautiful handmade blankets, beanies, and scarves from the craft ladies and this meant so much to us all," she said.

"It helped us practically, and it also helped us emotionally – to know that people care is a blessing."

*Names changed to protect identities

All Saints' College Maitland raises more than \$7,000 for Caritas Australia

Caritas Australia is beaming with pride after All Saints' College Maitland presented the charity with a \$7,782 cheque last Tuesday.

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It comes after the students, staff, and broader school community participated in a number of fundraising efforts to help Caritas support more people.

The money will go directly to supporting the most marginalised communities in Australia and overseas, helping them confront challenges like poverty.

Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle Curia Chaplain and Caritas Australia representative, Helene O'Neill said it was an honour to receive the donation. Alongside Mary-Anne DeLuca from the Diocese and Caritas, she visited the school to say thanks.

"Fathers Piranthi and Camillus from the Chisholm Parish also joined us along with principal Brian Lacey," Helene said.

"We addressed the entire school at the assembly and the students were fully engaged as we expressed our thanks on behalf of the communities for whom the money was raised.

"This was a humbling experience for us to witness faith in action through the generosity of the school community."

For more information about the work of Caritas Australia, visit www.caritas.org.au

Diocese recognises National Reconciliation Week

Last week, students, staff, and community members from across the Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle recognised National Reconciliation Week through several different events.

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Bishop Michael Kennedy and around 100 staff and community members gathered at Newcastle West on 30 May to attend a special liturgy acknowledging our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders.

Students from St Mary's Catholic College, Gateshead performed two powerful traditional dances and a number of people spoke about what Reconciliation means to them.

CatholicCare Hunter-Manning Caseworker, Taipu Moana says the week and reconciliation as a whole needs to be embraced by everyone, every day.

"Reconciliation should not be limited to a week," he said.

"Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander knowledge should permeate all sectors of society and communities, educating all peoples and cultures that choose to reside here."

Chair of the Diocesan Reconciliation Action Group, David McGovern, agrees with Taipu.

"Reconciliation Week is a time to be mindful of the pain and suffering that others feel, even if we don't always understand where that comes from and may even be reluctant to acknowledge or accept any personal responsibility for causing that pain and suffering," he added.

Our 58 Catholic schools acknowledged the annual fixture through classroom activities, liturgies, out-of-uniform days and more.

In our St Nicholas Early Education Centres and OOSH Services, learners also embraced our Indigenous history through a variety of interactive activities.

At St Nicks in Maitland, learners explored composing Indigenous music with clapping sticks, learned an emu dance, and looked at Aboriginal art, while children in Chisholm sang an Indigenous lullaby and those in Cardiff read dreamtime stories and made sand art.

St Nicholas Early Education Newcastle West supports Beat the Burn

Earlier this year, we shared the excitement at our St Nicholas Early Education Newcastle West community when they welcomed NSW Fire and Rescue for an interactive afternoon of fun.

The children had a fantastic time handling iconic tools like the hose under the guidance of trained firefighters. This not only brought joy but also fostered a sense of trust between the children and emergency service personnel. If you missed it, catch up here.

Seeing and hearing the vital support that they provide to our communities, our learners joined their educators and families in raising funds to support their local Cardiff Brigade who completed the Beat the Burn fundraising challenge in March. Having a direct relationship to our centre through one of our valued educators, our learners got behind this great cause and cheered on the brigade.

About Beat the Burn

Beat the Burn brings together communities to raise funds for the Burns Unit at the Children's Hospital at Westmead. These funds will help children access the latest technology and treatment options for burn injuries, physiotherapy, scar management and family support.

In its 19th annual year, crews from across Fire and Rescue NSW and ACT came together at the NRMA Jindabyne Holiday Park for a week of running, road cycling, mountain bike riding, hiking and paddling. Moving a total of 400km collectively, they made their way up and down some of the highest mountains in Australia. Some crews also moved from their stations jumping on treadmills, spin bikes and rowers.

Learn more about Beat the Burn at: <https://beattheburn.org/>.

The results...

Through the generosity of the wider community, over \$6,600 was raised through the Cardiff Fire Station donation appeal. This contributed to the overall \$157,000 for Beat the Burn 2024. All of these vital funds will go a long way in supporting children with life-changing burn injuries and the delicate and expert care that they receive to assist them in moving forward.

Creating a sense of community

Participating in larger community events enhances our learners' sense of community awareness and their ability to support meaningful causes. They learn the importance of charitable work and understand the need to support others in times of hardship.

