



**St John
Vianney**
Parish Morisset



THE EPIPHANY YEAR C 05 JANUARY 2024

Dear Parish Family,

Happy New Year! I hope everyone has had a great start to the New Year. I have always loved the excitement of New Years and having lived in Sydney for the past few years, I got to see those amazing fireworks from our hospital building. New Years always has those signs of hope, as we enter a new year...this year is special with the Year of Jubilee with the theme of Hope!



In my office at the hospital (and now at home) hangs this picture. During my tough days in chaplaincy and then the darkest days of COVID, it reminded me of the great gift of hope. It was also the image behind me when I was meeting online for others to see. For me hope means things always get better because God has our back. What does hope mean for you? For your families? For our communities? For our world? Pope Francis writes "HOPE encourages us to look outside ourselves, to embrace authentic beauty, change attitudes that exclude others, overcome life's challenges with courage, and trust that joy and hope are still possible, even in challenging times." (Pope Francis, *A Gift of Joy and Hope*)

On Christmas Eve, the Holy Father opened the Holy Doors of St Peter's Basilica which marked the beginning of the Holy Year. This Sunday in our parishes, we will begin celebrating with our universal family of the Church with the lighting of the Paschal Candle, the sign of hope. It will be lit every time we meet for Mass and prayers as a sign of the Jubilee year and will replace the cribs. Again, we will continue to unfold this theme in the coming weeks and months ahead.

This weekend as we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany, we recall the journey of the Magi, also referred to as the three kings. They represent another culture, another group outside of the Jewish tradition, perhaps the unwanted but they also represent us who go in search for answers, in search for hope, truth and meaning. It is a reminder that Christmas isn't just about looking upon the birth of the Christ child but also calling for a response to this birth. The Magi, led by a star, find the child who is there not just for some, but for everyone. Having encountered the gift of this Child, they return home a different way because nothing can ever be the same again....and as they turn for home, they leave the Child, but the Child will never leave them. That is the meaning of Epiphany.

This weekend we welcome Fr Paul Kamau CSSP to our parishes. I am sure you will give him a very warm welcome, as you have welcomed me into the parishes. This week marked the changing of the guard with Fr Greg now in the inner-city parishes of St Benedict's and John and Uta, our parish Lay Leaders in Morisset, stepping aside, as I take up my new appointment as your Parish Priest. I am blessed to be able to continue to build on the foundation of my predecessors and work alongside Uta and John into the future. It is an exciting time and a new era for us all.

Happy New Year!

Fr Darryl Mackie

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land our parish encompasses, the Awabakal and Darkinjung 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 PRIEST:

Fr Darryl Mackie

ASSISTANT PRIESTS:

Fr Raphael Madukwe

Fr Paul Macharia Kamau

Fr John Purnell

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL:

Uta France, John France, Juliet Hutchins, Mal Melvey,

Pam, Melvey, Kerry Lendon, Rod Hay

PARISH ADMINISTRATION:

Rosanna Suckling, Maryanne Barry, Vimal Valiyaveetil,
Bridget Voigt

PARISH OFFICE: 60 Yambo Street, Morisset 2264, PO Box 87,

Ph: 02 4973 6859,

Email: morparish@mn.catholic.org.au

Office Hours: 9.00 am to 2.00pm—Monday to Friday (except public holidays. Appointments recommended).

Website: www.vianneymorisset.org

Facebook : <https://www.facebook.com/stjvparish>

Instagram : https://www.instagram.com/stjvparish_morisset/

(Please submit all Bulletin Notice requests to the parish office by 2pm Wednesdays)

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 email the parish office or complete a prayer card for each person and place in the mail box near the parish office door.

Welcome

Welcome to all the visitors to our Parish of St John Vianney during the summer holiday season.

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.

GOSPEL

Matthew 2:1-12

We have come from the East to worship the king.

After Jesus had been born at Bethlehem in Judaea during the reign of King Herod, some wise men came to Jerusalem from the east. 'Where is the infant king of the Jews?' they asked. 'We saw his star as it rose and have come to do him homage.' When King Herod heard this he was perturbed, and so was the whole of Jerusalem. He called together all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, and enquired of them where the Christ was to be born. 'At Bethlehem in Judaea,' they told him, 'for this is what the prophet wrote:

And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
you are by no means least among the leaders of Judah,
for out of you will come a leader
who will shepherd my people Israel.'

Then Herod summoned the wise men to see him privately. He asked them the exact date on which the star had appeared, and sent them on to Bethlehem. 'Go and find out all about the child,' he said 'and when you have found him, let me know, so that I too may go and do him homage.' Having listened to what the king had to say, they set out. And there in front of them was the star they had seen rising; it went forward and halted over the place where the child was. The sight of the star filled them with delight, and going into the house they saw the child with his mother Mary, and falling to their knees they did him homage. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. But they were warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, and returned to their own country by a different way.

The Epiphany Year C - 5th January 2025 Reflection

Pope Francis has proclaimed this year, 2025, a Jubilee (Holy Year). For our troubled world, this is so important. The Pope writes, "The forthcoming Jubilee can contribute greatly to restoring a climate of hope and trust as a prelude to the renewal and rebirth that we so urgently desire: that is why I have chosen as the motto of the Jubilee, Pilgrims of Hope." Let us all begin our hope-filled pilgrimage together and continue it throughout this year.

This weekend, this wonderful feast of the Epiphany, is a great way to begin our pilgrimage, because we are celebrating the revelation of Christ, the long-awaited Messiah, to all human kind. Matthew's Gospel holds the key for us: Jesus is not only the Messiah of Israel, but the Saviour of the whole world.

This is the only Gospel that records the visit of the Magi, the

three wise men seeking to pay homage to the infant King of the Jews. "Magi" was the name given to the Persian priestly caste. They were possibly astronomers and astrologers, who saw a special significance in the appearance of this star. As educated men, they would have been aware of Jewish expectations and so they followed where it led. In their pilgrimage we see the fulfillment of the prophecies of Isaiah: "The nations come to your light and kings to your dawning brightness..bringing gold and incense and singing the praise of the Lord."

Matthew wanted to emphasise the Kingship of Jesus so it is appropriate that dignitaries from a foreign land should bring gifts to acknowledge the birth of a king. The gifts they brought were symbolic of Christ's destiny: gold representing kingship; frankincense, an aromatic incense, expressing the mystery of his divinity; and myrrh, a bitter incense from a small thorny tree, foretelling the pain and suffering that he is to endure for our sake.

It is especially significant that these first worshippers were non-Jewish and of a different faith. The homage they pay the Christ child provides a stark contrast to the duplicity and hostility of Herod and to the rejection of Christ by so many of the Jews. This is a key focus of Matthew's Gospel, that Jesus was accepted by the Gentiles but not his own people.

Amazingly, through faith, these wise men were able to recognise in this infant, born in such humble circumstances, what they were seeking. Let us pray that we, also, may recognise what we seek in this wondrous birth.

In his letter to the Ephesians Paul speaks of the "mystery" that has now been revealed. In Christ, Jews and Gentiles alike have been made the inheritors of His Kingdom. Paul says, "The pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are parts of the same body, and that the same promise has been made to them, in Christ Jesus, through the Gospel."

These scriptures leave us with two questions:

- The Magi had the star, but what signs do we have to show us the way?
- What gifts can we bring to do homage to our Lord?

Christ's teachings, recorded in the Scriptures, are a sure guide for us to follow in the way we live our lives. The greatest gift we can give is the gift of ourselves as we seek to follow his command: "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and most important of the commandments. But there is another one like it: You shall love your neighbour as yourself." (Matt 22:37-39) Whenever we do an act of kindness to someone in need, whenever we reach out to someone who is sick or lonely, we are giving a gift to our Lord.

We have Christ's promise, so we live in hope!

Pam Melvey

The Jubilee Year 2025 Pilgrims of Hope' li

The 2025 Jubilee officially opened on December 24, 2024, at 7pm, with the rite of Opening of the Holy Door of the Papal Basilica of St. Peter by Pope Francis, who then presided over the celebration of the Night Mass of the Lord's Birth inside the Basilica.

During 2025, the Paschal Candle which is the sign and light of Hope for the Catholic faithful, will be an extraordinary sign for the Jubilee Year, and will be lit for every liturgy

An anchor is being used as a symbol of stability and security for the duration of 2025 The image of the anchor helps us to recognize the stability and security that is ours amid the troubled waters of this life, provided we entrust ourselves to the Lord Jesus. heavenly goal to which we have been called. (Pope Francis)

Message from Bishop Michael Kennedy

I particularly wish to highlight parish communities who have offered their Churches as sites of pilgrimage for the Jubilee Year, and I wish to accept, and announce, them as official pilgrimage sites to you all:

- Sacred Heart Cathedral, Newcastle West
- St Mary Star of the Sea, Newcastle
- St John the Baptist Shrine, Maitland
- St Joseph's, East Maitland
- St Joseph's, Murrurundi
- Blessed Virgin Mary Queen of Peace, Scone
- Saints Patrick & Brigid, Cooranbong

Over the coming months Mission & Evangelisation will work with the leadership teams of these churches to prepare their place of welcome to pilgrim groups small and large from across the Diocese and beyond

At our Diocesan Launch for the Jubilee Year on March 2 there will be more information available and the opportunity to receive a Pilgrim Passport for those wishing to make the journey to as many of our pilgrimage sites as possible.

Yours in Christ Most Reverend Michael Kennedy Bishop of Maitland-Newcastle



Save the Dates the following Jubilee Year 2025 Diocese Events

2nd March 2025

Diocesan Launch—Pilgrimage, Mass and Festival—Foreshore Park to Sacred Heart Cathedral

8th August 2025

aMeN Camino Experience

25th September—11th October 2025

International Pilgrimage—Journey of St Paul and Rome

29th September—3rd October 2025

NATSICC Assembly—Hunter Valley

30th November—2nd December 2025

Australian Catholic Youth Festival—Melbourne

With A Light Heart

During a priest's homily at Mass one Sunday morning, one of the parishioners got up and walked out the door.

After Mass, the man's wife went up to the priest and apologised profusely. "I hope it didn't upset you too much," she said. "And please don't take it personally. My husband's been walking in his sleep for years."

Pope Francis's Prayer Intention for January 2025

For the right to an education. Let us pray for migrants, refugees and those affected by war, that their right to an education, which is necessary to build a better world, might always be respected.

World Day of Prayer 2025

The World Day of Prayer is a global ecumenical movement that brings Christians of many traditions together to observe a common day of prayer each year. Through preparation and participation in the worship service, we can learn how people of other countries, languages and cultures understand the Biblical passages in their context. Through our participation in the World Day of Prayer, we affirm that prayer and action are inseparable and that both have immeasurable influence on the world.

A different participating country writes the service each year, and we look forward to that prepared by the WDP Committee of The Cook Islands 2025.

Southlakes Anglican Church, Bridge St Morisset will be the Host Church this year, Friday 7th March 2025.

More details as the date draws closer.

Eftpos Machines

The parish has taken delivery of two Eftpos Machines. 'Tap & Go'

Anyone who is familiar with Eftpos terminals should have no trouble with the machine. The machines will not issue receipts. Anyone who requires a receipt is encouraged to join the 'Planned Giving'.



Caritas Australia launches a Vanuatu earthquake appeal

At least 14 people have been killed in Vanuatu following two earthquakes in 24 hours, impacting an estimated 116,000 people.

Hundreds of people are injured or trapped following the collapse of buildings resulting from successive 7.4 and 6.1 magnitude earthquakes. As rescue efforts continue, the death toll is expected to rise. The Port Vila hospital has been overwhelmed, having also sustained damage resulting in the closure of operating theatres.

Two major water reserves that supply Port Vila have also been destroyed, with assessment into water supplies ongoing. Major damage to infrastructure has been sustained, impacting communications, airport runways, bridges including the Tagabe, Teouma and Black Sand bridges, and the main port.

As part of the Church Agencies Network Disaster Operations (CANDO) Caritas Australia will be supporting on the ground through its partners. These partners are assessing the situation, and are ready to respond to the humanitarian requirements, which are likely to include emergency shelter, food, and other essentials, as well as psychosocial support.

Sally Thomas, Humanitarian Manager at Caritas Australia said, "Vanuatu, and particularly Port Vila, has been devastated. People are now trying to recover and perform rescues with damage to infrastructure such as bridges, telecommunications, water supplies, and the local hospital."

"Many are fearing further disaster as Vanuatu is one of the most susceptible countries to natural disasters such as earthquakes, storm damage, flooding, and tsunamis. These disasters are unfortunately the most common place at this time of year, when many of us are celebrating and enjoying a break."

"As we embrace the festivities, we must remember that our brothers and sisters in Vanuatu, who need our compassion and support as they recover."

To support Caritas Australia's Vanuatu Earthquake Appeal, go to: <https://www.caritas.org.au/donate/emergency-appeals/vanuatu-earthquake/>

or call 1800 024 413 toll free.

Baptism Preparation

Baptism's are held in our parish on most Sunday's our preparation program runs during the months of February to December if you would like to register your interest to attend one of our programs please go to: <https://forms.office.com/r/DwDQgaUe6A>

Sacramental Program

Families who have baptised children in Year 3 or above who would like to complete their sacraments of: Reconciliation, Confirmation and First Communion please register your expression of interest at: <https://forms.office.com/r/6B1AYN1SRB>

SUPPORTING THE CLERGY / 1st Collection

If you would like to make contributions to support the Clergy / 1st Collection please do so at Mass in the BLUE bucket or electronically using the Online Payments button on the Parish Website Home page, Diocese App, Electronic Funds Transfer Only Bank Account Name: Morisset Parish Presbytery BSB: 066739 No: 100004062 Ref: 1st Collection & SURNAME or contact the parish office to set up a direct debit.

SUPPORTING OUR PARISH / 2nd Collection

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

WEEKEND ROSTERS			
		<u>THIS WEEK</u>	<u>NEXT WEEK</u>
<u>PRESIDERS</u>	5PM 9.30AM	Mass Mass	Mass Mass
<u>PROCLAIMERS:</u>	5PM 9.30AM	R Hay D Peterson	K Lendon D Peterson
<u>PSALMIST:</u>	5PM 9.30AM	J Vipan R Hay	L Hutchinson M Foo
<u>GIFTS</u>	5PM 9.30AM	H White D Whitten S Matthew	P Melvey H White J Hutchins K Amon
<u>SERVERS</u>	5PM 9.30AM	M Melvey C Lawandos	M Melvey J Lawandos
<u>AV</u>	5PM 9.30AM	U France T Alexander	J Vipan M Fowler
<u>WELCOMERS</u>	5PM 9.30AM	J France P Melvey	J France K Lendon
<u>CHURCH CLEANING</u>	COOR MOR	XXXX R Hay C Hay	K Lendon A Walker G Walker



UPCOMING FEAST DAYS MEMORIALS AND SOLEMNITIES

- THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD—5TH JAN
- SAINT RAYMOND OF PENYAFORT (OM) - 7TH JAN
- THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD (F) - 12TH JAN
- SAINT HILARY (OM) - 13TH JAN
- SAINT ANTHONY (M) - 17TH JAN
- SAINT FABIAN (OM) - 20TH JAN
- SAINT SEBASTIAN (OM) - 20TH JAN
- SAINT AGNES (M) - 21ST JAN
- SAINT VINCENT (OM) - 22ND JAN
- SAINT FRANCIS DE SALES (M) - 24TH JAN
- CONVERSION OF SAINT PAUL (F) - 25TH JAN

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

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

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

Remembrance: Les Fowler, Grace Lyons, Cornelius Lyons, Carmel Brereton, Emily Williams.



UPCOMING WORSHIP TIMES :

- Saturday 4th January 5pm
Family Mass—Morisset
- Sunday 5th January 9.30am
Mass—Morisset
- Saturday 11th January 5pm
Mass—Cooranbong
- Sunday 12th January 9.30am
Mass—Morisset
- Saturday 18th January 5pm
Family Mass—Morisset
- Sunday 19th January 9.30am
Mass—Morisset

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

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

Safeguarding is everyone’s responsibility.

If you have any concerns for a child or vulnerable person please contact the Office of Safeguarding Phone: 02 4979 1390 Email: childprotection@mn.catholic.org.au,

or visit their website for further information: www.officeofsafeguarding.org.au

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

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SUNDAY PRAYER SERVICE
The Epiphany of the Lord
Sunday 05 Jan 2025

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 Christ the Word made flesh
who is proclaimed among the nations.

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
rejoicing at the birth of the Saviour.

Opening Rite

LITANY OF PRAISE

Leader:

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

A brief period of silence follows.

Leader:

Lord Jesus, you are mighty God and Prince of Peace: Lord, have
mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you are Son of God and Son of Mary: Christ, have
mercy.

All: Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you are word made flesh and splendour of the Father:
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 of glory,
by the light of a star you guided the Magi to the newborn king.
Lead us to your light,
and help us to seek the face of Jesus
and unite the world in lasting peace.
We ask this through Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
for ever and ever.

All:

Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

Isaiah 60:1-6

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The glory of the Lord shines upon you.

Arise, shine out, Jerusalem, for your light has come,
the glory of the Lord is rising on you,
though night still covers the earth
and darkness the peoples.
Above you the Lord now rises
and above you his glory appears.
The nations come to your light
and kings to your dawning brightness.
Lift up your eyes and look round:
all are assembling and coming towards you,
your sons from far away
and your daughters being tenderly carried.
At this sight you will grow radiant,
your heart throbbing and full;
since the riches of the sea will flow to you;
the wealth of the nations come to you;
camels in throngs will cover you,
and dromedaries of Midian and Ephah;
everyone in Sheba will come,
bringing gold and incense
and singing the praise of the Lord.

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

The word of the Lord.

All reply:

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 71:1-2. 7-8. 10-13, R. see v.11

(R.) Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

1. O God, give your judgement to the king,
to a king's son your justice,
that he may judge your people in justice
and your poor in right judgement. **(R.)**
2. In his days justice shall flourish
and peace till the moon fails.
He shall rule from sea to sea,
from the Great River to earth's bounds. **(R.)**

3. The kings of Tarshish and the sea coasts shall pay him tribute.
The kings of Sheba and Seba shall bring him gifts.
Before him all kings shall fall prostrate, all nations shall serve him. (R.)
4. For he shall save the poor when they cry and the needy who are helpless.
He will have pity on the weak and save the lives of the poor. (R.)

Second Reading

Ephesians 3:2-3. 5-6

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians
The revelation means that pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are parts of the same body.

You have probably heard how I have been entrusted by God with the grace he meant for you, and that it was by a revelation that I was given the knowledge of the mystery. This mystery that has now been revealed through the Spirit to his holy apostles and prophets was unknown to any men in past generations; it means that pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are parts of the same body, and that the same promise has been made to them, in Christ Jesus, through the gospel.

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 **Matthew**

All:

Glory to you, O Lord.

Matthew 2:1-12

We have come from the East to worship the king.

After Jesus had been born at Bethlehem in Judaea during the reign of King Herod, some wise men came to Jerusalem from the east. 'Where is the infant king of the Jews?' they asked. 'We saw his star as it rose and have come to do him homage.' When King Herod heard this he was perturbed, and so was the whole of Jerusalem. He called together all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, and enquired of them where the Christ was to be born. 'At Bethlehem in Judaea,' they told him, 'for this is what the prophet wrote:

And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
you are by no means least among the leaders of Judah,
for out of you will come a leader
who will shepherd my people Israel.'

Then Herod summoned the wise men to see him privately. He asked them the exact date on which the star had appeared, and sent them on to Bethlehem. 'Go and find out all about the child,' he said 'and when you have found him, let me know, so that I too may go and do him homage.' Having listened to what the king had to say, they set out. And there in front of them was the star they had seen rising; it went forward and halted over the place where the child was. The sight of the star filled them with delight, and going into the house they saw the child with his mother Mary, and falling to their knees they did him homage. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. But they were warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, and returned to their own country by a different way.

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 might Mary and Joseph have felt when Jesus was missing and when they found him again?

Q. Why do you think this is the only incident from Jesus' childhood reported in the four gospels?

Q. Why does Jesus appear to place little importance on his family in this and other gospel incidents?

Q. Why is it that families can be both the most frustrating and fulfilling parts of our life?

Q. How could you improve relationships within your family?

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: Dearest friends, let us bring our intentions before Christ our Lord, the light of the world.

Reader: That the Holy Church will continue with faith and confidence to bring the message of the Gospel to all.
In your light:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That nations of East and West will follow Christ's light as the way to true peace and justice.
In your light:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That through the brightness of Christ, those struggling with sin will have the darkness driven from their hearts.
In your light:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That our parish community will bring the light of Christ to our families and friends.
In your light:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That all the sick and housebound will find strength in the radiance of Jesus Christ, especially our loved ones and those who are members of this community.
In your light:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That all who have died will embrace the light of eternal life, especially our loved ones and those who were members of this community.
In your light:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Loving Father, you gave your Son as a light for all nations. Hear our prayers and grant us the radiance of Jesus Christ as we spread your Gospel to the world. 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:

We believe that the Son of God once came to us
and we look for him to come again.
May his coming bring us the light of his holiness
and free us with his blessing.

All make the sign of the cross during the blessing.

All:

Amen.

Dismissal

Leader:

Let us go in the peace.

All:

Thanks be to God.

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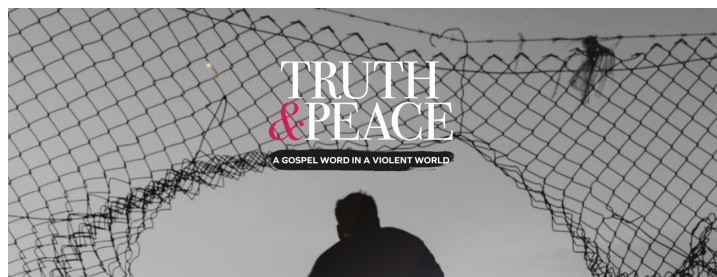
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EDUCATING FOR PEACE

(page 10 Truth & Peace: A Gospel Word in a Violent World 2024-2025 Social Justice Statement)

Peace does not just happen or fall from the sky. Its fulness may be God's gift, but on the way to that fulness, peace-making can and must be taught and learnt. Therefore, education is vital for building a culture of peace, teaching the art and "architecture of peace", how to shape a culture of dialogue based on encounter. Teaching and education are, says Pope Francis, "the primary means of promoting integral human development; and they are essential for the defence and promotion of peace. In a word, teaching and education are the foundations of a cohesive civil society".²² Recently the Pope gathered 6,000 children from the Italian Network of Schools of Peace at the Vatican and encouraged them to be "artisans of peace", not war-mongers but peace-mongers, urging them be active in promoting their dream of a new vision for the world. The Network is committed to educating the young people of Italy about peace, justice, human rights, citizenship and responsibility, and it may have something to offer here in Australia.²³ Promoting cohesion has been a strength of Catholic education in Australia for over 200 years, and our schools provide a unique opportunity for the teaching of peace and educating in what "the architecture of peace" requires. Given the urgency of the task, it is worth asking, how might our schools be more focused and creative in teaching the way of truth, trust and peace? No doubt this is already happening in the schools in many ways, direct and indirect; but as the world grows more violent, might still more be done? This is a question for our educational leaders.



Social Justice Statement 2024-2025 Prayer

Adapted from Pope Francis' Fratelli Tutti

O God, Trinity of love,

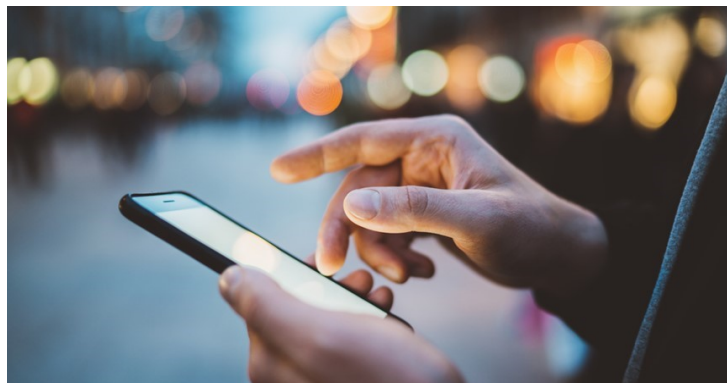
**from the profound communion of your divine life,
pour out upon us a torrent of sisterly and brotherly love.**

**Grant us the love reflected in the actions of Jesus,
in his family of Nazareth,
and in the early Christian community.**

**Grant that we Christians may live the Gospel,
discovering Christ in each human being,
recognising him crucified
in the sufferings of the abandoned
and forgotten of our world,
and risen in each sister or brother
who makes a new start.**

**Come, Holy Spirit, show us your beauty,
reflected in all the peoples of the earth,
so that we may discover anew
that all are important and all are necessary,
different faces of the one humanity
that God so loves**

Amen



Support services to turn to over the holiday season

If you need support during the holiday season, please reach out to one of the support services listed below.

Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle PUBLISHED December 17, 2024

As we approach the holiday season, it's important to recognise many people in our community could be struggling.

While the Christmas and New Year periods are typically a time of joy, for some, the festive season can also bring feelings of sadness, stress, and loneliness.

Alternatively, you may want to start the New Year by planning self-care, speaking to someone about something on your mind, or getting advice about a loved one.

If you need support during this period, please reach out to one of the support services listed below.

Diocesan Support Services

The Rosewood Centre

Contact number: 1800 613 155

Website: www.rosewoodcentre.com.au

Face-to-face and telehealth fee-for-service counselling and support for the whole family.

The Rosewood Centre will be closed from 24 December 2024 to 1 January 2025, reopening on Thursday 2 January. If you need urgent support during this time, please contact one of the national support services listed below.

GambleAware Hunter New England

Contact number: 1800 497 065

Website: www.catholiccare.org.au/gambleaware

This GambleAware Service will be closed from 24 December 2024 to 1 January 2025, reopening on Thursday 2 January. For any urgent matters over this period, please contact the Gambling Helpline on 1800 858 858. The Gambling Helpline is available 24/7 for anyone who needs help with gambling harm.

National Support Services

Lifeline

Contact number: 13 11 14

Website: www.lifeline.org.au

Lifeline is a national charity providing all Australians experiencing a personal crisis with access to 24-hour crisis support and suicide prevention services.

1800RESPECT

Contact number: 1800 737 732

Website: www.1800respect.org.au

1800RESPECT is the national domestic, family and sexual violence counselling, information and support service.

Support is available in 28 languages.

Suicide Callback Service

Contact number: 1300 659 467

Website: www.suicidecallbackservice.org.au

24/7 crisis support and suicide prevention services via telephone and online chat.

13Yarn

Contact number: 13 92 76

Website: www.13yarn.org.au

24/7 crisis support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Parent Line NSW

Contact number: 1300 1300 52

Website: www.parentline.org.au

Parent Line NSW is available to talk to about almost anything related to parenting or raising a child. They can provide advice on behaviour management, family relationships, children's development and much more.

Counsellors will assist families to access any services or information that may be of use to their circumstances.

QLife

Contact number: 1800 184 527

Website: www qlife.org.au

LGBTIQ+ peer support and referral, 3pm to midnight every day.

Children and Young People

In addition to the above services, children and young people can also reach out to the below organisations.

Kids Helpline

Contact number: 1800 551 800

Website: www.kidshelpline.com.au

24/7 crisis support and suicide prevention for children and young people aged 5 to 25.

headspace

Contact number: 1800 650 890

Website: www.headspace.org.au/ehespace

Online support and counselling for young people aged 12 to 25 from 9am to 1pm every day.

Youth Beyond Blue

Website: www.beyondblue.org.au

Youth Beyond Blue is a mental health support for children between 12-25.

The Youth Directory

Website: Youth Refuge Directory (NSW) — Caretakers Cottage

The Youth Directory is a free directory for crisis accommodation services for teens in NSW. The directory includes up-to-date contact details for all crisis accommodation services for young people under the age of 18, as well as contact details for Child Protection Services (Family and Community Services, Juvenile Justice, Police Youth Liaison Officers). It is free and can be ordered here - Youth Refuge Directory (NSW) — Caretakers Cottage

If you have immediate concerns relating to the safety, welfare and wellbeing of a child or young person, it is important to make a report to the Department of Communities and Justice on 132 111. In addition to the reporting requirements by law, reports and concerns are also to be made to the Office of Safeguarding - <https://officeofsafeguarding.org.au>