



**St John
Vianney**
Parish Morisset



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR C 01 DECEMBER 2024

Christians are called to live in a strange state of physical balance, loving life and every bit of God’s creation, while holding it lightly, because we know it is destined for transformation.

Advent invites us to remember the long and the short of it. We look to Christ’s return in glory, but don’t worry about the details. Instead we keep Isaiah’s vision in mind, allowing it to lead us to participate in making the things of this earth all that they can be.

Advent calls us to go forward, with hope always in the future. Tradition points the way, but can change in the face of surprises. So there is no staying behind to defend the past, or to think we can control the trajectory of history to keep everything the same.

Advent is about renewal and adaptation.



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 2264, 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 when coming in 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 | 30th November 5pm Family Mass—Morisset |
| Sunday | 1st December 9.30am Mass—Morisset |
| Friday | 6th December 10.30am Mass—Morisset |
| Saturday | 7th December 5pm Mass—Cooranbong |
| Sunday | 8th December 9.30am Mass—Morisset |
| Friday | 13th December 10.30am Mass—Morisset |
| Saturday | 14th December 5pm Family Mass—Morisset |
| Sunday | 15th December 2024 9.30am Mass—Morisset |
| Friday | 20th December 10.30am Mass—Morisset |
| Saturday | 21st December 5pm Mass—Cooranbong |
| Sunday | 22nd December 9.30am Mass—Morisset |
| Tuesday | 24th December 7pm Mass—Showground |
| Wednesday | 25th December 9.30am Mass—Morisset |

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Vinnies Christmas Appeal

At this time of year, with Christmas fast approaching, let us be aware of the many people in our parish area who rely on our assistance and support. On the weekend of November 30th and December 1st, the members of the Morisset Conference of St Vincent de Paul Society will be at the Masses to once again, accept your generous donation to our Vinnies Christmas Appeal by way of cash. Also non perishable food can be placed in the hamper basket in the church. With gratitude and blessings to all.

Appointment Letter

Dear Fathers, Deacons, and Parish Leaders,
Parish Priest Appointment to Boolaroo, Warners Bay, Booragul, Toronto, and Morisset
(News embargoed till 7pm Saturday 23 November)

I am pleased to inform you that I am appointing Fr Darryl Mackie as Parish Priest of Boolaroo, Warners Bay, Booragul, Toronto, and Morisset, effective from 1 January 2025. Parishioners in these parishes will be informed of the upcoming appointment during Vigil and Sunday Masses this weekend. Otherwise, this news is strictly embargoed until 7pm this Saturday 23 November. Congregations and parishioners have the right to hear the news from their own pastors.

I am most grateful to those who submitted an expression of interest and to Fr Darryl for taking on this appointment in addition to his responsibilities as Tribunal Office Manager and Vicar for retired and sick clergy.

Yours in Christ
Bishop Michael

Farewell

As you know Fr Greg Barker V.G. has been appointed Parish Priest of Inner Newcastle, Mayfield, and Stockton, effective from 1 January 2025.

Fr Greg will preside at our 9.30am Sunday Mass on 15th December. To help say farewell to Fr Greg a 'Cuppa' will be held in the Callinan Centre after Mass.

November-Month of the Holy Souls

Thank you to everyone who submitted names of their deceased relatives and friends to be remembered during November. The response was overwhelming. Some 300 names were submitted. These names were then divided into groups, and publicly acknowledged at each Mass in the Parish during November. We apologise if you unfortunately missed the Mass that your deceased relatives and friends were acknowledged.

CELEBRATE!

Last Sunday, we recognised the special milestones in the lives of some of our parishioners. We celebrated 7 birthdays from 18 to 98, 2 anniversaries and 2 renewal of wedding vows.

It was a very happy occasion, with some parishioners asking, 'when can we do it again.'

Christmas Mass Times.

Christmas Eve 7pm and Christmas Day 9.30am are the scheduled Mass times for 2024.

As in the past Christmas Eve will be held at the Morisset Showground to allow for the expected larger than normal crowd, and availability of parking.

A very productive Christmas planning meeting was held last Tuesday, with Fr Darryl in attendance. Fr Darryl will be the presider at the Christmas Eve Mass.

A lot of discussion was held on how we could make the Christmas Eve Mass a place of welcome and hospitality.

Several ideas and initiatives were presented for consideration. These proposals have been taken away for 'fine tuning,' and will be presented at the next meeting on 11th December, for implementation.

One thing settled was that the 'Working Bee' to set up chairs and stage for Christmas Eve Mass will commence at 10am.

Thank you to the people who have already volunteered to help with the Christmas Masses.

If you can help with the Christmas Mass Ministries, or general assistance for 'Set up' and 'Pack up' Please complete a 'sign up' sheet online at: <https://forms.office.com/r/Cer8Rr35Lt>

Or the hard copy ones at the back of the church and place in the box provided.

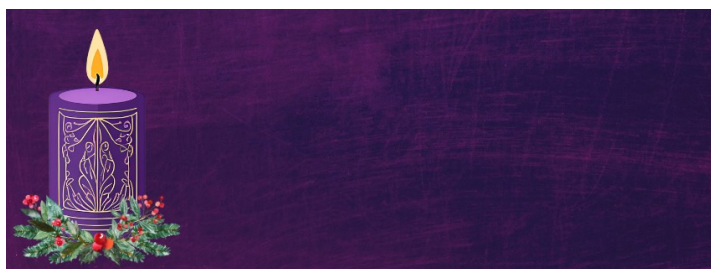
GOSPEL

Luke 21:25-28. 34-36

Your redemption is near at hand.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'There will be signs in the sun and moon and stars; on earth nations in agony, bewildered by the clamour of the ocean and its waves; men dying of fear as they await what menaces the world, for the powers of heaven will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand erect, hold your heads high, because your liberation is near at hand.

'Watch yourselves, or your hearts will be coarsened with debauchery and drunkenness and the cares of life, and that day will be sprung on you suddenly, like a trap. For it will come down on every living man on the face of the earth. Stay awake, praying at all times for the strength to survive all that is going to happen, and to stand with confidence before the Son of Man.'



First Sunday of Advent Year C - 1st December 2024 Reflection

Today we celebrate The First Sunday of Advent Year C, the start of a new Liturgical Year.

Advent is a short Season, which prepares us for Christmas, which as you know, and it doesn't need me to remind you, is just around the corner.

And we all have our hopes and dreams for Christmas.

During Advent, we are encouraged to prepare not only for Santa coming to town, but above all, we are to prepare for Jesus coming to town.

Most of us have participated in the Season of Advent many times over the years, and again, we have this opportunity with the Season, to prepare for Christmas

Advent is a Season easily overlooked in today's world, There is nothing more distracting from the mood of Advent than our cultures preparation for Christmas.

We are often distracted by tasks that need to be completed: shopping, getting ready for parties, parties with friends and workers parties, etc. etc

It is a very difficult time to be a Christian, and not only Christian, but someone who draws meaning from our ancient Catholic Tradition

We don't usually like to 'stay awake', yet Advent intends it! What does the call to 'Stay awake!' mean for us this Advent in 2024? John France

No Tuesday Liturgies

Due to the demands of the festive season there will be no liturgies on Tuesday's until further notice.

Pope Francis' prayer intention for December 2024

That the Jubilee Year of 2025 will strengthen us in our faith, helping us to recognize the Risen Christ in the midst of our lives, transforming us into pilgrims of Christian hope.

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?

Advent

The word, "advent", simply means "coming". In the context of the Christian faith, it represents our celebration of the first coming of Christ and our anticipation of his second coming. The birth of the Messiah was promised in the Old Testament and was anticipated by God's people for a very long time.

Traditionally, Advent is celebrated during the four Sundays before Christmas Day. During those four Sundays, many churches and families will mark the days by lighting Advent candles or an Advent wreath.

Having a physical symbol of this anticipation can help keep our minds on what it means for Jesus to be born. Physical representations of these moments act as reminders to us all. When we wait it means what we hope for has not yet come. It has been promised, or we have reason to believe it is on its way, but it is not yet here. We anticipate it and we actively look for it, but we wait.

With A Light Heart

A husband and wife came for counselling after 15 years of marriage. When asked what the problem was, the wife went into a passionate, painful tirade listing every problem they had ever had. She went on and on: neglect, lack of intimacy, emptiness, loneliness, feeling unloved and unlovable, an entire laundry list of unmet needs she had endured over the course of their marriage

Finally, after allowing this to continue for some time, the therapist got up, walked around the desk, asked the wife to stand, and embraced her.

The woman quietly sat down as though in a daze. The therapist turned to the husband and said, "This is what your wife needs at least three times a week. Can you do this?"

The husband thought for a moment and replied, "Well, I can drop her off here on Mondays and Wednesdays, but on Fridays I go fishing."

Lebanon Crisis Appeal

The escalating conflict between Israel and Hezbollah has pushed Lebanon into severe turmoil, with tragic consequences that have spread from Southern Lebanon to the entire nation. The situation is dire: over 3,000 lives have been lost, more than 13,000 people injured, and critical infrastructure has been destroyed.

In response to a heartfelt plea for assistance by Bishop Tarabay and Bishop Rabbat, the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference in partnership with Catholic Religious Australia, Caritas Australia and Caritas Lebanon, has launched the Lebanon Appeal.

This appeal aims to provide essential humanitarian aid to our brothers and sisters suffering in Lebanon, especially those who are displaced and without homes or shelter.

Donate today: www.caritas.org.au/lebanondonate

Newcastle Catholic Charismatic Thanksgiving Mass 2024

Everyone is invited to give thanksgiving to the Lord for all that 2024 has brought during a Thanksgiving Mass on Friday 13 December at 7pm at the Sacred Heart Cathedral. Bishop Michael has kindly accepted our invitation and will be joining our other priests while presiding over the Mass. We will also be gathering for Praise and Worship at 6:30pm before the Mass and all are welcome to part of this part of the celebration.

Refreshments will be served afterwards. Please contact Mary-Anne on 0402 918 375 or Wayne on 0466 631 394 for more information.

Christmas Appeal

This Christmas, families like Sakhina's are facing the devastating risk of disease due to a severe lack of clean water and proper sanitation in the world's largest refugee camp.

But with your support, we can bring hope to these families. As part of the second-largest humanitarian network in the world, Caritas Australia and our partner Caritas Bangladesh are on the ground, ready to act. Together, we can improve access to clean water, provide better sanitation, and help reduce the spread of deadly waterborne diseases this Christmas.

Donate today at caritas.org.au/christmas

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 10th December 2024**. Bookings can be made online at the link at: <https://forms.office.com/r/wZtatkt01V>



Westlakes Christmas Masses

2024

| | | |
|-------------|---------|--------------------------|
| 24 December | 6.00 pm | St Mary's Warners Bay |
| 24 December | 6.00 pm | St Joseph's Toronto |
| 24 December | 7.00 pm | Showground Morisset |
| 25 December | 9.00 am | St Mary's Warners Bay |
| 25 December | 9.00 am | St Michael's Booragul |
| 25 December | 9.00 am | St Joseph's Toronto |
| 25 December | 9.30 am | St John Vianney Morisset |

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 | P Robertson U France | H White D Whitten |
| <u>PSALMIST:</u> | 5PM 9.30AM | J France M Melvey | J Vipan K Lendon |
| <u>GIFTS</u> | 5PM 9.30AM | K Lendon L McRae H White | P Melvey B Cox M Melvey P Melvey |
| <u>SERVERS</u> | 5PM 9.30AM | C Lawandos V Paulo | M Melvey C Lawandos |
| <u>AV</u> | 5PM 9.30AM | J France M Fowler | D Peterson J France |
| <u>WELCOMERS</u> | 5PM 9.30AM | K Lendon K Amon | P Melvey A Dussin |
| <u>CHURCH CLEANING</u> | COOR MOR | XXXX C Lawandos K Lendon | Cameron Family R Hay C Hay |

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

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

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

If you have any concerns for a child or vulnerable person please contact the Office of Safeguarding Phone: 02 4979 1390

Email: childprotection@mn.catholic.org.au,

or visit their website for further information:

www.officeofsafeguarding.org.au

UPCOMING FEAST DAYS MEMORIALS AND SOLEMINITIES

- SAINT ANDREW (F) - 30TH NOV
- SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER (M) - 3RD DEC
- SAINT AMBROSE (M) - 7TH DEC
- THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY (S) - 9TH DEC
- SAINT LUCY (M) - 13TH DEC
- SAINT JOHN OF THE CROSS (M) - 14TH DEC
- THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD DAY (S) - 25TH DEC
- SAINT STEPHEN (F) - 26TH DEC
- SAINT JOHN (F) - 27TH DEC

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: Macayla Godlieb



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

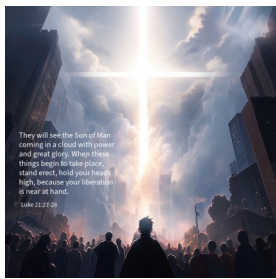
My Jesus,
I believe that You
are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.
I love You above all things,
and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment
receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly 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 Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe Year B Sunday 24 Nov 2024

The Introductory Rites Acknowledgement of Country

We Acknowledge the Awabakal and Darkinjung nations as the Traditional Custodians who have walked upon and cared for this land our parish encompasses for thousands of years, and honour and pay respect to, Elders past, present and emerging. We acknowledge the continued deep spiritual attachment and relationship of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples to this country and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of reconciliation.

Gathering

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

Sign of the Cross

Leader:

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

All:

Amen.

Greeting

Leader:

Blessed be Jesus Christ
who will come again in glory.

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 await the coming of the Lord.

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 come to set us free: Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, you show us the way to the Father: Christ, have
mercy.

All: Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you call us to be ready for your coming: 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 Lord,
we do not know the hour or the day
that you will come again.
Make us ready for that day
and help us build your kingdom of peace on earth.
We ask this through Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
for ever and ever.

All:

Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

Jeremiah 33:14-16

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

I will cause a good seed to spring forth from David.

See, the days are coming – it is the Lord who speaks – when I am
going to fulfil the promise I made to the House of Israel and the
House of Judah:

'In those days and at that time,
I will make a virtuous Branch grow for David,
who shall practise honesty and integrity in the land.
In those days Judah shall be saved
and Israel shall dwell in confidence.
And this is the name the city will be called:
The Lord-our-integrity.'

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

The word of the Lord.

All reply:

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 24:4-5. 8-9. 10. 14. R. v.1

(R.) To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

1. Lord, make me know your ways.
Lord, teach me your paths.
Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:
for you are God my saviour. (R.)
2. The Lord is good and upright.
He shows the path to those who stray,
he guides the humble in the right path;
he teaches his way to the poor. (R.)
3. His ways are faithfulness and love
for those who keep his covenant and will.
The Lord's friendship is for those who revere him;
to them he reveals his covenant. (R.)

Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 3:12 – 4:2

A reading from first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

When Christ comes may he strengthen your hearts in holiness.

May the Lord be generous in increasing your love and make you
love one another and the whole human race as much as we love
you. And may he so confirm your hearts in holiness that you may
be blameless in the sight of our God and Father when our Lord
Jesus Christ comes with all his saints.

Finally, brothers, we urge you and appeal to you in the Lord
Jesus to make more and more progress in the kind of life that
you are meant to live: the life that God wants, as you learnt from
us, and as you are already living it. You have not forgotten the
instructions we gave you on the authority of the Lord Jesus.

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 **Luke**

All:

Glory to you, O Lord.

Luke 21:25-28. 34-36

Your redemption is near at hand.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'There will be signs in the sun and moon and stars; on earth nations in agony, bewildered by the clamour of the ocean and its waves; men dying of fear as they await what menaces the world, for the powers of heaven will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand erect, hold your heads high, because your liberation is near at hand.

'Watch yourselves, or your hearts will be coarsened with debauchery and drunkenness and the cares of life, and that day will be sprung on you suddenly, like a trap. For it will come down on every living man on the face of the earth. Stay awake, praying at all times for the strength to survive all that is going to happen, and to stand with confidence before the Son of Man.'

Reader:

The Gospel of the Lord.

All:

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

All are seated.

Reflection on the Word

A short period of reflection may be observed.

Q. What is your immediate reaction to this gospel passage?

Q. What problems might lie in reading this passage with a literal interpretation?

Q. What must it have been like for the early Christians to be expecting the imminent end of time?

Q. How does the concept of being a people of Hope sit with this passage?

Q. How can you make the most of this season of Advent?

Profession of Faith

Leader:

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

All:

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

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

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

**the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayer of the Faithful

Leader: Dear friends, as we wait for the coming of our Saviour let us bring our intentions before the Lord.

Reader: That the Holy Church will draw together in penance and prayer.

In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That those who live in poverty will experience the comforting message of God's Word.

In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That world leaders will act with righteousness and keep God's ways at heart.

In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That our parish community will be strengthened in heart and holiness as we wait for the coming of Christ.

In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That all who are sick will know God's mercy and love, especially those who are family and members of our community.

In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That all who have died will share in eternal redemption with Christ, especially those who are family and were members of our community.

In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Lord God, you show us that our redemption is near at hand. Hear our prayers, and help us to be watchful, ready for the glorious coming of our Saviour Jesus Christ. 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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FAITH MATTERS: Awaiting Hope

With Advent commencing this coming Sunday we enter a season when we patiently wait reflecting on what is to come, that being HOPE!

Rosemary McAllister PUBLISHED November 26, 2024

Hope can be defined in different ways, a feeling of expectation and desire for a particular thing to happen, grounds for believing that something good may happen, or a feeling of trust. As a noun, hope can mean an aspiration, desire, wish, expectation, ambition, aim, plan, dream, longing, yearning, craving and as a verb hope can mean to expect, anticipate, look for, wait for, be hopeful of, want, wish for, dream of. Everyone knows what it is to hope.

We can know things. The Greek word Ginosko which is most often translated as “know” or “known” is a word that means so much more than that. In English the best way to translate it would probably be to personally, intimately, and experientially know something.

When we consider Christmas, we’re not just talking about waiting for the baby Jesus to be born, we know that happened 2,000 years ago. We are welcoming the Christ that is forever being born in the human soul and into history. Jesus took flesh in his birth, he was born the same way as you and I, His birth reveals his earthly existence and brings all humans into a common family, this we know. But what we yearn for is a knowing that is in the heart of each person, a hope that dwells as the desire and expectation of good things to come, despite our not knowing what the future may bring. “Hope does not disappoint, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us” (Rom 5:1-2.5). This interplay of hope and waiting makes us see clearly that the Christian life is a journey calling for moments of greater intensity to encourage and sustain hope as the constant companion that guides our steps towards the goal of our encounter with the Lord Jesus.

This year as we prepare ourselves for the new liturgical year and season of Advent, we also prepare ourselves for what is to come in the 2025 Jubilee Year, Pilgrims of Hope.

Pope Francis writes:

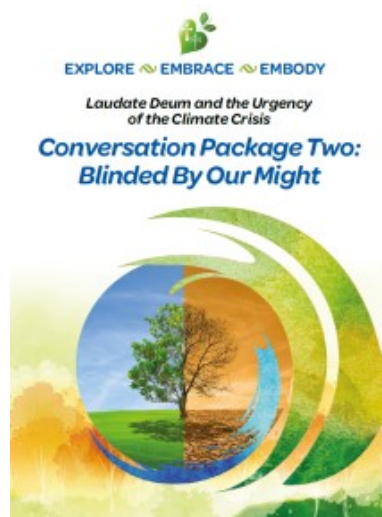
“In our fast-paced world, we are used to wanting everything now. We no longer have time simply to be with others; even families find it hard to get together and enjoy one another’s company. Patience has been put to flight by frenetic haste, and this has proved detrimental, since it leads to impatience, anxiety and even gratuitous violence, resulting in more unhappiness and self-centredness.

Nor is there much place for patience in this age of the Internet, as space and time yield to an ever present “now”. Were we still able to contemplate creation with a sense of awe, we might better understand the importance of patience.”

This Advent let us make room as we await with hope. May the power of hope fill our days, as we await with confidence the coming of Jesus. Through our witness, may hope spread to all those who anxiously seek it so it becomes more than just words but a fully lived experience.

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

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



Blinded By Our Might Josephites Launch Second Laudato Si' Conversation Package

The Josephite Laudato Si' Action Plan team presents its second Conversation Package in the five-part [URGENT HOPE series](#).

Titled [Blinded By Our Might](#), this community and educational resource has been developed by the [Sisters of Saint Joseph of the Sacred Heart](#) in collaboration with the [Sisters of St Joseph Lochinvar](#) to spark discussion,

inform, and inspire people of hope.

Blinded By Our Might focuses on the recognition that humanity is the most powerful species on the planet. Our species is now regarded as “having turned into highly dangerous beings, capable of threatening the lives of many beings and our own survival” (Pope Francis 2023, para. 28).

Pope Francis is calling humankind to dial-back our reliance on technological fixes as the remedy for the climate crisis. Rather than remaining ‘blinded by our might’, this Conversation Package focuses on the urgency of remembering our rightful place within creation, and the hope that we will choose the “path of wisdom” (Pope Francis 2023, para. 63) and “begin to think of ourselves differently, in a humbler... way” (Pope Francis 2023, para. 68).

Individually or in a group setting with friends, family, students or colleagues, readers can use the questions within Blinded By Our Might and Pope Francis’ quotes from [Laudate Deum](#) to spark discussion, share countering views and form ways to move forward.

You are also welcome to visit the Sisters of Saint Joseph website for more Laudato Si’ updates, tips and inspiration [here](#).



Formation Film – December

You are invited to the Diocesan Resource Centre for the December Formation Film event – *The Man Who Invented Christmas*.

In 1843 London, author Charles Dickens finds himself in financial trouble and desperate for a hit. Dickens relies on real-life inspiration and vivid imagination to bring Ebenezer Scrooge, Tiny Tim, and others to life in A Christmas Carol. Featuring acclaimed actors; Christopher Plummer, Miriam Margolyes, and Simon Callow.

When: 7 December 2024

Where: Diocesan Resource Centre – 12 Tudor Street, Newcastle West

Time: 11am

Christmas Inspired Lunch Provided

Bookings via: <https://forms.office.com/r/HqdyiVSN8H> or call 02 4923 0682

'Blood, sweat and prayers': St Mary's Catholic College celebrates milestone

This story was originally published in the Newcastle Herald.

Catholic Schools Office PUBLISHED November 26, 2024

When the Sisters of St Joseph were asked if they could establish a school for East Lake Macquarie, there was no hesitation. They said yes.

This year St Mary's Catholic College, Gateshead is celebrating 60 years since its doors were opened in 1964.

School ministry coordinator De-Anna Addicoat says when she looks at the students of the school, she is looking at the answered prayers of the Josephites.

"They weren't given any money or land, they just did it through blood, sweat and tears and a lot of prayers," she said.

"I look at these students today and I'm looking at the sisters' prayers and their dreams. What I see today is their dream come true."

In the past 10 years Ms Addicoat has seen the college transition from a year's 7 to 10 school, expanding to accommodate year 11 and 12 in 2019.

"With that came the name change from St Mary's High School to St Mary's Catholic College," she said.

"We also changed the school crest to an updated version and our uniforms became more formal."

When the school first opened, it was an all girls high school with just 156 enrolments. It became a co-ed school in 1983.

"When it was a seven to ten co-ed school the numbers went up to nearly a thousand but it couldn't be maintained because they really didn't have the buildings to accommodate, so numbers dwindled down to five or six hundred," Ms Addicoat said.

Since expanding to senior years, there is now a waiting list for 70 students to attend the college in 2025.

"To be able to accommodate the need of people wanting to come to this school we're going from 180 in year 7 to taking 210.

The demand is going to take us up to a thousand or so again now," she said.

The school community came together to celebrate the milestone on Friday, November 22 with a mass and array of fundraising activities for the St Vincent De Paul Christmas Appeal. Students also made crosses to represent each of the six decades.

"It was a great celebration of love, faith, courage and community," Ms Addicoat said.

Mass | 5pm- 6.00pm, Supper | 6.00pm-7.00pm

Sacred Heart Cathedral, Hunter Street, Hamilton

RSPV not required, for more information or specific requirements contact

Lizzie Watkin to discuss your needs
lizzie.watkin@mn.catholic.edu.au or ph 0404 005 036

The Federation of P & F Associations hosted its first Mass Celebrating Diverse Learning in 1999. Over the years, the Mass has remained a valued opportunity for everyone to come together in celebration of the diverse gifts and talents of each and every student, which undoubtedly enrich our Catholic school communities.

The Federation's Diverse Learning Needs Working Party has a proud history of advocating for our Catholic Schools to be places of welcome and support for children who perceive and interact with the world in diverse ways. As such, its annual Mass Celebrating Diverse Learning is one of welcome and inclusivity, everyone is encouraged to attend and feel comfortable to be themselves!

This year, the Federation is grateful to have Bishop Michael Kennedy and the communities of Newcastle's Inner City Schools lead the celebration.

This celebration is intended to be inclusive of all in our community to come and enjoy. To help facilitate this, the Federation has ensured there is disabled parking and amenities onsite, supper will cater for people with a range of dietary requirements.

