



**St John
Vianney**
Parish Morisset



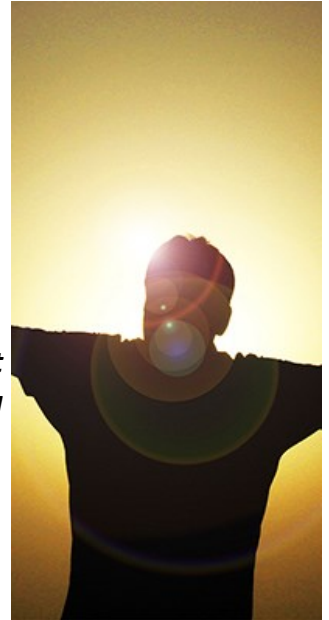
THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD YEAR B 12 MAY 2024

The feast of the Ascension of the Lord, is ultimately a reminder of the mission Jesus handed over to his followers, and each of the readings gives us a perspective on that reality.

Before leaving his apostles Jesus commissioned them to preach the Gospel to the whole world.

Today the task of preaching the Gospel to the whole world depends on us. It is a great privilege but a daunting task. The best way to preach the Gospel is by living a Christian life.

Each one of us is called to be the voice, the hands and the feet of Jesus in the world.



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 | 11th May 5pm
Mass—Cooranbong |
| Sunday | 12th May 9.30am
Mass—Morisset |
| Tuesday | 14th May 9.30am
Liturgy—Morisset |
| Friday | 17th May 10.30am
Mass—Morisset |
| Saturday | 18th May 5pm
Family Mass—Morisset |
| Sunday | 19th May 9.30am
Mass—Morisset |
| Tuesday | 21st May 9.30am
Liturgy—Morisset |
| Saturday | 25th May 5pm
Mass—Cooranbong |
| Sunday | 26th May 9.30am
Mass—Morisset |
| Tuesday | 28th May 9.30am
Liturgy—Morisset |
| Friday | 31st May 10.30am
Mass—Morisset |
| Saturday | 1st June 5pm
Family Mass—Morisset |
| Sunday | 2nd June 9.30am
Mass—Morisset |

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THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD Year B — 12th May 2024

Today we celebrate the Feast of the Ascension, which celebrates the commissioning of the apostles to preach the Gospel to the whole world. The feast is as much about us, as it is about Jesus.

The story told in the Acts of the Apostles, is a dramatic way of expressing the truth that Jesus is in his heavenly home in the presence of God and is watching over his people on earth. The celebration of the Ascension has often been misunderstood because of a too-literal reading of the biblical accounts.

It didn't take long for the early church to figure that out, but the question is whether we have got the message. The healing of our broken world is not yet completed. Others may do their part, but they can't do the work that is uniquely ours. Each one of us is called to be his voice, hands, and feet in the world.

The feast of the Ascension might be compared to the passing of the baton in a relay race. On this day over 2,000 years ago, Jesus passed the baton of responsibility to his followers. Jesus commissioned them to complete the work he had begun. The critical moment in a relay race is the passing of the baton from one runner to another. More relays are won or lost at that moment, than at any other.

Christians/Catholics are to be more than just tourists passing through this world, without getting involved in any way. This "Great Commission," as it is often called, provides us with an opportunity to place our attention on the mission of evangelisation and the sharing of the good news with others, even if many members of the church still think that it is only the task of the clergy.

Many people think of the Ascension as the departure of Christ from our world. Yet in Scripture, Jesus makes it clear that he remains with us until the end of time. So, the issue is not whether he is present here in 2024, but how he is present.

His presence now is communicated through the church; that is, through every member of his body. We are the ones who have been commissioned to carry on his mission and preach the good news to the ends of the earth.

You know, it is a great privilege, but a daunting task.

John France

Mother's Day

We gather today to celebrate Mother's Day, let us remember that every day is a day to honour, respect and cherish our mothers. Let us pray for them, express our love for them and thank them for being the beautiful loving and nurturing souls that they are.

New Bank Account Details for Electronic Deposits

For those who contribute to Planned Giving, the 2nd Collection or the 1st Collection by depositing into our bank account electronically we have new bank account details see Supporting our Clergy and Supporting our Parish on page 4. Please note this doesn't affect direct debits.

Confirmation

Bishop Michael Kennedy, will confer the sacrament of confirmation to our candidates on Friday evening 20th September 2024.

Parish Pastoral Council-Parish Assembly

A Parish Assembly, will be held after the 9.30am Mass, Sunday June 2nd. The Assembly will not have the same format as in previous years. The sole aim of the Assembly is to discern, the direction and path the parish needs to take moving forward.

Fr Greg Barker VG and PP Boolaroo/Warners Bay, together with Fr Matthew Muller VG and Chancellor and Canonical Advisor will attend the Assembly to answer any questions.

Over the coming weeks leading up to the Assembly, a written report of parish finances, together with a report explaining how the parish has evolved to where it is today, will be available for your perusal.

aMeN CaMiNo

For several years the Diocesan Pastoral Office, has conducted the aMeN CaMiNo.

Again it is planned that the aMeN CaMiNo will be conducted in August 2024.

The vision behind the Hunter-based Camino is to bring together people from across the Diocese, including staff and parishioners, to take on a physical and spiritual journey surrounded by God's creation. In total, pilgrims walk almost 100km. Along the way they take in sacred Aboriginal sites and rolling vineyards in the Upper Hunter, beautiful bushland in the Watagans and Glenrock national parks, picturesque Lake Macquarie, stunning beaches, and finally the urban sprawl of Newcastle. The aMeN CaMiNo includes pre-arranged encounters with Aboriginal elders, the Bishop and Morisset parishioners. They each provided pilgrims with insightful glimpses into our Diocese's rich history, including Mary MacKillop's visit to Cooranbong.

The purpose of pilgrimage is journey. Camino has a long and established Christian history, it means 'road' or 'way'. A famous Camino is St James Way or Camino de Santiago in Spain. The first Christian movement in the 1st Century was known as 'The Way'. The aMeN CaMiNo is a response to a desire to be in communion with each other and our sacred earth. It is an opportunity to pause from routine, immerse yourself in reflection, contemplation and to provide a moment of space for each person to be conscious of God's gift of Grace.

Amen is the word Christian's use to say 'Yes, we are on our way to God.' By joining us on the "aMeN CaMiNo", you are saying yes to something in your heart which is calling you.

The aMeN caMiNo takes place over five consecutive days. The pilgrimage starts at St John's Chapel, Maitland and concludes at the Sacred Heart Cathedral, Hamilton. Pilgrims will walk an average of 20km per day through the beautiful landscape of bush, beach and beyond which we are blessed to have in our backyard.

The pilgrims will arrive at Cooranbong on Monday 5th August approx. 3pm.

Sacramental Team News

Recently the Sacramental Team met with Fr Darryl Mackie to discuss the Sacraments of Initiation, and the possibility of introducing a weekday Mass for both parishioners and pupils. It was decided after consultation with the clergy and leaders of SJV school, that Friday Mass will be held at 10.30am in the Morisset Church.. All Welcome.

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 14th May 2024**. Bookings can be made online at the link at: <https://forms.office.com/r/wZtatkt01V> or by contacting our Parish Office.

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?

The difference between: **Proselytise: Catechise: Evangelise:**
Proselytise: convert or attempt to convert someone from one religion, belief or opinion to another.

Catechise: To instruct someone in the principles of Christian religion by means of question and answer, typical by using a catechism.

Evangelise: To bring the good news of Jesus Christ to those around us. We recognise that our decisions and actions influence not only our own lives but also those of others.

Understanding the Mission of the Church.

The activity of the church-what it does-can be described as its mission. Mission in its broadest sense includes everything that it does in its service of the kingdom of God.

The Second Vatican Council teaches that the work of evangelisation is the fundamental duty of all the people of God, since the 'the whole church of its nature is missionary.

With A Light Heart.

Paddy and his wife Sheila are lying in bed one morning, having just woken up from a good night's sleep. Paddy takes his darling wife's hand, and she responds, "Don't touch me. Call Father O'Toole. I want him to do the funeral."

Why?" asks Paddy.

She replies, "Because I'm dead."

Paddy says to his wife, "What are you talking about? We're both lying here in bed together and talking to one another."

The wife says, "No, I'm definitely dead."

But Paddy insists, "You're not dead and I'm not calling Father O'Toole. What in the world makes you think you're dead."

His wife answers, "Because I woke up this morning and nothing hurts!"

Pope Francis' prayer intention for May 2024

Let us pray that men and women religious and seminarians, grow in their own vocational journey through human, pastoral, spiritual and community formation, that leads them to be credible witnesses of the Gospel.

Question Box

At the PPC meeting held during the week, it was brought to the attention of the meeting, 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, it was proposed that the stainless steel mail box outside the parish secretaries office, could be used for this purpose and the questions will be answered.

Sacramental Program

It is now time that we begin the process of welcoming families into the preparation of sacraments at St John Vianney Morisset.

If your child is **8 years old** or over, we invite you to come to an information meeting on the **22nd May at 7pm** in our Parish Centre where we will invite you into the process involved in preparing your children into the initiation Sacraments of Confirmation, First Communion and Reconciliation. Children are not expected to attend this information session.

Please contact our Parish Office to register your attendance:

We look forward to working with you in your child's faith journey. The new process will commence at Family Mass on Saturday 1st June 2024.

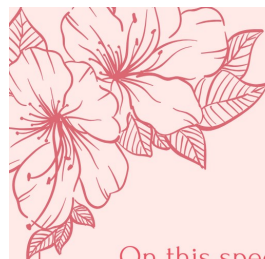
Sacred@Seven with Gen Bryant

From leading music ministry in her local parish, to performing for Pope Francis at World Youth Day, Genevieve Bryant is a much sought-after music minister and guest speaker who travels around Australia and the world, spreading the love of God through her gift of music.

Gen is joining us to share her amazing story and to encourage us all to step out in faith and to use the gifts that we have been given to impact this world. Gen and her band members will also be leading the music ministry at Sacred@Seven. Date: Wednesday 15th May 2024. Event Address: 841 Hunter Street, Newcastle West 2303

Location: Toohey Room next door to the Sacred Heart Cathedral
Time: 6.30pm: Gen Bryant Talk (Stepping out in Faith - Using your gifts) 7.30pm- 8.30pm: Sacred@Seven - Fr Anthony Coloma (Praise and Worship, Testimony, Scripture, Preaching and Adoration)

Register: <https://forms.office.com/r/bs1TRP7CCN>



MOTHER'S DAY PRAYER

Dear Lord,

On this special day, we show our gratitude for all Mothers and Mother like figures.

We thank them for their all-encompassing love, for their commitment, care and kindness.

We thank them for their wisdom, for helping us grow and flourish.

We thank them for their strength, for their sacrifices, and for being there in times of need.

And we thank them for their encouragement, for being our cheer leaders and celebrating our achievements.

Lord, help Mothers know how much they are loved and appreciated.

We ask that you bless all Mothers, including those who are no longer with us today.

Amen.



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 or set up a direct debit contact the parish office for this option.

SUPPORTING OUR PARISH / 2nd Collection

If you would like to make contributions to support our Parish please do so at Mass via the RED bucket or 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 2nd Collection 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 Melvey K Lendon	J Vipan U France
<u>PSALMIST:</u>	5PM 9.30AM	P Robertson M Shamley	K Lendon' S Matthews
<u>GIFTS</u>	5PM 9.30AM	H White P Melvey A Walker G Walker	P Robertson L Hutchinson G Hutchinson
<u>SERVERS</u>	5PM 9.30AM	M Melvey J Lawandos	M Melvey F Dyson
<u>AV</u>	5PM 9.30AM	D Peterson E Lawandos	J France D Peterson
<u>WELCOMERS</u>	5PM 9.30AM	Cameron Family A Walker G Walker	A Dussin TBA
<u>CHURCH CLEANING</u>	COOR MOR	J Scully 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

- THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD— 12TH MAY
- SAINT MATTHIAS (F) - 14TH MAY
- PENTECOST— 19TH MAY
- OUR LADY, HELP OF CHRISTIANS (S) - 24TH MAY
- THE MOST HOLY TRINITY—26TH MAY
- THE VISITATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY (F) - 31ST MAY
- SAINT JUSTIN (M) - 1ST JUN
- THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST—2ND JUN
- SAINTS CHARLES LWANGA AND COMPANIONS (M) - 3RD JUN
- SAINT BONIFACE (M) - 5TH JUNE
- THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS (S) - 7TH JUN

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

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

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



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.

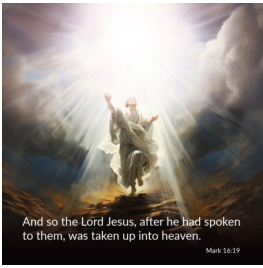
An Act of Spiritual Communion

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





SUNDAY PRAYER SERVICE The Ascension of the Lord Year B Sunday 12 May 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 Christ who has redeemed us and raised us to new life.

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.
United with the whole Church,
we celebrate the joy of Easter
and keep 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 are the way to the Father: Lord, have mercy:

All: Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, you give us a Spirit of wisdom: Christ, have mercy:

All: Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, your message goes out to all earth: 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.

Lord Jesus,
you sent the Disciples to proclaim
the Good News to all of creation.
May we follow your command
in all we do and say.
We make this prayer through
our Risen Lord Jesus.

All:

Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

Acts of the Apostles 1:1-11

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Why are you standing here looking into the sky? Jesus has been taken into heaven.

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is,' he had said, 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'

Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.'

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

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

The word of the Lord.

All reply:

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 46:2-3. 6-9. R. v.6

(R.) God mounts his throne to shouts of joy:
a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

1. All peoples, clap your hands,
cry to God with shouts of joy!
For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear,
great king over all the earth. (R.)
2. God goes up with shouts of joy;
the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.
Sing praise for God, sing praise,
sing praise to our king, sing praise. (R.)

3. God is king of all the earth.
Sing praise with all your skill.
God is king over the nations;
God reigns on his holy throne. (R.)

Second Reading

Ephesians 1:17-23

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians
He made Jesus to sit at his right hand in heaven.
May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet, and made him, as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

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 16:15-20

The Lord Jesus was taken into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God.

Jesus showed himself to the Eleven and said to them, 'Go out to the whole world; proclaim the Good News to all creation. He who believes and is baptised is saved; he who does not believe will be condemned. These are the signs that will be associated with believers: in my name they will cast out devils; they will have the gift of tongues; they will pick up snakes in their hands, and be unharmed should they drink deadly poison; they will lay their hands on the sick, who will recover.'

And so the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven: there at the right hand of God he took his place, while they, going out, preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word by the signs that accompanied it.

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, with Christ ascended into heaven,
let us bring our prayers to the Lord.

Reader: That the Holy Church will continue to bear
witness to the Gospel with grace and courage.
In your glory:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That there will be lasting ceasefires in Gaza,
and progress made towards lasting solutions.
In your glory:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That all considering vocations to the priesthood
will be lead in their calling by Christ the high
priest. In your glory:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That our mothers, grandmothers, godmothers
and all mother-figures in our lives, will be
blessed by God for the love and care they give
to us. In your glory:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That young Christians will turn to God for
strength, remembering that Jesus is at their
side at all times. In your glory:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That our parish community may be inspired by
the joy and hope of Christ's Ascension into
heaven. In your glory:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That all the sick will be strengthened by God's
abundant mercy, especially our family, friends
and those in our community. In your glory:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That all who have died will ascend to glory
with Christ our Saviour, especially our family
members, friends and those who were part of
our community. In your glory:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: God our Father, your Son is with you at your right hand. Hear our prayers and help us to glorify the work of our Saviour now enthroned in glory, through prayer, word and actions. 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:

Through the resurrection of his Son
God has redeemed us and made us his children.
May the Lord bless us with joy
and fill us with fruits of the Spirit.

All make the sign of the cross during the blessing.

All:

Amen.

Dismissal

Leader:

Let us go in peace. Alleluia.

All:

Thanks be to God.

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LITURGY MATTERS: Never Underestimate the Importance of Silence

Throughout the liturgy there are many moments that call on us to be silent. Along with the many other signs in a liturgical celebration, silence is often one of the most overlooked and unobserved. Why is it so important? What is the silence calling us to?

FIONA DUQUE PUBLISHED MAY 07, 2024

From a purely psychological perspective silence can promote self-awareness. These moments can assist the brain to process feelings, experiences and thoughts and bring some clarity of what was experienced. Recently I had the opportunity to attend a classical music concert. Many of the pieces have many parts, known as movements. Movements can be as little as two but as many as deemed necessary by the composer to tell the story they are wanting people to experience. For example, The Planets, composed by Gustav Holst, is a suite of seven movements. In between each of those movements there is silence. This

silence plays an important part in many classical music pieces, and it can be incredibly moving. A lot of the impact that comes from those moments of silence can be lost if it is not allowed to be experienced.

The same is true within the liturgy of the Church. Silence is one of the elements that allows us to be full, active, and conscious participants. Silence needs to be present. If fact, the liturgy writes it in. The silence can and should be profound.

Within the liturgy there are various kinds of silence. It is always intentional, purposeful, and integral to liturgy. Examples include: after each scripture reading; during the preparation of the gifts; accompanying the movement of liturgical ministers, particularly readers moving to and from the ambo; and most importantly where it is actually written into the liturgy as an integral element. For example, during the Collect after the presider says, 'Let us pray', the missal then states: "And all pray in silence with the priest for a while". So why be silent?

Where it is explicitly written, it must be important. Silence is not the absence of sound; it is the process of experiencing something internal and allowing that experience to permeate our hearts. As many Church documents attest, these moments are times where we can realise the presence of God's Holy Spirit and become united in prayer with God and each other. In silence we are praying, meditating, reflecting, calling to mind, praising, preparing to engage in dialogue with God who calls us to life and mission.

Liturgy rehearses us for life. The silence we experience in liturgy reminds us that silence is an essential element of human life and community. Where the world is in overdrive and deadlines are to be met, meetings abound, social media, television...the practice of silence can give you what you need to connect with God and the desires God has on your life, and with all the people you met.

May is a time to honour Mary and all Mothers

In the Catholic tradition, the month of May is a time when the Church celebrates and acknowledges the significant role Mary played as the mother of Jesus. For the secular world, it is also that time of year when motherhood is celebrated through the annual event known as 'Mother's Day'.

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When the Church released the Papal Encyclical, Deus Caritas Est, in December 2005, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI used it as an opportunity to highlight Mary's giftedness to the Church and the world at large.

Mary's "greatness", he went on to explain, was that she "wants to magnify the God, not herself. She is lowly: her only desire is to be the handmaid of the Lord."

To prepare this reflection on motherhood, and the upcoming Mother's Day, I asked a couple of Mums who work in or for the diocese to share with me their experiences of motherhood and the relationship they have with their children.

Karli Chenery, who works in the Religious Education team developing curriculum resources, said she made a conscious decision to be intentional about showing affection to her two daughters, Charlotte (16) and Leila (8).

"We are very demonstrative with each other in our family," Karli said. "We are huggers, we are kissers, we are criers."

With a smile, she adds: "We don't leave our house without kisses and saying goodbye...walking through the shopping centre, my 16-year-old still reaches out to hold my hand."

Her daughter's being able to call on her for support is something that is vitally important to Karli. It is not dissimilar to the significance of Mary's place in the life of the Church, with her intercession being sought for a large spectrum of human needs in various circumstances. As well, Mary is someone who can "show us Jesus, lead us to Him and teach us to know and love Him", according to Pope Benedict.

For Louise Campbell, an Educational Officer in the area of Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander Education and Wellbeing, the significance of showing, leading and teaching others is fundamental to the role played by herself and fellow Indigenous women within their community. "As an Aboriginal mother, my sisters and I are part of a bigger, motherly circle and we support all those who are seen as our children, including those in the generation below us and those below them.

"We support Women's Business, we support rituals and ceremonies, we take that thinking into the bigger picture of things...we are supported by our grandmothers, if they are around."

Recalling her own upbringing, Louise shared how she “sat at the feet” of her great-grandmother. “We listened to the stories when it was their time to have a particular Yarn.”

The legacy of her relationship with her own mother, Jennifer, who died four years ago after a short but devastating illness, also had a significant impact on Karli.

“It was a shock the first time my mum said ‘I love you’ on the phone – my sister and I always knew that she loved us but I just knew that I always wanted to be a little more overt in my role as a mother and show my kids that it is OK to be physically affectionate.”

Another lesson she hopes to pass on to her daughters is a chance to “encounter Christ”.

“We go camping a lot as a family, and in those moments, I hope they will see God when we are out in nature,” she said.

“Sometimes, Leila will see an occasion, such as a bird landing on her chair, as God looking at her...she calls rainbows and the light coming through the clouds as ‘the fingers of God touching the Earth and touching people’.”

Both Louise and Karli are mindful that their maternal roles mean they have a chance, and even an obligation, to significantly influence those in their care and sphere of influence.

For Louise, this opportunity is shaped by her Christian faith and, more significantly, her Aboriginal heritage and upbringing.

“I understand Christian spirituality, but the Aboriginal spirituality, the knowing and the doing, that has been super [important]...” she said.

Both Karli and Louise attest to the joys and inherent challenges of motherhood.

“The love that you have for your children is next level,” said Karli. “You can’t compare it with any other love.”

Catholic Mission has a variety of mission projects that can be supported as a unique gift for Mother’s Day. By purchasing from the Life-Giving Gifts catalogue for Mother’s Day you are not only showing the mother or special woman in your life how much you care for them, but you are also making an incredible difference for those in need. Check out www.catholicmission.org.au/giftsforher

10 Questions about Pentecost

Officer Worship and Prayer Fiona Duque answers some questions about Pentecost below.

FIONA DUQUE PUBLISHED MAY 08, 2024

What is Pentecost?

Pentecost celebrates the descent of the Holy Spirit on the apostles. It occurs after the season of Easter. It empowered the apostles to go out, as Jesus had commanded them, to be missionary disciples and thus it marks the beginning of the Christian church’s mandate to pursue God’s mission to the world.

Pentecost can be an invitation to all people to open their eyes to the mystery of life and love.

Who is the Holy Spirit?

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God which fills all of creation. The Holy Spirit is present with us, guiding us towards goodness and truth. Christians understand the Holy Spirit as the third person of the Trinity (Father, Son, Spirit). The Holy Spirit is often referred to by other names in scripture such as the paraclete and advocate and is often spoken of in the feminine.

What is in the Bible story about Pentecost?

Jesus’ has ascended into heaven. The disciples feel lost, so they come together to talk and pray about what has happened. Then, to their surprise, a strong of wind fills the room and then it turns into flames. Tongues of flames settle on top of their heads. They were then, shockingly, gifted with being able to speak other languages. They used this gift to spread the Good News of Jesus. Amazingly 3000 people are baptised this day and were also filled with the Holy Spirit. And so, it continues today.

PS: It is important to remember that Catholics do not read the scriptures as a literal historical account. The story of Pentecost reveals a deep truth about God’s promise to be with us always.

Why is it sometimes referred to as the ‘birthday of the church’?

Who doesn’t love a birthday party! However, not wanting to burst your balloon, this is not a helpful or even accurate image. Again, we are looking for a deeper truth. That is that the Church only exists in and through the power of the Holy Spirit. Without the Holy Spirit there is no Church. Perhaps more accurately we would say that the Church comes

into being in the life, death and resurrection of Christ and the gift of the Holy Spirit.

How important is Pentecost Sunday to the Church?

Pentecost Sunday is the last day of the Easter Season. For the Catholic Church, Mass on this day is a solemnity. A solemnity is a feast day of the highest rank celebrating a mystery of faith. The observance begins on the evening before the actual date of the feast.

What is the liturgical colour of Pentecost?

The tradition of the Catholic Church is to dress the church in red. The colour red used at this Mass recalls the tongues of fire that descended upon the apostles when they received the gift of the Holy Spirit.

What are the main symbols of Pentecost?

The more notable symbols of Pentecost are wind, fire, and a dove. However, perhaps the most profound and yet unrecognised symbol of Pentecost is the diverse languages of the apostles when they spoke after they had received the Holy Spirit. The Spirit enables a variety of gifts within the community. God’s vision for our unity through our diversity.

What was the historical significance of Pentecost for the Jewish people?

Pentecost is known to the Jewish people as Shavuot, the seven weeks (Feast of Weeks) after Passover. It was known as the Harvest Festival. You can find out about it in Leviticus 23:15-16. Pentecost is a Greek word for that holiday, meaning fiftieth (Πεντηκοστή (Pentēkostē).

Why did the Holy Spirit come at Pentecost?

Jesus promised to send an advocate who would be with us always. The Holy Spirit is the fulfillment of that promise. In the Bible it reads that there were many Jews from every nation ‘under heaven’ in Jerusalem for Shavuot at that time. Remembering that the Holy Spirit gave the apostles the gift of languages, so they were able to proclaim the Good News about Jesus in languages that the people could understand.

I am not Catholic, what might Pentecost mean to me?

Sorry, this day won’t fast track your second language studies. By receiving the Spirit of God, the followers of Jesus became one in purpose, as brothers and sisters in the one human family. It strengthened their community. What communities do you belong to that you need to reconnect with? Or, maybe you are being called to do more in your community. Also, a Church dressed in red is certainly a beautiful sight to behold. You should check it out.

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

The last 2 sessions for Tilling the church will be:

Wednesday 15 May: Chapter 5. The Future-Oriented Past

Wednesday 19 June: Chapter 6. The Art of Faithfulness and Conclusion

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

BBI Short Course: Ethical Foundations: Human Dignity Mondays 20 & 27 May, 4pm -5:30pm

Human dignity is at the heart of all ethical and moral reasoning. What do we mean by human dignity? Why is it so important, that without it, we cannot properly act toward others, develop economic systems or know what is good or bad care of another human being?

Register to join us at the Diocesan Resource Centre, at home or as a parish group at <https://forms.office.com/r/7uMVUncy4f>

New Life in God’s Spirit Seminar

Are you open to allowing God to activate the gifts of the Holy Spirit, which you received in Baptism? The Immaculate Conception of Mary, Charismatic Prayer Group have been gathering for more than 40 years.

They eagerly invite you to experience a six-week, ‘New life in the Spirit Seminar’. This is an opportunity for you to journey with others to encounter Jesus, through the Holy Spirit. There will be music for Praise and Worship, guest speakers and discussion groups.

Location: Diocesan Resource Centre 12 Tudor Street (corner of Tudor and Parry Street), Newcastle West-adjacent to the Sacred Heart Cathedral. **Time:** 6.30pm-8.30pm **Start date:** Monday 20 May

Cost: Free. Simply register your name and contact details by calling or texting Bernadette Barlow on 0425 270 613. You can also register on the night. All are welcome!