



FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR B 18 FEBRUARY 2024

In the Gospel today, on this First Sunday of Lent, Jesus retreats into the desert for 40 days, where he faces temptation.

Lent touches something in all of us. Lent calls us to look at our lives and improve ourselves. If we wish to change the outer aspects of our lives, we must first change the inner attitudes of our minds.

The Second Vatican Council, challenged us to observe the season of Lent with all seriousness, and to take responsibility for our own spiritual growth. That is a lot harder than just following rules, but it also bears the potential of really making Lent a time to change our lives, and truly become more Christlike.

So, let Lent be a time of true commitment, to take it seriously, and to allow the grace of God to truly change us in the next 40 days.



We acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land, the Awabakal People who, long before us lived, loved, educated and raised their children on this Country. We pay our respects to Elders past and present and we recognise the young people who are our future. We acknowledge all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families in our communities. We respect their deep physical and spiritual connections to Country through their stories, traditions and living cultures.

- PARISH LEADERSHIP TEAM:** Uta France
John France
- PRIEST SUPERVISOR:** Fr Joseph Figuardo
SACRAMENTAL PRIEST: Fr John Purnell
- PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL:** Juliet Hutchins
Mal Melvey
Pam Melvey
Kerry Lendon
Rod Hay
- PARISH SECRETARY:** Rosanna Suckling

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(We ask that you make an appointment to come to the office)
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Morisset Parish Bulletin Items: morparish@mn.catholic.org.au
(Please submit all Bulletin Notice requests to the parish office by 2pm Wednesdays)
Email the Parish Office to Subscribe for an Electronic Bulletin .

UPCOMING WORSHIP TIMES :

- | | |
|----------|---|
| Saturday | 17th February 5pm
Family Mass—Morisset |
| Sunday | 18th February 9.30am
Mass—Morisset |
| Tuesday | 20TH February 9.30am
Liturgy—Morisset |
| Saturday | 24th February 5pm
Mass—Cooranbong |
| Sunday | 25th February 9.30am
Mass—Morisset |
| Tuesday | 27th February 9.30am
Liturgy—Morisset |
| Saturday | 2nd March 5pm
Family Mass—Morisset |
| Sunday | 3rd March 9.30am
Mass—Morisset |
| Tuesday | 5th March 9.30am
Liturgy—Morisset |
| Saturday | 9th March 5pm
Mass—Cooranbong |
| Sunday | 10th March 9.30am
Mass—Morisset |
| Tuesday | 12th March 9.30am
Liturgy—Morisset |
| Saturday | 16th March 5pm
Family Mass—Morisset |
| Sunday | 17th March 9.30am
Mass—Morisset |

Reflection for First Sunday of Lent Year B — 18th February 2024

Last Wednesday, Ash Wednesday, the Church invited us to embark on a journey, the journey of lent, which is a journey towards Easter.

Today's Gospel story of the experience that Jesus had in the desert is a way of inviting us to consider a "desert experience" ourselves this lent.

We are presented with the opportunity and challenge of looking into the history of our lives, to find the truth of who we are, and how we must cooperate with the Spirit to bring the kingdom of heaven to earth.

Most of us live on autopilot, seldom thinking about our larger purpose in life. But sometimes, there are times, when we have a heightened awareness of who we are, where we are going, and how to get there.

We can look at our country and see all kinds of excesses, injustices, and crimes. But we have no right to pass sentence on others until we honestly judge our own lives.

We are living through a trying time, when the global structures are faltering, the world needs more than ever the witness of a Christian community, united in its effort to honour the dignity and worth of every human person, to serve the common good, and live as one with God's creation.

The season of Lent invites us to simplify our lives and to identify with what is most basic. If we listen deeply, the Spirit will lead us into the desert to fast, pray and face our own temptations. And if Jesus could be tempted, can we expect anything different? Only then will we be prepared to follow Jesus all the way to Jerusalem.

This Lent, let us try to do something – doing nothing is not an option. John France

Anointing Mass

This Sunday 18th February during 9.30am Mass. Fr John Purnell will administer the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. Anybody with an illness, serious or otherwise, who needs healing, may receive the sacrament. After Mass, a 'cuppa and biscuits' will be held in the Callinan Centre – All welcome

Launch of Project Compassion 2024

On Tuesday our Parish Leaders, Teachers, and Mini-Vinnie's from SJV School, attended the launch of Project Compassion 2024 at the Sacred Heart Cathedral Hamilton.

The launch saw people from our Parishes, schools, agencies, and community come together. They enjoyed a special Liturgy with Bishop Michael Kennedy, Samoan dancing, music, and pancakes. Each Parish and School was presented with a Lenten Commission for 2024 by Bishop Michael Kennedy.

Lenten Journey

Lent is a time to examine our ways, repent our failings and imitate God's love and mercy. The season culminates in the Easter liturgies, the Triduum, as the church recalls the paschal mystery. With hope and grace, we welcome this season of repentance and renewal.

To promote Lent, the Watagan Deanery will be organizing a 'Lenten Journey' and Reconciliation Services, hosted by the Parishes in the Deanery, at 6.30pm each week, during Lent.
Week 1- Warners Bay 20th Feb,
Week 2-Glendale 27th Feb,
Week 3-Toronto 5th March,
Week 4- Morisset 12th March,
Week 5-Warners Bay- 19th March.



World Day of Prayer-2024

Our Parish is hosting the 2024 Ecumenical World Day of Prayer, Friday 1st March in the Morisset Church. The World Day of Prayer is an international ecumenical Christian initiative. It is run annually in over 170 countries on the first Friday in March. Every year, the worship service focuses on a different country and a specific theme. This year the focus country is Palestine

If you could help with the morning tea after the service, it would be greatly appreciated.

Fr Darrell Mackie will be the 'Keynote' speaker. Fr Darrell has firsthand knowledge of the present tension in the 'Middle East', as he was studying in the 'Holy Land' when the present war commenced. ©WDP2024 Artist Halima Aziz

SJV School News

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

Bishop's Communique

Bishop Michael Kennedy has summoned all clergy and leaders of the diocese, to attend a very important two day in-service, on 'Pastoral Care in light of Voluntary Assisted Dying legislation on 19-20 March.

Rite of Election

This Sunday 18th February is an opportunity to welcome all catechumens who will be baptised in their parishes at the Easter Vigil (a catechumen is an unbaptised person whose search for meaning has brought them to the Catholic Church) Please join in witness and prayerful support, those who choose to be Catholic. 2.30 pm Sacred Heart Cathedral Hamilton, Newcastle West, followed by afternoon tea. Our parish will have two catechumens to present to Bishop Michael Kennedy on this occasion.

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?

Easter Vigil: The annual celebration of the Lord's resurrection goes back to the first generation of Christianity. For the first three centuries this was the only feast observed throughout the church. It was natural that Christians chose the night hours to celebrate their religious experience of a Christ victorious over death and sin and their victory along with his. It was during those dark hours turning into the first day of the week that this mystery had occurred.

Easter Parade: During the Middle Ages in Europe people in their new Easter clothes would take a long walk after Easter Mass. This was a kind of procession preceded by a Crucifix or the Easter Candle. This tradition was condemned by Protestant reformers. Even though its original meaning was lost, the tradition evolved into the Easter parade. It is still in many cities in the United States today, especially on Fifth Avenue in New York.

Pope Francis' prayer intention for February 2024.

That those who are in the final stages of life, and their families, receive the necessary medical and human care and accompaniment.



Project Compassion

This year, Project Compassion brings you the stories of three resilient women: Ronita from the Philippines, Leaia from Samoa and Memory from Malawi. While from three different corners of the world and facing vastly different challenges, they are all united by one dream: to create a better world for all future generations.

Please donate to Project Compassion.

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your parish, or by visiting our parish Project Compassion fundraising page at: <https://parishes.projectcompassion.org.au/o/morisset-catholic-parish-2264> or by calling 1800 024 413.

With A Light Heart

Two elderly people are living in a retirement home he was a widower and she a widow, had known each other for several years. One evening there was a community supper in the big arena in the Clubhouse.

The two were at the same table, across from one another. As the meal went on, he took a few admiring glances at her and finally gathered the courage to ask her, 'Will you marry me?' After about six seconds of 'careful consideration,' she answered 'Yes.

Yes, I will!

The meal ended and, with a few more pleasant exchanges, they went to their respective places. Next morning, he was troubled. 'Did she say 'yes' or did she say 'no'?' He couldn't remember.

Try as he might, he just could not recall. Not even a faint memory.

With trepidation, he went to the telephone and called her. First, he explained that he didn't remember as well as he used to.

Then he reviewed the lovely evening past. As he gained a little more courage, he inquired, 'When I sked if you would marry me, did you say, 'Yes' or did you say 'No'?'

He was delighted to hear her say, 'Why, I said, 'Yes, yes I will.' And I meant it with all my heart.' Then she continued, 'And I am so glad that you called, because I couldn't remember who had asked me.'

Café Night Real Women Placing Value on Womanhood

Date: Monday, 18 March 2024 Time: 7.30pm - 9.15pm

Tea or Coffee served from 7.00pm Where: St Mary's Catholic Church Hall Bayview Street, Warners Bay

Guest Speaker: Iona Rossely

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

Cost: Donation of \$15 per person -

*Specific diet requirements will be met as far as possible. Please advise when purchasing tickets.

Bookings will open at St Mary's Hall, Warners Bay on Saturday 24 February 2024 10am to 12pm.

Bookings may also be made by phone if you are unable to be at hall.

Phone: Sue - 0417 091255 or Marie- 0429 191245.

Catholic Parish of Boolaroo/Warners Bay

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 run on be held on Wednesday 13th March instead of Tuesday 12th March due to the Watagan Deanery Lenten Journey. Bookings can be online at the link at: <https://forms.office.com/r/wZtatkt01V> or by contacting our Parish Office.

Sisters of Faith Dinner

The Ecumenical and Interfaith Council would like to invite you to join us for the Sisters of Faith Dinner to mark International Women's Day.

It is an opportunity for all women of faith to come together to form friendship. Please note that this is a women only event, however we encourage you to share this invite with your wives, mothers, sisters, daughters and friends – all are welcome!

Date: Tuesday 5th March Time: 6:30pm-9:00pm

Location: Victor Peters Suite (841 Hunter St, Newcastle West)

Cost: \$20 Please use the link below to register.

<https://sistersoffaith2024.eventbrite.com.au>

Art and Spirituality Workshop

Creation of art provides an opportunity for a deepening awareness of oneself and the world, and can act as a catalyst for evoking the Spirit. Art is a means to see-to-re-search and find the living meaning of what it means to open the heart. Everyone has the ability to create art, but in order for it to be theological, the artist needs to explore ways that it makes sense of faith. Opening the heart through art involves making meaning through the creation, then reflecting on the art itself and the unfolding the moment-to-moment direct experience of the process.

This workshop will provide an opportunity to awaken the Spirit through the beauty of God's creation, prayer, and reflection. Participants will engage in art making experiences which will nourish their faith. Date: Thursday 14 March (9am-3pm) Venue: Kilaben Bay Community Centre Cost: \$25 per person Register at: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/art-and-spirituality-workshops-2024-tickets-808605269127>

Understanding the Beatitudes

One of the most striking examples of Jesus' teaching is the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew's gospel. The Beatitudes are the foundation on which that sermon is built. They are also one of the most beautiful statements of Christian ethics. Yet at the same time, they are also some of the trickiest verses in the Bible to interpret. In this subject, we'll tackle the meaning of the blessings by putting them into the context of the gospels, the Hebrew Bible, and wider Jewish literature, like the Dead Sea Scrolls. We'll think about what the Beatitudes contribute to our understanding of Jesus' teaching and mission. And finally, we'll think about how the Beatitudes still matter today. Dates: Thursdays 7 & 14 March (4.00pm-5.30pm) Venue: Library in Diocesan Resource Centre Register at: <https://forms.office.com/r/cGXZ545eRX>

Way of the Cross

Our Diocese is blessed with rich diversity. This year's Ecumenical Way of the Cross, held on the 5th Sunday of Lent, invites us into a multicultural journey of remembrance. As we relive the story of Jesus' Passion, we recall the stories that have brought us together. This event is a celebrated gathering of our wider community and one not to be missed. When: Sunday 17 March, 3pm (you are invited to gather from 2pm) Where: St Joseph's Toronto Church, 140 Wangi Road, Toronto

SUPPORTING THE CLERGY / 1st Collection

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

SUPPORTING OUR PARISH / 2nd Collection

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

WEEKEND ROSTERS			
		<u>THIS WEEK</u>	<u>NEXT WEEK</u>
<u>PRESIDERS</u>	5PM 9.30AM	Mass Mass	Mass Mass
<u>PROCLAIMERS:</u>	5PM 9.30AM	L Hutchinson J France	U France P Melvey
<u>PSALMIST:</u>	5PM 9.30AM	P Melvey M Shamley	D Peterson M Melvey
<u>GIFTS</u>	5PM 9.30AM	H White J Vipan K Lendon	B Cox H White H White P Herbert
<u>SERVERS</u>	5PM 9.30AM	J Lawandos R Lawandos V Paulo C Lawandos	M Melvey J Lawandos R Lawandos
<u>AV</u>	5PM 9.30AM	E Lawandos T Alexander	J France E Lawandos
<u>WELCOMERS</u>	5PM 9.30AM	TBA L McRae L McRae	P Melvey U France R Hay P Herbert
<u>CHURCH CLEANING</u>	COOR MOR	XXXX T Alexander P Herbert	P Herbert TBA


Our Parish supports The Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle in its zero-tolerance approach to abuse. Every one of us must each day commit ourselves individually and collectively to safeguard each child and every vulnerable person to whom we minister and interact with. If you have any concerns for a child or vulnerable adult please contact the Office of Safeguarding P:02 4979 1390 or email: childprotection@mn.catholic.org.au, or visit their website for further information www.officeofsafeguarding.org.au.

UPCOMING FEAST DAYS MEMORIALS AND SOLEMINITIES

- THE CHAIR OF SAINT PETER (F) - 22ND FEB
- SAINTS PERPETUA AND FELICITY (M) - 7TH MAR
- SAINT PATRICK (S) - 18TH MAR
- SAINT JOSEPH (S) - 19TH MAR
- PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD - 24TH MAR
- THURSDAY OF THE LORD'S SUPPER - 28TH MAR
- FRIDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD - 29TH MAR
- PASCHAL VIGIL IN THE HOLY NIGHT - 30TH MAR
- SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION - 31ST MAR
- THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD (S) - 8TH APR
- SAINT STANISLAUS (M) - 11TH APR

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

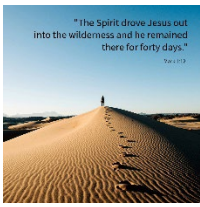
An Act of Spiritual Communion

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

First Sunday of Lent Year B

Sunday 18 Feb 2024

The Introductory Rites

Acknowledgement of Country

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

Gathering

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

Sign of the Cross

Leader:

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

All:

Amen.

Greeting

Leader:

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

All:

Blessed be God forever.

Introductory Remarks

Leader (in these or similar words):

Friends in Christ, although we cannot celebrate the Eucharist this day, we gather in God's name for when two or more come together God is always with us.

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

Opening Rite

LITANY OF PRAISE

Leader:

As we prepare to hear the Word of God, we confess that we are sinners. Let us ask the Lord for pardon and strength.

A brief period of silence follows.

All:

I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do,

And, striking their breast, they say:

through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault;

Then they continue:

therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

Leader:

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

All:

Amen.

The Kyrie is sung.

Cantor or Leader:

Kyrie, eleison.

All:

Kyrie, eleison.

Cantor or Leader:

Christe, eleison.

All:

Christe, eleison.

Cantor or Leader:

Kyrie, eleison.

All:

Kyrie, eleison.

Opening Prayer

Leader:

Let us pray.

All pause for silent prayer.

Almighty God, your Son, Jesus, was led to the wilderness and strengthened by your Spirit. As we begin this season of Lent may we remove all obstacles so that we may become more holy and do deeds of love.

We make this prayer through Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever.

All:

Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

Genesis 9:8-15

A reading from the book of Genesis

I will recall the covenant between myself and you... the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh.

God spoke to Noah and his sons, 'See, I establish my Covenant with you, and with your descendants after you; also with every living creature to be found with you, birds, cattle and every wild beast with you: everything that came out of the ark, everything that lives on the earth. I establish my Covenant with you: no thing of flesh shall be swept away again by the waters of the flood. There shall be no flood to destroy the earth again.'

God said, 'Here is the sign of the Covenant I make between myself and you and every living creature with you for all generations: I set my bow in the clouds and it shall be a sign of the Covenant between me and the earth. When I gather the clouds over the earth and the bow appears in the clouds, I will recall the Covenant between myself and you and every living creature of every kind. And so the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all things of flesh.'

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

The word of the Lord.

All reply:

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 24:4-9. R. see v.10

(R.) Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who keep your covenant.

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. Remember your mercy, Lord,
and the love you have shown from of old.
In your love remember me,
because of your goodness, O Lord. (R.)
3. 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.)

Second Reading

1 Peter 3:18-22

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

The water of the flood is a type of the baptism which saves you now.

Christ himself, innocent though he was, died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life, and, in the spirit, he went to preach to the spirits in prison. Now it was long ago, when Noah was still building that ark which saved only a small group of eight people 'by water', and when God was still waiting patiently, that these spirits refused to believe. That water is a type of the baptism which saves you now, and which is not the washing off of physical dirt but a pledge made to God from a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has entered heaven and is at God's right hand, now that he has made the angels and Dominations and Powers his subjects.

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 1:12-15

He was tempted by Satan, and the angels looked after him.

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness and he remained there for forty days, and was tempted by Satan. He was with the wild beasts, and the angels looked after him.

After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good News from God. 'The time has come' he said 'and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.'

Reader:

The Gospel of the Lord.

All:

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

All are seated.

Reflection on the Word

A short period of reflection may be observed.

Profession of Faith

Leader:

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

All:

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

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

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

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of the Faithful

Leader: Sisters and brothers, confident of God's mercy, let us bring our prayers before the Lord.

Reader: That our Holy Father Pope Francis. will lead us in faith and repentance during this season of Lent. In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That governments will work together to try to find a path to peace in Ukraine, Gaza, Myanmar, Sudan and other war-torn areas. In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That parishes and families will consider ways in which they can make good environmental choices for their homes and neighbourhoods. In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That those preparing for Christian Initiation will discover God's covenant with them and all creation. In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That families and individuals experiencing any form of violence or abuse will receive timely and effective help and know the support of their faith community. In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That we will generously support Caritas Australia through Project Compassion to enable them to assist vulnerable people around the world, now and for all future generations. In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That our parish community will turn to Christ for consolation and never doubt God's abundant love. In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That all the sick will be sustained by God's mercy and kindness, especially everyone who we know and love. In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That everyone who has died will live forever in the grace of God, especially those who were members of our families and community. In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Loving Father, you shower us with mercy and compassion. Hear our prayers and help us to resist temptation and enter into your forgiveness and peace. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Leader:

At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

All:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done**

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread,

and forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us;

and lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

The Concluding Rite Blessing

Leader:

May the Lord bless us in all things through Christ so that we may work together in loving service.

All make the sign of the cross during the blessing.

All:

Amen.

Dismissal

Leader:

Let us go in peace.

All:

Thanks be to God.

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Synod of Bishops: 2024 Diocesan Consultations

At the end of last year, the General Secretariat of the Synod published a document Towards October 2024 containing guidelines for local church consultations to be held in 2024 to reflect on the Synthesis Report from the First Assembly and prepare for the Second Assembly. The plans for the Australian consultation have now been finalised. All bishops have been notified, and dioceses have been requested to begin planning these consultations, which will take place from now to 30 March 2024.

Diocesan Consultations in 2024

Dioceses are being asked to aim for the widest participation possible, determining "what is possible in the time available and the best approach to take". The General Secretariat guidelines ask that consultation groups "involve people and groups that express a variety of experiences, skills, charisms, ministries within the People of God, and whose point of view is of help in focusing on the 'how'".

It is important to note that this process does not involve going back to the grassroots to begin parish-level consultations again. Rather, building on what has already occurred, it is recommended that dioceses engage with existing structures, particularly with leadership and key stakeholder groups already present in the diocese, to reflect on the key questions and identify future pathways and tools for mission.

For more information: <https://mnnews.today/your-diocese/2024/synod-of-bishops-2024-diocesan-consultation/>

aMeN caMiNo

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. We will also be holding a weekend experience.

Dates: 6-10 July, 3-7 August and 7-8 September. Flyer link: [amen-camino-flyer-for-2024.pdf](https://forms.office.com/r/WrRZ8LCjxe) Expression of Interest: <https://forms.office.com/r/WrRZ8LCjxe>

The meaning and significance of Lent

Easter is a significant period of time on the Catholic calendar, celebrating the Resurrection of Jesus Christ on the third day after his Crucifixion. In the lead-up to Easter, Christians also acknowledge Lent - a time that helps Christians prepare to celebrate the Lord's Resurrection at Easter.

To find out more about the significance of Lent and its customs, Fiona Duque, Pastoral Ministries Officer of Worship and Prayer has answered the following questions for us.

FIONA DUQUE PUBLISHED FEBRUARY 14, 2024

What is Lent?

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and ends at sunset, with Mass, on Holy Thursday. It is a 40-day time of prayer, fasting, and giving to the poor that helps Christians prepare to celebrate the Lord's Resurrection at Easter.

Why is Lent important?

For Christians it is a time of reflection and repentance. A time to make right with others and God as they are led to the Paschal Mystery, that is the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Why is it 40 days?

In the Bible the number 40 would often indicate a time of trial, penance, renewal. In Luke we see this number being used to indicate the time Jesus fasted and was tempted in the desert prior to him starting his ministry.

Why is the colour purple significant during Lent?

Colours have always played an important part in the liturgical life of the church. Symbolically it can be used to represent royalty. Historically it was an expensive dye and only afforded by the wealthy. In the Gospel of Mark, we read that Pilate used a purple robe on Jesus to mock Him as "King of the Jews".

Why do people fast from things?

Traditionally, fasting tended to be focussed on 'things' such as meat on Fridays, or chocolate, alcohol and so on. More and more the focus has become that of a conversion of the heart as Christians try to become more Christlike and give up the behaviours that are not life giving to others.

On what days are Catholics meant to fast?

It seems to be common knowledge that Catholics fast from meat during Lent. However, there are only two days the Church requires: Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Christians are called to fast in other ways during this time. Such as sharing their time and gifts with others and donating money where it is needed, rather than for wants. This 'fasting' is something that we can do every day.

Why do we eat hot cross buns during Lent?

Hot cross buns traditionally were not eaten during Lent. They were only eaten on Good Friday symbolising the crucifixion of Jesus. The popularity of the bun has meant that contemporary society has flipped that tradition on its head where the simple hot cross bun has now morphed into many flavours that are available in supermarkets well before Lent has even started.

Why are the Stations of the Cross a popular devotion during Lent?

Being that Lent is a time of preparation to celebrate Easter, the fourteen Stations that walk people through the journey of Jesus to the cross, help Christians to pray and meditate on Jesus' suffering and death.

Why do we eat pancakes on Shrove Tuesday?

Traditionally Shrove Tuesday was an opportunity to use up 'rich' ingredients such as butter, eggs, and sugar before fasting for the Lenten season. Pancakes are the most logical thing to cook. It is a tradition that is still popular with many today, especially children.

Why do people have an ash cross on their forehead on Ash Wednesday?

Catholics have been doing this for centuries. In the Old Testament wearing ashes was a common sign of repentance for sins, and a sign of one's humility before God. Since Lent is a season of restoring relationships it's appropriate that this ancient sign marks the beginning of the season.

What do the Palms recall?

On the first day of Holy Week (the beginning of the last week in Lent) Christians remember Jesus entering Jerusalem on a donkey. Palms were laid on the road and waved by the onlookers celebrating his arrival as 'the king'. These palms symbolised triumph and victory.

I am not Catholic; how can I get involved with Lent?

You don't have to be Catholic to get involved. Find time to make things right with people you may need to repair a relationship with. Donate time and/or money to people in need. Fast from things you enjoy. Maybe find time to read the Bible. It's never too late to give that a go.

2024 - Lenten Reflection - Transformation through Revelation

During the season of Lent, we are called to look deeply at the human condition, just as Jesus, the Son of God, experienced. We are reminded during this time of hardship, suffering, and ultimately dying that we must stretch ourselves. We must pray and fast from whatever is taking hold of the fullness of life. This time calls for personal reflection and encourages us to look out with missionary eyes to intentionally give to those in need. Access the resource at <https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/media/6680/0003733-dio-2024-lenten-program-06.pdf>

You are welcome to participate in the Lenten Reflection group which will be held each Friday, 23 February to 22 March in the Diocesan Library from 9am - 10am. Register at: <https://forms.office.com/r/Jrj4Ngi1vu>

Family Mass

St John Vianney Parish Morisset

Join us at 5pm on Saturday 17th February in our Morisset Church 60 Yambo St Morisset

Those families with children who are on or are intending to start their Sacramental Program journey need to attend.

REAL women

valued

challenged

loved

placing value on womanhood

Cafe Night

Real Women

Placing Value on Womanhood

Date : Monday, 18 March 2024

Time : 7.30pm - 9.15pm
Tea or Coffee served from 7.00pm

Place : St Mary's Catholic Church Hall
Bayview Street, Warners Bay

Guest Speaker: Iona Rossley

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

Cost: Donation of \$15 per person -

*Specialist diet requirements will be met as far as possible. Please advise when purchasing tickets.

Bookings will open at St Mary's Hall, Warners Bay on Saturday 24 February 2024 10am to 12pm.

Bookings may also be made by phone if you are unable to be at hall.

Phone: Sue - 0417 091 255 or Marie - 0429 191 245.

Catholic Parish of Boolaroo/Warners Bay