



**St John
Vianney**
Parish Morisset



THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR B 17 NOVEMBER 2024

Today's Gospel gives us a timely message about the end of the world.

The world in which we live often appears to be a very uncertain one. It seems to lurch from one crisis to another. This uncertainty can cause great fear and anxiety. Many people have claimed to know when the end of the world will come. Some claim a special revelation from God, others claim to have calculated it from the Bible.

All such claims should be ignored.

Jesus tells us that no one knows when the end will come except the heavenly Father. Therefore, the disciples must not allow themselves to be misled by claims or speculations that the end is near, but must maintain a constant watchfulness



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	16th November 5pm Family Mass— Morisset
Sunday	17th November 9.30am Mass—Morisset
Tuesday	19th November 9.30am Liturgy—Morisset
Friday	22nd November 10.30am Mass—Morisset
Saturday	23rd November 5pm Mass—Cooranbong
Sunday	24th November 9.30am Mass—Morisset
Tuesday	26th November 9.30am Liturgy—Morisset
Friday	29th November 10.30am Mass—Morisset
Saturday	30th November 5pm Family Mass—Morisset
Sunday	1st December 9.30am Mass—Morisset
Tuesday	3rd December 9.30am Liturgy—Morisset
Friday	6th December 10.30am Mass—Morisset
Saturday	7th December 5pm Mass—Cooranbong
Sunday	8th 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.

Feast of Christ the King -24th November

If anyone has a significant birthday to celebrate, or would like to renew their wedding vows, or has lost a partner recently, it is planned that at the 9.30am Mass, on the Feast of Christ the King, parishioners will be able to celebrate these events.

If you are interested in receiving a special blessing to acknowledge these milestones, please complete the online form at: <https://forms.office.com/r/VazV4M0fiL> or the hard copy ones at the back of the church and place in the box provided.

Christmas

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.

Christmas Mass Times will be announced when the availability of priests is determined.

GOSPEL

Mark 13:24-32

He shall gather his elect from the four winds.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'In those days, after the time of distress, the sun will be darkened, the moon will lose its brightness, the stars will come falling from heaven and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory; then too he will send the angels to gather his chosen from the four winds, from the ends of the world to the ends of heaven.

'Take the fig tree as a parable: as soon as its twigs grow supple and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. So with you, when you see these things happening: know that he is near, at the very gates. I tell you solemnly, before this generation has passed away all these things will have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

'But as for that day or hour, nobody knows it, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son; no one but the Father.'

THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Year B — Reflection 17th November 2024

As we come to the end of this Liturgical Year, & the approach of Advent, the readings increasingly refer to the "end times" or to what Theologians call "Eschatology" - a term which describes the meaning of the end times —it captures the full spectrum of our Christian hope for the fulfilment of God's promises -not only in our present time but in the age to come.

During the various stages of our lives, all of us will experience the end of many things, such as relationships, life styles, jobs & possible relocation to another town, state or even country. In a similar way, each year has an ending, whether it be a calendar, tax, financial or Liturgical Year.

The reality is that new things cannot begin unless something ends first.

Each moment is a critical moment, it will not come again. As for how long the end time will last, that is God's prerogative - it is not for us to know or speculate . We don't have to wonder if the Lord will appear as He promised—only when?

One day, our world will surely come to an end —it will be transformed by the Lord's coming. Do we see this event as a promise or a threat?

Both the 1st Reading from the prophet Daniel & Mark's Gospel are written in the style known as Apocalyptic, which is highly symbolic & uses colourful images to paint a picture of stressful times.

Daniel's account arises in times of persecution & disorder & its purpose is to encourage the people NOT to lose their nerve -no matter how bad things may seem, the ultimate victory belongs to God & His people. It was a time of severe distress for him -it occurred during the terrible persecution of loyal Jews under the Greek Empire & for the first time in Hebrew thought, God's victory is seen in terms of resurrection—those who have suffered for the faith will rise to everlasting life— however, it was coming back to life but in a total transformation— they will shine "as bright as the stars".

The words of the Psalm express the peoples' complete trust in God, while the antiphon expresses a direct hopeful plea for safety.

The final reading for the year from the letter to the Hebrews is a summary of the changes that have occurred since Jesus' coming amongst them- His work amongst them had been completed once & for all.

Mark's Gospel has two themes- the coming of Christ & the nearness & certainty of that coming, accompanied by a detailed description of what signs will appear.

At Jesus' trial later on, He will tell the Sanhedrin "You will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Power & coming in the clouds of heaven". Mk14:62

The coming of Christ begins with the resurrection. As the Gospel is preached down the ages & His chosen ones stand up in all parts of the world, His victory is being revealed. The parable of the fig tree serves as a call for us to read the signs of the times - even in our generation God's victory is being worked out- if we have the eyes to see.

Although we may not experience this apocalyptic event of the end of the world, we can & will experience times when our personal worlds seem to be crashing around us. It is possible that these times of trials can also be times of grace in which we truly feel God's presence uplifting & reassuring us.

"But the faith & the love & the hope are all in the waiting". T.S.Eliot

"Does God ever allow anyone that trusts in Him to be confounded?" St. Mary MacKillop Heather White

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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 Holy Father has proclaimed that 2025 will be a year of Jubilee. The Theme is 'Pilgrims of Hope'. The 2025 Jubilee will officially open on December 24, 2024, at 7pm with a Mass presided over by Pope Francis in St. Peter's Square, and concludes on 6 January 2026. Pope Francis has invited Catholics to renew our hope and discover a vision that can "restore access to the fruits of the earth to everyone". We are also invited to rediscover a spirituality of God's creation in which we understand ourselves as "pilgrims on the earth" rather than masters of the world.

We now face the most acute global debt crisis in history with 3.3 billion people living in countries that spend more on debt servicing than on health, education or climate measures. Despite facing significant poverty burdens, countries are having to make huge repayments on high-interest loans to wealthy banks, institutions and governments, leaving them unable to properly fund essential services.

With A Light Heart

The teacher asked little Johnny if he knew his numbers.

"Yes," he said. "My dad taught me."

"Good. So, what comes after eight?"

"Nine," answered little Johnny.

"And what comes after nine?"

"Ten."

"And what comes after ten?"

"The Jack."

Chancery News

Letter from Bishop Michael Kennedy.

Last week Bishop Michael Kennedy sent a communique to Parish Priests and Parish Leaders. An extract is included for your perusal.

Having now completed eighteen months in the Diocese I have experienced a full cycle of the liturgical year and celebrated Mass with every parish and in almost every station church.

You will have noticed the importance I place on well-celebrated liturgy. You have also heard me speak about the need for us to live as a missionary and evangelising community. The liturgy, in fact, is central to our life and mission.

I have noticed a few areas that I hope we can focus on together to grow a parish and diocesan culture that is strong in both the ministries of evangelisation and initiation. It is my hope that together we can commit our energies to igniting a passion for these ministries amongst all the faithful.

I sense this is a moment, a ripe time in our life as a diocese, to focus on growing a parish and diocesan culture strong in both the ministries of Evangelisation and Initiation. We can't afford to do nothing. Think for a moment what parish life will be like in five years if we keep on doing what we've always done with no change.

Yours in Christ, Bishop Michael Kennedy.

Resumption of Communion from the Chalice at Mass

Recently Bishop Michael Kennedy sent a Communique to Parishes to discern the resumption of receiving from the chalice at Mass.

It said:

Having received advice from the Diocesan Liturgical Council and discussed the matter extensively with the Council of Priests at

several meetings I am allowing the resumption of Communion from the Chalice from the First Sunday of Advent, 1 December 2024.

Here, I call attention to a few considerations.

Whilst receiving Holy Communion under both kinds is a fuller sign, a person who chooses to receive only the Host, still receives Christ whole and entire.

A person with symptoms of cold, flu, Covid, or other virus should not share the chalice with others.

Each parish should undertake its own discernment of whether and when to implement this resumption.

Given the practical considerations it is therefore of the utmost importance for parishes to undertake proper discernment about this.

A few points for our parish to consider before this is reintroduced

1 Are appropriate sanitising protocols in place.

2 Are metal Chalices available for use.

3 Do we have sufficient formed Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion to offer the Chalice at each Mass

4 Do we have enough formed Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion willing to consume the Precious Blood remaining after Communion at each Mass.

Over the last couple of Sundays parishioners have been made aware of this advice from the Bishop, through the Parish Bulletin, and at Mass.

Last weekend a 'headcount' was taken at both the Cooranbong and Morisset Mass. to ascertain parishioners feelings toward the reintroduction of Communion from the Chalice at Mass in our parish.

A total of four people voted for the chalice to be reintroduced.

With this number of parishioners in favour of the reintroduction of the chalice, it is prudent that the 'Status Quo' remain, and the existing practice of receiving Holy Communion will continue.

Mercy Sisters Ecology Fellowship Program

This program is for emerging leaders in Integral Ecology awareness and animation who desire to be part of the ongoing enhancement and development of reflective action for Gospel justice in response to the cries of Earth. There are 5 components of the Program committed emerging leaders will engage and complete to better enable them and their communities to respond to ecological challenges.

Applications for the fully funded 2025-2026 Mercy Sisters Ecology Fellowship Program close on Monday 18 November. Find out more about the program and how to apply: https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5acea6725417fc059ddcc33f/t/67049b914d3947588f61acb7/1728355220931/20241008_ISM_APNG+Mercy+Integral+Ecology+Fellowship+2025-26.pdf

Caritas Australia's Global Gifts are Christmas Cards with purpose!

Every card you buy helps build brighter futures for children, women and men experiencing hardship and poverty.

By putting your compassion into action and shopping for the Global Gifts of your choice you will bring hope and joy to the world's most vulnerable and communities, while giving your loved ones a meaningful Christmas card.

View the range of Global Gifts: www.globalgifts.org.au

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for November

We pray that all parents who mourn the loss of a son or daughter find support in their community and receive peace and consolation from the Holy Spirit.

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	H White K Lendon	P Robertson U France
<u>PSALMIST:</u>	5PM 9.30AM	J France J France	K Lendon J Vipian
<u>GIFTS</u>	5PM 9.30AM	P Melvey D Whitten S Matthew	L Hutchinson G Hutchinson J Hutchins K Amon
<u>SERVERS</u>	5PM 9.30AM	R Lawandos V Paulo	M Melvey J Lawandos
<u>AV</u>	5PM 9.30AM	J Vipian D Peterson	M Foo T Alexander
<u>WELCOMERS</u>	5PM 9.30AM	J France A Walker G Walker	J France J Hutchins
<u>CHURCH CLEANING</u>	COOR MOR	XXXX A Walker G Walker	M Shamley B Hutcheson D Whitten

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 SOLEMNITIES

- PRESENTATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY (M) - 21ST NOV
- SAINT CECILIA (M) - 22ND NOV
- OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE (S) - 24TH NOV
- 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

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

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.



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
Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time
Year B
Sunday 17 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 who makes us one,
and strengthens us by the power of his Spirit.

All:

Blessed be God forever.

Introductory Remarks

Leader (in these or similar words):

Friends in Christ,
although we cannot celebrate the Eucharist this day,
we gather in God's name
for when two or more come together
God is always with us.
We worship in union with the whole Church
keeping this day of the Lord holy.

Opening Rite

LITANY OF PRAISE

Leader:

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

A brief period of silence follows.

Leader:

Lord Jesus, you bless those who walk in your ways: Lord, have
mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, you call us to be children of the light: Christ, have
mercy.

All: Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you are faithful to the end of time: 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.

Almighty God
into our hands
you have placed many blessings and gifts.
Help us to use them wisely
so that we may become your faithful servants.
with the Holy Spirit,
for ever and ever.

All:

Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

Daniel 12:1-3

A reading from the prophet Daniel

When that time comes your own people will be spared.

'At that time Michael will stand up, the great prince who mounts guard over your people. There is going to be a time of great distress, unparalleled since nations first came into existence. When that time comes, your own people will be spared, all those whose names are found written in the Book. Of those who lie sleeping in the dust of the earth many will awake, some to everlasting life, some to shame and everlasting disgrace. The learned will shine as brightly as the vault of heaven, and those who have instructed many in virtue, as bright as stars for all eternity.'

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

The word of the Lord.

All reply:

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 15:5. 8-11. R.v.1

(R.) Keep me safe, O God: you are my hope.

1. O Lord, it is you who are my portion and cup;
it is you yourself who are my prize.
I keep the Lord ever in my sight:
since he is at my right hand, I shall stand firm. **(R.)**
2. And so my heart rejoices, my soul is glad;
even my body shall rest in safety.
For you will not leave my soul among the dead,
nor let your beloved know decay. **(R.)**
3. You will show me the path of life,
the fullness of joy in your presence,
at your right hand happiness forever. **(R.)**

Second Reading

Hebrews 10:11-14, 18

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

By a single offering he has achieved the eternal perfection of those who are sanctified.

All the priests stand at their duties every day, offering over and over again the same sacrifices which are quite incapable of taking sins away. Christ, on the other hand, has offered one single sacrifice for sins, and then taken his place for ever, at the right hand of God, where he is now waiting until his enemies are made into a footstool for him. By virtue of that one single offering, he has achieved the eternal perfection of all whom he is sanctifying. When all sins have been forgiven, there can be no more sin offerings.

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 13:24-32

He shall gather his elect from the four winds.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'In those days, after the time of distress, the sun will be darkened, the moon will lose its brightness, the stars will come falling from heaven and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory; then too he will send the angels to gather his chosen from the four winds, from the ends of the world to the ends of heaven. 'Take the fig tree as a parable: as soon as its twigs grow supple and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. So with you, when you see these things happening: know that he is near, at the very gates. I tell you solemnly, before this generation has passed away all these things will have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. 'But as for that day or hour, nobody knows it, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son; no one but the Father.'

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. Why was a belief that Jesus' return was imminent so strong among early Christians?

Q. Do historical events around the time of its writing help explain why Mark's gospel was the first written?

Q. How can a Christian community maintain hope and counteract despair about the future?

Q. How do you demonstrate hopefulness in your life?

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, let us bring our prayers before the Lord,
the ruler of earth and of heaven.

Reader: That the Holy Church, will be guided by the Holy Spirit
to empower all Christians to be the body of Christ and
reach out with love in service of others.

In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That those affected by natural disasters, poverty, severe
hardship or cruelty will find comfort and hope in the
Lord.

In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That leaders of nations will have the courage to bring
Christ's light into the world, and work to address the
critical needs of those whom they serve.

In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That youth workers who engage with minority groups,
that their ministry will open up new pathways of life for
the disadvantaged.

In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That all the sick will be kept safe in the arms of God.
In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That all those who have died will be embraced by the
angels and gathered to God's heavenly kingdom.
In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Lord God, you alone know the day and the hour when
this world will end. Hear our prayers, and help us to be
ever watchful in prayer as we wait for the coming of
your only Son. 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 be with us and protect us now and for ever.

All make the sign of the cross during the blessing.

All:

Amen.

Dismissal

Leader:

Let us go in the peace to love and serve the Lord.

All:

Thanks be to God.

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FAITH MATTERS: He Loved Us

It is hard to believe that 2024 is coming to a close and the door for the Jubilee year 'Pilgrims of Hope' will soon be opened. Being able to focus on prayer in 2024 as Pope Francis asked the faithful has presented the perfect opportunity to spiritually prepare ourselves for the 2025 celebrations. On reflection many individuals and groups across the diocese have spent the year intentionally praying and engaging in different types of prayers.

Rosemary McAllister PUBLISHED November 12, 2024

One group from Jesus, The Good Shepherd, Parish Belmont have been meeting on a regular basis to reflect on the Sunday Gospel. Parishioner Jan Allen had a burning desire to engage the community in faith formation and initiated the invitation for a monthly gathering. As a result, a constant, yet fluid group have been meeting for the best part of the year.

It has been a privilege to be invited into the space of prayer and reflection as the mystery of God is revealed through scripture, an encounter with each other and our experience with the wider world.

This month the group reflected on the Gospel of Mark 12:28-34, The Greatest Commandment. The scripture speaks of when one of the teachers of the law questions Jesus about what is the most important commandment. Jesus being a faithful Jew states loving only one God then adds another commandment, love your neighbour as yourself!

As part of the prayerful process of Mystagogical reflection we turn our focus to what captures our attention, what is God revealing to us, why does it matter now and how will we live differently because of what we have heard. I am continuously amazed by the wisdom and richness that occurs when we apply the scripture to our own life. While it is important to consider the world behind the text, the world within the text, it is the world in front of the text and what we experience in the here and now that puts our faith into action.

Through sharing experiences of loving our neighbour we all developed a deeper understanding and appreciation of what it means to give and receive love. Despite this, questions did emerge about the epidemic of loneliness and challenges within contemporary society. My thoughts turned to Pope Francis' fourth encyclical, dedicated to the Heart of Jesus Christ: Dilexit Nos "He Loved Us" which was only released on October 24, 2024. The central idea of this encyclical is that the love of God revealed in Jesus Christ is not just an intimate, personal experience but the

deep source that drives us to love others, change society, and build peace through dialogue and respect for others.

So how can we show love to our neighbour, so our faith speaks louder than words?

The insight I gained from the prayer group was sometimes it is the little things that can make a big difference. Inviting a stranger to dinner, a warm greeting as you pass someone by, assisting with fundraising for those in need, talking to people when you take your dog for a walk, popping up from weeding your garden to say hello to a new mum pushing a pram, reaching out to the lonely and isolated. Ultimately treating all with dignity, respect and overall love, the same love that Jesus showed all he encountered and the love he shows us.

As we prepare to be pilgrims of hope there is much, we can learn from Pope Francis' latest writings and reflecting on scripture with each other.

To access the Encyclical Letter Dilexit Nos, "He Loved Us":

Via the CDMN Library to read the full text – [Delexit Nos : He Loved Us](#)

ASPIRE CONDA Award Nominations

ASPIRE have received 7 nominations for the 2024 City of Newcastle Drama Association (CONDA) awards.

Catholic Schools Office PUBLISHED November 11, 2024

Established in 1979 to recognise excellence in theatrical productions, today the CONDAs, affectionately known as 'Theatre Christmas', are held every December to pay homage to the shows held throughout the region in the preceding 12 months.

The nominations include:

- Best Ensemble 18 & under
- Best Production 18 & under
- Excellence by a choreographer- Lauren Harvey
- Best new play or musical- Anna Kerrigan
- Excellence by a Director- Anna Kerrigan
- Excellence in Audio Visual and Multimedia- Lara Crockett and Lauren Harvey
- Excellence in Set and Props- Cris Baldwin Shared nomination
- Best Special event- Combined School ANZAC Service

The CONDA awards ceremony will take place on 14 December, 7pm at the Civic Theatre

Tickets and further information can be found by following the link : [The CONDA Awards - Civic Theatre Newcastle](#)

How to use the internet safely and protect yourself online.

The internet is a wonderful place to explore, and it can help you do a lot of things easily. As there are some risks, we show you some simple strategies to help keep you safer online.

The links located at [Staying safer online | eSafety Commissioner](#) take you to free courses and activities on the Be Connected website. Be Connected is an Australian government initiative developed by eSafety and the Department of Social Services to increase the confidence, skills and online safety of older Australians.

Online Advent Retreat

Advent is a time when we as Catholics are encouraged to focus more on our spiritual life to prepare for Christmas, the birth of Jesus, our Lord and Saviour.

This Advent, we are inviting people around the world to Join us for a weekend Advent Mission Event online Retreat on 7-9th December and accessible online for all of Advent.

To find out more, go to: <https://TheCatholicGuy.com/missionevent>

You're invited to the Ordination of Deacon Solomon Okovido

Bishop Michael Kennedy will ordain Deacon Omeiza Solomon Okovido to the priesthood on 23 November at Sacred Heart Cathedral.

Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle PUBLISHED November 12, 2024

Everyone is welcome to attend this important event in the life of the Church of Maitland-Newcastle. Please see below for more details:

When: 10am, Saturday 23 November 2024

Where: Sacred Heart Cathedral, 841 Hunter Street, Newcastle West

Refreshments will be served in the Southern Cross Hall following the ceremony.

Deacon Solomon was ordained a transitional deacon in December 2021 by Bishop Brian Mascord.

A few years ago, he shared his story with the Diocese at a Pints with a Purpose event. At the time, Solomon told us that he first thought about becoming a priest when he was eight years old.

You can read more about his early journey here: <https://mnnews.today/aurora/september-2018/33417-god-will-bring-it-to-fulfilment>



WORLD DAY OF THE POOR PRAYER

INSPIRED BY POPE FRANCIS' MESSAGE FOR THE EIGHTH WORLD DAY OF THE POOR

O God of peace, our Father, You know the sufferings of Your children, for You are attentive and caring toward all. No one is excluded from Your heart, since, before You, we are all in need. You call us to be Your instruments for the liberation and betterment of the poor, so that they may be fully integrated into society.

O Lord Jesus, who first stood in solidarity with the lowliest, teach us to listen to the prayer of the poor. Help us to place ourselves at their service, giving a voice to the response of Your Father and ours, who never abandons those who turn to Him.

O Holy Spirit, giver of life, make us vigilant and persevering in prayer so that we may welcome and embrace the poor, recognizing and serving Christ in them.

O Blessed Mary, Mother of God, Virgin of the Poor, since God has looked upon Your humble poverty, accomplishing great things by Your obedience, we entrust our prayer to You, convinced that it will rise to heaven and be heard.

O St. Benedict Joseph Labre, "vagabond of God," poor among the poor, who made of Your existence an unceasing prayer ascending up to Him, pray for us, that we too may pray and love.

O St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta, who drew strength and faith from prayer for Your mission of service to the lowliest, pray for us, that Jesus may pour His love into our hearts, that we may give it to the poor we meet on our journey. Amen.

Alleluia!

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

Christmas Cards
Fundraiser
By Kenyan Art Students

The Christmas scenes created by MPC art students beautifully display Kenya's rich heritage, culture, and breathtaking landscapes.

\$15

Each set includes ten individual cards with envelopes and costs \$15. The card features a simple, yet heartfelt Christmas verse.

All proceeds go to the Mukuru Promotion Centre

MPC, Mukuru Promotion Centre
Empowerment Step By Step
Sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy
www.mpc.org.uk/kenya.do
Email: kettle@mercy.org.au Mb: 0418 926 590

Packet of 10

May you have the gift of Faith, the blessing of Hope and the Peace of God's love this Christmas and for the New Year.

May our hearts prepare Him room, our lives reflect His presence, and our homes radiate His Love, Joy and Peace.

May our love be deepened and our joy increased as we enter the stable of the Christ Child. May we feel a true sense of Love and Peace this Christmas and into the New Year.