



**St John
Vianney**
Parish Morisset



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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR C SUNDAY 30 MARCH 2025

PARISH PRIEST:

Fr Darryl Mackie

ASSISTANT PRIESTS:

Fr Raphael Madukwe

Fr Paul Macharia Kamau

Fr John Purnell

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL:

Uta France, John France, Juliet Hutchins, Mal Melvey,
Pam, Melvey, Kerry Lendon, Rod Hay

PARISH ADMINISTRATION:

Rosanna Suckling, Maryanne Barry, Vimal Valiyaveetil,
Bridget Voigt

PARISH OFFICE:

60 Yambo Street, Morisset 2264, PO Box 87,

Ph: 02 4973 6859 Email: morparish@mn.catholic.org.au

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

For Urgent Anointing of the Sick Ph: 0493 969 362

Website: www.vianneymorisset.org

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

Instagram : https://www.instagram.com/stjvparish_morisset/
(Please submit all Bulletin Notice requests to the parish office by
2pm Wednesdays)

Prayer Requests for the Bulletin

If you would like the parish to pray for a family member who is sick, recently deceased or you would like remembered please email the parish office or complete a prayer card for each person and place in the mail box near the parish office door.

UPCOMING WORSHIP TIMES :

Saturday	29th March 5pm
	Mass—Cooranbong
Sunday	30th March 9.30am
	Mass—Morisset
Tuesday	1st April 9.30am
	Mass—Morisset
Saturday	5th April 5pm
	Mass—Morisset
Sunday	6th April 9.30am
	Mass—Morisset
Tuesday	8th April 9.30am
	Mass—Morisset
Saturday	12th April 5pm
	Mass—Cooranbong
Sunday	13th April 9.30am
	Mass—Morisset

Dear Parish Family,

He ran to the boy.....

Our Gospels often have these one liners that really “pack a punch” which have so much meaning and feelings attached to them. Several years ago, I did a course on St Luke’s Gospel given by a lecturer who had lived most of his life in Israel. His approach to the Gospel of Luke was from a cultural perspective. Culturally there is so much meaning to the story he called – “The Prodigal Son, Loving Father and Prodigal Brother”. While this whole section went over six days, I’m giving you a summary and I hope I do it justice. Remembering in these weeks of Lent, we have been reflecting upon the image of God. What image of God are we left with?

It begins with Jesus being accused of eating with sinners and responding with this parable. We know the first part of the story, a man has two sons – the youngest says, “give me my share of the property” or in other words, I don’t care about you anymore, you’re as good as dead and you don’t matter to me. Hmm how many parents may have heard that said? Then, he sells all and journeys into a far country or he is entering into Gentile land where he wastes the money on living it up. So, wasting his money on Gentiles. With nothing left, he goes to work like a slave for a gentile feeding pigs. For the Jewish listeners, he has hit rock bottom when he says that he is willing to even eat the food of the most unclean animal – a pig. Admitting he made a mistake, he returns home.

Returning home, his father was watching and waiting for him, and he sees him in the distance...*He ran to the boy* who probably was still stinking of the pigsty but before anyone in the village can say anything - the father reaches out with love – you are mine! Given the best robe, the robe usually worn by the father; a ring, a sign of restored trust; sandals the sign of a free person; and killing the fatted calf means not just the household but the village is invited to come reconcile with him. But then we have this other son who’s not much better when he complains. He saw himself as a slave to his father and accuses him of favouritism. Again, the father acts in love assuring him his inheritance remains intact, and he has always been loved. The rest is up to him now.

What image of God are we left with? The goodness of God is portrayed in the radical image of the father. God allows us to follow our own dreams, who is partial to no one, who faithfully and patiently waits for us to return, who gently corrects our mistakes. *He ran to the boy* because God longs to be reconciled with us even more than we long to be reconciled with God. The parable doesn’t end because like all parables, we must finish the story. How would we end the story...could we end the story with something like this....

And the older son entered the house and joined in the music and dancing and was reconciled to his brother and to his father. And the father rejoiced with his children.

Lent is a time of deepening our prayer and our command to love God, neighbour and self. This week we will hold our Lenten Reflection with the Sacrament of Reconciliation....

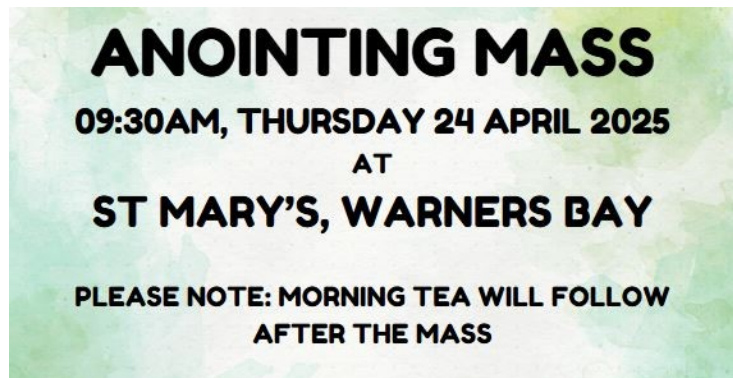
2nd April – St Mary’s Church Warners Bay – 7pm

16th April – St John Vianney Church Morisset – 7pm

Have a great week everyone.....

Fr Darryl Mackie

Parish Priest



5 Sundays in March.

A reminder that we have five Sundays in March. So, we will have Vigil Mass again at Cooranbong next Saturday evening 29th March at 5pm.

Event Help

We have been asked to assist Toronto Parish with providing sandwiches, slices, etc., for the Way of the Cross next Sunday 6th April at St Joseph’s Toronto. Any assistance will be greatly appreciated.

Easter Ministries

If you are going to be around for Easter, we need assistance with ministries. Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil, and Easter Sunday. Please complete the online sign-up form at <https://forms.office.com/r/8S3hQBEBKn> or the sign-up sheet at the back of the Church. Please consider.

Sacramental Team News

A well-attended parents meeting was held on Tuesday evening. Sessions for the children involved in the process for 2025, will commence on Saturday 5th April at 4pm in the Callinan Centre, in preparation for Reconciliation.

For further information contact the Parish Office P 49736859 or E morparish@mn.catholic.org.au

Diocesan Local Churches Pilgrimage

The Diocesan Pastoral Ministry, Mission and Evangelising Partner, is organising the Jubilee Pilgrimage throughout the Diocese. Our parish is scheduled for:

Saturday 17th May

St Brigid’s and St Patrick’s, Cooranbong

1.00pm - Formation/Prayer - BYO lunch Picnic lunch on the grounds - Tea and Coffee hosted by the parish. More information will be provided closer to the event

Caring for our Housebound and Aged Care Parishioners

On Friday we celebrated our Anointing Mass for the parish. One of my priorities in the parish are to setup regular visits by our priests to our parishioners who are in aged care or a

housebound.

To ensure we have accurate records if you could please complete the form at: <https://forms.office.com/r/qERCmhqUrQ> contact the office by phone or email with the following information please...

- Name of the person
- Their Address / Aged Care Facility and Contact Details
- Your Name if you visit them
- Any information that may assist the visit

When we have the information, we will be in contact with you about accompanying one of our priests on the first visit.

Darryl

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.

During Lent the Parishes of West Lake Macquarie will host a ‘Lenten Journey’ in their Churches. Everyone is invited to make the next stage of ‘Lenten Journey’ together.

There will also be an opportunity for reconciliation at each church on the journey.

Warners Bay-Wednesday 2nd April 7pm.

Morisset -Wednesday 16th April 7pm

Formation Fridays

Message of His Holiness Pope Francis for Lent 2025 – 4 April 2025 – 1pm – In Person or via Zoom

Meet with other community members via Zoom or in the Diocesan Resource Centre (Corner of Tudor & Parry Streets, Newcastle West) Library for a chance to reflect and discuss Pope Francis’ 2025 Lenten Message.

Bookings: <https://forms.office.com/r/9SpfLjWRBw> or call 0409 033 449.





PROJECT COMPASSION

Irene lives in a remote village in the Kongolo Region in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

Life hasn't been easy for Irene. After losing her father in a war, Irene and her family were forced to flee their home. Life became even more challenging when her husband left, leaving Irene to raise her 2 children alone. Without finishing her education and with few job opportunities in her village, she struggled to provide even the basics for her family.

Things began to change when Irene joined the Youth Capacity Strengthening Program (YCSP), run by Caritas Kongolo with the support of Caritas Australia.

Through the program, Irene learned sewing skills and was provided with a sewing machine and fabric. Irene also gained farming skills. Now, she grows enough food to feed her family and even shares her sewing knowledge by mentoring other women in her community.

"Before, women depended on men's income, but now, with our sewing skills, we can take care of ourselves," Irene said.

Your support of Project Compassion helps women like Irene to create brighter futures for themselves and their families.



Photo credit: Arlette Bashizi/ Caritas Australia

Please donate today.

You can support Project Compassion 2025 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code above. **Or online at:** [https://](https://fundraise.projectcompassion.org.au/o/morisset-catholic-parish-2264)

fundraise.projectcompassion.org.au/o/morisset-catholic-parish-2264

Or by calling: 1800 024 413

With A Light Heart

April 1st is Tuesday, a day when people should be careful not to be fooled

How do you keep a fool in suspense? I'll tell you the answer tomorrow.

Why should you avoid the stairs on April Fools' Day? Because they're always up to something.

What did the mama cow say to her baby after he stayed up too late on April Fools' Day? "It's pasture bedtime."

Why don't eggs play April Fools' pranks? They might crack each other up.

Why don't chickens play pranks on April Fools' Day? They don't engage in fowl play.

Why was the flower late to school? It decided to stay in its bed.

What did one flower say to the other? Let's be buds.

I was going to tell you an April Fools' joke about boxing, but I forget the punch line.

Did you hear about the goats that got in trouble for playing pranks on April Fools'? It turned out to be a couple of kids.

Way of the Cross

This year's Way of the Cross will continue our pilgrimage experience that began with the Jubilee Launch. Come and walk with fellow pilgrims and build relationships as we share our responses to Pope Francis' invitation to become agents of hope within our own communities.

Join us at 3pm on Sunday 6 April (you can gather from 2pm)
ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, TORONTO - 140 Wangi Road, Toronto NSW 2283

ENQUIRIES: mission@mn.catholic.org.au

REGISTER: www.eventbrite.com.au/e/the-way-of-the-cross-a-pilgrimage-of-hope-tickets-1250877762059

Diocesan Pilgrimage 2025

Join us on pilgrimage this Jubilee Year with Bishop Michael Kennedy as we visit the biblical sites and spiritual heights of Greece, Turkey and Italy from 25 September -12 October. Scan visit www.mn.catholic.org.au and click the 2025 Jubilee Year Information tile for more information, the application form, and costings.

Baptism Preparation

If you are seeking baptism for your child or children in our parish please register your interest to attend one of our baptism preparation programs at: <https://forms.office.com/r/HRzV5SryKVh>

Art and Spirituality Days

We will be hosting two Art and Spirituality Days in 2025 on Friday 4 April and Friday 12 September at the Kilaben Bay Community Centre (140 Wangi Road, Kilaben Bay). Participants will engage in art-making experiences that will nourish their faith. Cost: \$25. BYO lunch. Morning tea will be provided.

Registration at :

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/1235249708129>

For further information contact Rose McAllister on rose.mcallister@mn.catholic.org.au

Chrism Mass

Bishop Michael Kennedy will preside

On
Tuesday
15th April 2025
at 7pm



Sacred Heart Cathedral
841 Hunter St Newcastle West
followed by refreshments

All Welcome

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	U France K Lendon	U France S Matthew
<u>PSALMIST:</u>	5PM 9.30AM	J France M Shamley	J France J Shamley
<u>GIFTS</u>	5PM 9.30AM	H White S Mathew	H White J Hutchins
<u>SERVERS</u>	5PM 9.30AM	J Foo M Melvey	J Foo V Paulo
<u>AV</u>	5PM 9.30AM	D Peterson M Fitzgerald	J Vipan M Fowler
<u>WELCOMERS</u>	5PM 9.30AM	K Cameron H White	K Lendon J France
<u>CHURCH CLEANING</u>	COOR MOR	K Cameron R & C Hay	XXXX K Lendon



UPCOMING FEAST DAYS MEMORIALS AND SOLEMNITIES

- SAINT FRANCIS OF PAOLA (OM) - 2ND APR
- SAINT ISIDORE (OM) - 4TH APR
- SAINT VINCENT FERRER (OM) - 5TH APR
- SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST DE LA SALLE (M) - 7TH APR
- SAINT STANISLAUS (M) - 11TH APR
- PALM SUNDAY— 13TH APR
- THURSDAY OF THE LORD’S SUPPER— 17TH APRIL
- FRIDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD—18TH APRIL
- PASCHAL VIGIL IN THE HOLY NIGHT –19TH APRIL
- SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION— 20TH APRIL

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

Steve McKay, Terry Gillett, Jackie Purnell, Nancy Overton, Ross Dickson, Betty Smith, Anna Dussin, Koby Smith, Mary Monaghan, Clare Wallington, Donna Hazzard, Pam Mullaly, Tintumol Thomas, Peter Martyn, Bruce Gillett.

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



Formation Films

Formation Films – Ordinary Angels – 5 April 2025 – 11am
Join us as we watch the 2024 release film “Ordinary Angels”, share lunch and discuss the messages of hope in this film.
Bookings: <https://forms.office.com/r/6PpRW0QfUy> Or call 0409 033 449.
Venue: Diocesan Resource Centre (corner of Tudor and Parry Streets, Newcastle West)

Pope Francis’ prayer intention for March 2025

That families in crisis might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each other’s gifts, even in their differences.

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

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

Safeguarding is everyone’s responsibility.

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

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

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LITURGY MATTERS: Never Changing; Always New! Come Along To The Chrism Mass

As my friend and now retired colleague, Sr Louise Gannon rsj, has also said in the past, the Chrism Mass is one of my favourite events that features in the life of our diocese each year. It is very much 'good liturgy, done well', a liturgical celebration of diocesan life at its finest. This year's Chrism Mass will be celebrated on Tuesday 15 April in Sacred Heart Cathedral, beginning at 7pm. Come along!

Fr Andrew Doohan PUBLISHED March 25, 2025

One of the most delightful aspects of the Chrism Mass from my perspective is that it never really changes. The basic purpose remains the same. The Scripture readings that are proclaimed from year to year remain unchanged, and they are by now old friends to those who attend each year. Likewise, some of the music we use is sung year after year – and raises the roof because it is so!

Even those who attend are often well-known to each other as they make attending the Chrism Mass a priority during Holy Week. The reconnection with other people from across the diocese that takes place in the cathedral before the Chrism Mass begins is a wonderful witness to our joint journey as faithful witnesses to Jesus.

And yet, each celebration of the Chrism Mass that I have attended is always a new experience, primarily because I and we are not the same as we were twelve months ago.

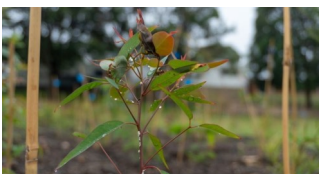
However, the purpose remains unchanged. We gather with our bishop, who is surrounded by his people and his clergy, to be reminded that we are called to be about proclaiming the Good News of the Reign of God in this place and at this time. And we bless and consecrate the Sacred Oils that are used in the ministries of initiation, healing, and consecration that are the natural outcome of our task of evangelising, of bringing hope to a world that still needs to hear or be reminded of the power and presence of Christ.

As in years past, I invite you to prepare to attend the Chrism Mass by praying and reflecting with the texts of the prayers of blessing and consecration that will be prayed over the Sacred Oils. A simple resource to assist this process of prayerful reflection is [available here](#). And a simple resource to receive those same Oils in your parish community on Holy Thursday evening can be found in PDF or [Microsoft Word](#) format ready for downloading and use.

A lot of work from a lot of people goes into the preparation of the Chrism Mass each year, and sometimes in the lead up to the celebration I can get bogged down in details and last-minute things. But when the first note of the Gathering Hymn starts, and the gathered diocesan community starts to sing, they fade into insignificance against the beauty and majesty of this Church gathered in prayer.

Come along to experience something that always makes my spirit soar.

I look forward to seeing you at this year's Chrism Mass.



Small changes, big impacts As a global citizen, how sustainably responsible are you?

Janine Curtis PUBLISHED March 01, 2025

Do you switch off lights when leaving a room?

Do you separate your waste from recycling?

Do you think twice before printing documents?

Do you limit water usage as much as possible?

These are the kinds of questions the Catholic Diocese of Mait-

land-Newcastle now considers through its daily work. And it is these small changes that are having big impacts across our region.

Sitting down with Diocesan Sustainability Manager Drew Ashworth, he spoke about the significant milestones achieved since the inception of the Diocese's 2022-2025 Sustainability Plan. The foundation for the Plan is a message from Pope Francis calling on us to care for our common home by making environmentally conscious decisions.

"Given our Diocese's footprint, a simple shift in mindset can significantly impact the environment," Drew said.

As an organisation with 5,500 staff across six distinct agencies and 10 local government areas, even the smallest of changes results in substantial impact. "As an example, the Diocese undertook a school holiday energy reduction initiative where schools shut down all non-essential equipment over the break such as printers, smartboards and computer screens that would have ordinarily stayed on. The result was an average of 15% energy reduction across our 58 schools for the summer school holiday period."

Alongside these successes, there have been some larger sustainability projects that Drew highlighted.

Soon, close to 90% of eligible Diocesan sites will have solar panels installed, a remarkable feat for an organisation of this size – this includes 58 Catholic primary and secondary schools, 12 St Nicholas Early Education centres, numerous offices, administrative buildings, and even the Diocesan library.

"The installation of these solar panel systems dramatically reduces our reliance on sourcing power from the grid. From time to time, we might not be able to generate the entirety of the energy needed. In this event, we lean on external providers who use 100% government certified renewable energy sources, such as wind or their own solar systems," he said.

Plans are now well underway for the next Sustainability Plan, set to commence in 2026, with a focus on measurable changes.

"By establishing baseline data, we can set realistic targets and show measurable results regarding our progress. This allows us to be more accountable and prepares us for forthcoming changes to government reporting requirements," Drew explained.

"An example is our new waste services contract, currently in the procurement phase."

"We are engaging a waste services contractor who will provide real-time data about our waste usage and recycling efforts. This knowledge empowers us to achieve real, measurable progress."

There will be also an increased focus on education, extending from the children at St Nicholas and our primary and secondary school students, through to staff and the communities we work within.

"I'm excited that the Tiny Forest initiative, which commenced with the inaugural Tiny Forest being planted at St Paul's Catholic Primary Gateshead last year, will expand," Drew said.

"These compact, densely planted forests are created to increase biodiversity in urban ecosystems and it's great that discussions are taking place to roll this initiative out in other schools across the Diocese."

Looking ahead, Pope Francis' message for us to care for our common home will continue to inspire the Diocese's next Sustainability Plan from 2026 onwards. It is an opportunity to make us all consider, 'what small changes can we make that will collectively have a big impact on our world?'

LITURGY MATTERS: Never Changing; Always New! 10 Questions about the Chrism Mass

Have you ever wondered what the Chrism Mass is all about? Fiona Duque answers some questions below.

Fiona Duque PUBLISHED March 19, 2024

What is the Chrism Mass?

The Chrism Mass is one of the most significant events on the Liturgical Calendar. At this mass, the bishop gathers with the priests and all the faithful. It is held traditionally on Holy Thursday; however it can also be held sometime during Holy Week.

Why is this Mass so important?

The bishop, priests and the faithful participate together to bless the oils that are going to be used in the ministry of various sacraments throughout the year from Easter to Easter. Because of this, the Chrism Mass is a powerful symbol of the unity of the Church and the Gospel imperative to be a missionary and anointing community.

What oils are blessed?

There are three oils blessed at the Chrism Mass - the Oil of Catechumens, the Oil of the Sick, and the Oil of Chrism. Technically the Oil of Chrism is consecrated, but that's a story for another day.

How are the oils used over the year?

The Oil of Catechumens is used to anoint those seeking to be initiated into the Catholic faith. The Oil of the Sick is used to anoint the sick and bring them comfort and strength. The Oil of Chrism is the most important and is a sign that the person or thing anointed becomes one with Christ. This anointing only happens once. It is used primarily in the sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation (initiation), Holy Orders (ordination), dedication of churches and altars (consecration).

Why are the oils blessed by the bishop?

In ancient times, oils were an important part of ritual life in anointing priests, prophets and kings. This importance has continued in the Church when it anoints someone in important sacramental moments. Anointing with oils is a sign of God's blessing, strength and healing. Interesting to note that the word messiah means 'anointed one'.

How do parishes receive the sacred oils?

Parishes send representatives who collect the oils and present them to the bishop for blessing and consecration. These oils are then taken back to their parishes where they are received at mass on Holy Thursday night.

What is the composition of the oils?

The Oil of Catechumens and Oil of the Sick are both pure olive oil. The Oil of Chrism is a mixture of pure olive oil and perfume. The addition of perfume elevates this consecrated oil and makes it more special.

Must the bishop preside at the Chrism Mass?

Yes! Only the bishop can consecrate Chrism. No bishop, no Chrism. You might recall we had to "borrow" a bishop in the year following the death of Bishop Bill. So yes, we do need a bishop to preside.

What else happens at the Chrism Mass?

The diocesan priests renew their priestly promises and their commitment to serve the Church of Maitland-Newcastle: To become more Christlike, to be faithful to the liturgy and to the ministry of servant leadership.

So, what does this mean for you?

If you haven't been before, come and experience it for yourself. It is truly a highlight of the year when it comes to liturgical celebrations. It is a real feast for the senses...

Tuesday 15 April - 7pm - Sacred Heart Cathedral

How you can support Project Compassion in 2025

On Sunday 2 March, the Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle launched Caritas Australia's Project Compassion as part of our Jubilee Year celebrations.

Brendon Mannyx PUBLISHED March 11, 2025

In his opening remarks at the Mass of Hope, Bishop Michael echoed the words in Luke's gospel when Jesus announced a Year of the Lord's Favour – a Jubilee. This is a time for us to be "renewed in hope."

We are encouraged to continue Jesus' mission to 'bring good news to the poor.' Caritas Australia has championed this Jubilee value with this year's theme to 'Unite Against Poverty.'

During the Mass, Bishop Michael commissioned all of us to "help bring hope to those who live in poverty."

At the Festival of Hope that followed, community representatives were able to collect their Project Compassion commissioning packs, as well as many other resources. The Project Compassion team were on hand to answer any questions and help equip our local communities to work for the poor and vulnerable in our world.

This message of hope was further shared by our younger helpers, who distributed flower bracelets throughout the day.

"It was wonderful to see so many people interested in Project Compassion," Diocesan Director for Caritas Australia Brendon Mannyx said.

"Our stall was non-stop for the duration of the festival. It was especially encouraging to see our young people engage with the spirit of giving – they are great witnesses.

"Our hope is that throughout this Jubilee Year, people's hearts will be moved with compassion towards the poor – realising that we have the capacity to make a massive difference in our own neighbourhood and in the world."

Parishes and schools can get involved in a range of activities this Lent in support of Project Compassion:

[The BIG Water Walk](#) for schools brings the global water crisis into focus, giving schools the opportunity to learn about and walk in solidarity with the millions of people worldwide who walk long distances every day to access clean drinking water.

[The Long Walk for Water](#) endeavours to bring community groups together to take on a 40-day walking challenge to bring clean, safe water to vulnerable communities.

[Host a Lenten event](#) invites everyone to connect with the Lenten spirit of compassion, community, and giving. Whether you decide to host a Pancake cook-off, a Project Compassion morning tea, a sausage sizzle, or a crazy hair day - the possibilities are endless!

[Give It Up for Lent](#) encourages people to reflect on the meaning of Lent through small, meaningful sacrifices, whether it's sweets, screen time, or pocket money.

How will your community 'Unite Against Poverty' during this Jubilee?

If you would like to donate to the Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle's fundraising efforts, visit <https://fundraise.projectcompassion.org.au/o/catholic-diocese-of-maitland-newcastle>

Last year, with support from our schools and parish communities we proudly raised more than \$ 137,000.

For more information, email mission@mn.catholic.org.au



SUNDAY PRAYER SERVICE

Fourth Sunday of Lent Year C Sunday 30 Mar 2025

The Introductory Rites

Gathering

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

A short hymn might be sung.

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.
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

A brief period of silence follows.

Leader:

Lord Jesus, you raise the dead to life in the Spirit: Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you bring pardon and peace to the sinner: Christ, have mercy:

All: Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you bring light to those in darkness: 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.

Faithful God,
only with the eyes of faith
can we see your glory.
Give us your saving help
even when we do not see your goodness.
Heal us and forgive us all our sins.
We make this prayer through Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
for ever and ever.

All:

Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

Joshua 5:9-12

A reading from the book of Joshua

The people of God went to the promised land and there kept the passover.

The Lord said to Joshua, 'Today I have taken the shame of Egypt away from you.'

The Israelites pitched their camp at Gilgal and kept the Passover there on the fourteenth day of the month, at evening in the plain of Jericho. On the morrow of the Passover they tasted the produce of that country, unleavened bread and roasted ears of corn, that same day. From that time, from their first eating of the produce of that country, the manna stopped falling. And having manna no longer, the Israelites fed from that year onwards on what the land of Canaan yielded.

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

The word of the Lord.

All reply:

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 33:2-7. R. v.9

(R.) Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

1. I will bless the Lord at all times,
his praise always on my lips;
in the Lord my soul shall make its boast.
The humble shall hear and be glad. (R.)
2. Glorify the Lord with me.
Together let us praise his name.
I sought the Lord and he answered me;
from all my terrors he set me free. (R.)
3. Look towards him and be radiant;
let your faces not be abashed.
This poor man called; the Lord heard him
and rescued him from all his distress. (R.)

Second Reading

2 Corinthians 5:17-21

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

God reconciled us to himself through Christ.

For anyone who is in Christ, there is a new creation; the old creation has gone, and now the new one is here. It is all God's work. It was God who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the work of handing on his reconciliation. In other words, God in Christ was reconciling the world to himself, not holding men's faults against them, and he has entrusted to us the news that they are reconciled. So we are ambassadors for Christ; it is as though God were appealing through us, and the appeal that we make in Christ's name is: be reconciled to God. For our sake God made the sinless one into sin, so that in him we might become the goodness of God.

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 Luke.

All:

Glory to you, O Lord.

Luke 15:1-3. 11-32

Your brother here was dead and has come to life.

The tax collectors and the sinners were all seeking the company of Jesus to hear what he had to say, and the Pharisees and the scribes complained. 'This man' they said 'welcomes sinners and eats with them.' So he spoke this parable to them:

'A man had two sons. The younger said to his father, "Father, let me have the share of the estate that would come to me." So the father divided the property between them. A few days later, the younger son got together everything he had and left for a distant country where he squandered his money on a life of debauchery.

'When he had spent it all, that country experienced a severe famine, and now he began to feel the pinch, so he hired himself out to one of the local inhabitants who put him on his farm to feed the pigs. And he would willingly have filled his

belly with the husks the pigs were eating but no one offered him anything. Then he came to his senses and said, "How many of my father's paid servants have more food than they want, and here am I dying of hunger! I will leave this place and go to my father and say: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as one of your paid servants." So he left the place and went back to his father.

'While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with pity. He ran to the boy, clasped him in his arms and kissed him tenderly. Then his son said, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son." But the father said to his servants, "Quick! Bring out the best robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the calf we have been fattening, and kill it; we are going to have a feast, a celebration, because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life; he was lost and is found." And they began to celebrate.

'Now the elder son was out in the fields, and on his way back, as he drew near the house, he could hear music and dancing. Calling one of the servants he asked what it was all about. "Your brother has come" replied the servant "and your father has killed the calf we had fattened because he has got him back safe and sound." He was angry then and refused to go in, and his father came out to plead with him; but he answered his father, "Look, all these years I have slaved for you and never once disobeyed your orders, yet you never offered me so much as a kid for me to celebrate with my friends. But for this son of yours, when he comes back after swallowing up your property – he and his women – you kill the calf we had been fattening."

'The father said, "My son, you are with me always and all I have is yours. But it is only right we should celebrate and rejoice, because your brother here was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found."

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: Brothers and Sisters, let us make our prayers before the Lord,
the God of forgiveness and mercy.

Reader: That the Holy Catholic Church will welcome all who repent and
seek forgiveness. In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That families struggling with division or conflict will choose
forgiveness and healing. In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That, through our support of Project Compassion, people in
desperate situations will be able to access vocational training,
enabling them to earn an income to support their families. In
your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That our political and community leaders will be guided by the
Spirit as they work to build a just and harmonious society. In
your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That Pope Francis, and all who are sick or recovering from
illness or injury, will continue to receive effective and
compassionate care, both physically and spiritually. In your
mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That those who have died will taste and see the everlasting
goodness of God. In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: God our Father, through love your Son teaches us to repent in
our daily lives. Hear our prayers, and, like the prodigal son,
help us to return to your ever present mercy in devoted love.
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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