



**St John
Vianney**
Parish Morisset



PENTECOST SUNDAY YEAR A 28 MAY 2023

The Feast of Pentecost that we are celebrating today, is the pivotal moment that mobilised a small and vulnerable group of followers, into a beacon of light, hope and healing for the world.

The Feast of Pentecost, is the moment that formed a small motley mob of followers, into a dynamic evangelising community.

Like the early church we gather today, to share in the Word of God, to receive the Body of Christ, and to share something about what it means to be a Christian in 2023.

On this Pentecost Sunday, may we say come Holy Spirit to a Church in Australia, that needs the breath of life in new and deeper ways. We need what Pope John XXIII called a new Pentecost.

The mission of the Church is not about asserting its dominance or wielding power. The Church's mission should be about the transformation of society through the quality of its witness and friendship and develop fresh ways of being companions to the people of today.



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:

Foundation	Leader	In Office
1. Identity and Community		
2. Worship and Prayer.	Uta France	Mon
3. Formation and Education		
4. Mission and Outreach.		
5. Leadership and Structure.	John France	Sat & Sun

If you have any concerns or questions you can also talk to any member of the **Parish Pastoral Council** who are: Juliet Hutchins, Mal and Pam Melvey, Kerry Lendon, and Rod Hay.

PRIEST SUPERVISOR: Fr Joseph Figuardo
SACRAMENTAL PRIEST: Fr John Purnell
Parish Secretary: Mrs Rosanna Suckling

OFFICE: 60 Yambo Street, Morisset, PO Box 87, Ph: 02 4973.6859
 Office Hours: 9.00 am to 2.00pm—Monday to Friday (except public holidays)
 (Due to COVID we ask that you make an appointment to come to the office)
 Morisset Parish Office email: morparish@mn.catholic.org.au
 Morisset Parish Web site: www.vianneymorisset.org
 Morisset Parish Facebook : <https://www.facebook.com/stjvparish>
 Morisset Parish Instagram : https://www.instagram.com/stjvparish_morisset/
 Morisset Parish Bulletin Items: morparish@mn.catholic.org.au

UPCOMING WORSHIP TIMES :

Saturday	27th May 5pm Mass— Cooranbong
Sunday	28th May 9.30am Mass—Morisset
Tuesday	30th May 9.30am Liturgy— Morisset
Saturday	3rd June 5pm Family Mass— Morisset
Sunday	4th June 9.30am Mass— Morisset
Tuesday	6th June 9.30am Liturgy Morisset
Saturday	10th June 5pm Mass— Cooranbong
Sunday	11th June 9.30am Mass— Morisset
Tuesday	13th June 9.30am Liturgy— Morisset
Saturday	17th June 5pm Family Mass— Morisset
Sunday	18th June 9.30am Mass—Morisset
Tuesday	20th June 9.30am Liturgy—Morisset

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2023-Pentecost Reflection

Today we celebrate the Feast of Pentecost. The Feast of Pentecost brings the season of Easter to a close.

Have you ever wondered what Pentecost means, and what it's all about? Well, Pentecost means fiftieth day. In Jesus' time Pentecost was an established observance, it was the second of three great Jewish Feasts. It was a day of gratitude. It was a day of thanksgiving for the completion of the harvest.

For us, Pentecost is often called the birthday of the Church, because the Holy Spirit entered the followers of Jesus, and they became the Body of Christ in the world.

We might think of Pentecost as something like the New Year's Eve, or Australia Day celebrations. But it's not just the sound of the fireworks, and the excitement. What it is, is the here-comes the motley mob of a multinational crowd of people, who all heard a message, and allowed themselves to get caught up in its power.

The first disciples had real reasons to be afraid. Jesus had been arrested and crucified. They were hiding in a locked room, wondering if they would be next. Then, suddenly, Jesus came and stood in their midst. They thought they were seeing a ghost. But Jesus' first words to them were "Peace be with you" and "Don't be afraid."

We have seen individuals or groups of people, who initially felt powerless to change their situation, suddenly become able to do so, when someone empowered them. We have also seen what a good motivator can do to an underperforming football team.

Pentecost reminds us that we are now the Church, the Body of Christ in the world, in our time, 2023. John France

Financial Report to Parishioners

In a previous report to you on 9th June, 2019, we stated that the Parish was in a reasonable financial position. Unfortunately, this is not the present situation.

As you are aware the second collection is used for all operating expenses in running the Parish, e.g., insurance, lighting, repairs, maintenance and equipment, equipment hire, salaries, telephone, fax, internet and printing etc.

Our two main sources of income are:-

Second collection (planned giving and cash given at Mass)

Rental income from Unit 2, Yambo St. and 111 Dora St.

With regard to 111 Dora St, we have had tenancy problems and they are being evicted eventually, with a significant loss of rent. We anticipate extensive repairs may be required to relet the property.

We also had several minor sources of income; in some years, up to \$7,000, e.g., Melbourne Cup luncheon, funeral catering and gifts. These have not resumed to their past level.

From July, 2022, to the end of April, 2023, planned and loose bucket collection totalled \$43,972.40. Extrapolating this figure for 12 months, it becomes \$52,766.80. This will be one of the lowest for 16 years. Certainly, Covid has had a considerable

impact.

One feature is that planned giving plus loose collections have not kept pace with inflation, especially the last 4-5 years. Consequently, there is a pressing need to increase our second collection.

We know that things are difficult for everybody, but could you please consider whether you are able to increase your planned giving or cash donation, if possible, by \$3.00 per week, given the cost of a cup of coffee today is \$5.

The number of electronic remittances has reached the 90% level; 2019-2020 was 50%. We appreciate your committing to using EFT as it frees up several volunteers for other duties.

Again, we thank you for your continued support.

If you would like to discuss anything further, please see John, Juliet or Mal after the Mass

The above report was delivered after Mass on Saturday and Sunday last weekend by Finance Team member Mal. As a result an appeal was launched for:

1. More parishioners to join our planned giving program.
2. Current contributors to consider increasing their giving if they have not done so recently.

Pledge cards will again be available on the church pews this weekend. All contributions to the second collection are gratefully received and appreciated. Further details are available from the Parish Office.

Pope Francis' Prayer intention for May 2023

That Church movements and groups may rediscover their mission of evangelization each day, placing their own charisms at the service of needs in the world.

Praying the Gospels

You are invited to connect and pray with each other across the Diocese from your own home. God speaks to us through the words of the Gospel and then through artist's images of the Gospel message. Join us each Wednesday 5.00- 6:00pm.

Zoom link: <https://mncatholic.zoom.us/j/68191395109>

Password: 316071 For more information

contact: rose.mcallister@mn.catholic.org.au

Introductory Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) (40 hours)

This course is an introduction to the theory and practice of pastoral/spiritual care. It is a qualification required by NSW Health for those wishing to become hospital visitors. It covers such topics as listening skills, empathy, grief and loss, self-awareness and hospital procedures. It is conducted over six Mondays from 9am to 4pm. A certificate is awarded on completion.

The course starts on 17 July and goes until 21 August. registration due by 1 July. MacKillop Parish Charlestown

For more information contact Fr. Roger Zohrab- Pastoral Care Coordinator Mob 0408 151 481

roger.zohrab@health.nsw.gov.au

Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle Marriage Tribunal

Can we help you? The Church is aware of the stresses associated with marriage breakdown and divorce and understands that many people have questions about the processes which might allow a divorced person to remarry in the Catholic Church. If you have any questions or would like to have a confidential chat about your situation, please contact Jane at the Tribunal on 4979 1370.



BE A VOICE FOR GENERATIONS. NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK 2023

The National Reconciliation Week 2023 theme is “Be a Voice for Generations”.

Reconciliation Australia CEO, Karen Mundine says the theme calls on Australians to honour the work of generations past who fought for justice in Australia and to work together today to tackle the unfinished business of reconciliation for the generations to come.

“There has long been a strong thread in Australian history of people striving to build a just society,” she said.

“Australian history has included many examples of non-First Nations Australians who stood with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people during early strikes, protests and notably during the 1967 referendum.

“Australia has a long record of inspiring allyship and solidarity to address centuries of racism and injustice.

“This National Reconciliation Week we urge all Australians to follow in this tradition to ‘Be a voice for generations’, while also imagining a better country for future generations.”

Ms Mundine said her organisation’s research indicated a large reservoir of community support for the next steps in Australia’s reconciliation journey, including the Voice to parliament, treaty making and truth-telling.

“The 2022 Australian Reconciliation Barometer shows 80% of all Australians believe the creation of a national representative Indigenous body is important and 79% believe such a body should be protected under the constitution,” she said. “And there is growing support for a Treaty between First Nations and other Australians with a 19% increase from 53% in 2020 to 72% today.

“Support for truth-telling also remains very high at 83% for the general community and 87% for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents.”

Ms Mundine said this year’s NRW theme urges all Australians to use their power, their words and their vote to create a better, more just Australia for all of us.

“Reconciliation is about building a better nation; a more united Australia that respects and takes pride in 65,000 years of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, histories, stories and achievements; an Australia that believes in the right of First Nations peoples to make decisions about our lives and our communities; and an Australia that stands opposed to racism, inequity and injustice.

“I urge all Australians to join me in participating in activities this National Reconciliation Week and to raise our voices for the future.”

Learn more about National Reconciliation Week at : <https://nrw.reconciliation.org.au/about-nrw/>



Hundreds feared dead after Cyclone Mocha in Myanmar and Bangladesh

Caritas Australia’s partners are on the ground in Myanmar and Bangladesh to provide assistance after Cyclone Mocha tore through the locations. **CARITAS AUSTRALIA PUBLISHED MAY 23, 2023**

The intense Cyclone Mocha crashed through Myanmar and southeastern Bangladesh on Sunday, making landfall between Cox’s Bazar in Bangladesh and Myanmar’s Sittwe with winds of up to 210 kilometres per hour.

It is the biggest storm to hit the Bay of Bengal in over a decade. There are 40 confirmed deaths so far, but fears that hundreds more may have died in Myanmar.

More than 400,000 people were evacuated in Myanmar and Bangladesh. The powerful storm surges brought flooding to the port town of Sittwe in Myanmar, where streets were turned into rivers.

Before the cyclone, at least 6 million people were in need of humanitarian support and about 1.2 million were displaced across Rakhine state and the northwest of Myanmar (OCHA).

In Bangladesh, many of the Rohingya refugees live in sprawling camps prone to flooding and landslides, with approximately one million Rohingya living in Cox’s Bazar, the world’s largest refugee camp.

Bangladesh’s government does not allow Rohingya refugees to leave the camps or build permanent structures, so the flimsy bamboo and tarpaulin structures are vulnerable to extreme weather.

So far, more than 1,300 shelters in Cox’s Bazar have been reported as destroyed or damaged, as well as 16 mosques and learning centres, however there are no immediate reports of casualties.

There are also concerns for hundreds of Rohingya refugees housed on island facility in the Bay of Bengal, called Bhasan Char, which is highly flood prone. Communications remain limited and reports continue to flow in.

“For such a powerful cyclone to hit not just one, but two areas where millions of people are already highly reliant on humanitarian aid is a serious challenge,” said Melville Fernandez, Caritas Australia’s Humanitarian Associate Director.

“Many communities in Myanmar and Bangladesh have already faced displacement, flooding, cyclones, COVID-19 and a cost-of-living crisis, and their coping capacity is eroded by the succession of challenges that they’ve faced in just a few short years.”

Caritas Australia’s partners on the ground are coordinating with government and other aid organisations to assess the damage, and will focus on providing food, shelter, clean water and cash assistance to the most impacted communities.

Caritas Bangladesh has capacity to shelter more than 150,000 people in cyclone shelters and has an extensive staff and volunteer network ready to respond across the affected areas.

Visit caritas.org.au/donate/emergency-appeals/myanmar-cyclone/ or call 1800 024 413 toll free to provide much needed support to Asia by donating to our Asia Emergency Appeal.

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 96014 BSB:062815 Account Number: 00328161 Ref: 5004 2nd Collection or 5004 PG and your Giver Number or Surname, or you can use the Online Payments 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	K Lendon L McRae	M Shamley P Melvey
<u>PSALMIST:</u>	5PM 9.30AM	D Peterson K Amon	J Shamley F Dunn
<u>GIFTS</u>	5PM 9.30AM	G Hutchinson B Cox K Amon P Herbert	P Melvey F Pascoe L McRae L McRae
<u>SERVERS</u>	5PM 9.30AM	M Melvey F Dyson V Paulo J Lawandos	M Melvey R Lawandos V Paulo
<u>AV</u>	5PM 9.30AM	M Foo J Vipian	J Vipian T Alexander
<u>SOUND / VIDEO</u>	5PM 9.30AM	J France J France	L Hutchinson J France
<u>WELCOMERS / USHER</u>	5PM 9.30AM	M Melvey P Stewart A Dussin	H White A Dussin A Walker G Walker
<u>COVID CLEAN- ING</u>	5PM 9.30AM	L Hutchinson G Hutchinson M Melvey P Melvey L McRae L McRae	P Melvey M Melvey H White J France T Alexander P Stewart
<u>CHURCH CLEANING</u>	COOR MOR	M Shamley P Herbert	XXXX T Alexander



UPCOMING FEAST DAYS MEMORIALS AND SOLEMINITIES

PENTECOST— 28TH MAY
MARY, MOTHER OF THE CHURCH— 29TH MAY
VISITATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY— 31ST MAY
SAINT JUSTIN— 1ST JUNE
SAINTS CHARLES LWANGA AND COMPANIONS— 3RD JUNE
THE MOST HOLY TRINITY— 4TH JUNE
SAINT BONIFACE— 5TH JUNE
THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST— 11TH JUNE
SAINT ANTHONY OF PADUA— 13TH JUNE
THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS— 16TH JUNE

Please pray for those who are sick, in hospital or recovering at home:

Pam Mullaly, Mary Johnson, Tintumol Thomas,
Christopher Maloney, 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.

Recently Deceased: Anne Jamieson



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

The Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle has an enduring and abiding commitment to promote the safety, welfare and wellbeing of children and vulnerable adults. If you have any concerns for a child or vulnerable adult please contact the Office of Safeguarding (ph: 02 4979 1390 or email: childprotection@mn.catholic.org.au), or visit their website for further information (www.officeofsafeguarding.org.au).



SUNDAY PRAYER SERVICE

Pentecost Sunday Year A

Sunday 28 May 2023

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 and live. Our Parish of St John Vianney Morisset is located on the traditional lands of the Awabakal and Darkinjung people. 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.

Gathering

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

Sign of the Cross

Leader:

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

All:

Amen.

Greeting

Leader:

Blessed be Jesus Christ who has redeemed us and raised us to new life.

All:

Blessed be God forever.

Introductory Remarks

Leader (in these or similar words):

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

United with the whole Church,
we celebrate the joy of Easter
and keep this day of the Lord holy.

Opening Rite

LITANY OF PRAISE

Leader:

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

A brief period of silence follows.

Leader:

Lord Jesus, your Spirit sanctifies the whole church in every culture and race: Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, your Spirit strengthens every disciple to announce your gospel to the ends of the earth: Christ have mercy.

All: Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, your Spirit unites all the baptised in mutual service of the poor and neglected: 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.

God most holy,
since the beginning of time
your Holy Spirit has breathed new life
and filled the earth with many good gifts.
Pour your Holy Spirit on us, we pray,
and fill us with the fire of your great love
so that our lives may bear great fruit.
We make this prayer through Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
for ever and ever.
Lord Jesus,
in giving us the gift of the Holy Spirit
you ask us to show forgiveness.
May we help others to know your
peace and love.
We make this prayer through
our Risen Lord Jesus.

All:

Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

Acts 2:1-11

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak different languages.

When Pentecost day came round, the apostles had all met in one room, when suddenly they heard what sounded like a powerful wind from heaven, the noise of which filled the entire house in which they were sitting; and something appeared to them that seemed like tongues of fire; these separated and came to rest on the head of each of them. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak foreign languages as the Spirit gave them the gift of speech.

Now there were devout men living in Jerusalem from every nation under heaven, and at this sound they all assembled, each one bewildered to hear these men speaking his own language. They were amazed and astonished. 'Surely' they said 'all these men speaking are Galileans? How does it happen that each of us hears them in his own native language? Parthians, Medes and Elamites; people from Mesopotamia, Judaea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya round Cyrene; as well as visitors from Rome – Jews and proselytes alike – Cretans and Arabs; we hear them preaching in our own language about the marvels of God.'

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

The word of the Lord.

All reply:

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 103:1. 24. 29-31. 34. R. v.30

(R.) Lord, send out your Spirit and renew the face of the earth.

1. Bless the Lord, my soul!
Lord God, how great you are,
How many are your works, O Lord!
The earth is full of your riches. **(R.)**

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

2. You take back your spirit, they die,
returning to the dust from which they came.
You send forth your spirit, they are created;
and you renew the face of the earth. (R.)
3. May the glory of the Lord last for ever!
May the Lord rejoice in his works!
May my thoughts be pleasing to him.
I find my joy in the Lord. (R.)

Second Reading

1 Cor 12:3-7, 12-13

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

In the one Spirit we were all baptised, making one body.

No one can say, 'Jesus is Lord' unless he is under the influence of the Holy Spirit.

There is a variety of gifts but always the same Spirit; there are all sorts of service to be done, but always to the same Lord; working in all sorts of different ways in different people, it is the same God who is working in all of them. The particular way in which the Spirit is given to each person is for a good purpose.

Just as a human body, though it is made up of many parts, is a single unit because all these parts, though many, make one body, so it is with Christ. In the one Spirit we were all baptised, Jews as well as Greeks, slaves as well as citizens, and one Spirit was given to us all to drink.

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

The word of the Lord.

All reply:

Thanks be to God.

Sequence

Holy Spirit, Lord of light,
From the clear celestial height
Thy pure beaming radiance give.
Come, thou Father of the poor,
Come with treasures which endure;
Come, thou light of all that live!
Thou, of all consolers best,
Thou, the soul's delightful guest,
Dost refreshing peace bestow;
Thou in toil art comfort sweet;
Pleasant coolness in the heat;
Solace in the midst of woe.
Light immortal, light divine,
Visit thou these hearts of thine,
And our inmost being fill:
If thou take thy grace away,
Nothing pure in man will stay;
All his good is turned to ill.
Heal our wounds, our strength renew;
On our dryness pour thy dew;
Wash the stains of guilt away:
Bend the stubborn heart and will;
Melt the frozen, warm the chill;
Guide the steps that go astray.
Thou, on us who evermore
Thee confess and thee adore,
With thy sevenfold gifts descend:
Give us comfort when we die;
Give us life with thee on high;
Give us joys that never end.

Gospel

Reader:

From the holy Gospel according to John.

All:

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jn 20:19-23

As the Father sent me, so I send you: Receive the Holy Spirit.

In the evening of the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you', and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you.

'As the Father sent me,
so am I sending you.'

After saying this he breathed on them and said:

'Receive the Holy Spirit.
For those whose sins you forgive,
they are forgiven:
for those whose sins you retain,
they are retained.'

Reader:

The Gospel of the Lord.

All:

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

All are seated.

Reflection on the Word

What was different about Jesus breathing the Spirit on the disciples and the Pentecost experience?

What was significant about the disciples being heard to speak in many different languages?

Why might Pentecost sometimes be regarded as the birth of the Church?

Have you ever had an experience of being aware of the Spirit's presence/action?

Where in your life could you use the guidance and strength of the Spirit?

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,**

Reader: That through the forgiveness of sins, our parish community will renew the earth and reach out to all in need.

(pause)

In your glory:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That the sick will be comforted through the Spirit of healing, especially those in our community and families.

(pause)

In your glory:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That through the Holy Spirit, those who have died will be sent to the Lord Most High, especially those who were members of our community and families.

(pause)

In your glory:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: God our Father, we are made one in the Holy Spirit. Hear our prayers and by the fire that is kindled in our hearts, help us to live as Christians united in holiness, forgiveness and 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:

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

All make the sign of the cross during the blessing.

All:

Amen.

Dismissal

Leader:

Let us go in peace. Alleluia.

All:

Thanks be to God.

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FAITH MATTERS: The Month of May

Each Thursday evening a group have been gathering in fellowship to share a first century Palestine inspired meal, watch an episode of The Chosen and engage in discussion.

ROSEMARY MCALLISTER PUBLISHED MAY 23, 2023

Last week's episode was very intimate, the disciples revealed something of themselves which led the group to share parts of their lived experience of the Church. Being born post Vatican II my experience of Church did not include the Latin Mass nor the green catechism which many in the group could relate to. It was agreed that changes in traditions brought on by Vatican II were good, it gave a recognisable dialect to the Gospel and permission to encounter Jesus in a more human way. A participant recalls one of the local Sisters explaining the change in receiving communion, from kneeling at the altar rail and the host being placed on the tongue to being able to receive the Eucharist with your hands and walking as a community to the altar which now faced the congregation. This change instilled a sense that Jesus was accompanying you on the journey.

One of the highlights of this episode was when Mother Mary joins the nomadic group of those who have been chosen. Like the others she shared something of herself in the birth of her son and remarks that as Jesus grew, he needed less of her which is a common feeling amongst all mothers. In a later scene her words are flipped when Jesus returns exhausted from a day of healing the afflicted and Mary washes his feet demonstrating a mother's love. It is this love and her blinded agreement to say 'Yes' that Catholics position Mary in a place with great honour and respect.

While it is purely a coincidence that several significant motherly elements are attached to the month of May, our Catholic imagination can create powerful links.

It is during May that we in Australia much like other parts of the world celebrate our mums on Mother's Day and May is the month devoted to Mother Mary. Individuals and communities give special reverence to Mary during this month, they might focus on the rosary, include the Angelus into their prayer life, spend time contemplating the Magnificat, create artworks devoted to Mary or ceremonially crown statues of Mary with flowers. These ritual actions are vast and varied depending on traditions and commitment to devotions.

May is also the month that Pope Francis launched *Laudato Si'*, this focus on stewardship calls us to care for not only our environment, our mother earth but all that is living within it. While it must be noted that this church document was launched on 24 May, the Solemnity of Pentecost in 2015, we know that we would not have the birthday of the Church if Mary had not been part of the narrative.

It was earlier this year that I learnt about the 2022 documentary titled 'The Letter' which can be freely accessed online. The film tells the incredible story of the *Laudato Si'* through the eyes of frontline leaders battling the ecological crisis across continents. The film features Pope Francis and diverse stories from India, Senegal, Hawaii, and the Brazilian Amazon. Each of these local leaders represent a voice that is not being heard, the voice of wildlife, the voice of the Indigenous, the voice of the youth, and the voice of the poor. The film follows these people coming together in dialogue with each other and with Pope Francis as they find unity in their distinct worldviews and strength in our common values.

Mary our mother was born from the creator and Pope Francis speaks of her as the Queen of all Creation in the encyclical.

'Mary, the Mother who cared for Jesus, now cares with maternal affection and pain for this wounded world. Just as her pierced heart mourned the death of Jesus, so now she grieves for the sufferings of the crucified poor and for the creatures of this world laid waste by human power. Completely transfigured, she now lives with Jesus, and all creatures sing of her fairness. She is the Woman, "clothed in the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars" (Rev 12:1). Carried up into heaven, she is the Mother and Queen of all creation. In her glorified body, together with the Risen Christ, part of creation has reached the fullness of its beauty. She treasures the entire life of Jesus in her heart (cf. Lk 2:19,51), and now understands the meaning of all things. Hence, we can ask her to enable us to look at this world with eyes of wisdom.' (241, *Laudato Si'*)

Mother's Day is the biggest trading day for florists (so is Good Friday for fish and chip shops, but we will leave this tradition for another time) it is no wonder as there is much beauty in our creation that is birthed. Mother Mary is often depicted in art with flowers especially the lily which symbolizes purity, innocence and virginity and the rose as Mary is often given the poetic title of Mystical Rose.

There is much to ponder about traditions past, present and it is only by, reading the signs of the time, imagination, and creativity of how things may look in the future.

If you would like to join us for The Chosen Experience, please register at: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/the-chosen-season-2-tickets-595299666327>

We have only a few places left at the Marion icon paint and pray, for more information and registration go to: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/paint-and-pray-may-2023-tickets-595235353967>



Group encourages men to connect with one another

"It's a friendly safe space for men from all walks of life to come together."

ELIZABETH SYMINGTON PUBLISHED MAY 23, 2023

That's a statement from St Joseph's Men Newcastle creator Curtis Mahoney. After two years of planning, praying and discernment he launched the group earlier this month to encourage men to connect with each other.

"I had this idea to create a men's group two years ago and I left it to God's timing," he said.

"Then about two months ago I met some newly baptised men who had just become Catholics and thought it was a good time to start the group.

"I wanted to create a space for men to be able to gather and feel safe to just be around one another and talk about what's going on in their lives.

"I am very passionate about men's mental health, and I think this group could really help people."

Curtis encourages anyone who is interested to attend one of their meetings – the group will meet during the first week of every month.

"Anyone who is interested should come along and give it a go to experience it for themselves," Curtis said.

"It's a great space if you are looking for somewhere to meet others and be yourself – you aren't going to be judged."

At each meeting, there is time to connect with one another, share a meal, and hear from a guest speaker.

At this month's meeting a Franciscan Brother delivered a presentation and at the next gathering Chris Lee, from the Broken Bay Diocese, will discuss his conversion/reversion story about how he came to know the everlasting love of God.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 7 June from 6.30pm at the Sydney Junction Hotel. Entry is free.

For more information or to connect with the group, visit [St Joseph's Men Newcastle on Facebook](#).