



**St John  
Vianney**  
Parish Morisset



### **3RD SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR C SUNDAY 20 MARCH 2022**

*As we pass through life, we encounter catastrophes and tragedies ! These days, it seems they have multiplied. Covid, floods, volcanoes, shootings, war, plus accidents of all kinds. You name it, we are loss weary!  
In the past and even now, people tended to think that adversities, strike those who are guilty of living sinful lives.*

*In today's Gospel, Jesus relates two disasters of his time and says, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way, they were greater sinners than all other Galileans? By no means!" Misfortunes strike the good and the bad alike.*

*The fact is that life is uncertain for all. None of us has assurance about our days. When tragedy strikes , we can be left with regrets. We may have serious regrets. We may want a "do-over." But that's not possible. Nevertheless, we can correct our mistakes and make a course correction going forward.*

*While the sap of life still runs in us, it is never too late to change our ways. Let us begin this Lent!*



We Acknowledge the traditional owners of this land the Awabakal Peoples. And pay our respects to the elders past and present, and any that may be with us today.

#### **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 (PPC) who are: Juliet Hutchins, Mal and Pam Melvey, Kerry Lendon, and Rod Hay.

**PRIEST SUPERVISOR:** Fr Geoff Mulhearn

**SACRAMENTAL PRIEST:** Fr John Purnell

**Parish Secretary:** Mrs Rosanna Suckling Mon— Fri 9am-2pm

**OFFICE:** 60 Yambo Street, Morisset, PO Box 87, Ph: 02 4973.6859

**Office Hours:** 9.00 am to 2.00pm—Monday to Friday

(Due to COVID we ask that you make an appointment to come to the office)

**Morisset Parish email:** [morparish@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:morparish@mn.catholic.org.au)

**Parish Leadership Team Email:** [morparishplt@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:morparishplt@mn.catholic.org.au)

**Morisset Parish Web site:** [www.vianneymorisset.org](http://www.vianneymorisset.org)

**Morisset Parish Facebook :** <https://www.facebook.com/stjvparish>

**Morisset Parish Instagram :** [https://www.instagram.com/stjvparish\\_morisset/](https://www.instagram.com/stjvparish_morisset/)

**Morisset Parish Bulletin Items:** [morparish@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:morparish@mn.catholic.org.au)

**Morisset Parish Presbytery:** Ph: 02 4973 1537

(Please submit all Bulletin Notice requests to the parish office by 2pm Wednesdays)

**Email the Parish Office to Subscribe for an Electronic Bulletin .**

#### **UPCOMING WORSHIP TIMES :**

Sunday	20th March 9.30am
	Mass— Morisset
Tuesday	22nd March 9.30am
	Mass— Morisset
Sunday	27th March 9.30am
	Mass— Morisset
Tuesday	29th March 9.30am
	Mass— Morisset

#### **PHYSICAL DISTANCING REQUIRED**

As the degree of harm to people in our Parish Community could experience if they caught COVID-19 is high under WHS Laws we are still required to Physical Distance 1.5m apart. Everyone will have the option to book in to be guaranteed a seat, however, it is NOT Compulsory. To book use the Book for Services button on the Parish Website, or the Eventbrite App or Website: <http://vianneymorisset.eventbrite.com> or call the Parish Office between 9am and 2pm Weekdays.

#### **MASKS STRONGLY RECOMMENDED**

Everyone over the age of 12 is strongly recommended by NSW Health to wear a Mask that covers the nose and mouth whilst indoors.

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### **THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT REFLECTION MARCH 2022**

In today's Gospel, the owner of the fig tree tells his gardener to chop it down. But the gardener, even after three years with no fruit, wants to give the tree one more year to produce.

Patience is more than just waiting. Patience means we continue to struggle long after others have walked off the job. Such patience was one of the qualities of Thomas Edison when he was inventing the light bulb. He kept working on perfecting the bulb until it burned for 600 hours. Edison coined the phrase "Genius is 1 percent inspiration and 99 percent perspiration." He also famously said, "I have not failed. I've just found 10,000 ways that won't work."

With only four weeks till Easter, let us review how we are spending this special season of Lent. Lent is a time for us to resist the temptation to have things at our disposal. It is a time of going deeper in our faith life, of enriching the inner spirit and becoming worthy witnesses of the Gospel.

In the past much emphasis was placed on fasting during the season of Lent. Fasting is not so much about doing without some special food or drink or luxury. Fasting means going without. It means a change of routine. It focuses our attention on the external habits into which we have grown, and by denying some attraction, we keep reminding ourselves that our real hunger and need is for God.

Our faith today is also being put to the test. This requires of us to have the courage to let go of the familiar and secure, the courage to launch into the deep, with everything that it entails. The cross beckons us to move from fear to faith, from security to trust and from self-interest to solidarity and communion. John France



## **THE SEE IS VACANT** **LET US PRAY**

Prayer for the appointment of our new Bishop

Shepherding God  
You reveal your way of unfailing love  
in the image of the Good Shepherd  
who seeks the lost,  
shows compassion  
knows and is known by the sheep  
and lays down his life for them.

We your people of Maitland-Newcastle  
are without a bishop to shepherd us.

We ask that your Holy Spirit  
who moves through this great south land,  
inspire the choice of our new Bishop,  
empower his 'yes'  
and open our hearts in hospitality and love.

We make this prayer through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help pray for us  
Mary MacKillop of the Cross pray for us.



### ***Third Sunday of Lent***

**Janice 44**, is a proud Wagilak woman, a traditional dancer, living in a remote community in the Northern Territory. As elders grow older and pass away, she knows she must share her knowledge with the younger generation. However, the community faces multiple challenges, including a lack of jobs, limited educational opportunities, and socio-economic which can lead to young people becoming disconnected from culture.

With your help, Caritas Australia supports Djilpin Arts Aboriginal Corporation, which operates a centre for traditional and contemporary Aboriginal arts and culture, providing employment and generating income for local communities.

**Please donate to Project Compassion 2022 and help provide employment and training for First Australians, allowing them to remain on country and keep their culture alive.**

Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow ***For All Future Generations.***

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your Parish, by visiting [lent.caritas.org.au](http://lent.caritas.org.au), or by calling 1800 024 413.



### **CARITAS AUTUMN NEWSLETTER**

The Caritas Autumn newsletter is now available online at <https://www.caritas.org.au/news/our-magazine/>. Check out their latest news and stories from overseas and in Australia.



## **EMERGENCY Ukraine Appeal**

Our long-standing partner, Caritas Ukraine, is on the ground providing shelter, food, clean water, medicine and psychological support.

**Donate now to help the people of Ukraine.**

[www.caritas.org.au/Ukraine](http://www.caritas.org.au/Ukraine)

1800 024 413 toll free



Keep up to date on how Caritas agencies are responding to this crisis

[caritas.org.au/ukraine-news](http://caritas.org.au/ukraine-news)



## **FAITH MATTERS: ART AND FAITH**

During the second week of Lent as we savour the scripture of the Transfiguration, I cannot help but think

how this transformational experience for the disciples is much like creating a work of art.

ROSEMARY MCALLISTER PUBLISHED MARCH 15, 2022

In the gospel, Jesus reveals his glory to Peter, John and James through being transfigured before their eyes. There is a glimpse of what is to come, but they struggle to make meaning of what they have seen. Before an artist creates, they have a vision of what is to come, but it is often the journey while creating that the paschal mystery is encountered, and it is through this experience that gives meaning to the completed work.

I cannot imagine a world without art and theology. The creation of art provides the opportunity for deepening awareness of oneself, the world and can act as a catalyst for evoking the spirit. Art is a means to see-to-re-search and find the living meaning of what it means to open the heart. Art invites us to listen and to contemplate, providing a timeless and transcendent experience. Art allows 'the eye to listen', through entering an active silence of attention. These skills require a mindset of not necessarily thinking about the time that it will take to reach a destination of even having this as an end goal, but rather savouring the transformational journey. Everyone can create art, but in order for it to be theological, the artist needs to explore ways that it makes sense of faith. Opening the heart through art involves making meaning through the creation, then reflecting on the art itself and the unfolding the moment-to-moment direct experience of the process.

I have recently discovered Makoto Fujimura and fell in love with his book, podcasts, and reflections on Art and Faith- A Theology of Making.

Makoto Fujimura writes:

"In my studio I make art. The term theology of making amplifies how this human act is connected to the divine presence. Simply put, when we make, God shows up."

Fujimura states that as God is the creator and we are made in the image and likeness of God, we too are all creators. We have been made to paint light into the darkness.

Fujimura speaks of how unless we are making something, we cannot know the depth of God's being and God's grace permeating in our lives. Artmaking is a discipline of awareness, prayer, and praise. It is a sacred way of understanding the profound human experience and the nature of our existence in the world. To be human is to have an imagination and be creative and it is this, which gives us wings.

Like Fujimura, I am drawn to the Japanese art of Kintsugi, that is, repairing broken pottery by mending the areas of breakage with lacquer mixed with powdered gold. As a philosophy, kintsugi is similar to the Japanese philosophy of wabi-sabi, an embracing of the flawed or imperfect. The pain or scars which have been endured should not be hidden, but honoured as symbols of strength, beauty, and wisdom.

Reflecting on the Transfiguration, I wonder what Peter, John and James must have thought and felt, especially Peter, who wanted to assemble tents to accommodate the vision. It was hard for them to comprehend what they had witnessed and needed time to reflect in silence to make sense of the experi-

ence. Often the artmaking process takes on a life of its own and the artist gets to a point where they need time to contemplate the way forward. For an artwork to feel complete the artist must understand the meaning of the journey. So, to, the disciples will come to a final realisation of why they had experienced what they did. For now, the transfiguration encounter has left them in a space where they are silent as they grapple to make meaning of the experience.

You are invited to attend the Art and Spirituality Day. This workshop will provide the opportunity to awaken the spirit through the beauty of God's creations, prayer, and reflection. Participants will engage in art making experiences which will nourish their faith.

Event Details Thursday March 31 Between : 9am-3pm  
Venue: Kilaben Bay Community Centre  
Cost: \$25 per person (includes morning tea, lunch, and art equipment)

To register, visit: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/o/diocese-of-maitland-newcastle-18080128129>

Contact: Rose McAllister [rose.mcallister@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:rose.mcallister@mn.catholic.org.au)



## **LITURGY MATTERS: SIGN ME UP**

As the hymn 'Sign me Up' echoed through the Sacred Heart Cathedral nine catechumens declared their readiness to be fully initiated this Easter through the sacraments of baptism, confirmation and eucharist.

LOUISE GANNON RSJ PUBLISHED MARCH 15, 2022

It is always a privilege to be part of the Rite of Election and to witness the joy of the catechumens as they become the Elect. Each person is presented by their parish leader, their faith journey is affirmed by their Godparents and the whole Assembly of the Church, and then in the presence of the gathered Church, they offer their names for enrolment in the Order of the Elect. What a courageous thing to do. This is a liturgy filled with joy and hope, enthusiasm and peace.

In last week's Liturgy Matters I wrote about being renewed by engaging in some good reading and shared reflection. However, that pales in comparison to the renewal I experience in celebrating the public declaration of faith made by the Elect. Witnessing others pledge their lives to Christ is a great call for me to engage in the opportunity Lent provides to dust off our own baptised life so that together we will shine brightly at Easter.

The pictures below capture something of the experience. Together let us pray for our Elect as they journey these last weeks of Lent towards baptism at the Easter Vigil.

You can view the full gallery of images here: <https://adobe.ly/3KA7m7V>

Acknowledgements

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**ST JOHN VIANNEY  
PRIMARY SCHOOL  
MORISSET**

A Kindergarten to Year 6  
Catholic School of the  
Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle

Enquiries  
St John Vianney Primary School  
4973 4073

[www.morriset.catholic.edu.au](http://www.morriset.catholic.edu.au)

Please join us at our

## SCHOOL TOUR & INFORMATION NIGHT

for parents wishing to enrol their children in  
Kindergarten 2023.

**TUESDAY 3 MAY 2022**

St John Vianney Primary School: 60-66 Yambo St, Morisset  
Tour: 6:30pm Information Session: 7:00pm

Respect . Learning . Forgiveness . Honesty

### 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 5.00-5.45pm.

Zoom link: <https://mncatholic.zoom.us/j/61036103033>

Password: pray For more information contact:

[rose.mcallister@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:rose.mcallister@mn.catholic.org.au)



### THE ECUMENICAL WAY OF THE CROSS

Join us on Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> April, 2022, as we walk through the last moments of Jesus' earthly life with the Ecumenical Way of the Cross. This year, we have taken up the theme of 'Church without Walls.' At each station, we will hear a personal story in response to Jesus' invitation to follow him. These stories of mission and outreach will come from across our Diocese and fellow Christian Churches.

Details: Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> April, 2022 3pm start  
St Joseph's Parish Grounds (meet at St Joseph's Community Centre) 140 Wangi Rd, Toronto  
Afternoon tea provided.

For more information contact Brendon Mannyx P: 0426426892

E: [brendon.mannyx@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:brendon.mannyx@mn.catholic.org.au)

### VOLUNTEERS FOR EASTER SERVICES

If you are able to help at any of our Easter Services could you please complete the sign-up form on the home page of the Parish Website a link was sent with the e-Bulletin or there are paper forms at the back of the Church.

### THE VINNIES NSW FLOOD APPEAL

Has been launched to help those affected by the natural disaster currently impacting communities across the state. Many have been forced to evacuate their homes, and the true extent of the damage these floods will leave behind is yet to be seen.

You can donate at **Mass** from this weekend Sunday 13th March where there will be a bucket at the back of the Church. If you need a receipt please see Monica Gray. Or you can donate online at: [https://www.vinnies.org.au/page/Find\\_Help/Flood\\_appeal/](https://www.vinnies.org.au/page/Find_Help/Flood_appeal/)

## Easter Services

Reconciliation Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> April 7pm	Palm Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup> April 9.30am
Holy Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> April 7pm	Good Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> April 3pm
Easter Vigil 16 <sup>th</sup> April 6.30pm	Easter Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> April 9.30am

All Services will held in our Morisset Church 60 Yambo St Morisset

## PRAYER FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE IN UKRAINE

God of peace and justice,  
who change the hardened heart  
and break the power of violence,  
we entrust the people of Ukraine to you.

Protect them in this time of peril;  
let them know not death but life,  
not slavery but freedom.

You are Father of all;  
we are brothers and sisters.

Give us the strength  
to live that truth in love,  
choosing peace not war.

Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

### **SUPPORTING OUR PARISH**

We thank everyone who has continued their support for our Parish during these very different times. As cash is deemed a transmission hazard by NSW Health they recommend that donations and payments be made electronically.

You can deposit directly into the Parish Account our bank Account details are:

Account Name: CDF 96014 Morisset Parish BSB:062815  
Account Number: 00328161 Ref: 5004 2nd Collection or 5004 PG and Giver Number.

Or alternatively you can use the online parish payments button on the Parish Website Home page or use the QR code below to access online parish payments.



### **SUPPORTING THE CLERGY**

If you would like to make contributions to support the Clergy / 1st Collection the Bank Account Details are: Account Name: CDF 96020 Presbytery BSB: 062815 Account Number 00328161 Ref: 5016 1st Collection

### **MARCH AURORA**

Copies are available at the back of the Church.

<b><u>WEEKEND ROSTERS</u></b>			
		<b><u>THIS WEEK</u></b>	<b><u>NEXT WEEK</u></b>
<b><u>Presiders</u></b>	9.30	Mass	Mass
<b><u>PROCLAIMER:</u></b>	9.30	M Shamley	U France
<b><u>PSALMIST:</u></b>	9.30	M Foo	J France
<b><u>UNIVERSAL PRAYER</u></b>	9.30	M Foo	J France
<b><u>SERVERS</u></b>	9.30	V Paulo	M Melvey
<b><u>AV:</u></b>	9.30	T Alexander	M Foo
<b><u>SOUND/ VIDEO:</u></b>	9.30	L & G Hutchinson	L & G Hutchinson
<b><u>SIGN-IN</u></b>	9.30	J Hutchins M Foo	H White T Alexander
<b><u>USHERS</u></b>	9.30	P Herbert P Melvey	R Hay J France
<b><u>CLEANING</u></b>	9.30	COVID TEAM	COVID TEAM

### **UPCOMING FEAST DAYS MEMORIALS AND SOLEMINITIES**

THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD— 25TH MARCH  
PALM SUNDAY— 10TH APRIL  
THURSDAY OF THE LORD'S SUPPER— 14TH APRIL  
FRIDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD— 15TH APRIL  
PASCHAL VIGIL IN THE HOLY NIGHT— 16TH APRIL  
SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION—17TH APRIL  
ANZAC DAY—25TH APRIL  
SAINT MARK— 26TH APRIL  
SAINT PETER CHANEL— 28TH APRIL  
SAINT CATHERINE OF SIENA— 29TH APRIL

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

John Francisco, Joan Gillett, Bruce Gillett, Reg Callinan, Koby Smith, Patricia Jones.

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

**Remembrance:** Sarah Harrison



### **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.

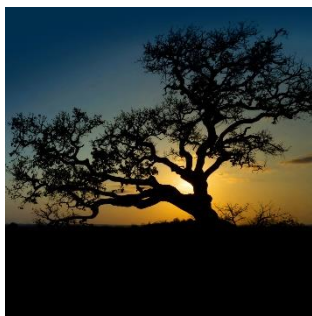
### **AN ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION**

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 <https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/places/live-stream/>**





# SUNDAY PRAYER SERVICE

Third Sunday of Lent Year C

Sunday 20 Mar 2022

## The Introductory Rites

### Gathering

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

### Sign of the Cross

Leader:

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

All:

**Amen.**

### Greeting

Leader:

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

All:

**Blessed be God forever.**

### Introductory Remarks

Leader (in these or similar words):

Friends in Christ,  
although we cannot celebrate the Eucharist this day,  
we gather in God's name  
for when two or more come together  
God is always with us.  
In union with the whole Church,  
we call upon the mercy of the Lord  
in this season of repentance and renewal.

### Opening Rite

#### LITANY OF PRAISE

Leader:

The Lord is rich in mercy and kindness.  
Let us prepare ourselves to hear God's Word  
and praise the Lord Jesus Christ.

A brief period of silence follows.

Leader:

Lord Jesus, you are here among us: Lord, have mercy.

**All: Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you came to call sinners: Christ, have mercy.

**All: Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you are the way to the Father: 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 of mercy,  
you never give up on us.  
Open our minds and hearts  
to your presence among us.  
Give us your living water  
so that we may never thirst again.  
We make this prayer through Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
for ever and ever.

All:

**Amen.**

## The Liturgy of the Word

### First Reading

**Ex 3:1-8. 13-15**

A reading from the book of Exodus

*This is what you must say to the children of Israel: I Am has sent me to you.*

Moses was looking after the flock of Jethro, his father-in-law, priest of Midian. He led his flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in the shape of a flame of fire, coming from the middle of a bush. Moses looked; there was the bush blazing but it was not being burnt up. 'I must go and look at this strange sight,' Moses said, 'and see why the bush is not burnt.' Now the Lord saw him go forward to look, and God called to him from the middle of the bush. 'Moses, Moses!' he said. 'Here I am' he answered. 'Come no nearer' he said. 'Take off your shoes, for the place on which you stand is holy ground. I am the God of your father,' he said 'the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.' At this Moses covered his face, afraid to look at God.



And the Lord said, 'I have seen the miserable state of my people in Egypt. I have heard their appeal to be free of their slave-drivers. Yes, I am well aware of their sufferings. I mean to deliver them out of the hands of the Egyptians and bring them up out of that land to a land rich and broad, a land where milk and honey flow.'

Then Moses said to God, 'I am to go, then, to the sons of Israel and say to them, "The God of your fathers has sent me to you." But if they ask me what his name is, what am I to tell them?' And God said to Moses, 'I Am who I Am. This' he added 'is what you must say to the sons of Israel: "The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you." This is my name for all time; by this name I shall be invoked for all generations to come.'

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

The word of the Lord.

All reply:

**Thanks be to God.**

## Responsorial Psalm

**Ps 102:1-4. 6-8. 11. R. v.8**

**(R.) The Lord is kind and merciful.**

1. My soul, give thanks to the Lord,  
all my being, bless his holy name.  
My soul give thanks to the Lord  
and never forget all his blessings. **(R.)**
2. It is he who forgives all your guilt,  
who heals every one of your ills,  
who redeems your life from the grave,  
who crowns you with love and compassion. **(R.)**
3. The Lord does deeds of justice,  
gives judgement for all who are oppressed.  
He made known his ways to Moses  
and his deeds to Israel's sons. **(R.)**
4. The Lord is compassion and love,  
slow to anger and rich in mercy.  
For as the heavens are high above the earth  
so strong is his love for those who fear him. **(R.)**

## Second Reading

**1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12**

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

*All this that happened to the people of Moses in the desert was written for our benefit.*

I want to remind you how our fathers were all guided by a cloud above them and how they all passed through the sea. They were all baptised into Moses in this cloud and in this sea; all ate the same spiritual food and all drank the same spiritual drink, since they all drank from the spiritual rock that followed them as they went, and that rock was Christ. In spite of this, most of them failed to please God and their corpses littered the desert.



These things all happened as warnings for us, not to have the wicked lusts for forbidden things that they had. You must never complain: some of them did, and they were killed by the Destroyer.

All this happened to them as a warning and it was written down to be a lesson for us who are living at the end of the age. The man who thinks he is safe must be careful that he does not fall.

*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.**

**Lk 13:1-9**

*Unless you repent you will all perish as they did.*

Some people arrived and told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with that of their sacrifices. At this he said to them, 'Do you suppose these Galileans who suffered like that were greater sinners than any other Galileans? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen on whom the tower at Siloam fell and killed them? Do you suppose that they were more guilty than all the other people living in Jerusalem? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did.'

He told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came looking for fruit on it but found none. He said to the man who looked after the vineyard, "Look here, for three years now I have been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and finding none. Cut it down: why should it be taking up the ground?" "Sir," the man replied "leave it one more year and give me time to dig round it and manure it: it may bear fruit next year; if not, then you can cut it down.'"

*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. In what way/s is today's gospel confronting to modern sensibilities?

Q. What social wrongs are justified by a belief that bad things happen to bad people?

Q. Why is the need for repentance presented with such urgency?

Q. Where in your life is there a need for 'repentance' – a change of heart to one of compassion?

## Profession of Faith

Leader:

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

All:

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

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

**who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried;  
he descended into hell;  
on the third day he rose again from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty;  
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and life everlasting. Amen.**

## Prayers of the Faithful

Leader: Brothers and Sisters, let us make our prayers before the Lord, who is ever kind and merciful to all.

Reader: That our Holy Father Pope Francis, may continue to inspire true adoration to Jesus Christ in Christians all over the world.

*(pause)*

In your mercy:

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: That organisations who help the poor will be blessed in their efforts for sharing more equally the world's fortunes.

*(pause)*

In your mercy:

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: That the work of Caritas Australia is able to continue through our support of Project Compassion.

*(pause)*

In your mercy:

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: That like Moses, our parish community may always be respectful of the presence of God among us.

(pause)

In your mercy:

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: That as we practise prayer and fasting, we may be renewed in faith for the death and resurrection of Christ.

(pause)

In your mercy:

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: That all the areas of the world effected by war, especially in the Ukraine and Russia, and their respective leaders, who have had their lives and communities damaged may be healed and rebuilt, based upon mutual reconciliation, respect and peace.

(pause)

In your mercy:

**All: Lord, hear our prayer**

Reader: That everyone will have greater respect for the environment, and care deeply for the Earth that God has entrusted to our care.

(pause)

In your mercy:

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: That the one called to be the Bishop for our Church of Maitland-Newcastle: May the Holy Spirit inspire his yes to echo the words of Mary, 'Here I am, the Lord's servant, let it happen to me as you have said.'

(pause)

In your mercy:

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: That through the mercy of God, the sick and housebound may be healed, especially those in our community and families.

(pause)

In your mercy:

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: That those who have died will live forever with the Lord in compassion and love, especially those in our community and families.

(pause)

In your mercy:

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: Holy Father, your Son teaches us to repent and believe the Good News. Hear our prayers and give us strength through reflection, penitence and perseverance to be witness to your Word. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

## 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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