



# St John Vianney Parish Morisset



## **TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR B SUNDAY 12TH SEPTEMBER 2021**

*In the Gospel for the 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Jesus asks his disciples : "Who do you say that I am?"*

*Christianity is not a theory to be studied, but a way of life. Following Jesus begins in renouncing whatever is contrary to his way.*

*Taking up the cross means a converted life, dedicated to Christian principles and virtues.*

*This Sunday, we the Church of Maitland-Newcastle, by decree of Bishop Bill, have nominated today as "Perpetual Day of Remembrance Sunday", which has its own readings. This is when we remember the harm caused by our history of child sexual abuse in our Diocese.*

*Today, there is a sense of diminishment in terms of the Church's moral stature in society, and there is precious little trust left in Church leaders after the Royal Commission.*

*This is not a time for defensiveness or despair. Rather, it must be a time of humility that we must seek to rebuild and renew. We do this by reclaiming not the former prestige and affluence, but the essential quality for Christian living and witness.*

*We must make the cross of Christ, living the discipleship of powerlessness and vulnerable trust, the cornerstone of the Church again.*

*Only then, can our voice be credible,*



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 & Juliet Hutchins	Sat & Sun Tues

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

**PRIEST SUPERVISOR:** Fr Geoff Mulhearn

**PRIEST IN RESIDENCE:** Fr Kevin Corrigan, Sacramental Priest

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

**OFFICE:** 60 Yambo Street, Morisset, PO Box 87,  
**Office Hours:** 9.00 am to 2.00pm—Monday to Friday  
**Ph:** 02 4973.6859, Fax 02 4973.2937

**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 .

***Due to stay—at—home orders all services are cancelled.***

### **UPCOMING WORSHIP TIMES :**

Sunday	12th September 9.30am Virtual Liturgy
Sunday	19th September 9.30am Mass— Morisset
Tuesday	21st September 9.30am Mass— Morisset
Sunday	26th September 9.30am Mass— Morisset
Tuesday	28th September 9.30am Mass— Morisset

### **DUE TO VERY LIMITED CAPACITIES BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL.**

Book via the Eventbrite App or Website:

<http://vianneymorisset.eventbrite.com> or click on the Book for Services button on the Parish Website, or call the Parish Office.

When you come to Mass or Liturgy you will need to check in electronically.

### **PASTORAL CARE**

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SPEAK WITH A PRIEST PLEASE CONTACT FR KEVIN ON 02 4973 1537 .

### **PARISH OFFICE**

DUE TO THE CURRENT COVID RESTRICTIONS THE PARISH OFFICE IS CLOSED AS ROSANNA IS WORKING REMOTELY THE BEST CONTACT METHOD IS VIA EMAIL OR YOU CAN CALL THE OFFICE NUMBER AND SPEAK TO A PLT MEMBER.

## **REFLECTION: 12 SEPTEMBER, 2021- PERPETUAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE**

Today has been officially designated as the Perpetual Day of Remembrance in our Diocese, acknowledging our sad history of abuse and the trauma inflicted on so many children. It is important that we do acknowledge the past, it is real and it was, and is still, painful for many people. However, as important as it is to acknowledge, it is also important that we look ahead and ensure that we challenge any signs of abuse, today, in this time and place. Abuse can be subtle e.g. disrespect, silence, judgement, privilege. These are the dry bones we heard this morning, which produce death of soul, self confidence and even communities. Our readings today, highlight that we cannot live in "dry bones". Our victims/survivors also cannot live in that space forever. Somewhere there has to be a conversion or change of heart in us, a change that is ground for hope of a different and indeed safer future for everyone, including adults.

Poor old Ezekiel was placed, by God in the valley of dry bones and asked to prophesy. He did not create the bones, but was made to reflect on them. Our readings today bring us through the Valley of bones, acknowledge that we are all connected and that our lives and actions influence others, including our Church. Our Gospel, the Magnificat is a wonderful and joyous counter to the dry bones. This proclamation connects us all in the today, and tomorrow. We are all "Thirsting for the living God", we are all reaching out beyond the dichotomies of perpetrator and victim/survivor, past and present, me/us and them. Today we are all challenged to change our heart. To grow beyond past horrors and blindness, to look with clarity at the now and work towards the life changing conversion, to proclaim the greatness of God here and now. That we let the Light of Christ shine in our days and nights, bringing hope. That like Mary and Ezekiel we can say "Yes" to God. That we become what God created us to be. We remember- we grieve- we hope! Uta

### **PERPETUAL REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY**

This Sunday 12th September, we celebrate Perpetual Day of Remembrance Sunday, established by Bishop Bill, to remember the harm and past failings within our Diocese, and to protect children from sexual abuse. This is an occasion for us to stand in solidarity with survivors who continue to suffer, and together be a sign of hope, committing to ensure that the past is never repeated and that the Church will be a safe place for all into the future.

As you are aware the Premier has announced that our Region will continue to remain in lockdown. This also means that our church will remain closed for some time, and unable to celebrate, 'face to face' the Perpetual Day of Remembrance, this Sunday.

Because it is Perpetual Remembrance Sunday it has been brought to our attention the need for people to observe this day.

To honour this request, a local virtual liturgy, is being planned for 9.30am this Sunday. This means that those who are able, can join this liturgy on their computers, or other devices, and by following the instructions.

To register please log in to Eventbrite and instructions will be included.

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/perpetual-remembrance-sunday-virtual-liturgy-tickets-170379947008>

## **FAITH THE WORKPLACE**

University of Newcastle Catholic Society presents:

Faith in the Workplace.

Guest presenter Dr James O'Sullivan

Friday September 10, 6.30-7.30pm.

<https://mncatholic.zoom.us/j/64706521010>

Password: 555777

### **aMeN caMiNo**

aMeN caMiNo Expressions of Interest are now open for 2022.

Dates for 2022 are May 28 - June 1, June 18-22, July 2-6, July 9-13 & August 6-10.

For more information and to register your interest, go to

<https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/adult-faith-formation/amen-camino/>

or contact [formed@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:formed@mn.catholic.org.au)

### **PARISHES IN HARMONY WITH CREATION**

Join us to explore how parishes can best respond to Pope Francis' 2015 Encyclical Laudato si': On Care For Our Common Home.

To be held on Wednesday 06 October two sessions to choose from: 10:00 am to 11:00 am and 7.00 pm to 8.00 pm, a repeat of the previous session.

The one-hour online presentation and discussion will explore how parishes can best respond to Pope Francis' 2015 Encyclical Laudato si': On Care For Our Common Home.

On 04 October 2021, the Vatican will release resources for its Laudato si Action Platform. With the expected media coverage, some parishioners might want their parish to commit to the Laudato si Action Platform.

The Parishes in Harmony with Creation session will include:

a brief overview of the main teaching in Laudato si';

an overview of the Laudato si Action Platform;

an overview of the Catholic Earthcare Parishes option and other resources; an introduction to the Diocesan Environmental Sustainability Manager; and small group discussion of the hopes and challenges of developing Parishes in Harmony with Creation

### **PLENARY COUNCIL CONVERSATIONS**

In preparation for the upcoming First Assembly of the Fifth Plenary Council our Diocesan Plenary Council members Bernadette Gibson, Fr Andrew Doohan VG, and Helen Belcher are seeking input from our diocesan community.

You are invited to join them for a series of conversations around the Plenary Council agenda and its associated questions, and guided by the Holy Spirit, so they can hear from as many people as possible. Plenary Conversations will be over a number of weeks each Thursday from 26/8 to 30/9 - 7.00pm to 8.30pm via Zoom.

Program for Plenary Council Conversations:

[Online Registration](https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/plenary-council-lead-up-conversations-tickets-168063956819) at <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/plenary-council-lead-up-conversations-tickets-168063956819>

is now open to register for all or one of the conversations.

Thursday 16/9 – Structures

Thursday 23/9 – Governance

Thursday 30/9 – Institutions

**Live stream Mass every Sunday at 9.30am at <https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/places/live-stream/>**

### **SEASONS OF CREATION CELEBRATION**

This year the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle, is partnering with Seasons of Creation to help raise awareness of the urgent need to care for the earth and for one another.

Join us to hear guest speakers break open this year's Season of Creation theme, "A Home for All? Renewing the Oikos of God". Finalists from the film competition will be viewed and the winner will be announced.

For more information on the film competition go to: [www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/adult-faith-formation/upcoming-events/](http://www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/adult-faith-formation/upcoming-events/)

Time: 2:00PM Date: Saturday, 25 September 2021

More information: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/season-of-creation-tickets-167271083313>

### **SEASONS OF CREATION – FILM COMPETITION**

Do you love making TikTok videos or short films? Amidst the climate crisis and the coronavirus pandemic, our sisters and brothers are clamoring for hope and restoration. NOW is the time to come together and take action! #SeasonOfCreation. You are invited to participate in a film contest which involves creating a 2-minute film that explores the 2021 Seasons of Creation theme – A Home for All.

For more information, visit <https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/adult-faith-formation/upcoming-events/>

or contact [rose.mcallister@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:rose.mcallister@mn.catholic.org.au)  
Entries close 18 September 2021.

### **HAITI EARTHQUAKE SUPPORT | CARITAS AUSTRALIA**

Caritas Australia's thoughts and prayers are with the people of the Haiti who have been devastated by a 7.2 magnitude earthquake.

Over 1,400 people have died, and thousands more left injured. Homes, churches and schools have been damaged in the quake, and reports indicate that more than 30,000 families have been left homeless.

The country also continues to grapple with COVID-19, poverty, and ongoing political instability and violence.

There is immediate and urgent need for food, water, shelter, hygiene kits and first aid on the ground.

To provide support, you can donate to Caritas Australia's Emergency Response Appeal.

Donate today at [www.caritas.org.au](http://www.caritas.org.au) or by calling 1800 024 413 toll free.

### **HUMANITARIAN CRISES UNFOLDING IN AFGHANISTAN AND LEBANON**

As the situations in Afghanistan and Lebanon deteriorate, you can help to support families caught up in the crises.

In Afghanistan, people have been forced from their homes, with half of the population in urgent need of food, water, shelter and protection.

In Lebanon, the country is running out of power, water, fuel, medicine and food. Even hospitals are facing massive fuel shortages and will soon have to turn off the lights.

Please donate to Caritas Australia so that we are able to respond to crises like these and others across the world.

Visit [caritas.org.au/Lebanon](http://caritas.org.au/Lebanon) or [www.caritas.org.au/afghanistan](http://www.caritas.org.au/afghanistan) or call 1800 024 413 toll free to provide much needed support.

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

### **AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC MEN'S GATHERING**

On Saturday, 31st July, the Australian Catholic Men's Gathering was launched online. Hundreds of men and men's groups have already signed up to be a part of this inspirational event. The gathering aims to encourage all men with a vision for personal discipleship, service and mission in the family, church and the world.

The Australian Catholic Men's Gathering is a free event and all the pre-recorded events can be downloaded and watched individually, or as part of a small group.

The opportunities to gather at this time are complicated by the need to act safely during the pandemic. And yet, it is important to gather and connect.

Our Diocese will be hosting four online meetings to watch and discuss the four sessions of the Men's Gathering. These sessions will be an opportunity to engage with the material and with other men, while also being an opportunity to explore men's ministry in our diocese and our local communities.

These online meetings will kick off on the Wednesday after Fathers' Day and run for four weeks during September. Each session will run for an hour. (7.30-8.30pm – 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th September).

If you would like to be a part of our Diocesan online gatherings, or if you would like to explore how you could run the sessions in your own local community, please email [brendon.mannix@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:brendon.mannix@mn.catholic.org.au) to register your interest. For more information, visit [www.catholicmensgathering.com.au](http://www.catholicmensgathering.com.au).

### **SACRED STORIES – SACRED SPACES: A JOURNEY INTO DISCOVERY, TRUTH AND RIGHT RELATIONS**

Kamilaroi woman and member of the Aboriginal Catholic Ministry, Jennifer Rumbel, extends an invitation to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholics to participate in an empowering research project that seeks to address the lack of Indigenous voices in our Diocese history.

The survey is part of a University of Newcastle post graduate student research project which is exploring the shared histories and stories of Aboriginal Catholics and the Maitland-Newcastle Diocese.

This research seeks to provide a platform for the previously unheard voices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in relation to their experiences both past and present with the Catholic Diocese.

This study aims to provide culturally appropriate, Sacred Spaces in which to share our Sacred Stories.

This survey will allow you to register your contact details for a one-to-one interview and will only take a couple of minutes to complete. You can access the survey here: <https://redcap.hmri.org.au/surveys/?s=RWN7FMCXXH>

**'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine,  
let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me.'**

*Mark 8:27-35*

There can be no shortcuts, no bypassing the cross or the tomb, to encounter the resurrection. For new life and new hope to emerge, we need to acknowledge that we are a broken, hurt and traumatised Church... by standing in solidarity and compassion with each other, particularly the wounded, the poor and the traumatised.

*(Humble, Healing and Merciful – Discernment Paper pp. 12 and 18)*

[www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/fantheffame/](http://www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/fantheffame/)

### **CURRENT COVID RESTRICTIONS—STAY AT HOME ORDERS**

All Places of Worship in the Lake Macquarie local government area are currently closed due to stay-at-home orders the NSW government are reassessing these on weekly basis .The only exception is for a Funeral or Memorial Service, which are limited to 10 mourners. If any of the mourners reside outside the LGA of the funeral they can only attend if they are the spouse, de facto partner, parent, child, or sibling of the deceased person. We will be placing copies of the Parish Newsletter in the holders located at the doors near the breezeway. The Newsletter contains a Sunday Prayer Service that everyone can use at home. If you know someone who doesn't have access to the internet please let them know they can pick one up from outside the Church.

### **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.

There is an online parish payments button on the Parish Website Home page or alternatively you can deposit directly into the Parish Account our details are:  
Account Name: CDF 96014 Morisset Parish BSB:062815  
Account Number: 00328161 Ref: 5004 2nd Collection or 5004 PG and Giver Number.

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

### **WEEKEND ROSTERS**

		<b><u>THIS WEEK</u></b>	<b><u>NEXT WEEK</u></b>
<b><u>Presiders</u></b>	9.30	Virtual Liturgy	Mass
<b><u>PROCLAIMER:</u></b>	9.30		U France
<b><u>PSALMIST:</u></b>	9.30		H White
<b><u>UNIVERSAL PRAYER</u></b>	9.30		H White
<b><u>SERVERS</u></b>	9.30		M Melvey
<b><u>AV:</u></b>	9.30		T Alexander
<b><u>SOUND/ VIDEO:</u></b>	9.30		J France
<b><u>COVID-19 SAFETY TEAM</u></b>	9.30		P Melvey K Lendon K Amon J Vipan
<b><u>COMMUNION USHERS</u></b>	9.30		COVID-19 Safety Team
<b><u>CLEANERS</u></b>	9.30		COVID-19 Safety Team

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

SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM— 13TH SEPTEMBER  
THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS— 14TH SEPTEMBER  
OUR LADY OF SORROWS— 15TH SEPTEMBER  
SAINTS CORNELIUS AND CYPRIAN— 16TH SEPTEMBER  
SAINTS ANDREW KIM TAEON, PAUL CHONG HASANG AND COMPANIONS— 20TH SEPTEMBER  
SAINT MATTHEW— 21ST SEPTEMBER  
SAINT PIUS OF PIETRELCINA— 23RD SEPTEMBER  
SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL— 27TH SEPTEMBER

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

Bishop Bill Wright, Mark Patrick, Robert Jay, Michelle Clipsham.

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

**Recently Deceased:** Jonathon Wilkes



### **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.

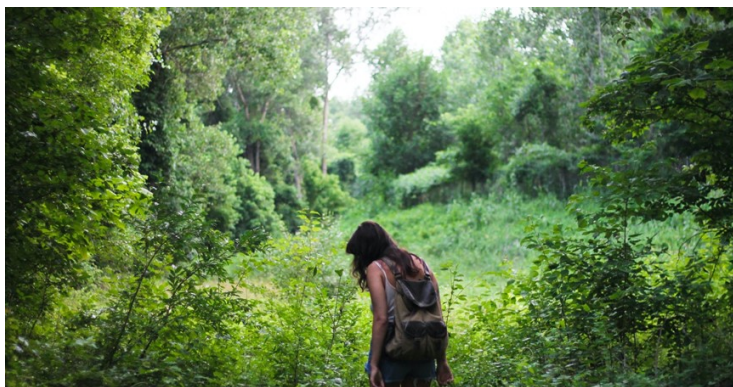
Amen.



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## FAITH MATTERS: Care of Creation

The natural environment is something that has always fascinated me, there is so much beauty in creation that I am often stuck with wonder and awe. This may have something to do with my childhood when the bush was my playground, we were

encouraged to explore and discover. Catching tadpoles and watching them transform into frogs, creating perfumes from flowers and herbs, creating paints and dyes with elements found within nature is something that my siblings and myself lived and breathed.

**ROSEMARY MCALLISTER** PUBLISHED SEPTEMBER 07, 2021

My grandfather had a deep love of nature, he had collections of rocks, shells and worked in nurseries in his later life, he even looked after the gardens at King Edward Park before he retired. This love was passed to my mother who still today has a beautiful garden and in turn, this love has been passed on to me.

There is something magical about being in nature, the smells, the colours, the organic shapes, I am always inspired by creation, but also believe it is something that we cannot take for granted. The earth is the artists palette there is so many colours and materials that derive from our natural world. There is much to celebrate, rejoice and be grateful for during this Season of Creation.

This year we invite you during this season to connect with nature through reflection on scripture and Catholic tradition. This helps us to grow within ourselves a commitment to action. You are invited to access 7 Days of Creation Scriptural Prayers and Reflection. Over 7 days this resource offers points for reflection and prayers based on Scripture. We remind ourselves of the ongoing creative actions of God in loving kindness shown in the first twelve chapter of Genesis. To access this resource go to: [7 Days of Creation-Scriptural Prayers and Reflection](https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/adult-faith-formation/faith-formation-resources/) at: <https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/adult-faith-formation/faith-formation-resources/>

This year we see direct links between the Season of Creation, the 2021-2022 Social Justice Statement, Cry of the Earth, Cry of the poor, which both include a link to the Laudato si Action Platform.

The Season of Creation theme for 2021 is A Home for all? Renewing the Oikos of God. Oikos is the Greek word for "home," or "household." By rooting the theme in the concept of oikos, we celebrate the integral web of relationships that sustain the well-being of the Earth. This year's symbol, Abraham's tent, signifies our commitment to safeguard a place for all who share our common home, just as Abraham did in the Book of Genesis.

In the Social Justice Statement, Cry of the Earth, Cry of the poor, Pope Francis reminds us that encounter, dialogue, and listening with an open heart enable God's transforming love to move more powerfully in the world. Yet when faced with complex interrelated crises – the pandemic, the ecological crisis, the economic crisis, hunger, threats to peace and security, we can find ourselves overwhelmed by information or bogged down in disagreements about details. In the statement we hear the true stories of people's experience, look at reality through the eyes of those most affected, and listen with an open heart to the stories that they tell. Our task is to listen to people, to the earth, and to all of God's creation, since every created thing is interconnected, speaks of the wellbeing of each part and of the whole, and reveals something of the Creator.

It is important throughout the whole year that we welcome the stranger, show hospitality, listen to our neighbour, assist in crisis and show care for creation. The Laudato si Action Platform presents a guideline

of how we can do these things, it is our responsibility to learn and to be formed so how we live our life is a reflection of God's plan.

There are several events which you are encouraged to attend.

#### Season of Creation Celebration:

We can learn more about this year's Season of Creation theme from Father Anthony Coloma (Assistant Priest, The Catholic Parishes of Branxton, Greta and Singleton), Louise Campbell (Aboriginal Educational Officer), John Sandy (Multicultural family support worker) and Mary-Anne DeLuca (Mission and Outreach officer).

We will also view the creations from the finalists of the film competition and the winner will be announced at this event.

#### The Parishes in Harmony with Creation:

These sessions focus on Laudato si Action Platform.

To register for these events, go to:

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



## Sowing the seeds for success

With the Australian dream of living on a quarter acre block increasingly out of reach for many, unfortunately few of us have the space to fully indulge our horticultural ambitions.

**SARAH JAMES** PUBLISHED SEPTEMBER 08, 2021

Thankfully, community gardens are bridging the gap between our collective love of gardening and lack of land.

Community gardens are flourishing across the country, there's nearly 20 in the Hunter-Manning region alone! These shared spaces are a wonderful opportunity to cultivate green spaces in urban areas, meet new friends, and get in touch with mother nature.

The latest addition to the crop is CatholicCare's Taree Community Garden, which operates out of the grounds of the town's PCYC. Volunteer coordinator, Michelle Robinson, explained that CatholicCare jumped at the opportunity to get involved in the community gardens and further the great work of the Taree Community Garden group, who first established the space.

"CatholicCare was looking for ways it could build upon the success of our Community Kitchen and family services, so expanding into community gardens seemed like the natural next step," she said.

"We're looking at utilising the community garden in a few ways. The Taree Community Kitchen serves about 50 meals per day, so we're constantly relying on food donations from local businesses. Now, we will use the produce grown at the Community Garden to contribute to our meals and feed those in need."

The work of any community garden isn't possible without a team of hardworking volunteers who aren't afraid to get their hands dirty. In addition to supplying the Taree Community Kitchen with produce, volunteers will also be able to take home what they grow!

If you're keen to get involved, contact Michelle Robinson on [mrobinson@catholiccare.org.au](mailto:mrobinson@catholiccare.org.au).



# St Mary's Towers Online Retreats

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 restrictions, St Mary's Towers Retreat Centre will be offering their September and October programs online!

**SARAH JAMES** PUBLISHED SEPTEMBER 07, 2021

If you are looking to nurture your spirituality, you may be interested in attending one of the following online retreats.

## Listen to our Earth, it's people and our God

6 Day Online Retreat: 24-29 September

Daily Format: 10:30AM Reflection, 7:00PM Prayer

Our Earth and all of creation cries out to be heard, to reveal the message of God's heart for us today. This retreat offers you time and space to listen, with our God to the Cry of the Earth in keeping with the themes of this year's Social Justice Statement. Themes for the six days: Listening to our communities in Australia, Listening to our Neighbours in the World, Listening to the Word of God in Creation, Listening to the Word of God in Scripture, Listening to Wisdom throughout time, Listening to the Heart of God speaking to my Heart.

## A Simple Prayer Weekend

4 Day Online Long Weekend Retreat: 1-4 October

This simple retreat over a long weekend is designed to encourage you in your prayer. We all pray in different ways. At certain times in our lives, we will find our prayer changing. This is normal, natural, and part of the exciting and never-ending journey that is our spiritual life. While there are many books written on how to pray, our best guide in this matter is Jesus himself. Jesus teaches us what it means to pray – to be in relationship with God. In the gospels we always find him seeking quiet places in the mountains to pray alone. Silence, solitude and a careful attentiveness to the moment all contribute to this relationship.

## The Hidden Wisdom of Women in the Gospels

3 Day Online Retreat: 8-10 October

The gospels speak of many women but with very little detail ...

To learn more about these women, we need to learn to read between the lines with our own intuitive hearts. (Martha Driscoll OCSO). This retreat is a chance to allow some of these women to come alive and speak to us in our lives today. We will spend time with Martha and Mary, the Samaritan Woman at the Well and Mary of Magdala.

**For more information about these retreats, visit: <https://www.towersretreat.org.au/>**

# Closing the Gap 2021

In August 2021, the Commonwealth Government released its first Closing the Gap Implementation Plan. The \$1bn Implementation Plan provides an overview of the Commonwealth's existing actions that contribute to Closing the Gap, as well as new investment and areas of future work. It is a whole-of-government plan, developed across the Commonwealth in consultation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander partners.

**SARAH JAMES** PUBLISHED SEPTEMBER 07, 2021

The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council (NATSICC) is the peak advisory body to the Australian Catholic Bishops on issues relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholics. NATSICC has provided an in-depth response to this Implementation Plan, with these reforms being described as a "glimpse of a new approach that acknowledges and utilises the knowledge and expertise of Australia's First Peoples – Australia's first scientists and diplomats and custodians of the world's oldest continuing culture."

The Catholic Social Justice Principle of Subsidiarity teaches us that all people have the right to participate in decisions that affect their lives. Subsidiarity requires that decisions be made by the people closest and most affected by the issues and concerns of the community. For many years NATSICC has called for the Catholic Social Teaching of Subsidiarity to be employed, not only in relation to the Closing the Gap Policy, but in all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy. In its response to the August update, NATSICC has called for increased empowerment and funding of locally run Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations, as well as urgent policy based changes to address the widening chasms between First Nations and non-Indigenous Peoples.

## Summary of the NATSICC Response:

- The Government's renewed focus on developing partnerships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Organisations in reaching the new targets is appropriate;
- We welcome the Stolen Generations Redress Scheme for the ACT, NT and Jervis Bay territory in NSW, but call for QLD and WA to introduce similar Schemes as a matter of urgency;
- Longer term funding arrangements would empower Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander led Organisations to create long term plans and develop Programs with greater lifespans;
- The age of criminal responsibility must be raised to 14 years of age;
- Government should move away from 'deficit' language when describing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities;
- NATSICC calls on the Government to adopt the key pillars of the Uluru Statement – Truth Telling, a Voice to Parliament and Constitutional Reform; and
- The education of mainstream Australia to the cultural gifts and genuine need of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples is imperative to Closing the Gap.

You can read NATSICC's full response at: <https://www.natsicc.org.au/assets/2021-response---final.pdf>

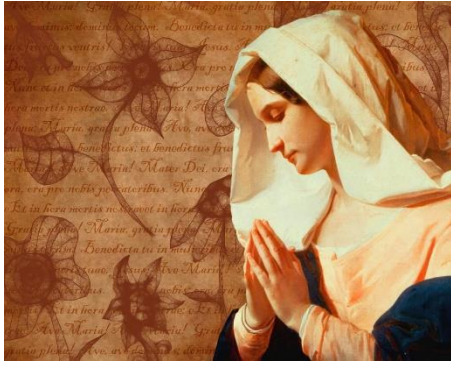
## Our Diocese

In this year's Social Justice Statement, *Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor*, Pope Francis reminds us that the encounter, dialogue, and listening with an open heart enables God's transforming love to move more powerfully in the world.

To enable us to participate more fully in discussions about our First Nation People they need a seat at the table. The Catholic Church is called to stand in solidarity with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people on Closing the Gap and caring for our country at its Plenary Council.

The Diocese is holding Plenary Council Conversations with our diocesan Plenary Council Members each Thursday night from 7pm to 8.30pm via Zoom. Please consider coming along by booking via the Eventbrite [Online Registration Link](https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/plenary-council-lead-up-conversations-tickets-168063956819) at: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/plenary-council-lead-up-conversations-tickets-168063956819>





# SUNDAY PRAYER SERVICE

Perpetual Day of Remembrance

Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time B

Sunday 12 Sep 2021

## 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.

### Ode to the Light of Christ

Fiona Duque

Reader: Come, let us walk in the Light of the Lord.

Let us not fear the past  
when our hearts were heavy.

**All: Let us Shine the Light of Christ. (Is. 2:5)**

Reader: Come, let us bring light from the darkness.

Let us make evil good  
and find sweet in the bitter.

**All: Let us Shine the Light of Christ. (Is. 5:20)**

Reader: Come, let us weep together  
when the light grew dark with the clouds,  
from the darkness and distress.

**All: Let us Shine the Light of Christ. (Is. 5:30)**

Reader: Come, let us walk with our brothers and sisters,  
those who have walked in darkness.

Let them see the great Light of God

**All: and let us Shine the Light of Christ. (Is. 9:2)**

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### Sign of the Cross

Leader:

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

All:

Amen.

## Greeting

Leader:

Blessed be Jesus who makes us one,  
and strengthens us  
by the power of his Spirit.

All:

**Blessed be God forever.**

## Introductory Remarks

Leader (in these or similar words):

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

We worship in union with the whole Church  
keeping this day of the Lord holy.

## Opening Rite

### LITANY OF PRAISE

Leader:

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

A brief period of silence follows.

Leader:

Lord Jesus you are our hope: Lord, have mercy.

**All: Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus you rout the proud of heart and exalt the lowly: Christ, have mercy.

**All: Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus you send the rich away empty and fill the hungry with good things:  
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.

Look upon us, O God, Creator and ruler of all things,  
and, that we may feel the working of your mercy,  
grant that we may serve you with all our heart.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.

All:

Amen.

## The Liturgy of the Word

### First Reading

#### A reading from the prophet Ezekiel (37:1-14)

The hand of the Lord was laid on me, and he carried me away by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley, a valley full of bones. He made me walk up and down among them. There were vast quantities of these bones on the ground the whole length of the valley; and they were quite dried up. He said to me, 'Son of man, can these bones live?' I said, 'You know, Lord.'" He said, 'Prophecy over these bones. Say, "Dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. The Lord says this to these bones: I am now going to make the breath enter you, and you will live. I shall put sinews on you, I shall make flesh grow on you, I shall cover you with skin and give you breath, and you will live; and you will learn that I am the Lord."'

I prophesied as I had been ordered. While I was prophesying, there was a noise, a sound of clattering; and the bones joined together. I looked, and saw that they were covered with sinews; flesh was growing on them and skin was covering them, but there was no breath in them. He said to me, 'Prophecy to the breath; prophecy, son of man. Say to the breath, "The Lord says this: Come from the four winds, breath; breathe on these dead; let them live!"' I prophesied as he had ordered me, and the breath entered them; they came to life again and stood up on their feet, a great, an immense army.

Then he said, 'Son of man, these bones are the whole House of Israel. They keep saying, "Our bones are dried up, our hope has gone; we are as good as dead." So prophecy. Say to them, "The Lord says this: I am now going to open your graves; I mean to raise you from your graves, my people, and lead you back to the soil of Israel. And you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you from your graves, my people. And I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live, and

I shall resettle you on your own soil; and you will know that I, the Lord, have said and done this it is the Lord who speaks."

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

The word of the Lord.

All reply:

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Responsorial Psalm**

**Ps 41:2-3; 42:3-4. R. see Ps 41:3**

**(R.) My soul is thirsting for the living God.**

1. Like the deer that yearns for running streams,  
so my soul is yearning for you, my God. **(R.)**
2. My soul is thirsting for God, the God of my life;  
when can I enter and see the face of God? **(R.)**
3. O send forth your light and your truth; let these be my guide.  
Let them bring me to your holy mountain to the place where you dwell. **(R.)**
4. And I will come to the altar of God, the God of my joy.  
My redeemer, I will thank you on the harp, O God, my God. **(R.)**

## **Second Reading**

**A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans (14:7 – 9)**

The life and death of each of us has its influence on others; if we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord, so that alive or dead we belong to the Lord. This explains why Christ both died and came to life, it was so that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

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. (1:46-56)**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Mary said:



'My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord  
and my spirit exults in God my saviour;  
because he has looked upon his lowly handmaid.  
Yes, from this day forward all generations will call me blessed, for the Almighty has done  
great things for me.  
Holy is his name,  
and his mercy reaches from age to age for those who fear him.  
'He has shown the power of his arm,  
he has routed the proud of heart.  
He has pulled down princes from their thrones and exalted the lowly. The hungry he has  
filled with good things, the rich sent empty away. He has come to the help of Israel his  
servant, mindful of his mercy  
– according to the promise he made to our ancestors –  
of his mercy to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'

Mary stayed with Elizabeth about three months and then went back home.

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.

You may like to play a reflection song such as 'If Not Now' is a beautiful song about a change  
of heart. You can watch the song video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7bY585-fzSs>

## 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

### Perpetual Day of Remembrance 2021

Leader: Sisters and brothers, let us pray to the God of light and truth for our needs and those of the world.

Reader: For the gift of wisdom and humility.

(pause)

God of mercy ...

**All:Hear our prayer.**

Reader: For the gift of truth and integrity.

(pause)

God of mercy ...

**All:Hear our prayer.**

Reader: For the gift of love and compassion.

(pause)

God of mercy ...

**All:Hear our prayer.**

Reader: For the gift of courage and forgiveness.

(pause)

God of mercy ...

**All:Hear our prayer.**

Reader: For the gift of acceptance and freedom.

(pause)

God of mercy ...

**All:Hear our prayer.**

Reader: For those who have been affected by abuse.

(pause)

God of mercy ...

**All:Hear our prayer.**

Reader: For those who are sick.

(pause)

God of mercy ...

**All: Hear our prayer.**

Reader: For those who have died.

(pause)

God of mercy ...

**All: Hear our prayer.**

Leader: God of the living and the dead, in Jesus you raise us up to shine your light in the dark places of our world. Hear these prayers and help us to always remember how much we are loved. We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen.**

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## **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**

### **Commission to Shine the Light of Christ**

Leader: Let us walk in the Light of the Lord.  
Let us not fear the past  
when our hearts were heavy.

**All: Let us Shine the Light of Christ. (Is. 2:5)**

Leader: Let us bring light from the darkness.  
Let us make evil good  
and find sweet in the bitter.

**All: Let us Shine the Light of Christ. (Is. 5:20)**

Leader: Let us weep together  
when the light grew dark with the clouds,  
from the darkness and distress.

**All: Let us Shine the Light of Christ. (Is. 5:30)**

Leader: Let us walk with our brothers and sisters,  
those who have walked in darkness.  
Let them see the great Light of God.

**All: And let us Shine the Light of Christ. (Is. 9:2)**

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## Blessing

Leader:

May almighty God bless you,  
the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit.

All make the sign of the cross during the blessing.

All:

**Amen.**

## Dismissal

Leader:

Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord.

All:

**Thanks be to God.**

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