



**St John  
Vianney**  
Parish Morisset



**SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR C SUNDAY 23 FEBRUARY 2025**

Dear Parish Family,

When I was growing up, my parents always used to say to me, *“you should never hate anyone because that word is very destructive and hurtful”*. In the same breath, they would also say we all can't get along but that shouldn't stop us from trying. Not sure if you're feeling it but there is a certain tension coming from around the world but also happening in our country. There has been some violence on our streets and in Sydney (and Melbourne) the current antisemitic attacks, racism and sometimes just disregard for other people who don't speak or look the same as me.

Last Sunday, Jesus began his beatitudes which started to teach his disciples what it means to follow him. While the world might say one thing, Jesus says I am expecting you to live another way. Following Jesus means a love of the poor, the hungry, the grieving and those who stand up for their faith. The radical teaching continues in our Gospel with another challenge to be forgiving, compassionate and generous in the same way that God expresses abundant love. Bear in mind that at the time of Jesus there was an occupying army in the country and Jesus was encouraging the people to treat even their enemies, the Romans, with love, compassion and forgiveness. This was even more radical and a challenging teaching!

*“Treat others as you would like them to treat you.”*

Have you ever heard of the Golden Rule? The line above is part of the Golden Rule. The Golden Rule is the principal ethic tradition or a moral code of how to treat others. In fact, across the world's main religions they all have similar sayings that's why they call it the Golden Rule. Here are some examples from the main religious traditions: Judaism - *what is hateful to you do not do to your neighbour; that is the entire Torah, and the rest is commentary*; Islam – *Not one of you truly believes until you wish for others what you wish for himself*; and Buddhism – *Treat not others in ways that you yourself would find hurtful*. I think the message is clear that God wants us to get along with everyone even when we might not like it. Just imagine a world if this was the mantra, what we all sang to....

This week our St Joseph's Toronto community celebrated 40 years since moving to the current Kilaben Bay site. Congratulations! Built on the shoulders of many, some still present and some that have gone before us, it was a brave and courageous move to what had been comfortable and a home for many. It reminds us that being disciples we are often called to make decisions that might not always make us feel comfortable. We always do this in faith, hope and love.

I ask you to join me in prayer this weekend for our Boolaroo community, as we further discern the future of the church building.

After consultation and thanks to all who provided me with feedback, I am pleased to advise that there will only be minor changes to the weekday Masses. These will start from the week beginning 10<sup>th</sup> March 2025.

Tuesdays: 9.00am SM Booragul (remains) / 9.30am SJV Morisset (new day and time)

Wednesdays: 9.00am OLHC Boolaroo (remains)

Thursdays: 9.30am SM Warners Bay (remains)

Fridays: 9.30am SJ Toronto (new time)

Just a reminder that next week we will celebrate our special Diocesan Jubilee pilgrimage, I hope that you are able to join in the walk, or at the Cathedral or even online.

Have a great week everyone.

Fr Darryl Mackie

Parish Priest

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

**PARISH PRIEST:**

Fr Darryl Mackie

**ASSISTANT PRIESTS:**

Fr Raphael Madukwe

Fr Paul Macharia Kamau

Fr John Purnell

**PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL:**

Uta France, John France, Juliet Hutchins, Mal Melvey,

Pam, Melvey, Kerry Lendon, Rod Hay

**PARISH ADMINISTRATION:**

Rosanna Suckling, Maryanne Barry, Vimal Valiyaveetil,

Bridget Voigt

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

For Urgent Anointing of the Sick Ph: 0493 969 362

Website: [www.vianneymorisset.org](http://www.vianneymorisset.org)

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

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

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

**Prayer Requests for the Bulletin**

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

## **Celebrating the Diocesan Jubilee Pilgrimage Sunday 2nd March 2025.**

With the Jubilee of Hope being launched at the Sacred Heart Cathedral Hamilton on Sunday 2nd March, all parishioners are both invited and encouraged to attend this major event (as it only happens once every 25 years).

Thank you to those parishioners who have tendered their names for the free bus transport to the event.

At this stage we have 10 people who will be catching the 6.30am bus from the Morisset Church, to participate in the walk from Nobbys to the Cathedral for 10am Mass,

Also 20 people will be catching the second bus at 8.15am, also leaving from the Morisset Church and arriving at the Cathedral for the 10.00am Mass.

The buses will leave the Cathedral at 1pm for the journey home. There is still room on either bus if anyone wishes to attend the Jubilee event.

The only Sunday Mass 2<sup>nd</sup> March on the Western side of Lake Macquarie will be a live streamed Mass at Warners Bay 9am. There will be **No** 9.30am Mass at Morisset on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> March.

There will be a 5pm Vigil Mass at Morisset on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> March.

To register your place on one the buses please complete the form at <https://forms.office.com/r/fLHfRBe0ui>

Or the sign-up sheet at the back of the church this weekend.

## **Holy Water Font**

You may recall that all holy water fonts were directed to be removed from churches during Covid, as a measure to help combat the spread of the virus.

At the recently held PPC meeting a request from a parishioner to reinstall the holy water font at the church entry, was considered and discussed.

If the holy water fonts were to be reintroduced, it would mean that holy water fonts would have to be cleaned after each Mass with the Holy Water being replaced-

Covid is still 'out there' and the church has a duty of care to protect parishioners from Covid, an alternative method of delivery of holy water was undertaken by the PPC. At the entry to both Morisset and Cooranbong churches, you will now find automatic holy water dispensers. They are labelled 'Holy Water' and are activated by placing your hand under the nozzle of the dispenser just like our sanitiser dispensers. This eliminates the need to place your hand in a communal font.

## **Shrove Tuesday**

SJV School will celebrate Shrove Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> March with Mass in the Morisset Church at 9.15am, followed by Pancakes and Ice cream. All are welcome.

PS Could anyone help us make pancakes?

## **Ash Wednesday**

Ash Wednesday officially begins the season of Lent and the Easter Cycle, on any date from February 4 to March 10, depending on the date of Easter. Ash Wednesday this year will be celebrated on Wednesday 5 March.

To help celebrate Ash Wednesday, Mass will be held in the Morisset Church at 10am (School Mass) & 6.30pm (Parish Mass). All are welcome to attend either Mass.

## **Formal Installation of Fr Darryl as Parish Priest**

Hi everyone, the Bishop would like to formally install me as Parish Priest of the parishes of Boolaroo, Booragul, Toronto and Morisset. The installation takes place within Mass. I have suggested that St Joseph's Toronto be the venue as it's the halfway point of the parishes.

The details are St Joseph's Catholic Church 140 Wangi Road Toronto NSW 2283 Wednesday 12th March 2025 6pm. Thanks Darryl.

## **World Day of Prayer**

The World Day of Prayer is an international ecumenical Christian initiative.

It is run under the motto "Informed Prayer and Prayerful Action" and is celebrated annually in over 170 countries on the first Friday in March.

This year 2025 it will be held Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March at 10am in the Southlake's Anglican Church.33 Newcastle St Morisset. This year the focus country is **The Cook Islands**

All the local churches have agreed to participate in the event, and all have a part to play including our church. All welcome.

## **Rostered Ministries**

Thank you to everyone who have already indicated their willingness to join or continue to be part of the rostered ministries. If you haven't done so, but you are intending to complete a form, could you please do so by this weekend 22/23 February. This will then allow formation/training to commence, and rosters to be organised.

### **Please fill in a form if you are continuing your ministry!!!!**

Sign-Up Forms are available at the back of the church, or you may complete the Form 'online' at : <https://forms.office.com/r/hk22QHbHqA>

## **With A Light Heart**

There was an old couple ... they noticed that they were getting more and more forgetful and decided to go to the doctor. The doctor told them to start writing things down so they wouldn't forget.

They went home, and the old woman told her husband to bring her a bowl of ice cream. "She said, "You might want to write this down.

He said, "No, I remember that you wanted a bowl of ice cream. So the wife told her husband that she wanted a bowl of ice cream with whipped cream. "Write that down," she said to him. "No, no, I remember you want a bowl of ice cream with whipped cream," he said again.

Then the old woman said she wanted a bowl of ice cream with whipped cream and a cherry on top. She said to her husband, "Write that down.

Again he said, "No, I understand. You want a bowl of ice cream with whipped cream and a cherry on top."

He went to get the ice cream and spent an unusually long time in the kitchen, over 30 minutes.

He comes to his wife and hands her a plate of bacon and eggs. The old woman looks at the plate for a while, then looks at her husband and asks, "Where's the toast?"

## **Congratulations.**

Congratulations to Sienna Anaya who will be making her First Holy Communion at the Vigil Mass this Saturday evening. Congratulations to proud parents Martin and Lisa.

## **Anointing Mass**

Save the date

An Anointing Mass will be held in the Morisset church on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> March at 10.30am followed by a cuppa.

## **Pope Francis Prayer Intention for February 2025**

That the ecclesial community might welcome the desires and doubts of those young people who feel a call to serve Christ's mission in the priesthood and religious life.

## Christmas Evaluation

The Christmas\_Planning Team met during the week to evaluate the Christmas Eve Mass held at the Morisset Showground. Generally it was felt that the Christmas Eve Mass was well received and a good experience for those who attended. It is hoped to be able to build on the platform of hospitality that was established in 2024, through the continuation of the BBQ, refreshments and other activities in 2025.

## Diocesan Pilgrimage 2025

Join us on pilgrimage this Jubilee Year with Bishop Michael Kennedy as we visit the biblical sites and spiritual heights of Greece, Turkey and Italy from 25 September -12 October.

Visit [www.mn.catholic.org.au](http://www.mn.catholic.org.au) and click the 2025 Jubilee Year Information tile for more information, the application form, and costings.

For more information contact [mission@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:mission@mn.catholic.org.au)

## Rite of Election – Sunday 9 March

The Rite of Election on Sunday 9 March 2025 is an opportunity to welcome all catechumens who will be baptised in their parishes at the Easter Vigil [a catechumen is an unbaptised person whose search for meaning has brought them to the Catholic Church]. Please join in witness and prayerful support of those who choose to be Catholic within this Jubilee Year of Hope. It starts at 2.30pm at Sacred Heart Cathedral Newcastle West, followed by afternoon tea.

RSVP for catering to E [mission@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:mission@mn.catholic.org.au). Enquiries to Fiona P 0408 895 951.

## Art and Spirituality Days

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

Cost: \$25. BYO lunch. Morning tea will be provided.

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

For further information contact Rose McAllister on [rose.mcallister@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:rose.mcallister@mn.catholic.org.au)

## Hunter Community Alliance – Annual Assembly

Mission & Evangelisation are working to promote and support a vision for our communities to 'seek opportunities for mission in word and deeds.'

The Hunter Community Alliance is an avenue for the people of our Diocese to engage in social justice, advocacy, and work for the common good in relationship with broader civil society. All our communities are invited to come and experience the Hunter Community Alliance Assembly. This will be an opportunity to join with many community organisations working for the common good.

Where: Great Hall, University Drive, Callaghan

When: Thursday 6 March, 6-8:30pm

Register: <https://events.humanitix.com/hunter-community-alliance-federal-pre-election-assembly-2025>

For more information, go to: <https://www.thehca.org.au> or contact [mission@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:mission@mn.catholic.org.au)

## Catholic Men's Rosary Crusade

We are having a gathering of Catholic men for the Men's Rosary Crusade on Saturday 1 March from 11am at St Patrick's Church, Wallsend. We are more than a prayer group, we are here to help men struggling with faith or other issues. Contact Jason for more information on 0499 854 928.

## Baptism Preparation

If you are seeking baptism for your child or children in our parish please register your interest to attend one of our baptism preparation programs at: <https://forms.office.com/r/DwDQgaUe6A>

## 2025- Lenten Reflection- Journey of Hope

Lent is often portrayed as a journey from one point in time to another, this time allows us to deeply reflect internally so our external actions imitate the resurrection and living God. Lent is a penitential period when we attempt to develop an awareness of sin and our need for penance and forgiveness. This journey assists us in our transformation as we move from one state to another, a state that is renewed by hope in the Paschal Mystery, so we truly understand why the risen Jesus matters.

As we enter Lent during the 2025 Jubilee Year, Pilgrims of Hope, let us use this time as an opportunity to reflect and seek forgiveness so we can experience the unlimited nature of God's Mercy.

You are invited to use this resource to reveal the mystery of God each week through the scriptures, faith sharing, and consider how we are called to be constant companions in the journey of hope.

To access the resource, go to: <https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/media/7345/0007121-dio-2024-lenten-program-web-v2.pdf>

## Register Your Interest for the 2025 National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Catholic Tri-Annual Assembly

Every three years, the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council (NATSICC) hosts a National Tri-Annual Assembly. In 2025, the Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle is honoured to host this gathering on the lands of the Wonnarua people at Rydges Hunter Valley from Monday 29 September to Friday 3 October 2025.

With the theme "Pilgrims of Hope," inspired by Pope Francis' Jubilee Year, this Assembly promises to be a meaningful event. The success of the assembly relies heavily on the Host Diocese and our generosity and/or attendance.

Complete this form to register your interest in attending or volunteering: <https://forms.office.com/r/5XDUHy3Vrc>

Enquiries can be sent to [mission@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:mission@mn.catholic.org.au)



**St John Vianney Parish Morisset**  
*Invite you to an*  
**ANOINTING MASS**  
**ON FRIDAY 21ST MARCH**  
**AT 10.30AM IN**  
**ST JOHN VIANNEY CHURCH**  
**60 YAMBO ST MORISSET**  
**FOLLOWED BY A CUPPA**  
*an anointing with the "Oil of the Sick" for the sick,*  
*frail, elderly or anyone in need of healing*



**SUPPORTING THE CLERGY / 1st Collection**

If you would like to make contributions to support the Clergy / 1st Collection please do so at Mass in the BLUE bucket or electronically using the Online Payments button on the Parish Website Home page, Diocese App, Electronic Funds Transfer Only Bank Account Name: Morisset Parish Presbytery BSB: 066739 No: 100004062 Ref: 1st Collection & SURNAME or contact the parish office to set up a direct debit.

**SUPPORTING OUR PARISH / 2nd Collection**

If you would like to make contributions to support our Parish please do so at Mass via the RED bucket or our Parish Electronic Funds Transfer Only Account the details are: Account Name: Morisset Parish Church BSB:066739 Account Number: 100004064 please use one of the following Payment References PG + your giver number or PG + SURNAME or SURNAME you can also use the Online Payments or Planned Giving button on the Parish Website Home page or the Diocese App. If you are considering taking up **planned giving** you may like to know that **a percentage of the contributions are tax deductible**. If you would like to know more or set up planned giving please contact the Parish Office.

WEEKEND ROSTERS			
		<u>THIS WEEK</u>	<u>NEXT WEEK</u>
<u>PRESIDERS</u>	5PM 9.30AM	Mass Mass	Mass Mass
<u>PROCLAIMERS:</u>	5PM 9.30AM	J Vipan L McRae	TBA
<u>PSALMIST:</u>	5PM 9.30AM	K Lendon J Shamley	TBA
<u>GIFTS</u>	5PM 9.30AM	H White D Whitten S Matthew	TBA
<u>SERVERS</u>	5PM 9.30AM	M Melvey V Paulo	TBA
<u>AV</u>	5PM 9.30AM	M Foo T Alexander	TBA
<u>WELCOMERS</u>	5PM 9.30AM	Cameron Family A Walker G Walker	TBA
<u>CHURCH CLEANING</u>	COOR MOR	M Shamley C Lawandos K Lendon	TBA



**UPCOMING FEAST DAYS MEMORIALS AND SOLEMNITIES**

- THE CHAIR OF SAINT PETER (F) - 22ND FEB
- SAINT GREGORY OF NAREK (OM) - 27TH FEB
- SAINT PETER DAMIAN (OM) - 21ST FEB
- THE CHAIR OF SAINT PETER (F) - 22ND FEB
- SAINT GREGORY OF NAREK (OM) - 27TH FEB
- SAINT CASIMIR (OM) - 4TH MAR
- SHROVE TUESDAY— 4TH MAR
- SAINTS PERPETUA AND FELICITY (M) - 7TH MAR
- EMBER DAY—7TH MAR
- SAINT JOHN OF GOD (OM) - 8TH MAR

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

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

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



**UPCOMING WORSHIP TIMES :**

- Saturday 22nd February 5pm  
Mass—Cooranbong
- Sunday 23rd February 9.30am  
Mass—Morisset
- Friday 28th February 10.30am  
Mass—Morisset
- Saturday 1st March 5pm  
Mass—Morisset
- Tuesday 4th March 9.15am  
Mass—Morisset
- Wednesday 5th March 10am  
Mass with School—Morisset
- Wednesday 5th March 6.30pm  
Mass—Morisset

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

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

*Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.*

*If you have any concerns for a child or vulnerable person please contact the Office of Safeguarding Phone: 02 4979 1390 Email: [childprotection@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:childprotection@mn.catholic.org.au),*

*or visit their website for further information:*

*[www.officeofsafeguarding.org.au](http://www.officeofsafeguarding.org.au)*

*Live stream Mass every Sunday at 9.30am at [www.mn.catholic.org.au/places/live-stream](http://www.mn.catholic.org.au/places/live-stream)*

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## **FAITH MATTERS: Pilgrims, indulgences and more**

As we draw closer to the Diocesan launch of the Jubilee Year, we are excited about the many opportunities that will be on offer throughout the year. For those wanting to learn more about a Jubilee go to: [10 Questions about a Jubilee](#)

Rosemary McAllister PUBLISHED February 18, 2025

Late last year Bishop Michael announced that there would be eight Pilgrimage sites across the Diocese, these being:

- Sacred Heart Cathedral, Newcastle West
- St Mary Star of the Sea Church, Newcastle
- St John the Baptist Shrine, Maitland
- St Joseph's Church, East Maitland
- St Joseph's Church, Murrurundi
- Blessed Virgin Mary Queen of Peace Church, Scone
- Saints Patrick & Brigid Church, Cooranbong
- Our Lady of the Rosary Church, Taree

Pilgrimage is an important element of every Jubilee Year and there will be opportunities in 2025 for international and local experiences. Those who have travelled the Camino de Santiago understand that part of the experience is to receive a passport which can be stamped at the different locations along the journey. A pilgrim's passport for our local pilgrimage experience has been created and can be picked up at the Jubilee launch on 2 March. I look forward to meeting you at the Jubilee marquee as you collect your passport and share some of the wonderful opportunities you are invited to engage in during the year.

Why would we create a passport and what will you do with it?

Apart from stamping your passport at each pilgrimage site you will be invited to document your spiritual journey throughout the year.

In the Decree on the Granting of Indulgences during the Ordinary Jubilee Year 2025 called by His Holiness Pope Francis, we learn that indulgences can be obtained in a variety of different ways. These include; through pilgrimage, visiting sacred places and works of mercy. To view the full list of ways and actions needed to obtain a Jubilee Indulgence go to: <https://press.vatican.va/content/salastampa/en/bollettino/pubblico/2024/05/13/240513f.html>

This leads us to ask what is an indulgence?

When you hear the term indulgence, the Reformation, Martin Luther and his 95 These might come to mind. There is no doubt there was a time in history that this special gift of mercy was misused. The condemnation of the abuse of indulgences for monetary gain was recognised during the Council of Trent (1545- 1563) and the practice was reaffirmed. In modern times the oversight of indulgences has been delegated to various Church bodies over the centuries to ensure that they are regulated. Today the Apostolic Penitentiary a dicastery led by the Major Penitentiary of the Roman Curia oversees the issuance and governance of indulgences.

Historically the term "indulgence" comes from the Latin word "indulgentia," meaning kindness or tenderness. The verbal root is indulgere: means to forgive, to be lenient toward or be tender towards.

Indulgences have roots in early Christian practices, where public penances and prayers were used for forgiveness and purification. By the 11th century, indulgences were granted for various acts like building churches and going on pilgrimages. The practice became more formalised and widespread by the 13th century.

Indulgences are linked to the Sacrament of Penance which involves sanctification and renewal, this requires not only forgiveness from guilt of sin but also purification from the harmful wounds of sin.

In 1967 as a response to the Second Vatican Council, Pope Paul VI wrote the Apostolic Constitution "Indulgentiarum Doctrina" and reformed the practice, abolishing references to days and years and categorizing indulgences as plenary or partial. Indulgences are included in the 1983 Code of Canon Law and the Catechism of the Catholic Church and require specific acts, such as confession, communion, and prayers for the Pope's intentions.

The Holy Father, Pope Francis declares that the gift of the Indulgence "is a way of discovering the unlimited nature of God's mercy. Not by

chance, for the ancients, the terms 'mercy' and 'indulgence' were interchangeable, as expressions of the fullness of God's forgiveness, which knows no bounds" (Spes non confundit, 23). The Indulgence, therefore, is a Jubilee grace.

If you would like to know more about Indulgences, you are invited to a Formation opportunity on Friday 7 March at 1pm, either face to face at the Diocesan Library or online. To register go to: <https://forms.office.com/r/cbnKUsEGFM> or phone Diocesan Librarian – Mary O'Connor on

## **Artists of Hope**

Having recently read Pope Francis', Hope, The Autobiography, I was able to develop a deeper insight and understanding of Jorge Mario Bergoglio and his openness to creativity. He recalls his schooling being built on a Catholic culture that created a conscious that was not just moral and Christian but human, social, playful and artistic. These elements have remained with him his entire life and may explain his love of the arts and culture.

Rosemary McAllister PUBLISHED February 18, 2025

As we embark on the Jubilee Year different events on a global scale have been put in place and the last few days 15-18 February have been designated as a time to recognise artists. As Pope Francis is currently unwell and in hospital Cardinal José Tolentino de Mendonça, Prefect of the Vatican's Dicastery for Culture and Education delivered his homily on Sunday 16 February.

Pope Francis writes:

'As artists and representatives of the world of culture, you are called to be witnesses to the revolutionary vision of the Beatitudes. Your mission is not only to create beauty, but to reveal the truth, goodness and beauty hidden within the folds of history, to give voice to the voiceless, to transform pain into hope.

We live in a time of complex financial and social crises, but ours is above all a spiritual crisis, a crisis of meaning. Let us ask ourselves questions about time and about purpose. Are we pilgrims or wanderers? Does our journey have a destination, or are we directionless? Artists have the task of helping humanity not to lose its way and to keep a hopeful outlook.

Be aware, however, that hope is not easy, superficial or abstract. No! True hope is interwoven within the drama of human existence. Hope is not a convenient refuge, but a fire that burns and irradiates light, like the word of God. That is why authentic art always expresses an encounter with mystery, with the beauty that surpasses us, with the pain that challenges us, with the truth that calls us. Art is not a luxury, but something that the spirit needs. It is not a flight from reality, but a charge, a call to action, an appeal and a cry. Educating about true beauty is educating about hope.

In the Gospel we have heard today, Jesus proclaims as blessed those who are poor, afflicted, meek and persecuted. It is a change of mentality, a revolution of perspective. Artists are called to take part in this revolution. The world needs prophetic artists, courageous intellectuals and creators of culture.

Let the Gospel of the Beatitudes guide you, and may your art be a herald of a new world. Let us see your poetry! Never cease searching, questioning and taking risks. True art is never easy; it offers the peace of restlessness. And do not forget that hope is not an illusion; beauty is not a utopia. Yours is not a random gift but a calling. Respond, then, with generosity, passion and love.[1]

We are excited to be holding our own Diocesan Art Exhibition this year which encourages us all to contemplate on the title of the Jubilee Papal Bull, "Hope does not disappoint" (Rom 5:5).

Find out more about our exhibition by clicking here.

For more information about this Jubilee initiative and many more visit me at the Jubilee marquee at the Jubilee Launch on Sunday 2 March or go to [www.mn.catholic.org.au/JubileeYear2025](http://www.mn.catholic.org.au/JubileeYear2025)

[1] Jubilee Of Artists And The World Of Culture Homily Of His Holiness Pope Francis

Read By Cardinal José Tolentino De Mendonça (16 February 2025)  
<https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/homilies/2025/documents/20250216-omelia-giubileo-artisti.html>



## SUNDAY PRAYER SERVICE

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C Sunday 23 Feb 2025

### The Introductory Rites

#### Gathering

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

A short hymn might be sung.

#### Sign of the Cross

Leader:

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

All:

Amen.

#### Greeting

Leader:

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

All:

Blessed be God forever.

#### Introductory Remarks

Leader (in these or similar words):

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

#### Opening Rite

##### LITANY OF PRAISE

A brief period of silence follows.

Leader:

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

All: Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you teach us the way to the Father: Christ, have mercy.

All: Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you show us compassion and love: 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 love  
you teach us to be kind to those we do not like  
for all people are your children.  
Help us to see the good in those we meet  
and may your peace always reign in our hearts.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
for ever and ever.

All:

Amen.

#### The Liturgy of the Word

##### First Reading

1 Samuel 26:2. 7-9. 12-13. 22-23

A reading from the first book of Samuel

*The Lord has put you in my power, but I will not raise my hand against you.*

Saul set off and went down to the wilderness of Ziph, accompanied by three thousand men chosen from Israel to search for David in the wilderness of Ziph.

So in the dark David and Abishai made their way towards the force, where they found Saul asleep inside the camp, his spear stuck in the ground beside his head, with Abner and the troops lying round him. Then Abishai said to David, 'Today God has put your enemy in your power; so now let me pin him to the ground with his own spear. Just one stroke! I will not need to strike him twice. David answered Abishai, Do not kill him, for who can lift his hand against the Lord's anointed and be without guilt?' David took the spear and the pitcher of water from beside Saul's head, and they made off. No one saw, no one knew, no one woke up; they were all asleep, for a deep sleep from the Lord had fallen on them.

David crossed to the other side and halted on the top of the mountain a long way off; there was a wide space between them. David then called out, 'Here is the king's spear. Let one of the soldiers come across and take it. The Lord repays everyone for his uprightness and loyalty. Today the Lord put you in my power, but I would not raise my hand against the Lord's anointed.'

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. 8. 10. 12-13. 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 is compassion and love,  
slow to anger and rich in mercy.  
He does not treat us according to our sins  
nor repay us according to our faults. (R.)
4. As far as the east is from the west  
so far does he remove our sins.  
As a father has compassion on his sons,  
the Lord has pity on those who fear him. (R.)

#### Second Reading

1 Corinthians 15:45-49

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

*Just as we have carried the earthly image, we must carry the heavenly image.*

The first man, Adam, as scripture says, became a living soul; but the last Adam has become a life-giving spirit. That is, first the one with the soul, not the spirit, and after that, the one with the spirit. The first man, being from the earth, is earthly by nature; the second man is from heaven. As this earthly man was, so are we on earth; and as the heavenly man is, so are we in heaven. And we, who have been modelled on the earthly man, will be modelled on the heavenly man.

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 6:27-38

*Be merciful as your Father is merciful.*

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I say this to you who are listening: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who treat you badly. To the man who slaps you on one cheek, present the other cheek too; to the man

who takes your cloak from you, do not refuse your tunic. Give to everyone who asks you, and do not ask for your property back from the man who robs you. Treat others as you would like them to treat you. If you love those who love you, what thanks can you expect? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what thanks can you expect? For even sinners do that much. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what thanks can you expect? Even sinners lend to sinners to get back the same amount. Instead, love your enemies and do good, and lend without any hope of return. You will have a great reward, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. 'Be compassionate as your Father is compassionate. Do not judge, and you will not be judged yourselves; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned yourselves; grant pardon, and you will be pardoned. Give, and there will be gifts for you: a full measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will be poured into your lap; because the amount you measure out is the amount you will be given back.'

Reader:

The Gospel of the Lord.

All:

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

All are seated.

### Reflection on the Word

A short period of reflection may be observed.

### Profession of Faith

Leader:

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

All:

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

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

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

### Prayer of the Faithful

Leader: With faithful hearts let us turn to God for all our needs.

Reader: That the Church will be a source of healing and compassion.  
In your mercy:

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

Reader: That those who have fled their homelands because of violence, war, famine or natural disasters, will find places of safety and welcome.  
In your mercy:

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

Reader: That Pope Francis will make a full recovery from his respiratory illness and be blessed with ongoing good health.  
In your mercy:

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

Reader: That young people who live in out-of-home situations will receive the love and care they need in order to be happy, safe,

and to reach their potential.

In your mercy:

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

Reader: That we may always be ready to forgive those who treat us badly and not count the cost.  
In your mercy:

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

Reader: That all who are sick will be blessed with comfort and healing, especially our loved ones and community members.  
In your mercy:

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

Reader: That all who have died will be recipients of compassion and be born into eternal life.  
In your mercy:

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

Leader: God of kindness and compassion, you are the source of goodness. Hear our prayer and help us to live as you have taught. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ.

**All: Amen.**

### The Lord's Prayer

Leader:

At the Saviour's command  
and formed by divine teaching,  
we dare to say:

All:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,  
now and forever.  
Amen.**

### The Concluding Rite Blessing

Leader:

May the Lord be with us and protect us now and for ever.

All make the sign of the cross during the blessing.

All:

**Amen.**

### Dismissal

Leader:

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

All:

**Thanks be to God.**

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