



THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR B 21 JANUARY 2024

Last Sunday in the Gospel we heard Jesus asking the disciples 'What are you looking for?' and the invitation to 'Come and see.'

This Sunday in the Gospel Jesus says, 'The time has come and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent and believe the Good News.'

To repent is often presented as a harsh, negative and sad thing, as if it merely consisted in feeling guilty about one's sins and doing penance for them.

To repent literally means to think again and is essentially something positive. It means acquiring a new vision, taking a new direction, setting oneself more worthwhile goals and living by better values. In a word it means a new life.



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

PARISH LEADERSHIP TEAM: Uta France
John France

PRIEST SUPERVISOR: Fr Joseph Figuardo
SACRAMENTAL PRIEST: Fr John Purnell

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL: Juliet Hutchins
Mal Melvey
Pam Melvey
Kerry Lendon
Rod Hay

PARISH SECRETARY: Rosanna Suckling

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(We ask that you make an appointment to come to the office)
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Morisset Parish Facebook : <https://www.facebook.com/stjvparish>
Morisset Parish Instagram : https://www.instagram.com/stjvparish_morisset/
Morisset Parish Bulletin Items: morparish@mn.catholic.org.au
(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 :

Saturday	20th January 5pm Family Mass—Morisset
Sunday	21st January 9.30am Mass—Morisset
Saturday	27th January 5pm Mass—Cooranbong
Sunday	28th January 9.30am Mass—Morisset
Tuesday	30th January 9.30am Liturgy—Morisset
Saturday	3rd February 5pm Family Mass—Morisset
Sunday	4th February 9.30am Mass—Morisset
Tuesday	6th February 9.30am Liturgy—Morisset
Saturday	10th February 5pm Mass - Cooranbong
Sunday	11th February 9.30am Mass—Morisset
Tuesday	13th February 9.30am Liturgy—Morisset
Saturday	18th February 5pm Family Mass—Morisset
Sunday	19th February 9.30am Mass—Morisset
Tuesday	21st February 9.30am Liturgy—Morisset

Welcome

Welcome to all the visitors to our Parish of St John Vianney during the summer holiday season.

The Parish of St John Vianney Morisset, was officially formed in 1947, however our Mass center of St Patrick and St Brigid at Cooranbong, dates to the 1860's. The present Cooranbong Church celebrated its centenary in August 2006, and 150 years of Catholic presence in the area was celebrated in 2011.

It is documented that Saint Mary McKillop visited Cooranbong where she had a convent school. Up until 1966 St John Vianney Parish was part of the Diocese of Sydney, but now it is part of the Diocese of Maitland / Newcastle, with Bishop Michael Kennedy as Bishop.

The 9.30am Mass at Morisset is recorded each Sunday and uploaded to the Parish Website and Facebook later in the day, internet allowing. This allows people in nursing facilities and those away from the parish for whatever reason, to keep 'in touch' with the parish.

Reflection for The Third Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B — 21st January 2024

It is January 21st, three weeks since New Year's Day, and by now, many of us who made New Year's resolutions, have broken them. Which is okay

There is something within us as humans that desires to make a fresh start, to become resolved, and then to change. We see this played out in all three of our readings today. Jesus began his public ministry with a call to repentance, 'Repent and believe the Good News'.

Many find the idea of repentance a disturbing one. Repentance has often been presented as a harsh negative thing, as if it merely consists of feeling guilty about one's sins and doing penance for them.

Repentance is something essentially positive. True, to repent is to admit that all is not well with oneself. But it is also a chance to discover something wonderful about oneself. It means acquiring a new vision taking a new direction, setting oneself more worthwhile goals, and living better values. Unlike regret, repentance opens the way to rebirth.

Pope Francis has started a revolution. He wants us to love one another the way God loves us, freely and without conditions. God's name is Mercy. Jesus told his disciples: "Be merciful as your heavenly Father is merciful." This is the open gate of the kingdom of heaven, and it must also be the open door of the church and of our hearts.

Welcome Fr Raphael

This weekend we welcome to our parish Fr Raphael Madukwe.

Bishop Michael Kennedy has appointed the following Priests to assist Fr Greg Barker in our Macquarie Region. Fr Raphael Madukwe, Fr Darryl Mackie, and Fr John Purnell.

Rostered Ministries

It is again time to revisit our Rostered Ministries for 2024. If you have been involved in the various 2023 ministries, now is the time to indicate your willingness to continue, change your ministry, or have some time out. The new rosters will commence in March. A 'carry over' roster for February will operate.

Volunteer Forms are available at the back of the church, or you may complete the Form 'online' at <https://forms.office.com/r/HF67vcVbXQ> or the link provided in the Bulletin email or the Button Link on the Parish Website or via the Mass App.

Monthly Cuppa and Conversation.

Our monthly 'Cuppa' with biscuits and conversation, will resume this Sunday 21st January after the 9.30am Mass in the Callinan Centre.

Australia Day

Next Friday 26th January, we will be celebrating Australia Day.

As Christian Catholic Australians, we can both celebrate the good things we love about our nation, as well as recognise the wounds that need to be healed.

The great Portuguese explorers of the 16th Century, set out on a quest for 'Terra Australia del Espiritu Santo', South Land of the Holy Spirit. It was a title given in 1606 by Captain Pedro Fernandez de Quiros of Portugal, long before Captain Cook sailed the east coast.

We have a beautiful country and there is no doubt about the work that God has given you and me, the Church, to do.

Save the Date World Day of Prayer

Our Parish will be hosting the 2024 Ecumenical World Day of Prayer, Friday 1st March in the Morisset Church. Every year, the worship service focuses on a different country and a specific theme. This year the focus country is Palestine.

As of 31 July 2019, 138 of the 193 United Nations member states have recognised Palestine as a state with observer status, allowing them to take part in general debates, and the Palestinian flag now flies outside the United Nations.

Palestinians are a scattered population with over 12 million living all over the world. Estimates suggest that just over 5 million Palestinians currently reside in Palestine and Israel. There is a small Christian minority in this predominantly Muslim country, making up about 2% of the Palestinian population.

Watagan Deanery News

The Diocese of Maitland /Newcastle consists of several Deaneries. Our Morisset Parish belongs to the Watagan Deanery, with Fr Joseph Figurado as the Dean. Other Parishes in the Watagan Deanery are Shortland, Wallsend, Glendale, Boolaroo, Warners Bay, Booragul and Toronto.

The Leaders of our Deanery meet every two months to support each other, and to share resources and ideas. Towards the end of 2023 it was proposed that a social movie night be organised for Parishioners in the Watagan Deanery. This event will be held at the Warners Bay Parish Hall, 6.30 for 7pm. \$10 donation, cheese wine nibbles (See the attached Flyer for details)

Position Vacant – Catholic Hospital Chaplain

We have received a request from Teresa Brierley, Director of Pastoral Ministries, asking that all Parish Priests/Leaders please advertise for a Catholic Hospital Chaplain at the John Hunter Hospital in parish bulletins. We were not successful in fulfilling the role the last time we advertised towards the end of last year. The Position Description and application information can be found on the link - <https://cdmn.elmotalent.com.au/careers/dio/job/view/2945> Applications Close 11.59pm on Monday 5 February 2024. Further information about this position can be sought from Teresa Brierley:

SJV Primary School News

Please remember the following dates:

School resumes for students Years 1-6 on Thursday 1 February.

Kindergarten will commence on Monday 5 February

PROJECT COMPASSION

FOR ALL FUTURE GENERATIONS



Caritas Australia: Project Compassion Launch 2024

The Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle invites you to the launch of the 2024 Project Compassion appeal themed "For All Future Generations".

During the Liturgy, all attendees from across our schools, parishes and agencies are called forward by Parish region to receive their 2024 Project Compassion box and commissioning from Bishop Michael Kennedy.

Donations to Project Compassion allows Caritas Australia, the Catholic Agency for International Aid and Development, to work with local communities around the world to alleviate poverty, hunger, oppression and injustice.

At the conclusion of the Liturgy, complimentary pancakes will be served at the Southern Cross Hall. **Gluten Free pancakes are available; please advise when prompted at registration**.

Date: Shrove Tuesday - 13 February 2024

Time: 10.15am for a 10:30am start, concluding at approximately 12.30pm.

Parking is limited, we advise arriving with sufficient time to locate suitable parking. There is also paid parking at the Wilson St Carpark, a short five minute walk away.

Location: Sacred Heart Cathedral, HAMILTON. Followed by Pancakes in the Southern Cross Hall.

RSVP by: 5pm, Thursday 8 February 2024 at : <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/caritas-australia-project-compassion-launch-2024-tickets-777386843977?aff=ebdsoporgprofile>

Points to Ponder

Traditions have always been an important dimension of celebrating faith. Each age is a time of special grace, including our age of high technology.

Did you Know?

Folding Hands. The traditional gesture of folding one's hands, either with fingers interlocked or palms flat against each other, is another borrowing from social etiquette. It evolved among the German people in the Middle Ages, during the age of Feudalism. When people took an oath of allegiance to the local lord, they placed their joined hands between those of the lord as a sign of submission and subjection. This origin adds meaning to the very traditional prayer gesture.

With a Light Heart

A middle-aged woman and her husband interrupted their holidays in Bali to go to the dentist.

'I want a tooth pulled, and I don't want Novocain because I am in a big hurry, the woman said. Just extract the tooth as quickly as possible, and we will be on our way'.

The dentist was quite impressed. "You're certainly a very courageous women', he said.

Which tooth is it?

The woman turned to her husband and said, 'Show him your tooth dear'.

CatholicCare Christmas Drive Hamper – Thank You

CatholicCare would like to thank all those who supported our recent Christmas Hamper Drive! Thanks to your generosity, and with the help of the wider community, CatholicCare was able to purchase 570 Christmas Hampers for distribution across the Hunter-Manning. Your contributions of food and funds has made a real difference to many families and individuals who were facing a tough Christmas. The works of mercy you have shown towards others demonstrates our collective Mission towards vulnerable souls, so, thank you!

Voice of the Spirit

To access the latest Catholic Charismatic Renewal Newsletter, visit: www.mn.catholic.org.au/media/6739/novvos2023e.pdf

There are also two events to Save the Date for. CCR Leadership Day – Saturday 3 February 2024 and CCR NSW Conference – 7 to 8 September 2024.

Tilling the Church - Theology of an Unfinished Project

You are invited to discuss Father Richard's latest publication, "Tiling the Church: Theology for an Unfinished Project".

We will be going through Richard's book chapter by chapter over several months online. Between 7:00PM and 8:30PM on the following dates:

Wednesday February 21 - Chapter 3. The Pilgrimage Community of Faith and Hope

Wednesday March 20 - Chapter 4. Engaging the Graced World

Wednesday April 17 - Chapter 5. The Future-Oriented Past

Wednesday May 15 - Chapter 6. The Art of Faithfulness and Conclusion

Register at: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/tilling-the-church-theology-of-an-unfinished-project-tickets-708148319687>

Men's Rosary Crusade Group

Bishop Micheal supports our Men's Rosary Crusade group which meets on the 1st Saturday of every month at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Newcastle at 1pm.

The Men's Rosary Crusade also meet every Tuesday at 7.30pm on zoom Time: *7.30pm every Tuesday*

Join Zoom Meeting [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82498429031?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82498429031?pwd=NHlrYjlsZ1grRzRpciBMbXUONzBLQT09)

[pwd=NHlrYjlsZ1grRzRpciBMbXUONzBLQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82498429031?pwd=NHlrYjlsZ1grRzRpciBMbXUONzBLQT09)

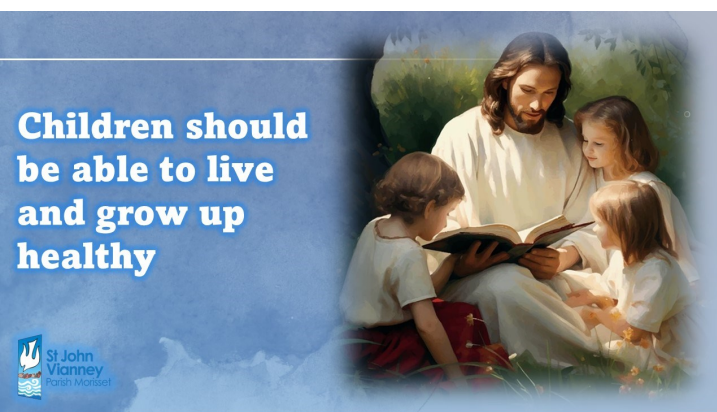
Meeting ID: 824 9842 9031 Passcode: 733946

Pope Francis' prayer intention for January 2024.

That we may recognise the gift of different charisms within the Christian community, and discover the richness of different ritual traditions in the heart of the Catholic Church.

Aurora

The December edition of the Aurora is available to read online at: <https://mnnews.today/aurora/december-2023/>



SUPPORTING THE CLERGY / 1st Collection

If you would like to make contributions to support the Clergy / 1st Collection please do so at Mass in the BLUE bucket or electronically using the Online Payments button on the Parish Website Home page, Diocese App, Bank Account Name: CCF BSB: 062815 No: 00328161 Ref: 5016 1st Collection or set up a direct debit contact the parish office for this option.

SUPPORTING OUR PARISH / 2nd Collection

If you would like to make contributions to support our Parish please do so at Mass via the RED bucket or deposit directly into the Parish Account our details are: Account Name: CCF BSB:062815 Account Number: 00328161 one of the following Payment References are required by CCF for all deposits: 5004 or 5004 + SURNAME or 5004 + PG + your Giver Number, or 5004 + PG + SURNAME, or you can 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	K Lendon P Melvey	U France M Melvey
<u>PSALMIST:</u>	5PM 9.30AM	D Joyce L Hutchinson	D Peterson D Joyce
<u>GIFTS</u>	5PM 9.30AM	C Tuck P Melvey A Walker G Walker	P Melvey P Herbert K Lendon P Herbert
<u>SERVERS</u>	5PM 9.30AM	M Melvey R Lawandos V Paulo C Lawandos	M Melvey F Dyson J Lawandos R Lawandos
<u>Av</u>	5PM 9.30AM	J France J Vipan	J Vipan M Foo
<u>WELCOMERS</u>	5PM 9.30AM	A Dussin P Herbert J France P Herbert	H White K Lendon A Dussin
<u>CHURCH CLEANING</u>	COOR MOR	XXXX K Lendon	M Shamley P Stewart

Our Parish supports The Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle 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 minister and interact with. If you have any concerns for a child or vulnerable adult please contact the Office of Safeguarding P:02 4979 1390 or email: childprotection@mn.catholic.org.au, or visit their website for further information www.officeofsafeguarding.org.au.

UPCOMING FEAST DAYS MEMORIALS AND SOLEMNITIES

SAINT ANTHONY (M) - 17TH JAN
SAINT FRANCIS DE SALES (M) - 24TH JAN
CONVERSION OF SAINT PAUL (F) - 25TH JAN
AUSTRALIA DAY—26TH JAN
SAINT JOHN BOSCO (M) - 31ST JAN
THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD (F) - 2ND FEB
SAINT AGATHA (M) - 5TH FEB
SAINTS PAUL MIKI AND COMPANIONS (M) - 6TH FEB
SAINT SCHOLASTICA (M) - 10TH FEB
THE CHAIR OF SAINT PETER (F) - 22ND FEB

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

Kim Smith, Sr Patricia Adams rsm, Annette Boyd, Mary Monaghan, Clare Wallington, Donna Hazzard, Pam Mullaly, Mary Johnson, Tintumol Thomas, Pat Findley, Les Findley, Peter Martyn, Bernadette Martin, Joan Gillett, Bruce Gillett.

Please pray for those who have been called to eternal life may they always be in our prayers.
Recently Deceased: Mary Johnston



Prayer Requests for the Bulletin

If you would like the parish to pray for a family member who is sick, recently deceased or you would like remembered please call or email the parish office or complete a prayer card for each person and place in the mail box near the parish office door. Cards are available at the back of the church and at the Parish Office.

All prayer requests require permission from a family member or the person. Due to Australian privacy laws.

An Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus,
I believe that You
are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.
I love You above all things,
and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment
receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as if You were already there and unite
myself wholly to You.
Never permit me to be separated from You.
Amen.



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



We are committed to the
**NATIONAL CATHOLIC
SAFEGUARDING STANDARDS**



SUNDAY PRAYER SERVICE

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

Sunday 21 Jan 2024

The Introductory Rites

Acknowledgement of Country

We Acknowledge the Traditional Custodians who have walked upon and cared for this land for thousands of years. We acknowledge the continued deep spiritual attachment and relationship of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples to this country and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of reconciliation. We especially acknowledge the Awabakal and Darkinjung peoples who were the original custodians of the land this parish sits on.

Gathering

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

Sign of the Cross

Leader:

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

All:

Amen.

Greeting

Leader:

Blessed be Jesus 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:

God's kindness brings hope to the world.
To prepare ourselves to hear his Word
let us praise the Lord Jesus Christ.

A brief period of silence follows.

Leader:

Lord Jesus, you summon us to follow you: Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, you teach us to walk the way of truth: Christ, have mercy.

All: Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, your kingdom will last for all time: 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 all peoples,
you call each of us to follow you
and build your kingdom on earth.
Help us to see your light and hear your call
so that we may walk together, united in your love.
We ask this through Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
for ever and ever.

All:

Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

Jonah 3:1-5. 10

A reading from the prophet Jonah

The Ninevites renounced their evil ways.

The word of the Lord was addressed to Jonah: 'Up!' he said 'Go to Nineveh, the great city, and preach to them as I told you to.' Jonah set out and went to Nineveh in obedience to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was a city great beyond compare: it took three days to cross it. Jonah went on into the city, making a day's journey. He preached in these words, 'Only forty days more and Nineveh is going to be destroyed.' And the people of Nineveh believed in God; they proclaimed a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least.

God saw their efforts to renounce their evil behaviour. And God relented: he did not inflict on them the disaster which he had threatened.

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

The word of the Lord.

All reply:

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 24:4-9. R. v.4

(R.) Teach me your ways, O Lord.

1. Lord, make me know your ways.
Lord, teach me your paths.
Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:
for you are God my saviour. **(R.)**
2. Remember your mercy, Lord,
and the love you have shown from of old.
In your love remember me,
because of your goodness, O Lord. **(R.)**
3. The Lord is good and upright.
He shows the path to those who stray,
he guides the humble in the right path;
he teaches his way to the poor. **(R.)**

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 7:29-31

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

The world as we know it is passing away.

Brothers, our time is growing short. Those who have wives should live as though they had none, and those who mourn should live as though they had nothing to mourn for; those who are enjoying life should live as though there were nothing to laugh about; those whose life is buying things should live as though they had nothing of their own; and those who have to deal with the world should not become engrossed in it. I say this because the world as we know it is passing away.

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 Mark.

All:

Glory to you, O Lord.

Mark 1:14-20

Repent, and believe the Good News.

After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good News from God. 'The time has come' he said 'and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.'

As he was walking along by the Sea of Galilee he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net in the lake – for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, 'Follow me and I will make you into fishers of men.' And at once they left their nets and followed him.

Going on a little further, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John; they too were in their boat, mending their nets. He called them at once and, leaving their father Zebedee in the boat with the men he employed, they went after him.

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.

Prayers of the Faithful

Prayer of the Faithful

Priest: As believers of the Good News, we bring our prayers before the Lord.

Reader: That our Holy Father Pope Francis. will continue to be a gracious shepherd for all who follow Christ.

In your kindness:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That leaders of nations will show mercy on all who are marginalised or in need.

In your kindness:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That teachers preparing for the new school year will be guided by the Spirit and blessed in their vocation.

In your kindness:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That parishioners who may be preparing to embark on a new career, vocation, or course of study, will have our ongoing prayerful support and encouragement.

In your kindness:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That we will be attentive to the global cry of the poor, particularly those who are increasingly being impacted by climate change.

In your kindness:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That Catholic schools will be places of safety, nurture, and spiritual growth for students, staff and families.

In your kindness:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That our parish community will always believe the Good News and follow Christ as fishers of men.

In your kindness:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That all the sick and housebound will be shown mercy and healing, especially for those who we know and love..

In your kindness:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That all who have died will dwell forever in the Kingdom of God, especially for those who were members of our community and families.

In your kindness:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Loving Father, we strive to live the Good News by following Christ. Hear our prayers and give us courage to renounce our sins and freedom to believe your Gospel of truth. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Leader:

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

All:

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

The Concluding Rite Blessing

Leader:

May the God of glory fill our hearts with peace and joy,
now and for ever.

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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On October 4, Pope Francis issued an apostolic exhortation titled *Laudate Deum* (Praise God) 8 years after his ground breaking encyclical on integral ecology, *Laudato Si'* (Praise Be). He says that our responses to the suffering of our common home have not been adequate and our planet may be reaching the breaking point. The Pope's message is still the same, but he has provided us with an update on developments which only increase the need for urgent action to address the ecological crises we face.

The Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns offers us [5 takeaways](#) from the document:

Climate change is real and is caused by human activity.

The Pope feels compelled to make this point and offer further scientific evidence to back it up because of continuing dismissiveness of the reality of climate change by some in the Church and the wider community.

Damage caused by climate change is often irreversible and unequally distributed.

The Pope reminds us that richer people and countries are responsible for most of the damage caused by climate change, but poorer people and countries bear a greater burden in terms of climate impacts. He sees agreement on a Loss and Damage Fund as a good outcome of COP27, but urges world leaders to be more precise about the concrete responsibilities of rich nations to assist poorer countries with compensation for the ecological damage they have already experienced because of climate change.

Technocracy is not the answer.

The Holy Father says that rich people and countries cannot simply rely heavily on technological solutions. He urges us to embrace different lifestyles which significantly reduce our contribution to the climate crisis.

World cooperation is necessary, but our responses so far have been inadequate.

Pope Francis decries the failure of successive UN climate change conferences to live up to their promise. Outcomes and implementation have been disappointing. That is not to say that there is no hope. He points to movements which have led to more promising outcomes such as the Ottawa Process.

Humanity is intimately connected with the rest of God's creation.

The Holy Father reiterates the core message of *Laudato Si'*, viz., that everything is connected. He implores us to reconcile with the world of which we are a part and to care for it.

The full text of the Pope's Apostolic Exhortation is available [here](#).

Christian Formation Course 2024-2025

Now is the time to enrol in the CFC beginning July 2024

The Christian Formation Course is a face-to-face learning experience of twelve months duration with eight units each of five weeks – two units in each school term. The course introduces participants to scripture, theology, church history, sacramental life and spirituality.

Venue	Diocesan Resource Centre, Newcastle West
Day	Tuesday
Date Commences	23 July 2024
Time	6pm to 9pm

UNIT	NAME	DATES
1	Journey of Faith	23 July – 20 August 2024
2	Revelation of God	27 August – 24 September 2024
3	Revelation in Scripture: Old Testament	15 October – 12 November 2024
4	Revelation in Scripture: New Testament	4 February – 4 March 2025
5	The Church from Age to Age	11 March – 8 April 2025
6	People of God	29 April – 27 May 2025
7	Sacramental Life of the Church	3 June – 1 July 2025
8	Liturgical Life of the Church	22 July – 19 August 2025

Course Fee: \$480.00 (In the belief that cost should not be a barrier to faith formation, fees are negotiable in the event of financial difficulty. Please contact Course Administration if fee assistance is required).

