



**St John
Vianney**
Parish Morisset



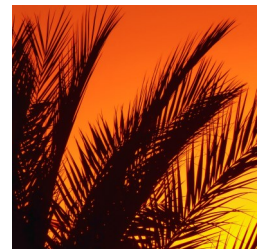
PALM SUNDAY YEAR A 02 APRIL 2023

Today on Palm Sunday, we commence the great week of the liturgical year called Holy Week. Each year on this Sunday, the Church reads an account of the Passion of Jesus.

The Gospel points out that the way Jesus carried out his mission was fundamentally counter-cultural. He was a king who rode on the back of the donkey, who mixed with the outcasts and washed the feet of others. He was not a warrior but a peacemaker. He was not a conqueror, but a humble servant through non-violence and justice.

May we follow the example of the Suffering Servant who shows us the way of disarming hatred with love, evil with goodness, violence with benevolence and indifference with compassion.

Jesus is in the world through us. If we do not imitate him, our world will not know Easter. The important questions for all of us to ask is; What affect will this Holy Week and Easter have on our lives?



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

PARISH LEADERSHIP TEAM:

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

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

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

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

UPCOMING WORSHIP TIMES :

Saturday	1st April 5pm Family Mass— Morisset
Sunday	2nd April 9.30am Mass— Morisset
Wednesday	5th April 7pm Reconciliation— Morisset
Thursday	6th April 7pm Holy Thursday— Morisset
Friday	7th April 3pm Good Friday— Morisset
Saturday	8th April 6.30pm Easter Vigil— Morisset
Sunday	9th April 9.30am Easter Sunday— Morisset
Tuesday	11th April 9.30am Liturgy— Morisset
Saturday	15th April 5pm Family Mass— Morisset
Sunday	16th April 9.30am Mass— Morisset
Tuesday	18th April 9.30am Liturgy— Morisset
Saturday	22nd April 5pm Mass— Cooranbong
Sunday	23rd April 9.30am Mass— Morisset

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REFLECTION FOR PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD
YEAR A – 2ND APRIL, 2023

What a contrast we see in the two Gospels read today! In the first we hear of Christ's triumphant procession into Jerusalem mounted on a donkey, the cheering crowds laying down their garments and palm branches on the road for him to pass over. While this was not the warrior Messiah they had expected, they were carried along by the mob enthusiasm, stimulated by the wonders he had performed and the power of his preaching!

How different was the atmosphere just a few days later, when the crowd, whipped up by the Jewish authorities, were screaming at Pilate to "Crucify him! Crucify him!" So strong was the emotion that Pilate feared a riot. **Let us pray for the resolve not to follow the crowd and popular opinion, when we know it is wrong.**

In the long Gospel reading we hear of familiar events and see a familiar cast of characters but there are very powerful messages that are still so relevant to us in the here and now.

Firstly, Matthew's Gospel leaves us in no doubt that all of these events occurred as a realisation of God's plan for the redemption of mankind! So much had been foretold by the prophets and in these events we see the fulfillment of the Scriptures.

In faith we believe that Christ is one with the Father and the Holy Spirit and existed before all time. We also know that Christ is truly man, born of Mary, over two thousand years ago. We vividly see his humanity in his anguish and distress in Gethsemane and his plea to his disciples: "My heart is filled with grief, even to the point of death. Remain here with me and stay awake." As the Son of God, he had full awareness of what was to befall him and, in his humanity, he dreaded it. Yet, as a human being, like the rest of us, he had free will and the choice was his. "Father, if this cup cannot be taken away from me without my drinking it, let your will be done". How disappointed he must have been, when even those closest to him could not stay awake for him! However, Christ understood human weakness. **Let us pray for the strength to do as God wants us to.**

When we journey with Christ through the injustices of the accusations against him, a totally innocent man, and see his farcical trial.. when we see his torture, his humiliation and the ridicule directed at him, we begin to understand how much he was prepared to endure for our sakes. Even more harrowing to share is his sense of abandonment and we truly see his humanity revealed in his cry, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" **Let us pray that, even in our most desolate moments, we remain conscious of our certainty that God is always with us, that God will not leave us alone.**

Unlike Judas Iscariot, let us be certain of God's love and willingness to forgive any of our transgressions, if we only accept the gift he offers us. **Let us remember that "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son that whoever believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life."** (John 3:16) **Let us be confident in God's love.**

When Matthew recounts the wonders that occurred at the point of Christ's death - the curtain of the Temple sanctuary tearing in two, the earthquake, the tombs giving up the dead, we can exclaim with the terrified guards, "Truly, this man was the Son of God." Pam Melvey



POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER
INTENTION FOR APRIL 2023

For a culture of peace and non violence
We pray for the spread of peace and non violence, by decreasing the use of weapons by States and citizens.

WAY OF THE CROSS BRINGS COMMUNITY TOGETHER TO CELEBRATE MARY

People from across the Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle gathered at Toronto last Sunday for the Way of the Cross.

ELIZABETH SYMINGTON PUBLISHED MARCH 28, 2023

The annual tradition, also known as Stations of the Cross, dates back to the 12th century. It invited people to come together and pray during one of the great devotions of our faith tradition.

This year's event saw attendees journey the Way of the Cross through creative retellings of Mary's story.

Fourteen women from across the Diocese and other Christian communities were tasked with taking on the role of Mary and sharing her story through their eyes.

It's been a tradition for our Diocese to gather with other Christian churches each year for Way of the Cross, making it an ecumenical event.

Reverend Melanie Whalley from the Toronto Anglican Church said it was an honour to be part of the occasion.

"It's wonderful to have different churches and people coming together with different life experiences to enact the voice of Mary in this tradition. The Catholic Church has been doing this for many years now and it is wonderful for everyone to come together," she said.

Another attendee who played Mary, Dianne Langham, added it was a great opportunity to journey with each other.

"I am participating in this as an Aboriginal person, in our culture we have a lot of liturgy and a lot of celebration of ritual, and in that ritual we learn [about] our faith and our spirituality," Di said.

"I think this is important for everybody here, especially the young children."

The prayerful experience was supported by our World Youth Day pilgrims, our school communities, and Bishop Michael Kennedy

PRINT AND PRAY- APRIL 27- CORCORAN CENTRE- MORPETH

Join us during this Easter period for a day of prayer and printing. Participants will make their own Gelatine printing plate and experience the joys of using this form of monotyping while engaging in prayerful reflection throughout the day. The printing process is extremely simple, versatile and addictive. It is equally well suited for professional or novice printmakers, craft enthusiasts, professional artists, and children. You will need to bring an apron, morning tea and lunch.

Cost: \$25 for materials - participants will take home their own Gelatine printing plate.

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/print-and-pray-april-2023-tickets-595247941617>



CATHOLIC
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Catholic Theological College
Sign up for one of 18 online sessions.

**Engaging Your Faith—
May 2023**

*Theology, Vatican II,
Scripture,
Spirituality, Science &
Faith.*

Choose what interests you from
\$25 per session.

For more information and to register:
ctc.edu.au/engaging-your-faith/

Every day, more than 200 million children miss out on school, around 690 million people go hungry and 2.2 billion people cannot access clean drinking water. In recent years, COVID-19 has also devastated vulnerable communities already living in poverty, with the health and economic impacts to reverberate for years to come.

It's through the generous support of people like you that we are able to continue to help lift vulnerable communities out of poverty – support that is needed now more than ever.

Thank you for your continued support for **Project Compassion – past, present and future**. Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow **For All Future Generations**.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2023 to help continue empowering vulnerable communities around the world to lift themselves and their communities out of poverty.

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

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes/envelopes available from your parish, by visiting or by calling 1800 024 413.

PARISH EMPLOYEE AND VOLUNTEER SAFEGUARDING TRAINING – WEDNESDAY 26 APRIL

All parish workers are required to attend Course 2: Safeguarding in Parishes within 6 months of commencing in their role and every 6 years thereafter.

This training forms part of the Diocese's mandatory training regime and is specifically designed to support paid and unpaid helpers undertaking a broad range of ministries in church facilities and out in the community. The training targets the safeguarding needs of faith communities. The course will address:

- the Diocese's Safeguarding Framework policy
- indicators of risk and vulnerability
- indicators of abuse and neglect
- boundaries in ministry
- responding to disclosures
- reporting obligations
- contributing to a 'Safe' culture

Please register your attendance before Thursday 20 April by contacting the Office of Safeguarding on 4979 1390 or email: oosgtraining@mn.catholic.org.au

THE CHOSEN EXPERIENCE – SEASON 2

We invite you to join us in soaking up to the sights, smells, and tastes of 1st Century Palestine as we view the second season about the life of Christ. *The Chosen* is a series which brings to life an interpretation of what life might have been like for Jesus starting his ministry. The series has been creatively produced and includes the backstories for each of the disciples that were individually chosen by Jesus. We are first invited into each of their lives, into their struggles and baggage. But once introduced to Jesus and the invitation to spend time with him, we are invited to witness such a transformation of each of his first followers.

Each Thursday evening join us to share a meal, watch and discuss the episode.

The Chosen Experience commences on 27 April at 6pm in the Murray Room.

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/the-chosen-season-2-tickets-595299666327>

CHRISM MASS

This year's Chrism Mass will take place in Holy Week on Tuesday 4 April at 7.00pm in the Sacred Heart Cathedral Newcastle West. This is a first opportunity for all who wish to gather, to celebrate with our new Bishop, Michael Kennedy at Mass and a light supper. All are welcome. Those with a specific role in the Mass please arrive early as communicated. Read more at <https://tinyurl.com/chrism2023>

THE LGBTIQ+ FORUM INVITES YOU TO MASS AT WARNERS BAY

Eucharistic celebration with LGBTIQ+ people, their families, friends and supporters at St Mary's Church, Warners Bay (2 Bayview Street) Date: Friday 21 April Time: 6pm

Event contact: LGBTIQ@mn.catholic.org.au

STORIES OF HOPE AND POSSIBILITIES WITH TIM COSTELLO

Tim Costello will visit Hamilton Uniting Church on 18 April for a Stories of Hope and Possibilities event. He will speak about his own story and experiences in World Aid and gambling reform. Newcastle musician Heather Price will also perform on the night. For more information phone 0407 401 883 or email ucaham-bro@bigpond.com

SCHOOL OPEN DAYS

If you're interested in enrolling your child at a Catholic School for 2024, you should attend one of our open days. Visit www.mn.catholic.edu.au/schools/open-days/ for more information.

ST JOHN VIANNEY PRIMARY SCHOOL MORISSET

Our Parish School is having a School Tour and Kindy 2024 Information Night on Wednesday 3rd May 2023 starting at 6.30pm. For more information contact the school on 02 4973 4073.

ENFLAMED BY LOVE CONFERENCE

Newcastle Catholic Charismatic Renewal invites all people to the Enflamed by Love Conference, a series of workshops on evangelisation through faith, love, prayer and discernment run by the Missionaries of God's Love (MGL) Sisters on Saturday 22/4/23 and Sunday 23/4/23 9am-3:30am at the Holy Cross Church Hall, 30 Oakland St Glendale. Cost: donation. Morning and Afternoon tea will be provided. BYO Lunch Please contact Wayne Caruana on 0466 631 394 or Mary-Anne De Luca 0409 077 373 for further information.

AURORA MAGAZINE

Copies of the March 2023 issue are available at the back of the church.



St John Vianney Parish Morisset

Easter Services 2023

Reconciliation 7pm
Wednesday 5th April

Holy Thursday 7pm
Thursday 6th April

Good Friday 3pm **Friday 7th April**

Easter Vigil 6.30pm
Saturday 8th April

Easter Sunday 9.30am
Sunday 9th April

All Services will be held in
St John Vianney Church
60 Yambo Street Morisset

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, the Diocese App, Bank Account Name: CCF BSB: 062815 No: 00328161 Ref: 5016 1st Collection or set up a direct debit arrangement (contact the parish office for this).

SUPPORTING OUR PARISH / 2ND COLLECTION

If you would like to make contributions to support our Parish please do so at Mass via the RED bucket or deposit directly into the Parish Account our details are: Account Name: CCF 96014 Morisset Parish BSB:062815 Account Number: 00328161 Ref: 5004 2nd Collection or 5004 PG and your Giver Number or Surname, or you can use the Online Payments button on the Parish Website Home page or the Diocese App. If you are considering taking up **planned giving** you may like to know that **a percentage of the contributions are tax deductible**. If you would like to know more on how planned giving works 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	L McRae K Amon	Easter Roster J France
<u>PSALMIST:</u>	5PM 9.30AM	R McArdle K London	Easter Roster H White
<u>GIFTS</u>	5PM 9.30AM	B Cox C Tuck K Tonkin J Vipan	G Hutchinson L Hutchinson K Amon M Melvey
<u>SERVERS</u>	5PM 9.30AM	TBA	Easter Roster TBA
<u>AV</u>	5PM 9.30AM	J Vipan J France	J Vipan T Alexander
<u>SOUND / VIDEO</u>	5PM 9.30AM	L Hutchinson J France	J France J France
<u>WELCOMERS / USHER</u>	5PM 9.30AM	A Walker G Walker M Melvey P Melvey	H White A Walker G Walker
<u>COVID CLEAN- ING</u>	5PM 9.30AM	M Melvey P Melvey H White J France A Walker G Walker	L Hutchinson G Hutchinson P Melvey M Melvey Li McRae Le McRae
<u>CHURCH CLEANING</u>	COOR MOR	XXXX T Alexander	K & F Dunn R Hay

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

UPCOMING FEAST DAYS MEMORIALS AND SOLEMNITIES

PALM SUNDAY— 2ND APRIL
THURSDAY OF THE LORD'S SUPPER— 6TH APRIL
FRIDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD— 7TH APRIL
PASCHAL VIGIL IN THE HOLY NIGHT— 8TH APRIL
SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION— 9TH APRIL
ANZAC DAY— 25TH APRIL
SAINT MARK— 26TH APRIL
SAINT PETER CHANEL— 28TH APRIL
SAINT CATHERINE OF SIENA— 29TH APRIL
SAINT ATHANASIUS— 2ND MAY

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

Mary Johnson, Barbara Millers, Anna Fitzgerald, Tintumol Thomas, Christopher Maloney, Les Findley, Peter Martyn, Bernadette Martin, Joan Gillett, Bruce Gillett.

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



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





SUNDAY PRAYER SERVICE
Palm Sunday of the Passion of the
Lord Year A
Sunday 02 Apr 2023

The Introductory Rites

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples as Australia's First Peoples and the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the land on which we work and live. Our Parish of St John Vianney Morisset is located on the traditional lands of the Awabakal and Darkinjung people. We honour and pay respect to, Elders past, present and emerging. We acknowledge the spiritual culture of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples across Australia.

Gathering

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

Sign of the Cross

Leader:

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

All:

Amen.

Greeting

Leader:

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

All:

Blessed be God forever.

Introductory Remarks

Leader (in these or similar words):

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

Opening Rite

PENITENTIAL ACT

Leader:

As we prepare to hear the Word of God,
we confess that we are sinners.
Let us ask the Lord for pardon and strength.

A brief period of silence follows.

All:

I confess to almighty God
and to you, my brothers and sisters,
that I have greatly sinned,
in my thoughts and in my words,
in what I have done and in what I have failed to do,

And, striking their breast, they say:

through my fault, through my fault,
through my most grievous fault;

Then they continue:

therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,
all the Angels and Saints,

and you, my brothers and sisters,
to pray for me to the Lord our God.

Leader:

May almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us our sins,
and bring us to everlasting life.

All:

All: Amen.

Opening Prayer

Leader:

Let us pray.

All pause for silent prayer.

Almighty God

Your Son, Jesus, was welcomed as a king
but suffered and carried a cross.

As we begin this Holy Week,
help us draw close to Jesus
and place our lives in his hands.

We make this prayer through Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
for ever and ever.

All:

Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

Is 50:4-7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

*I did not cover my face against insult and I know I will
not be ashamed.*

The Lord has given me
a disciple's tongue.
So that I may know how to reply to the wearied
he provides me with speech.
Each morning he wakes me to hear,
to listen like a disciple.
The Lord has opened my ear.
For my part, I made no resistance,
neither did I turn away.
I offered my back to those who struck me,
my cheeks to those who tore at my beard;
I did not cover my face
against insult and spittle.
The Lord comes to my help,
so that I am untouched by the insults.
So, too, I set my face like flint;
I know I shall not be shamed.

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

The word of the Lord.

All reply:

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 21:8-9. 17-20. 23-24. R. v.2

(R.) My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

1. All who see me deride me.
They curl their lips, they toss their heads.
'He trusted in the Lord, let him save him;
let him release him if this is his friend.' **(R.)**
2. Many dogs have surrounded me,
a band of the wicked beset me.
They tear holes in my hands and my feet.

- I can count every one of my bones. (R.)
3. They divide my clothing among them.
They cast lots for my robe.
O Lord, do not leave me alone,
my strength, make haste to help me! (R.)
 4. I will tell of your name to my brethren
and praise you where they are assembled.
'You who fear the Lord give him praise;
all sons of Jacob, give him glory.
Revere him, Israel's sons.' (R.)

Second Reading

Phil 2:6-11

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

He humbled himself to become like us and God raised him on high.

His state was divine,
yet Christ Jesus did not cling
to his equality with God
but emptied himself
to assume the condition of a slave,
and became as men are,
and being as all men are,
he was humbler yet,
even to accepting death,
death on a cross.
But God raised him high
and gave him the name
which is above all other names
so that all beings
in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld,
should bend the knee at the name of Jesus
and that every tongue should acclaim
Jesus Christ as Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

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 Matthew.

All:

Glory to you, O Lord.

Mt 27:11-54

Jesus was brought before Pontius Pilate, the governor, and the governor put to him this question, 'Are you the king of the Jews?' Jesus replied, 'It is you who say it.' But when he was accused by the chief priests and the elders he refused to answer at all. Pilate then said to him, 'Do you not hear how many charges they have brought against you?' But to the governor's complete amazement, he offered no reply to any of the charges. At festival time it was the governor's practice to release a prisoner for the people, anyone they chose. Now there was at that time a notorious prisoner whose name was Barabbas. So when the crowd gathered, Pilate said to them, 'Which do you want me to release for you: Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?' For Pilate knew it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. Now as he was seated in the chair of judgement, his wife sent him a message, 'Have nothing to do with that man; I have been upset all day by a dream I had about him.'

The chief priests and the elders, however, had persuaded the crowd to demand the release of Barabbas and the execution of Jesus. So when the governor spoke and asked them, 'Which of the two do you want me to release for you?' they said 'Barabbas'. 'But in that case,' Pilate said to them 'what am I to do with Jesus who is called Christ?' They all said, 'Let him be crucified!' 'Why?' he asked 'What harm has he done?' But they shouted all the louder, 'Let him be crucified!' Then Pilate saw that he was making no impression, that in fact a riot was imminent. So he took some water, washed his hands in front of the crowd and said, 'I am innocent of this man's blood. It is your concern.' And the people, to a man, shouted back, 'His blood be on us and on our children!' Then he released Barabbas for them. He ordered Jesus to be first scourged and then handed over to be crucified.

The governor's soldiers took Jesus with them into the Praetorium and collected the whole cohort around him. Then they stripped him and made him wear a scarlet cloak, and having twisted some thorns into a crown they put this on his head and placed a reed in his right hand. To make fun of him they knelt to him saying, 'Hail, king of the Jews!' And they spat on him and took the reed and struck him on the head with it. And when they had finished making fun of him, they took off the cloak and dressed him in his own clothes and led him away to crucify him.

On their way out, they came across a man from Cyrene, Simon by name, and enlisted him to carry his cross. When they had reached a place called Golgotha, that is, the place of the skull, they gave him wine to drink mixed with gall, which he tasted but refused to drink. When they had finished crucifying him they shared out his clothing by casting lots, and then sat down and stayed there keeping guard over him.

Above his head was placed the charge against him; it read: 'This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.' At the same time two robbers were crucified with him, one on the right and one on the left. The passers-by jeered at him; they shook their heads and said 'So you would destroy the Temple and rebuild it in three days! Then save yourself! If you are God's son, come down from the cross!' The chief priests with the scribes and elders mocked him in the same way. 'He saved others,' they said 'he cannot save himself. He is the king of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. He put his trust in God; now let God rescue him if he wants him. For he did say, "I am the son of God."'" Even the robbers who were crucified with him taunted him in the same way.

From the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. And about the ninth hour, Jesus cried out in a loud voice, 'Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?' that is, 'My God, my God, why have you deserted me?' When some of those who stood there heard this, they said, 'The man is calling on Elijah,' and one of them quickly ran to get a sponge which he dipped in vinegar and putting it on a reed, gave it him to drink. 'Wait!' said the rest of them 'and see if Elijah will come to save him.' But Jesus again crying out in a loud voice, yielded up his spirit.

At that, the veil of the Temple was torn in two from top to bottom; the earth quaked; the rocks were split; the tombs opened and the bodies of many holy men rose from the dead, and these, after his resurrection, came out of the tombs, entered the Holy City and appeared to a number of people. Meanwhile the centurion, together with the others guarding Jesus, had seen the earthquake and all that was taking place, and they were terrified and said, 'In truth this was a son of God.'

Reader:

The Gospel of the Lord.

All:

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

All are seated.

Reflection on the Word

Q. Why might the passion narratives have been the first parts of the gospels to be written?

Q. How do you respond to hearing or reading the Passion?

Q. Why might some people see the Cross as an odd symbol for Christianity?

Q. How does the story of Christ's Passion play out in our own lives today?

Profession of Faith

Leader:

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

All:

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

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

**who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of the Faithful

Leader: Sisters and brothers, let us make our prayers
before God, the Father of our Saviour.

Reader: That through compassion and self-giving, the
Holy Church will follow the suffering, death and
resurrection of Christ during Holy Week.

(pause)

In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That the world will know a culture of peace and
nonviolence, by decreasing the use of weapons
by States and citizens. *[Pope Francis' prayer
intention for April 2023.]*

(pause)

In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That those who are unjustly condemned may
live in the truth, and trust in the hope that they
are favoured in the Lord's eyes.

(pause)

In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That Christians may embrace the sacredness of
Holy Week with a commitment to repent of
their sins and strive for true holiness in Christ.

(pause)

In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That all children will loved and nurtured, and
protected from all forms of harm and abuse.

(pause)

In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That, through our Lenten almsgiving, we may
assist those in great need to build secure lives
for their families and communities.

(pause)

In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That all who deny Christ or live with spiritual
distress may become faithful witnesses of
Jesus' love for all humankind.

(pause)

In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That the sick will be shown mercy and
gratitude, especially those who are members of
our community and families.

(pause)

In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That those who have died will live forever with
Christ Jesus, especially those who were
members of our community and families..

(pause)

In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: God our Father, you gave us your Son as life for the
world. Hear our prayers and help us unite ourselves
with the Passion of your Son and so rise to new life with
you. 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 Lord bless us
in all things through Christ
so that we may work together
in loving service.

All make the sign of the cross during the blessing.

All:

Amen.

Dismissal

Leader:

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

All:

Thanks be to God.

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FAITH MATTERS: Finding faith and hope in the creative

It was in late 2022 that I was invited to Murrurundi to assist with an ecumenical gathering focusing on creativity and spirituality. I was delighted to meet those that attended the day, each person came with an openness to share their gifts and felt safe to express their creativity and spirituality.

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One person who attended was Peter Carlin, he brought along with him the recently published book by Nick Cave and Sean O'Hagan titled Faith, Hope and Carnage. I was struck when Peter spoke about the impact that this book has had on restoring his faith with God and the lessons we can all learn from diving deep into the dialogue within the book.

Faith, Hope and Carnage is essentially the transcripts of several long conversations between Cave and O'Hagan that began in 2020 during COVID. The book recalls Caves childhood, times of addiction, loss of his sons and his deep faith, which is something that many people do not realise about Nick Cave.

In a recent conversation with Peter, he spoke to me about the continued impact and influence of Nick Cave's theology revealed in the book and how he can relate to Cave's creative process.

For the last 15 years as part of a retirement plan, Peter and his wife Jane have infused the little country town with international art and design and delicious food. Like many creatives from Sydney and other parts of Australia now call Murrurundi home. While born and raised in Newcastle Peter left home at an early age to study Industrial Design in Copenhagen and has lived, worked and been head hunted in many places around the world and in Australia. It is no wonder that the art and design pieces that were on display in Peter and his wife Janes gallery/café at the old bank building were questioned by those passing through as to where else they could be seen. Many art pieces were unique and acquired through Peters European and Asian connections. Peter has an eye and ear for detail.

Peter reflects on his love of music from an early age, from classical to jazz to everything in between. He recalls on Sunday after mass and lunch the family would gather around the piano or record player to listen to an eclectic mix of compositions, all having a strong sense of story and journey.

When Peter saw the book Faith, Hope and Carnage reviewed in a weekend magazine, he thought this is something he would like to read. In the review which focused on the faith aspects of the book, states that Cave is drawn to traditional Christian ideas, fascinated with the bible and in particular the life of Christ and admits that these elements have been a powerful influence in his work from the very start.

Peter recalls from his childhood a time when his father took him to a mission centre for the homeless in Newcastle and made a point about not judging others by their looks. His father told him that the man in the corner had been a doctor and because of an unfortunate turn of events in his life, it led him to be homeless.

Peter who previously was not necessarily a Nick Cave fan has found great wisdom in his words and has highlighted many significant sections of the conversations, obvious with the multiple bookmarks inside the pages of the book.

In chapter nine the 'Astonishing Idea' Cave speaks about the need to be patient, often we need to do the waiting alone, be alert so we don't lose our nerve because it is to our peril that we miss the astonishing idea, the Jesus idea. We can be side tracked; it is easy to be side tracked. People so easily become distracted, Sean asked Nick at one point, are you afraid that you will lose some of your audience along the way due to your belief and faith, Nick points out that the alternative is much worse. It is vital to learn and grow, as not only through creativity but also as seekers in understanding the truth. At times religion can try to smooth things over, but life is not smooth, there are ridges and cracks.

Peter feels that through contemplation of the dialogue his vision has been sharpened.

"Here is a guy, a rock in rock star who admits having done things wrong in his life and creates a space in the Red Hand Files where people can write to him and ask any question and he takes the time to answer and talk to them. He does not judge others but in fact takes an internal stance on how we should be like Christ ourselves to everyone. Even in Nick Cave's darkest hours of addiction, he was in and out of churches, he was always seeking. We need to be mindful of how we provide outreach to those in need. In a recent visit to the Congo, Pope Francis who in his wheelchair spoke about how people haven't left the church, the church has left the people."

The book helps us consider where we are sitting in all of this? How far are you willing to go to reach out to people? Not waiting for them to come to you, but you going to them. If people do come to you, how are you going to address them, how are you going to be the face to God to them, the living Gospel? How can we be merciful people? Perhaps we need to start to look with fresh eyes and approach these opportunities in creative ways. There are many points of finding light in the darkness throughout this book.

As we come to the end of our Lenten journey, I leave you with this image that Nick Cave uses to describe the birthing of a creative idea.

On the third day standing at the tomb are Mother Mary and Mary Magdalene, when Christ appears to them is like when a creative idea is given life.

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