



**St John  
Vianney**  
Parish Morisset

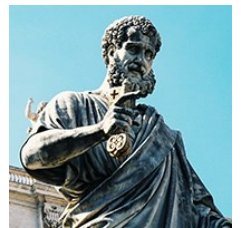


## TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A 27 AUGUST 2023

*In today's Gospel Jesus asks his disciples, 'And you, who do you say that I am?' The crucial question for each of us today is: 'Who is Jesus for us in 2023?'*

*Jesus lived in a real world and was concerned for real people. He vigorously opposed anything that made it difficult for people to live. He won the confidence of the oppressed. They trusted him, and so learned to trust God. This was because Jesus revealed the powerful love of Yahweh, the redeemer God.*

*As followers of Jesus, we too need to demonstrate our being counter-cultural, not by adopting a fortress and fearful attitude, but by showing a kinder, more inclusive, more caring alternative society under God's rule. We must have the courage to be a community of hospitality and compassion, that serves as an alternative to the kingdom of "Caesar".*



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** 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)  
 (We ask that you make an appointment to come to the office)  
 Morisset Parish Office email: [morparish@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:morparish@mn.catholic.org.au)  
 Morisset Parish Web site: [www.vianneymorisset.org](http://www.vianneymorisset.org)  
 Morisset Parish Facebook : <https://www.facebook.com/stjvparish>  
 Morisset Parish Instagram : [https://www.instagram.com/stjvparish\\_morisset/](https://www.instagram.com/stjvparish_morisset/)  
 Morisset Parish Bulletin Items: [morparish@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:morparish@mn.catholic.org.au)

### UPCOMING WORSHIP TIMES :

Saturday	26th August 5pm Mass— Cooranbong
Sunday	27th August 9.30am Mass— Morisset
Tuesday	29th August 9.30am Liturgy— Morisset
Saturday	2nd September 5pm Family Mass— Morisset
Sunday	3rd September 9.30am Mass— Morisset
Tuesday	5th September 9.30am Liturgy Morisset
Saturday	9th September 5pm Mass— Cooranbong
Sunday	10th September 9.30am Mass— Morisset
Saturday	16th September 5pm Family Mass— Morisset
Sunday	17th September 9.30am Mass— Morisset
Tuesday	19th September 9.30am Liturgy— Morisset
Saturday	23rd September 5pm Mass—Cooranbong
Sunday	24th September 9.30am Mass— Morisset

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## Reflection for The Twenty—First Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A — 27th August 2023

In today's Gospel, Jesus asks his disciples, 'who do you say that I am?' That same question could be asked of us here in Morisset in 2023.

Today, many surveys and opinion polls are conducted. One thing that an opinion poll shows, is the variety and often contradictory views, people can have about any issue or individual.

The poll in the Gospel today, bears this out. We see that the people came up with a variety of answers to the crucial question as to who Jesus was. Some people said that he was John the Baptist, some Elijah, others Jeremiah or one of the prophets. It could be potentially embarrassing to be put on the spot, and have a friend look you in the eye and ask, "What do you think of me?" How are we supposed to approach that question? That was pretty much the disciples' challenge in the Gospel this Sunday.

In the days before Twitter or Facebook and U-tube, the disciple's grapevine relied on what they picked up at the synagogue or city gates, plus a little of what the women heard around the town well. Without naming their source, the disciples first answer to the question, cited Herod's notion that Jesus might be John the Baptist back from the dead. Then, they added other opinions that identified him with Elijah or one of the prophets.

Pulling them out of the role of impartial reporting, Jesus asked them one direct question: "But who do you say that I am?" Two Thousand years later, that same question is asked of us, 'Who do you say I am?'

Throughout the ages many millions have venerated the name of Jesus, very few have understood him and fewer have put into practice what he wanted to see done.

It is very easy to use Jesus for one's own purposes, good or bad.

His words have been twisted, to mean everything, anything, or nothing. The irony is that some of the things he opposed in the world of his time, have been resurrected, preached, and spread more widely throughout the world in his name in our time.

Our world is desperately hungry for meaning and thirsty for love. Those of us who follow Jesus, have an obligation to the world to ensure that when we present Jesus as the answer to our modern ills, it is the real Jesus of Nazareth that we present.

John France

## Safeguarding

What is Safeguarding. &-The National Catholic Safeguarding Standards. The 'Standards' have been developed to ensure the safety of all who encounter the Church, with a focus on children and adults at risk. The Standards hold the Catholic Church to the highest degree of accountability in response to failures uncovered by the Royal Commission.

These Standards are a 'must do', not an option, for all Diocese's and Parishes to adopt. To ensure that Diocese's and Parishes are compliant with the Standards, they will be systematically audited.

On Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> August, the Leadership Team, together with the Parish Secretary Rosanna, attended a Diocesan Promoters of Safeguarding Network meeting, at the East Leisure and Golf Club in East Maitland.

The meeting was part of the preparation for the audit of the Diocese's compliance with the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards. As you know 43% of parishes in the Diocese of Maitland/Newcastle will be audited for Safeguarding compliance in the coming months. The focus of the meeting was on Compliance for the parish's volunteers and Parishioner Helpers.

Our Parish will not be audited in 2023, but it is anticipated that it will be included in the next round of the process in 2024.

## Governance Meeting

Parish Leaders from the Watagan Deanery, (Parishes of Shortland, Wallsend, Glendale, Warners Bay, Boolaroo, Booragul, Toronto, Morisset) together with their Parish Secretaries, will be meeting with Megan Grainger, head of the Diocesan Governance Team, on Wednesday 30 August at Warners Bay Parish Hall. The meeting will discuss ongoing parish viability, and the work the Diocesan Governance Team has been doing, and their response to changes in the insurance landscape (including CCI entering in to run off and the new complaints framework).

## Perpetual Day of Remembrance

In 2020 Bishop Bill Wright decreed Perpetual Day of Remembrance Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> September as a feast inscribed in the diocesan liturgical calendar. It is the desire of Bishop Michael Kennedy that we continue to mark the Perpetual Day of Remembrance in our parishes – particularly on Perpetual Day of Remembrance Sunday. On this day we pray that the abuse that devastated the lives of so many children and young people and their families, never happens again.

## Social Justice Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> August 2023

Social Justice Sunday is observed every year on the final Sunday of August. This year's commemoration falls on 27th August. The Catholic Church in Australia has a long tradition of commemorating Social Justice Sunday. The Catholic Bishops have issued an annual Social Justice statement practically every year since 1940. The social justice remarks are made on behalf of the entire bishops' conference, in time for social Justice Sunday. These declarations are issued with the hope of provoking thought and action throughout the year.

## Fr Richard Lennan

Recently many people from across the Maitland/Newcastle Diocese, had the opportunity to listen to Fr Richard Lennan, a priest of our diocese, a theologian, and a professor from Boston College. Richard moved to the U.S. in 2007 to teach at Weston Jesuit School of Theology in Cambridge MA. Richard is the author of a number of books, including *Tilling The Church* published in 2022. Richard was home briefly to 'touch base' with his family in Newcastle. He spoke to different audiences about God, Christianity, Grace, the Church, Mission, Discipleship, Pilgrimage, Synodality and Hope.

## Some 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?

**Stole** (*Latin stola, a long gown*) A vestment that now consists of a long, narrow strip of cloth, matching in colour the vestments of the feast or season, and worn by bishops' priests and deacons as a sign of their official ministry of the sacraments and in preaching. It goes around the neck with both ends hanging down the front.

**Corporal** (*Latin corpus, body*) A small white linen cloth (*about 15cm square*) on which are placed the chalice and host during the celebration of the Eucharist.

**Purificator.** (*purifier*) A small linen cloth used during Mass to dry and clean the chalice.

**Pyx.** A small metal container in which the Blessed Sacrament is carried to the sick.

"We, Australia's Bishops, invite members of the Church to walk with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in this year of great possibility."



## ACBC Social Justice Statement

Bishops' statement calls for 'new engagement' with First Peoples "Strengthening our relationship with our First Peoples is integral and indeed critical to the strengthening of the whole nation."

Australia's Catholic bishops have called on the nation to seek "a new engagement" with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in their annual Social Justice Statement being launched today.

Since the 1940s, the bishops have published annual statements that urge the Catholic community to reflect and act on social, economic and ecological issues. The statements are published as a focal point for Social Justice Sunday, which will be marked on August 27 this year.

This year's statement, Listen, Learn, Love: A New Engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, will be launched in Western Sydney on Thursday morning by Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv, chair of the Bishops Commission for Social Justice, Mission and Service.

"One of the objectives of this statement is that we want Catholics to understand that Catholic social teaching and Catholic social action are not simply theoretical and academic exercises," he will say.

"We hear what God is saying to us about justice by being with our sisters and brothers on the peripheries of society."

While the Social Justice Statement is a teaching document of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, a large part of this year's statement was written by members of the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council. It is part of the message's exhortation to "listen".

"Listening is hard. Hearing about young people taking their lives, about so many people ending up in jail, of children still being taken away from their parents and grandparents and about the ongoing racism is tough," Bishop Long will say.

"It must be so much more difficult for these people to tell us about their painful experiences. We are deeply grateful to those who shared their stories of pain with us."

The theme for this year's statement was chosen in May 2022, well before the Voice to Parliament referendum was mooted and before the timing of a vote was proposed. While the bishops don't suggest how people should vote, Bishop Long says "whatever the outcome of this year's referendum, we ask the

Church in Australia to make efforts to lead the way for our fellow Australians" in pursuing reconciliation.

"Our attitudes and actions towards First Nations Peoples need to be grounded in justice, love and humility," he will say.

"We need to listen with deep respect and learn from them about what needs to be done to improve their situations. We need to walk with them, day by day, and work with them to bring about change for the better – for their people and for all of us.

"Strengthening our relationship with our First Peoples is integral and indeed critical to the strengthening of the whole nation."

Access the statement at: <https://socialjustice.catholic.org.au/>

## CatholicCare delivers support to those who are struggling

As we continue to battle the rising cost of living this winter, it's no secret that thousands of people across the state are struggling. ELIZABETH SYMINGTON PUBLISHED AUGUST 22, 2023

According to data from the 2021 Census and Homelessness NSW, homelessness has slightly decreased in NSW but has increased in regional areas. The Hunter Valley (excluding Newcastle) recorded a 32.5% jump, and the Mid-North Coast experienced a 25.9% increase.

These devastating figures mean more people need our help. At CatholicCare's Community Kitchens we're also seeing this increase in demand - our service delivery has doubled this year with hundreds of people relying on our service for food every week.

However, it's not just our Kitchens that are providing support. People are turning to our Community Care Pantry for food staples and more than 100 meals are delivered to Motto Farm Motel in Heatherbrae each week to feed families and individuals who are waiting for permanent accommodation.

Food Programs Coordinator Michelle Robinson said, "There are almost 100 people each week and most residents we support at Heatherbrae are awaiting permanent accommodation, sadly some have been waiting for over a year."

"Meal support is important as many residents do not have transport and food services are very limited in this area. Cooking facilities and food storage are also minimal in the motel rooms." CatholicCare partners with Hume Housing and the Port Stephens Neighbourhood Centre to provide this service. Meals have been delivered to the motel since March this year.

For many, the delivery is vital – on receiving a meal one resident said, "This is the most nutritious food I have eaten in two weeks".

At CatholicCare, we can't provide these services without your support. Our Food Programs receive no government funding and rely on donations to keep operating.

By donating to our 2023 Fundraising Appeal, you could help us make a difference. Go to <https://www.mycase.com.au/page/318856/make-a-difference> to find out more:

## This Month—Prayers for the Sick

This month we pray especially for those diagnosed with life threatening illnesses be they Cancer, Heart or Other life altering diseases. We pray for the patients their medical practitioners and their families and friends.

## Confirmation

The Sacrament of Confirmation will be conferred in our St John Vianney Church Morisset by Bishop Michael Kennedy on Friday evening 8th September 7pm We ask that you keep our children and their families, who are preparing for this sacrament in your prayers.

## 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 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	TBA R Hay	TBA TBA
<u>PSALMIST:</u>	5PM 9.30AM	P Melvey D Whitten	TBA
<u>GIFTS</u>	5PM 9.30AM	B Cox J Vipan G Hutchinson L Hutchinson	TBA
<u>SERVERS</u>	5PM 9.30AM	M Melvey F Dyson V Paulo C Lawandos	TBA
<u>Av</u>	5PM 9.30AM	U France M Fowler	TBA
<u>SOUND / VIDEO</u>	5PM 9.30AM	J France J France	TBA
<u>WELCOMERS</u>	5PM 9.30AM	P Melvey K Lendon H White	TBA
<u>CHURCH CLEANING</u>	COOR MOR	P Stewart K Lendon	TBA

**Our Parish supports The Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle in its 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 Phone: 02 4979 1390 or 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).**

## UPCOMING FEAST DAYS MEMORIALS AND SOLEMNITIES

SAINT AUGUSTINE (M) - 28TH AUGUST  
THE PASSION OF SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST (M) - 29TH AUGUST  
THE NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY (F) - 8TH SEPT  
SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM (M) - 13TH SEPT  
THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS (F) - 14TH SEPT  
OUR LADY OF SORROWS (M) - 15TH SEPT  
SAINTS CORNELIUS AND CYPRIAN (M) - 16TH SEPT  
SAINTS ANDREW KIM TAEON, PAUL CHONG HASANG AND COMPANIONS (M) - 20TH SEPT  
SAINT MATTHEW (F) - 21ST SEPT

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

Donna Hazzard, Pam Mullaly, Mary Johnson, Tintumol Thomas, 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

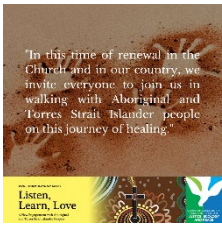
My Jesus,  
I believe that You  
are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.  
I love You above all things,  
and I desire to receive You into my soul.  
Since I cannot at this moment  
receive You sacramentally,  
come at least spiritually into my heart.  
I embrace You as if You were already there and 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](http://www.mn.catholic.org.au/places/live-stream)**







**SUNDAY PRAYER SERVICE**  
**Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**Year A**  
**Sunday 27 Aug 2023**  
**Social Justice Sunday**

**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.

**Social Justice Sunday**

On this Social Justice Sunday, Australia's Bishops are asking us to renew our engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

In their Social Justice Statement, Listen, Learn, Love: A New Engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, they join with the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council (NATSICC) to call on us to develop relationships of humility and love with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

The statement tells us about the painful experiences of many First Nations people. It is very challenging reading in parts.

We are followers of Christ whose central message is that love is the way. Prominent Aboriginal lawyer, Noel Pearson, is quoted in the statement as saying that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people feel unloved. How difficult must that be? We can't just turn a blind eye to this.

We are going to vote in the Voice referendum before the end of the year. NATSICC supports a Yes vote, but the Bishops will not tell us how to vote. However, they do urge us to inform ourselves about the issues and to engage in respectful dialogue about the issues, especially with First Nations People. This is one moment when we can try harder to listen to First Nations People and learn from them about their experiences and hopes.

The referendum is an important moment in our history. Just as important is what happens in the months and years following. As the Bishops and NATSICC say, we, in the Church, can model how Jesus' way of love can make a difference.

On this Social Justice Sunday, let's commit ourselves to reaching out to First Nations people in love and humility. Let's try to listen to them and learn from them and walk the journey of healing together – first in relation to the referendum and, then, in the period that follows.

**A Prayer for the Journey of Love**

**God our Father**

**We praise you, bless you and thank you.**

**We have everything because of you.**

**You are good and we love You.**

**Jesus our Brother,**

**you came into this world  
to show us the way of love.**

**You bring good news to those who are poor and oppressed.**

**You are one with those who suffer.**

**You are one with the First Peoples of Australia.  
Amidst all their pain, you give them hope that justice,  
reconciliation and peace will flow  
and that they will find their rightful place in our common home.**

**Creator Spirit,  
you have moved through this land since the beginning of time.  
You bless Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples with the**

**wisdom  
that enables them to care for each other and to care for  
country.**

**Fill us all with humility and love  
so that we listen with respect to their wisdom and learn from  
them.**

**Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples invite us to  
journey with  
them towards a new day where there is healing and justice for  
them  
and for all Australians.**

**As we prepare to vote in the referendum on a Voice to  
Parliament,  
may we befriend them and listen to them with deep respect.  
Shape us into a community of love  
which is a sign of your divine communion of love.  
Help us to show all Australians how to build a civilisation of  
love in  
this land now and in the years to come.  
In You we place all our trust and hope.  
Amen**

**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:**

Before listening to the Word of God

let us praise the Lord Jesus Christ  
who has raised us to new life.

*A brief period of silence follows.*

**Leader:**

Lord Jesus, you have built your Church on a firm foundation:

Lord, have mercy.

**All: Lord, have mercy.**

Christ Jesus, your love is eternal: Christ, have mercy.

**All: Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you are the Christ, the son of the living God: 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 on high  
your son Jesus inspired Peter  
to be a rock of faith for the Church.  
Increase our faith in you.  
When we are unsure of the right path  
give us strength to follow in your way.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
for ever and ever.

**All:**

**Amen.**

### The Liturgy of the Word

#### First Reading

**Isaiah 22:19-23**

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

*I place the key of the House of David upon his shoulder.*

Thus says the Lord of hosts to Shebna, the master of the palace:

I dismiss you from your office,  
I remove you from your post,  
and the same day I call on my servant  
Eliakim son of Hilkiyah.

I invest him with your robe,  
gird him with your sash,  
entrust him with your authority;  
and he shall be a father  
to the inhabitants of Jerusalem  
and to the House of Judah.

I place the key of the House of David  
on his shoulder;  
should he open, no one shall close,  
should he close, no one shall open.

I drive him like a peg  
into a firm place;  
he will become a throne of glory  
for his father's house.

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

The word of the Lord.

**All reply:**

**Thanks be to God.**

### Responsorial Psalm

**Ps 137:1-3. 6. 8. R. v.8**

**(R.) Lord, your love is eternal;**

**do not forsake the work of your hands.**

1. I thank you, Lord, with all my heart,  
you have heard the words of my mouth.  
Before the angels I will bless you.  
I will adore before your holy temple. **(R.)**
2. I thank you for your faithfulness and love  
which excel all we ever knew of you.  
On the day I called, you answered;  
you increased the strength of my soul. **(R.)**
3. The Lord is high yet he looks on the lowly  
and the haughty he knows from afar.  
Your love, O Lord, is eternal,  
discard not the work of your hands. **(R.)**

### Second Reading

**Romans 11:33-36**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

*From him, through him, and in him are all things.*

How rich are the depths of God – how deep his wisdom and knowledge – and how impossible to penetrate his motives or understand his methods! Who could ever know the mind of the Lord? Who could ever be his counsellor? Who could ever give him anything or lend him anything? All that exists comes from him; all is by him and for him. To him be glory for ever! Amen.

*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.**

**Matthew 16:13-20**

*You are Peter, to you I will give the keys of the kingdom of heaven.*

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say he is John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he said 'who do you say I am?' Then Simon Peter spoke up, 'You are the Christ,' he said, 'the Son of the living God.' Jesus replied, 'Simon son of Jonah, you are a happy man! Because it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. So I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven: whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.' Then he gave the disciples strict orders not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.

**Reader:**

The Gospel of the Lord.

**All:**

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

*All are seated.*

### Reflection on the Word

Q. Why was it significant that Peter's profession of faith took place outside Jewish territory?

Q. How would you answer Jesus' question, 'Who do you say I am?'

Q. What are different ways in which people answer Jesus' question?  
Q. In what ways have some people used a mistaken understanding of who they believed Jesus to be?  
Q. How would Jesus' confirmation of Peter's declaration have made a difference to the way the disciples saw Jesus?

## Profession of Faith

**Leader:**

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

**All:**

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

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

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

## Prayers of the Faithful

**Leader:** Brothers and sisters, let us bring our prayers before God,  
the source of all wisdom.

**Reader:** That our Holy Father Pope N. will use the key of  
the House of David wisely in opening God's  
plan for his people.

In your mercy:

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

**Reader:** That those who work in public or national office  
will make decisions wisely and justly.

In your mercy:

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

**Reader:** That missionaries will be blessed as they speak  
the challenging message of Jesus.

In your mercy:

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

**Reader:** That, on this Social Justice Sunday, we will  
adopt the theme of the Bishops' Statement to  
"Listen, Learn, Love" as we engage with  
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

In your mercy:

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

**Reader:** That our parish community will live in  
obedience and reverence to the church as the  
key to God's kingdom.

In your mercy:

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

**Reader:** That all who are sick will be raised in health and  
spirit, especially those who are dear to us.

In your mercy:

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

**Reader:** That all who have died will find eternal love in  
Heaven, especially those who were members of  
our community and families.

In your mercy:

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

**Leader:** Loving God, your wisdom is beyond our understanding.  
Hear our prayers and help us to always praise you in the  
depths of our heart. 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 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 the peace to love and serve the Lord.

**All:**

**Thanks be to God.**

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# *The Uluru Statement from the Heart*

We, gathered at the 2017 National Constitutional Convention, coming from all points of the southern sky, make this statement from the heart:

Our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander tribes were the first sovereign Nations of the Australian continent and its adjacent islands, and possessed it under our own laws and customs. This our ancestors did, according to the reckoning of our culture, from the Creation, according to the common law from 'time immemorial', and according to science more than 60,000 years ago.

This sovereignty is a spiritual notion: the ancestral tie between the land, or 'mother nature', and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who were born therefrom, remain attached thereto, and must one day return thither to be united with our ancestors. This link is the basis of the ownership of the soil, or better, of sovereignty. It has never been ceded or extinguished, and co-exists with the sovereignty of the Crown.

How could it be otherwise? That peoples possessed a land for sixty millennia and this sacred link disappears from world history in merely the last two hundred years?

With substantive constitutional change and structural reform, we believe this ancient sovereignty can shine through as a fuller expression of Australia's nationhood.

Proportionally, we are the most incarcerated people on the planet. We are not an innately criminal people. Our children are alienated from their families at unprecedented rates. This cannot be because we have no love for them. And our youth languish in detention in obscene numbers. They should be our hope for the future.

These dimensions of our crisis tell plainly the structural nature of our problem. This is the torment of our powerlessness.

We seek constitutional reforms to empower our people and take a rightful place in our own country. When we have power over our destiny our children will flourish. They will walk in two worlds and their culture will be a gift to their country.

We call for the establishment of a First Nations Voice enshrined in the Constitution.

Makarrata is the culmination of our agenda: the coming together after a struggle. It captures our aspirations for a fair and truthful relationship with the people of Australia and a better future for our children based on justice and self-determination.

We seek a Makarrata Commission to supervise a process of agreement-making between governments and First Nations and truth-telling about our history.

In 1967 we were counted, in 2017 we seek to be heard. We leave base camp and start our trek across this vast country. We invite you to walk with us in a movement of the Australian people for a better future