



SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR A 5 MARCH 2023

As we begin the second week of Lent, we encounter the disciples struggling to understand Jesus, and the early Christians trying to figure out how to live the Gospel.

Our faith today is also being put to the test as that of Abraham and the disciples. Like them, we are challenged to overcome our fears and doubts.

*Many Catholics would probably find it difficult to use the words of St Peter in the Gospel today .
"It is wonderful for us to be here". Perhaps we question whether our faith is rooted and growing,
or is superficial.*

*If our own understanding about who Jesus is, remains a struggle with ongoing questions, let us not
be discouraged. If our hearts are open, we can trust that his spirit is with us today, as he
encourages us to walk the unknown pathways ahead, with courage, with perseverance and with
trust in the God of history.*



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	4th March 5pm Family Mass— Morisset
Sunday	5th March 9.30am Mass— Morisset
Tuesday	7th March 9.30am Liturgy— Morisset
Saturday	11th March 5pm Mass— Cooranbong
Sunday	12th March 9.30am Mass— Morisset
Tuesday	14th March 9.30am Liturgy— Morisset

We are back to walk in at all services.

We are still recording our Sunday Services and placing them on our Website and Facebook page for you to view if you are sick and unable to attend services.

TO KEEP OUR COMMUNITY SAFE WE ENCOURAGE :
MASK WEARING ,
PHYSICAL DISTANCING,
HAND SANITISING,
And STAYING HOME IF SICK

2023-YEAR A BULLETIN REFLECTION SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

Each year, the Second Sunday of Lent, brings us an account of the familiar story of the Transfiguration of Christ on Mount Tabor, when Jesus invited three of his friends to come to the mountain with him. While they were there, strange things happened, that left the disciples afraid and

wondering just who Jesus was.

Sometimes we must also wonder the same — who is this Jesus?

You would probably agree that there are mountains in all our lives:

The mountains of unforeseen circumstances that seem to suddenly discover us; The mountains of seeming insurmountable obstacles looming in front of us; The mountains of real challenges coming to greet us.

We can try and run from the mountain, or we can face the mountain and slowly begin our climb.

Lent is that time of the year, each year, in which we are invited to 'go up our own mountain' as it were and look at our life's journey. What pushes us, and what pulls us.

It is the time to ask, "what do we really want in our life, what are we really looking for in our life?" There will be times in each of our lives, when we will have to go forward, armed only with our courage and faith.

Some people say that prayer, religion, and faith is escapism. As Catholics we know they are not, and are meant to help us face life with all its difficulties and challenges. To embrace the high & low moments of life, the hilltop, and the pit. Even for Jesus, life was a journey of faith.

Lent is about more than self-control. Lent is about finding aspects of us, that are less than Christ-like, and letting them die.

So today let us pray that we may not grow faint on our journey, but that we may have the courage to persevere. John France



WAY OF THE CROSS 2023

This year, following over 55 years of local tradition, the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle will once again celebrate the Ecumenical Way of the Cross on the grounds of Toronto Parish, Kilaben Bay on the Fifth Sunday of Lent.

Picking up the theme from this year's World Youth Day (WYD) – "Mary arose and went with haste" – we will join together as we experience the Way of the Cross through the eyes of Mary. We will journey with creative retellings of Mary's story as shared by women from across our Diocese and fellow Christian Churches. This prayerful experience will be supported by our school communities and local WYD pilgrims.

People will start gathering at St Joseph's Toronto from 2pm at the Community Centre. The event will start at 3pm, afternoon tea will be provided.

MINISTRY WORKSHOPS

Thank you to those who indicated what ministries they would like to be involved in at Mass. New rosters will be available shortly. In the meantime the February roster has rolled over to March.

Workshops have been organised for;

Altar Servers Saturday 11th March 10am Morisset Church.

Proclaimers Saturday 18th March 10am Morisset Church.

Offertory Gifts & Altar Servers Saturday 25th March 10am Morisset Church.

INSTALLATION OF NEW BISHOP

Preparations are well underway for Bishop Michael Kennedy's installation on Friday 17 March at 6pm. The numbers are strictly limited for the installation due to the size of the Cathedral. At this point every parish has a restricted invitation capacity of just six souls.

It's also a big week for the priests/leaders and priests/leaders/principals' day just prior to the installation. The Installation will also be live streamed.

It is up to each parish to register those that are attending. They need to bring their ticket with them. They won't get access without it.

Bishop Michael has a plan to visit each parish, school, and agency of the Diocese during his first few months. He wants to meet as you know the local who's who of your parishes such as the mayor, local parliamentarians, heads of churches as well as any other notary in parishes. We will be contacted when dates become available.

CARITAS NEWSLETTER

The latest edition of the Caritas Newsletter is out. Read it here:

https://www.caritas.org.au/media/nqajalsp/caritasnews_summer-2023_digital_4th-revision.pdf



NO ONE CAN BE SAVED ALONE

by harrison.pocknee@catholic.org.au
02/23/2023

The lessons of the COVID-19 pandemic are the focus of Pope Francis Message for the World Day of Peace 2023. Its title is No One Can Be

Saved Alone. Combatting COVID-19 Together, Embarking Together on Paths of Peace.

The Holy Father encourages us to remain hopeful and focussed on what is good and just in the midst of dark times like the COVID-19 pandemic. He noted the many ways in which the pandemic exposed our fragility. Not only did it result in many deaths globally, but it threatened the mental health of many and increased loneliness in the community. It also presented significant economic challenges with many job losses and increased job insecurity and business failures.

The Pope tells us that the key lesson we should learn from the pandemic is that we have a shared humanity and that those values which encourage and promote togetherness and solidarity will help us to follow paths which promote greater justice and peace rather than more conflict and insecurity.

However, as a vaccine and other public health measures began to have an effect and allowed us to hope that we had emerged from the worst of the crisis, the world was plunged into another crisis -the war in Ukraine. The Pope reminds us that, apart from the serious impact on those directly involved in this conflict, all of us have experienced challenges because of it, e.g., food shortages and increasing fuel prices.

In the face of these crises, the Pope says we need to let go of the tendency to focus on ourselves and, instead, to value the common good.

In our own context here in Australia, are there some things that you could do to foster a greater sense of human solidarity in your own circles as well as in the sphere of public policy? Perhaps, as you read the Pope's message by yourself and with others, this question could be a starting point for your reflection.

The Pope's message can be found at:
<https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/peace/documents/20221208-messaggio-56giornatamondiale-pace2023.html>



Tereesa is a Gamilaroi woman from Western Sydney who struggled with homelessness while raising her four children. At just 16 years old, she had to leave school after falling pregnant with her first child. A single mother struggling with homelessness, Tereesa's only concern was finding stability for her children.

Seeking a better future for her family, Tereesa joined Baabayn Aboriginal Corporation's Young Mums and Bubs Group, supported by Caritas Australia. Baabayn helped Tereesa access housing and psychological support. Today, Tereesa is studying a certificate in Community Services so that she can strengthen her skills and give back to her community.

Tereesa now works at Baabayn, providing support to young mothers and mentoring the next generation of young people.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2023.

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 and envelopes available from your parish, by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion, or by calling 1800 024 413.

Photo: Richard Wainwright/Caritas Australia

MIDDLE EAST EMERGENCY APPEAL

Caritas Turkey and other Caritas agencies are responding to a series of powerful earthquakes in southeast Turkey and Syria, where thousands of lives have been lost already and the death toll increases by the hour.

Caritas Turkey are on the ground coordinating with local authorities and other organisations to see how they can best assist. Your generous support can help provide emergency relief to help families recover and rebuild from disaster. Visit www.caritas.org.au/donate/emergency-appeals/turkey-and-syria-earthquake/ or call 1800 024 413 toll free to provide much needed support to the Middle East. by donating to our Middle East Emergency Appeal.



ART AND SPIRITUALITY WORKSHOP

Creation of art provides an opportunity for a deepening awareness of oneself and the world, and can act as a catalyst for evoking the

Spirit. Art is a means to see-to-re-search and find the living meaning of what it means to open the heart. Everyone has the ability to create art, but in order for it to be theological, the artist needs to explore ways that it makes sense of faith. Opening the heart through art involves making meaning through the creation, then reflecting on the art itself and the unfolding the moment-to-moment direct experience of the process.

This workshop will provide an opportunity to awaken the Spirit through the beauty of God's creation, prayer, and reflection. Participants will engage in art making experiences which will nourish their faith.

Date: Thursday 23 March, 9am-3pm Venue: Kilaben Bay Community Centre Cost: \$25 per person To register go to:

www.eventbrite.com.au/e/art-and-spirituality-workshop-march-2023-tickets-532521174167



POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTION FOR MARCH 2023

We pray for those who have suffered harm from members of the Church; may they find within the Church herself a concrete response to their pain and suffering.

HISTORY, THEOLOGY AND PRACTICE OF SYNODALITY - FREE ONLINE COURSE OFFERED BY BOSTON COLLEGE

Through an online platform you will have access to a series of pre-recorded videos during March 2023.

"Synodality is not the chapter of a treatise on ecclesiology, and even less a fad, a slogan or the new term to be used or manipulated in our meetings. No! Synodality expresses the nature of the Church, its form, its style, its mission." Pope Francis

To register go to: <https://formaciononline.bc.edu/en/home/>

FINDING OUR PURPOSE... WITH A PINT!

Young people across our Diocese are invited to join for Pints with a Purpose. Hosted at Sydney Junction Hotel, it's an opportunity for us to journey together. It's on Monday 6 March at 6pm.



menALIVE WEEKEND FOR MEN

What are you doing on 25 and 26 March? Could you benefit from a weekend featuring talks, personal testimonies, opportunities for discussion, and space to reflect? Since menALIVE commenced in 2003, thousands of Catholic men have been encouraged and inspired at weekends across Australia. Now, a local menALIVE weekend is being

organised in Toronto, conducted by experienced leaders from the menALIVE Team.

The cost is \$50 per person, with lunch and dinner on Saturday provided. For more information or to register, visit <https://torontoparish.org/menalive-mens-weekend/> Enquiries, phone Phil McWilliam (0408 88 0408), Col Gwynne (0409 047 644), or Toronto Parish Office (4959 2777).

DIVINE RETREAT CENTRE – MARCH 2023 PROGRAM

The Divine Retreat Centre will host several retreats in March, they include:

- 1st Friday Healing Service, Chatswood – 3 March
- One Day Malayalam Retreat – 4 March
- Lenten Growth Retreat – 17 to 19 March
- Spiritual Retreat at St Patrick's Wallsend – 20 March
- Spiritual Retreat at St Luke's Revesby – 21 March
- One Day Pilgrimage – 26 March

For more information, visit www.divineretreatcentre.org

PRAYING THE GOSPELS

You are invited to connect and pray with each other across the Diocese from your own home. God speaks to us through the words of the Gospel and then through artist's images of the Gospel message. Join us each Wednesday 5.00 - 5.45pm.

Zoom link: <https://mncatholic.zoom.us/j/68191395109>

Password: 316071 For more information contact: rose.mcallister@mn.catholic.org.au

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	J France H White	P Melvey K Lendon
<u>PSALMIST:</u>	5PM 9.30AM	P Robertson M Shamley	M Melvey J Vipan
<u>GIFTS</u>	5PM 9.30AM	A Dussin L McArdle A Walker G Walker	H White P Herbert J Hutchins K Amon
<u>SERVERS</u>	5PM 9.30AM	P Melvey V Paulo	J France M Melvey
<u>AV</u>	5PM 9.30AM	J Vipan M Foo	M Foo J Vipan
<u>SOUND / VIDEO</u>	5PM 9.30AM	L Hutchinson J France	U France J France
<u>WELCOMERS</u>	5PM 9.30AM	A Sillence TBA	TBA TBA
<u>COVID TEAM</u>	5PM 9.30AM	J France P Herbert K Lendon K Amon	L Hutchinson P Robertson B Hutcheson J Hutchins
<u>COVID CLEAN- ING</u>	5PM 9.30AM	All available Covid team members	All available Covid team members
<u>CHURCH CLEANING</u>	COOR MOR	XXXX B Hutcheson P Robertson	A Dussin P Herbert T Alexander

The Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle has an 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: 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

SAINTS PERPETUA AND FELICITY— 7TH MARCH
SAINT PATRICK— 17TH MARCH
SAINT JOSEPH— 19TH MARCH
THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD— 25TH MARCH
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

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

Les Findley, Peter Martyn, Brian Grogan, Fiona McAlinden, Stephen McKay, June Purcell, Jeremy McMullen, Harry Goldman, Bernadette Martin, John Francisco, Joan Gillett, Bruce Gillett.

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

Recently Deceased: Ian Douglas



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.

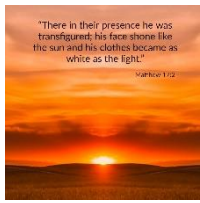
AN ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

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

Second Sunday of Lent Year A

Sunday 05 Mar 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

LITANY OF PRAISE

Leader:

The Lord is rich in mercy and kindness.
Let us prepare ourselves to hear God's Word
and praise the Lord Jesus Christ.

A brief period of silence follows.

Leader:

Lord Jesus, you have called us to be holy: Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you bring us to God's holy mountain: Christ have mercy.

All: Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you reveal to us your glory: 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:

All: Amen.

Opening Prayer

Leader:

Let us pray.

All pause for silent prayer.

God in heaven
your glory shines on the face of Jesus.
Help us to listen to your Son
and reflect your light to others
so that all may know of your greatness.
We make this prayer through Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
for ever and ever.

All:

Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

Gen 12:1-4

A reading from the book of Genesis

The call of Abraham, the father of God's people.

The Lord said to Abram, 'Leave your country, your family and your father's house, for the land I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name so famous that it will be used as a blessing.

'I will bless those who bless you:

I will curse those who slight you.

All the tribes of the earth

shall bless themselves by you.'

So Abram went as the Lord told him.

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

The word of the Lord.

All reply:

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 32:4-5. 18-20. 22. R. v.22

(R.) Lord, let your mercy be on us,
as we place our trust in you.

1. The word of the Lord is faithful
and all his works to be trusted.
The Lord loves justice and right
and fills the earth with his love. (R.)
2. The Lord looks on those who revere him,
on those who hope in his love,
to rescue their souls from death,
to keep them alive in famine. (R.)
3. Our soul is waiting for the Lord.
The Lord is our help and our shield.
May your love be upon us, O Lord,
as we place all our hope in you. (R.)

Second Reading

2 Tm 1:8-10

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to Timothy

God has saved us, and called us to be holy.

With me, bear the hardships for the sake of the Good News,
relying on the power of God who has saved us and called us to be holy – not because of anything we ourselves have done but for his own purpose and by his own grace. This grace had already been granted to us, in Christ Jesus, before the beginning of time,

but it has only been revealed by the Appearing of our saviour Christ Jesus. He abolished death, and he has proclaimed life and immortality through the Good News.

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 17:1-9

His face shone like the sun.

Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone. There in their presence he was transfigured; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became as white as the light. Suddenly Moses and Elijah appeared to them; they were talking with him. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Lord,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He was still speaking when suddenly a bright cloud covered them with shadow, and from the cloud there came a voice which said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; he enjoys my favour. Listen to him.' When they heard this, the disciples fell on their faces, overcome with fear. But Jesus came up and touched them. 'Stand up,' he said 'do not be afraid.' And when they raised their eyes they saw no one but only Jesus.

As they came down from the mountain Jesus gave them this order. 'Tell no one about the vision until the Son of Man has risen from the dead.'

Reader:

The Gospel of the Lord.

All:

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

All are seated.

Reflection on the Word

What message did the Transfiguration hold for the three disciples who witnessed it?

What message does the event hold for us today?

Have you ever had the experience of not wanting to 'go back down the mountain'?

Why is this reading chosen for use in the season of Lent?

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

transfigured Christ, let us bring our prayers before the Lord.

Reader: That our Holy Father Pope Francis, will
continue to guide the Church in Christ's
message for the faithful.

(pause)

In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That governments will make good decisions
based on Christ's message of grace and mercy.

(pause)

In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That those who do not know Christ will come
into the light and discover the glory of his
Resurrection.

(pause)

In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That our parish community will have the
strength to carry out anything that God asks of
us.

(pause)

In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That developments in science and technology
will serve humanity and that we will be wary of
any harmful consequences.

(pause)

In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That families will consider ways in which they
can make good environmental choices for their
homes and neighbourhoods.

(pause)

In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That our support of Project Compassion will help to
keep alive our vision of Christ as the one we should
most listen to, the light of the world.

(pause)

In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That the sick will be know the presence of Christ our rock of salvation, 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 shine like the sun in God's presence forever, especially those who were members of our community and families.

(pause)

In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Loving God, you ask us to listen to the words of your Son. Hear our prayers and give us faith in the beloved Christ to always carry out your will and to live your word. 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

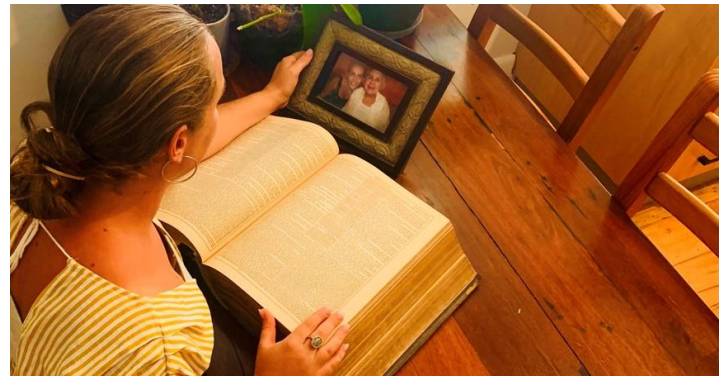
Leader:

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

All:

Thanks be to God.

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The English translation of the Psalm Responses, the Alleluia and Gospel Verses, and the Lenten Gospel Acclamations, and the Titles, Summaries, and Conclusion of the Readings, from the Lectionary for Mass © 1997, 1981, 1968, International Committee on English in the Liturgy, Inc. All rights reserved. The prayers are from the English Translation of the Roman Missal © 2010 International Committee on English in the Liturgy Inc. (ICEL). All rights reserved.



FAITH MATTERS: My last wish for you

It has always been a belief of mine that whilst one can be born into a religious tradition, it does not mean that they are faithful. It is the awe-inspiring encounters that people have, and the extraordinary people that they meet during their life journey that truly opens their eyes to faith. I believe this to be true in my own experience.

ELLIE MATTHEWS PUBLISHED FEBRUARY 28, 2023

My grandmother Jean Mildred Drury was ever-present in my younger years of life. She was an intelligent, talented, kind, funny and truly faith-filled woman. She was truly devoted to her faith and to her relationship with God. I fondly remember dinner time at Grans when we all sat down and said Grace together, usually over stewed meat. She was the sort of woman that "had to" drive her friends to cards because they were too old... she was older than them. It wasn't until my later teenage years that I felt a greater connection with my grandmother. She was on the top of my list to visit when I was home from university. We would sit down and she would tell me stories of her adventure-filled life; these stories often getting repeated as she grew more forgetful. Upon her death, my grandmother left our family a letter to read. After the opening lines, the letter read:

My last wish to you all is to get to know the Lord Jesus. He is a wonderful friend to know. He was a true friend.

It was at this time that I began to ponder my faith, something I had never really taken the time to do before.

One thing that I remember about Gran was the Bible that she kept under her side of the bed. It was huge. When she passed, she left it to my dad. If you saw my dad, he would probably be the last man you would expect to be a devout Catholic. His long, blonde hair; tattooed body; and lack of shirt are some visuals that characterise him. He is a surfer; listens to rock music; and loves to have a drink at the local pub. What people do not know is that he is a strong believer; he attends Church every Sunday; he is a steward of creation; and is one of the kindest souls on Earth. The Bible is a family

heirloom of 148 years old. On my 32nd birthday, my mum and dad came to visit. One of the gifts that they gave me was the family Bible. Inside was written:

A token of affection and esteem

From George James and William Albert A Tribe

To their Dear Mother on the thirty-second anniversary of her birthday.

Just like my great, great grandmother, I had received this on my 32nd birthday. I felt connected to both my dad and my grandmother, and felt proud that my mum and dad had obviously seen my faith shining through.

I consider myself blessed. I had a wonderful upbringing with a loving family. However, life has not always been smooth sailing for me. Mental illness has always been on my doorstep and ready to enter into my life on any given day. It is in these times that I begin to question God and ask the cliché question of “why is this happening to me?” However, it is also in these times that I find myself praying, asking God to stop what I am feeling and to guide me in bringing me back to who I am. Faith is ever-present, even on the darkest of days.

Being a teacher in the Catholic school system has allowed me to meet people of faith who truly embody the teachings of Jesus. I have been given opportunities to deepen my faith and reflect on my spirituality. Teaching has also opened my eyes to the idea of encountering Christ through the students that I teach. Whether it be a smile; a compliment; a random act of kindness; or a statement of wisdom beyond their years; these are all signs that God is present.

Today I have a beautiful husband and a precious daughter, Alice Jean. My job is to educate children about God and facilitate the formation of faith. I continue to encounter God through nature, prayer, people and everyday experience. To mark the beginning of this year, I encourage you to reflect on what or who has awakened you and allowed you to deepen your faith.



Friendship, food and fun: Sisters of Faith Dinner returns next month

Women from across our Diocese will come together next month for the Diocesan Ecumenical and Interfaith Council's Sisters of Faith dinner.

ELIZABETH SYMINGTON PUBLISHED FEBRUARY 28, 2023

To be hosted on International Women's Day – Wednesday 8 March – the event is the Council's first activity for 2023.

“Women of all Religious traditions and those exploring Faith will come together, forming new friendships over a meal at the Victor Peters Suite next to Sacred Heart Cathedral,” Council Chair Christine Sheppard OAM said.

“Our theme is: How important is Spirituality and Equality to Humanity?”

Canon Auntie Dianne Langham, Director of Reconciliation at the Anglican Diocese of Newcastle, will be the guest speaker.

She'll share insightful stories and encourage everyone to connect with each other, while reflecting on the theme.

Christine encourages anyone interested in building social connections and celebrating women and spirituality to attend the event. Tickets are \$30 each, with the funds going towards CatholicCare Social Services Hunter-Manning's Social Enterprise program.

To register, visit www.eventbrite.com.au/e/sisters-of-faith-dinner-tickets-513511305137

“We hope to see you there, but if you can't make it, look out for future Ecumenical and Interfaith opportunities in the coming months,” Christine said.

“There is a busy year ahead with a variety of opportunities to come together. This question drives us: What can we learn from each other?”

