



**St John
Vianney**
Parish Morisset



THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR C SUNDAY 23 JANUARY 2022

In the Gospel today, we hear Jesus, in his hometown Nazareth, taking the scroll and proclaiming the Word of God.

When prime ministers take office, they make a solemn speech, in which they outline their policies. In the synagogue at Nazareth Jesus did something similar. The passage which he read from the Prophet Isaiah, summed up his mission.

In our time we must also grapple with continuing the implementation of Jesus' mandate. As followers, we are challenged to take up afresh the message of Jesus, and bring good news to those who are impoverished in body, mind, spirit, or social consequence.

Today the task of preaching the Gospel to the world depends on us. It's a great privilege but a daunting task.



We Acknowledge the traditional owners of this land the Awabakal Peoples. And pay our respects to the elders past and present, and any that may be with us today.

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 & Juliet Hutchins	Sat & Sun Tues

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

PRIEST SUPERVISOR: Fr Geoff Mulhearn

SACRAMENTAL PRIEST: Fr John Purnell

Parish Secretary: Mrs Rosanna Suckling Mon— Fri 9am-2pm

OFFICE: 60 Yambo Street, Morisset, PO Box 87, Ph: 02 4973.6859

Office Hours: 9.00 am to 2.00pm—Monday to Friday

(Due to COVID we ask that you make an appointment to come to the office)

Morisset Parish email: morparish@mn.catholic.org.au

Parish Leadership Team Email: morparishplt@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

Morisset Parish Presbytery: Ph: 02 4973 1537

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

Email the Parish Office to Subscribe for an Electronic Bulletin .

UPCOMING WORSHIP TIMES :

Sunday	23rd January 9.30am
	Liturgy— Morisset
Tuesday	25th January 9.30am
	Mass— Morisset
Wednesday	26th January 9.30am
Australia Day	Mass— Morisset
Sunday	30th January 9.30am
	Mass— Morisset

THERE WILL BE NO WEEKDAY MASSES IN FEBRUARY

As we are still required to Physical Distance 1.5m apart only those who have booked in will be guaranteed to have a seat. Use the BOOK FOR SERVICES button on the Parish Website, or the Eventbrite App or Website: <http://vianneymorisset.eventbrite.com>.

SERVICE NSW APP CHECK-IN REQUIRED

Everyone is required to electronically check-in via the Service NSW App using a QR Code when they come to the Church, Centre, and Office or have someone do it for them.

MASKS REQUIRED

Everyone over the age of 12 is required by NSW Health to wear a Mask that covers the nose and mouth indoors or while waiting to come inside.

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AUSTRALIA DAY

Next Wednesday 26th January, we will be celebrating Australia day. It is both a story of dislocation and dispossession when told through the memory of our Aboriginal peoples, and a story of possibility and progression when told through the memory of those who have

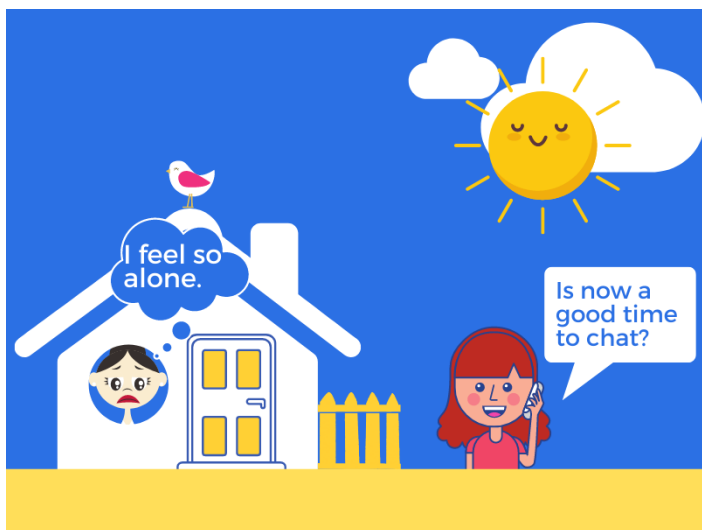
come to the land in more recent times.

There is no doubt about the wonderful things that God has given to us as people of Australia. Let us remember that right from the start, the full title of our land was bound up with the Holy Spirit.

For thousands of years the Aboriginal people have listened to the mystery of God, in and through their culture. The great Portuguese explorers of the 16th Century, set out on a quest for 'Terra Australia del Espiritu Santo', South Land of the Holy Spirit. We have a beautiful country and there is no doubt about the work that God has given you and me, the Church, to do.

To help us celebrate Australia Day, Fr Geoff will lead us in the celebration of Mass in the Morisset Church at 9.30am.

After attending the Australian Academy of Liturgy Conference on "Times of Global Rupture" over the last two days, I was disturbed with some of the things I heard! In the heat of the moment, I put a few thoughts together. What do you think?



ARE YOU FEELING ISOLATED, LONELY OR ANXIOUS? HELLO HUNTER IS HERE TO HELP!

Hello Hunter was launched in 2020, and is available for any person experiencing hardship due to social isolation, poverty, disease, disability, illness, age, mental health, family, social, or other community network breakdown.

The initiative partners with churches to mobilise volunteers to help those in need, regardless of their faith background, commitment, other social standing or identity.

Originally created to assist those affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, Hello Hunter links people in need with volunteers from local churches who can help.

Volunteers are available to make a friendly call and assist in finding specialised help.

For more information on how Hello Hunter can help you, visit: <https://www.hellohunter.org.au/>

THE FUTURE OF THE CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA.

As we prepare to celebrate Australia Day, one could be forgiven for daring to ask the question: does the Catholic Church in Australia have a future? The short answer to the question is, of course it does. But the price of that future needs a profound change. It can be slowed down, short circuited and opposed, but it cannot be stopped.

Codified canon law is an unsuitable instrument for an evolving Church. The nature of code law is that it tends to harden and fossilise. Tradition in the full Catholic sense does not mean finding answers in the past or retreating into an unreal world that no longer exists. Tradition means the ability to be able to look to the present and the future, based on the enormous experience of the past. This would bring about a more humane and Christian Church. For the Church to flourish, it is crucial that we come to terms with the flaws of clericalism and move beyond its patriarchal and monarchical matrix. What is urgent is that we need to find fresh ways of being Church and fresh ways of ministry and service, for both men and women disciples. New wine into new wineskins!

There is a sense in which the Church must change into a more Christ-like pattern of humility, simplicity and powerlessness as opposed to worldly triumphalism, splendour, dominance, and power. The Church will not be revitalised by way of simply repeating what was done in the past. It will not be simply a restoration project or doing the old things better. Rather, we must have the courage to do new things; we must be open to the Spirit leading us to new horizons even as we tend to revert to the old ways.



The Australian Catholic Bishops recently responded to the challenge of renewal, by convoking the Plenary Council. The first session of several planned sessions of the Council, was held in October 2021. We await in hope and

anticipation for a positive outcome. John France



Great social challenges and peace processes call for dialogue between the keepers of memory – the elderly and those who move history forward – the young.

POPE FRANCIS - WORLD DAY OF PEACE MESSAGE 2022

[SOCIALJUSTICE.CATHOLIC.ORG.AU](https://socialjustice.catholic.org.au)



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LITURGICAL YEAR C- THE GOSPEL OF LUKE:

The four Gospels in our Christian Scriptures all tell of the ministry, death and resurrection of Jesus. Each Gospel has its own flavour and vision and each were written at a different time and community.

This year we are in Year C and we draw on the wisdom of the Gospel of Luke. George Smiga is a nationally recognised author and lecturer in Scripture and Homiletics and he poses that there are three main themes in the Gospel of Luke. From Luke's perspective they are: **WORLD-AFFIRMATION, WEALTH AND THE SALVATION OF THE POOR.**

This week we look at what Luke says about "The Salvation of The Poor"

SALVATION OF THE POOR:

The final Theme in Luke's gospel is the Sharing of Wealth with the Poor. Luke drew on the beliefs and understandings that came from the Hebrew Scriptures, and he constantly emphasises God's will is to save the poor. His definition of poor is not narrowed to economically poor, but, also includes those who have failed or been rejected by society. He includes sinners, the lost and the outcasts.

In Luke 1:52-53, The Magnificat, Mary praises God in the home of Elizabeth. Read it! "He lifts up the lowly... He fills the hungry "etc. Luke says that those who have nothing, those who are lost, have reason to rejoice. God will take their side. God will lift them up.

This Sunday's Gospel Luke carefully situates the beginning of Jesus' ministry in the synagogue of Nazareth. Jesus finds the passage in the scroll of the prophet Isaiah and reads it:

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord. (4:18-19) "

After reading Jesus sits down and says, "Today this scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing." (4:21) Luke uses this scene as an overture to Jesus' mission, informing the reader that Jesus will announce the kingdom in a special way to the poor, captives, blind and oppressed.

Throughout Jesus' ministry Luke includes scenes emphasizing God's care for the poor and outcast. Although Luke shares the parable of the lost sheep with Matthew, he uses it to respond specifically to those who criticize Jesus for welcoming sinners:

"I tell you, in just the same way there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who have no need of repentance. (15:7)"

The stories are well known, and they keep coming. The Prodigal Son, the story of Lazarus, The Good Thief, Zacchaeus. And the list goes on.

Even at the end, Jesus offered salvation to the thief who was crucified next to him. (23:39-43). We don't know much about the man except in the last moments he acknowledged his failures and turned to Jesus. It tells us that it is never too late. Turn to Jesus and ask him to remember you.

As George M Smiga says so eloquently:

"If Jesus could save a convicted criminal in the last moments of life and make him the first to enter the kingdom of heaven then none of us can limit God's power to save and to heal us. Luke wants us to hear the Gospel in these terms. He wants us to claim good news in our poverty.

He asks us to turn to Jesus, to call out his name, to believe that despite our desperation, our doubt, and our

unworthiness, Jesus wants to give us life. He intends to welcome us into paradise."

Take the time to mine into Luke this year. It is very rewarding and challenging.



VOLCANO AND TSUNAMI EMERGENCY IN TONGA

Tonga has been cut off from the rest of the world following a violent underwater volcano eruption on 15 January that triggered tsunamis, destroyed telecommunications and blanketed the Pacific island nation in ash.

There are reports that some coastal communities in Fiji and Vanuatu have been damaged by large waves and tsunami warnings were also issued across the Pacific, Australia, US and Japan.

We are currently working to restore communications with our local partners to assess the situation on the ground and determine the most urgent needs. The volcanic ash is hampering emergency flights into the country and the damage to telecommunications infrastructure has made it difficult to get in contact with affected communities.

There are fears that the volcanic ash and saltwater inundation from the tsunami waves may contaminate drinking water and threaten the health and safety of vulnerable communities.

Your urgent support is needed today to help communities affected by this disaster. You can donate at Liturgy this Sunday 23rd Jan or Mass next Sunday 30th Jan or call **1800 024 413** toll free or online at:

<https://www.caritas.org.au/donate/emergency-appeals/pacific/>

Keep up to date with everything that is happening in the Diocese at: <https://www.mnnews.today/>

REGIONAL
WORSHIP
& PRAYER
GATHERING

hope

ONE HEART.
ONE VOICE.
ONE PRAYER.

7PM, 31 JAN 2022

REGISTER FOR
ZOOM
GATHERING

info@kingdomworks.org.au regionalprayer.org.au

Rhema 99.7
Gather Together

WEDDING AT CANA—FR JOHN'S HOMILY

"Mum I need to go to Dan Murphy's"

That's what I say to my mother when we have a visitor coming for dinner and I notice that our wine rack is empty

Twenty minutes and some 50 bucks later... voila...we now have wine

I wonder if that's how we sometimes hear today's Gospel story of the wedding at Cana

I wonder if that's how we sometimes expect Jesus to act in our lives

There's a problem to be fixed..... "They have no wine" we tell Jesus... And, voila, somehow Jesus makes more so the same party can continue on as before

But is that really enough?

Is all we want just a refill?

Do we just want to fix the problem and go on with the same old life in the same old way?

Here's my confession before you here this morning

Sometimes that's exactly what I want.

I just want the problem to be fixed and go away so I can get on with my life.

What does it mean for us?

What possibilities does this story raise for our lives and for the world in 2022?

I don't know if Jesus literally and physically turned water into wine .

But then I don't think that's the point of today's gospel.

I don't think this gospel is ultimately about turning water into wine.

It's about more than that.

It's about calling forth life where there is none.

It's about transformation

It's about living a whole and complete new life

Maybe the running out of wine is not a problem to be fixed, but the beginning of something new

Maybe it's a calling into a new life or an invitation into more life

Let's face it, nobody likes to run out of wine... but maybe it's necessary for our spiritual growth and maturity

And that my brothers and sisters can be difficult, unsettling, and sometimes quite painful.

The wine of mercy and forgiveness, the wine of peace, joy, and security:

the wine of justice, dignity, and equality

the wine of hospitality, inclusion, and welcome:

the wine of truth, certainty, and answers.

Now today I'll drink to that.. Won't you?



A MESSAGE FROM AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED AUSTRALIA

As we begin a new year we ask for your support to help the Suffering Church. Your offering allows ACN to aid our suffering brothers and sisters to keep the faith alive in countries that are becoming increasingly harder to practice the faith. Please visit www.aidtochurch.org

NEW CHAPEL PROPOSED FOR CHISLOM SCHOOLS

THE Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle has lodged a development application to build a chapel on vacant land between two Chisholm schools, a project the late Bishop Bill Wright helped design.

St Bede's Catholic College principal John Murphy and St Aloysius Primary School principal Grant Diggins said construction was expected to start in late 2023 on the Chisholm chapel, which will comprise an architecturally designed circular building with the Stations of the Cross displayed on its undercover exterior; landscaped gardens; a reflection pond; and statues of St Bede, St Aloysius and Mary.

"For both of our schools this is almost like the final piece of the puzzle," Mr Murphy said.

"It will give what we think will be a unique Catholic identity and an intimate place where we can gather. It is not designed to have 1000 students, a whole school mass, it's really designed to have smaller groups [with a maximum of 200] such as year groups and to allow more intimate celebrations to take place."

Mr Diggins said his growing school had a multipurpose hall and chapel but it was also used for OOSH, sport and community activities.

"I'm most excited about having a dedicated space for prayer and for liturgy," he said, adding it would be an inclusive space.

Currently, the closest church to the schools is at Morpeth.

Mr Murphy said priests based at St Joseph's East Maitland would travel to the chapel for Masses, while teachers would take students to the chapel for a range of activities.

He said it would primarily be used as a school facility, but there would be opportunities to invite community members to events.

Mr Murphy said he first spoke with the late Bishop Wright - who was a "fountain of knowledge" about both saints - about the chapel in 2016.

"He was pretty passionate about this chapel being at the heart of our two schools and being a crucial link between the two," he said.

"He had input into the circular design of it, the landscaping, about having it open without fences... he was very passionate about wanting this chapel to be done ASAP.

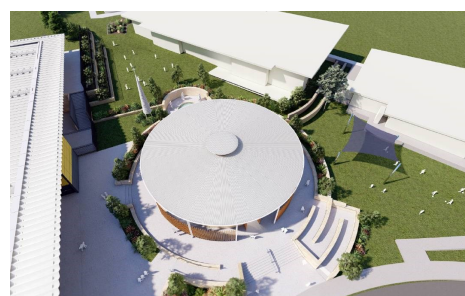
"It's sad Bishop Bill didn't get to see that, hopefully he can see it from upstairs in heaven."

Mr Murphy said Bishop Wright was humble and may not have wanted any official recognition at the chapel, but there may be subtle and discreet ways to keep his memory alive at the site.

He said the altar would be at the heart of the chapel.

"You've got this nice circular intimate arrangement in which irrespective of where you're placed, it's pretty much the same type of interaction and engagement you'll have," he said.

"It creates greater opportunity for inclusiveness and an understanding of what it's all about."



Prayer for Tonga and the Pacific

Loving God,
We hold before you in our hearts
The people of Tonga in this time of need.
We know that the communities of the Pacific often
experience fragility.
Now, with a volcanic explosion leading to both a Tsunami
And degradation of land and water through ash,
We ask that your people find strength
and feel closer to you than ever.
They are communities of great faith.
May they turn to you for peace and
reassurance.
May they turn to each other for comfort and community.
And may they turn to us for support and solidarity.
We all share this mysterious world
Which you have entrusted to our care, as one family.
May your Holy Spirit give us wisdom and courage
And fill us with the gift of Hope.
Amen.



UPCOMING FEAST DAYS MEMORIALS AND SOLEMINITIES

SAINT FRANCIS DE SALES— 24TH JANUARY
CONVERSION OF SAINT PAUL— 25TH JANUARY
SAINT THOMAS AQUINAS— 28TH JANUARY
SAINT JOHN BOSCO— 31ST JANUARY
THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD— 2ND FEBRUARY
SAINT AGATHA— 5TH FEBRUARY
SAINT SCHOLASTICA— 10TH FEBRUARY
SAINTS CYRIL AND METHODIUS— 14TH FEBRUARY
THE CHAIR OF SAINT PETER— 22ND FEBRUARY
SAINT POLYCARP— 23RD FEBRUARY

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

Patricia Jones, Ian Douglas, Maureen Phillips, Dan Joyce, Bruce Gillett, William Eggins, Robert Jay.

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

Recently Deceased: Mrs Gloria Fisher, mother of Anthony Fisher, Archbishop of Sydney



SUPPORTING OUR PARISH

We thank everyone who has continued their support for our Parish during these very different times. As cash is deemed a transmission hazard by NSW Health they recommend that donations and payments be made electronically.

There is an online parish payments button on the Parish Website Home page or alternatively you can deposit directly into the Parish Account our details are:
Account Name: CDF 96014 Morisset Parish BSB:062815
Account Number: 00328161 Ref: 5004 2nd Collection or 5004 PG and Giver Number.

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 <https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/places/live-stream/>



WEEKEND ROSTERS

		<u>THIS WEEK</u>	<u>NEXT WEEK</u>
<u>Presiders</u>	9.30	Liturgy	Mass
<u>PROCLAIMER:</u>	9.30	K Lendon	M Melvey
<u>PSALMIST:</u>	9.30	P Melvey	H White
<u>UNIVERSAL PRAYER</u>	9.30	P Melvey	H White
<u>SERVERS</u>	9.30	XXXX	V Paulo
<u>AV:</u>	9.30	J France	U France
<u>SOUND/ VIDEO:</u>	9.30	G & L Hutchinson	TBA
<u>SIGN-IN</u>	9.30	J Hutchins M Foo	H White T Alexander
<u>USHERS</u>	9.30	P Herbert P Melvey	R Hay J France
<u>CLEANING</u>	9.30	COVID TEAM	COVID TEAM



SUNDAY PRAYER SERVICE

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C

Sunday 23 Jan 2022

The Introductory Rites

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.

A brief period of silence follows.

Leader:

Lord Jesus, you are the anointed one: Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you bring light to those in darkness: Christ, have mercy.

All: Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you renew us with your Spirit: Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Leader:

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

All:

Amen.

Opening Prayer

Leader:

Let us pray.

All pause for silent prayer.

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

All:

Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

Neh 8:2-6. 8-10

A reading from the book of Nehemiah

They read from the book of Law and they understood what was read.

Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, consisting of men, women, and children old enough to understand. This was the first day of the seventh month. On the square before the Water Gate, in the presence of the men and women, and children old enough to understand, he read from the book from early morning till noon; all the people listened attentively to the Book of the Law.

Ezra the scribe stood on a wooden dais erected for the purpose. In full view of all the people – since he stood higher than all the people – Ezra opened the book; and when he opened it all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people raised their hands and answered Amen! Amen!; then they bowed down and, face to the ground, prostrated themselves before the Lord. And Ezra read from the Law of God, translating and giving the sense, so that the people understood what was read.

Then Nehemiah – His Excellency – and Ezra, priest and scribe (and the Levites who were instructing the people) said to all the people, ‘This day is sacred to the Lord your God. Do not be mournful, do not weep’. For the people were all in tears as they listened to the words of the Law.

He then said, 'Go, eat the fat, drink the sweet wine, and send a portion to the man who has nothing prepared ready. For this day is sacred to our Lord. Do not be sad: the joy of the Lord is your stronghold.'

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

The word of the Lord.

All reply:

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 18:8-10. 15. R. See Jn 6:63

(R.) Your words, Lord, are spirit and life.

1. The law of the Lord is perfect,
it revives the soul.
The rule of the Lord is to be trusted,
it gives wisdom to the simple. **(R.)**
2. The precepts of the Lord are right,
they gladden the heart.
The command of the Lord is clear,
it gives light to the eyes. **(R.)**
3. The fear of the Lord is holy,
abiding for ever.
The decrees of the Lord are truth
and all of them just. **(R.)**
4. May the spoken words of my mouth,
the thoughts of my heart,
win favour in your sight, O Lord,
my rescuer, my rock! **(R.)**

Second Reading

1 Cor 12:12-30

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

Together you are Christ's body; but each of you is a different part of it.

Just as a human body, though it is made up of many parts, is a single unit because all these parts, though many, make one body, so it is with Christ. In the one Spirit we were all baptised, Jews as well as Greeks, slaves as well as citizens, and one Spirit was given to us all to drink.

Nor is the body to be identified with any one of its many parts. If the foot were to say, 'I am not a hand and so I do not belong to the body', would that mean that it stopped being part of the body? If the ear were to say, 'I am not an eye, and so I do not belong to the body,' would that mean that it is not a part of the body? If your whole body was just one eye, how would you hear anything? If it was just one ear, how would you smell anything?

Instead of that, God put all the separate parts into the body on purpose. If all the parts were the same, how could it be a body? As it is, the parts are many but the body is one. The

eye cannot say to the hand, 'I do not need you,' nor can the head say to the feet, 'I do not need you.'

What is more, it is precisely the parts of the body that seem to be the weakest which are the indispensable ones; and it is the least honourable parts of the body that we clothe with the greatest care. So our more improper parts get decorated in a way that our more proper parts do not need. God has arranged the body so that more dignity is given to the parts which are without it, and so that there may not be disagreements inside the body, but that each part may be equally concerned for all the others. If one part is hurt, all parts are hurt with it. If one part is given special honour, all parts enjoy it.

Now you together are Christ's body; but each of you is a different part of it. In the Church, God has given the first place to apostles, the second to prophets, the third to teachers; after them, miracles, and after them the gift of healing; helpers, good leaders, those with many languages. Are all of them apostles, or all of them prophets, or all of them teachers? Do they all have the gift of miracles, or all have the gift of healing? Do all speak strange languages, and all interpret them?

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

The word of the Lord.

All reply:

Thanks be to God.

Gospel

Reader:

From the holy Gospel according to Luke.

All:

Glory to you, O Lord.

Lk 1:1-4. 4:14-21

The scriptures were fulfilled on this day.

Seeing that many others have undertaken to draw up accounts of the events that have taken place among us, exactly as these were handed down to us by those who from the outset were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word, I in my turn, after carefully going over the whole story from the beginning, have decided to write an ordered account for you, Theophilus, so that your Excellency may learn how well founded the teaching is that you have received.

Jesus, with the power of the Spirit in him, returned to Galilee; and his reputation spread throughout the countryside. He taught in their synagogues and everyone praised him. He came to Nazara, where he had been brought up, and went into the synagogue on the sabbath day as he usually did. He stood up to read, and they handed him the scroll of the prophet Isaiah. Unrolling the scroll he found the place where it is written:

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for he has anointed me.

He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor,

to proclaim liberty to captives

and to the blind new sight,

to set the downtrodden free,

to proclaim the Lord's year of favour.

He then rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the assistant and sat down. And all eyes in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to speak to them, 'This text is being fulfilled today even as you listen.'

Reader:

The Gospel of the Lord.

All:

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

All are seated.

Reflection on the Word

A short period of reflection may be observed.

Q. In what ways can the mission Jesus claimed be seen as a mission for all Christians?

Q. Who are the people in your community who are really trying to bring about this mission?

Q. How do / can you contribute to this mission?

Q. Why was it significant that Jesus returned to Nazareth to begin his ministry?

Q. Why was the inclusion of 'set the downtrodden free' such an important addition to the Isaiah text?

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 intentions before the Lord, who through the Spirit anoints us with joy.

Reader: That leaders of the Church will act as disciples of truth and justice for all people.

(pause)

In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That prisoners and captives will find renewed spirit and liberty in the Lord.

(pause)

In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That our parish community will work for the afflicted and bring the good news to the poor.

(pause)

In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That through the Word of God, those who don't know Christ will be shown the joy of God's abundant blessings.

(pause)

In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That all the sick will find a renewed spirit through God's perfect Word of life, especially those in our community and families.

(pause)

In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That all who have died will be called to eternal freedom with Christ, especially those in our community and families.

(pause)

In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Loving Father, through your power we are anointed with the Holy Spirit. Hear our prayers and help us to bring new sight to the blind as we live your Word in truth. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

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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.

All:

Thanks be to God.

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