



**St John  
Vianney**  
Parish Morisset



## THE HOLY FAMILY YEAR C 29 DECEMBER 2024

*Today we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family the first Sunday after Christmas, just when some toys are already broken and chocolate “Santas” sit in the garbage bin.*

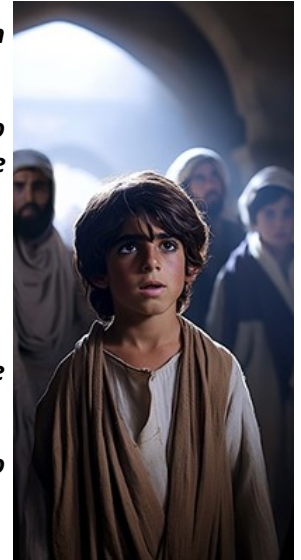
*The Holy Family were poor. When Jesus was born they were homeless. They then had to emigrate to escape an attempt on the child’s life. they lost him for three days. Can you imagine the stress of losing one of your children for three days?*

*One of the key lessons of this feast may be understanding Jesus for who he is*

*It will always be a process of seeking and finding, of questioning and being questioned.*

*Today is a day to expand our understanding of our spiritual lives, and renew the promises we made at Confirmation. and embrace our adult responsibilities*

*It is a tall order, but with the help of God we will succeed. The courage to listen and respond to God’s word is sorely needed in our world today.*



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

**PARISH LEADERSHIP TEAM:** Uta France  
John France

**PRIEST SUPERVISOR:** Fr Joseph Figuardo

**SACRAMENTAL PRIESTS:** Fr Greg Barker VG  
Fr Darryl Mackie  
Fr Raphael Madukwe  
Fr John Purnell

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

**PARISH SECRETARY:** Rosanna Suckling

**PARISH OFFICE:** 60 Yambo Street, Morisset 2264, 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 when coming in 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/)

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

### UPCOMING WORSHIP TIMES :

Saturday	28th December 5pm Mass—Cooranbong
Sunday	29th December 9.30am Mass—Morisset
Wednesday	1st January 9.30am Mass—Morisset
Saturday	4th January 5pm Family Mass—Morisset
Sunday	5th January 9.30am Mass—Morisset
Saturday	11th January 5pm Mass—Cooranbong
Sunday	12th January 9.30am Mass—Morisset
Saturday	18th January 5pm Family Mass—Morisset
Sunday	19th January 9.30am Mass—Morisset
Saturday	25th January 5pm Mass—Cooranbong
Sunday	26th January 9.30am Mass—Morisset
Saturday	1st February 5pm Family Mass—Morisset
Sunday	2nd February 9.30am Mass—Morisset

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## Welcome

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

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

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

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

## GOSPEL

### Lk 2:41-52

*His parents found him in the temple, sitting among the learned men, listening to them.*

Every year the parents of Jesus used to go to Jerusalem for the feast of the Passover. When he was twelve years old, they went up for the feast as usual. When they were on their way home after the feast, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem without his parents knowing it. They assumed he was with the caravan, and it was only after a day's journey that they went to look for him among their relations and acquaintances. When they failed to find him they went back to Jerusalem looking for him everywhere.

Three days later, they found him in the Temple, sitting among the doctors, listening to them, and asking them questions; and all those who heard him were astounded at his intelligence and his replies. They were overcome when they saw him, and his mother said to him, 'My child, why have you done this to us? See how worried your father and I have been, looking for you.' 'Why were you looking for me?' he replied. 'Did you not know that I must be busy with my Father's affairs?' But they did not understand what he meant.

He then went down with them and came to Nazareth and lived under their authority. His mother stored up all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom, in stature, and in favour with God and men.

## The Holy Family Year C - 29th December 2024

### Reflection

On this first Sunday after Christmas, and on the eve of a new calendar year, we have been called to put aside the Christmas festivities, and reflect on the 'Holy Family', Jesus Mary and Joseph

Today, we gather as a wider family, the family of the Christian community.

We call Jesus Mary and Joseph the 'Holy Family,' but that does not mean, that they did not have problems.

Just as every family must face problems, the 'Holy Family' also had their share of problems.

Their many crosses come to mind, as we read the Scriptures.

When Jesus was born, they were homeless, and they were poor. The family had to flee to Egypt as refugees to avoid the massacre of the newborn male children, which King Herod had ordered upon the Jewish babies of Bethlehem.

In much the same way as refugees from war torn countries are now entering many western countries, separated by force or due

to economic reasons.

Often it appears that people are closer to one another in hard times than in good times.

The Holy Family suffered for the truth and so will we.

So, let us not give in to the demons of discouragement and negativity.

We pray today on the Feast of the Holy Family, that we will conquer all difficulties through love of each other and Faith in God. -John France

## 2024 New Years Day

On January 1st, 2025, we will celebrate Mass in the Morisset Church at 9.30am

The most basic fact about Wednesday is that it will be New Year's Day, a public holiday and in everyone's eyes it is a special day.

Most people, will be going about saying, "Happy New Year!" That's good, and rightfully so, for it is the beginning of the New Year.

On Wednesday, we as a Church, celebrate three things.

1. The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, 2. The Eighth Day of Christmas. (The Octave of the Nativity of the Lord) and 3. World Day of Peace.

As you can see, a very busy day indeed.

I suspect today, new year resolutions are probably on our minds. Promises made to ourselves, promises made to others, maybe even promises made to God.

So, what are our new year resolutions?

I will give up smoking, or I will lose weight, or I will exercise more, or I will spend more time in prayer.

We all know though, that new year resolutions can be tricky things.

Sometimes they demand perseverance and commitment, especially to make them last. Last until the end of January, or even last until the end of this week.

On the threshold of this new year, there is much food for reflection and prayer for us in Mary and her faith.

The Catholic Tradition has always honoured Mary.

Mary spent a lot of her life in motion — setting out in haste, searching, fleeing.

Mary knows how hard promises can be.

She lived in a world of many broken promises, broken relationships, broken treaties, much as we do today.

All of us, like Mary, are on a journey.

All of us are traveling to places we may not understand, to destinations we cannot see.

The road may be long and the journey may not be easy.

But this is life. John France

## Eftpos Machines

The parish has taken delivery of two Eftpos Machines. 'Tap & Go' We have received numerous requests from visitors who have not been carrying cash but wanted to contribute to the parish. Unfortunately, we couldn't accommodate their requests at the time. Anyone who is familiar with Eftpos terminals should have no trouble with the machine.

The machines will not issue receipts. Anyone who requires a receipt is encouraged to join the 'Planned Giving'.

## Parish Office Christmas Closure

The Parish Office will be closed from 2pm Tuesday 24th December and will reopen 9am Thursday 2nd January 2025.

Emergency Parish No-0459369832 for urgent administrative matters between 9am and 2pm on business days.

Emergency Priest No-0493969362 for anointing of the sick for someone who is gravely ill.

## New Years Day

Mass will be celebrated at Morisset on New years Day 9.30am. Fr Darryl will be presiding.

## No Liturgies-School Holidays

There will be no Tuesday Liturgy of the Word during the School Holidays.

## Fifth Sunday Advance Notice

The month of December 2024 has five Sundays. This means that on the 5th Sunday weekend, the Vigil Mass (Saturday 28th December) will be at Cooranbong 5pm.

## Thankyou

A very big thank you to those who assisted with our Christmas Masses, whether you helped set up or pack up or involved in ministries. It was greatly appreciated.

## Letter from Bishop Michael Kennedy

Dear brothers and sisters,

Re: Designating places of pilgrimage in the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle for the Jubilee Year 2025

Pope Francis has declared 2025 a Jubilee Year for our Church, themed "Pilgrims of Hope".

The Jubilee of 2025 will commence on 24 December 2024 with the Opening of the Holy Door of Saint Peter's Basilica and runs to 6 January 2026, the Feast of the Epiphany, with the closing of the Door.

The jubilee calls for us to set out on a journey and to cross boundaries. It is a special and profound year of grace, mercy and conversion, involving prayer, pilgrimage, and sacramental repentance.

When we journey, we do not only change place physically, but we also change ourselves by allowing God's grace to touch us.

I invite all in the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle to participate in a number of special events that we have planned.

I particularly wish to highlight parish communities who have offered their Churches as sites of pilgrimage for the Jubilee Year and I wish to accept, and announce, them as official pilgrimage sites to you all:

- Sacred Heart Cathedral, Newcastle West
- St Mary Star of the Sea, Newcastle
- St John the Baptist Shrine, Maitland
- St Joseph's, East Maitland
- St Joseph's, Murrurundi
- Blessed Virgin Mary Queen of Peace, Scone
- Saints Patrick & Brigid, Cooranbong

Over the coming months Mission & Evangelisation will work with the leadership teams of these churches to prepare their place of welcome to pilgrim groups small and large from across the Diocese and beyond.

At our Diocesan Launch for the Jubilee Year on March 2 there will be more information available and the opportunity to receive a Pilgrim Passport for those wishing to make the journey to as many of our pilgrimage sites as possible.

Yours in Christ

Most Reverend Michael Kennedy

Bishop of Maitland-Newcastle

## 8th August 2025

aMeN Camino Experience

## 25th September—11th October 2025

International Pilgrimage—Journey of St Paul and Rome

## 29th September—3rd October 2025

NATSICC Assembly—Hunter Valley

## 30th November—2nd December 2025

Australian Catholic Youth Festival—Melbourne



## Caritas Australia launches a Vanuatu earthquake appeal

At least 14 people have been killed in Vanuatu following two earthquakes in 24 hours, impacting an estimated 116,000 people.

Hundreds of people are injured or trapped following the collapse of buildings resulting from successive 7.4 and 6.1 magnitude earthquakes. As rescue efforts continue, the death toll is expected to rise. The Port Vila hospital has been overwhelmed, having also sustained damage resulting in the closure of operating theatres.

Two major water reserves that supply Port Vila have also been destroyed, with assessment into water supplies ongoing. Major damage to infrastructure has been sustained, impacting communications, airport runways, bridges including the Tagabe, Teouma and Black Sand bridges, and the main port.

As part of the Church Agencies Network Disaster Operations (CANDO) Caritas Australia will be supporting on the ground through its partners. These partners are assessing the situation, and are ready to respond to the humanitarian requirements, which are likely to include emergency shelter, food, and other essentials, as well as psychosocial support.

Sally Thomas, Humanitarian Manager at Caritas Australia said, "Vanuatu, and particularly Port Vila, has been devastated. People are now trying to recover and perform rescues with damage to infrastructure such as bridges, telecommunications, water supplies, and the local hospital."

"Many are fearing further disaster as Vanuatu is one of the most susceptible countries to natural disasters such as earthquakes, storm damage, flooding, and tsunamis. These disasters are unfortunately the most common place at this time of year, when many of us are celebrating and enjoying a break."

"As we embrace the festivities, we must remember that our brothers and sisters in Vanuatu, who need our compassion and support as they recover."

To support Caritas Australia's Vanuatu Earthquake Appeal, go to: <https://www.caritas.org.au/donate/emergency-appeals/vanuatu-earthquake/>

or call 1800 024 413 toll free.



WESTLAKES

*New Year's Day  
Masses*

9:00 AM	Boolaroo
9:00 AM	Toronto
9:30 AM	Morisset



## Save the Dates the following Jubilee Year 2025 Diocese Events

### 2nd March 2025

Diocesan Launch—Pilgrimage, Mass and Festival—Foreshore Park to Sacred Heart Cathedral

**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, Electronic Funds Transfer Only Bank Account Name: Morisset Parish Presbytery BSB: 066739 No: 100004062 Ref: 1st Collection & SURNAME or contact the parish office to set up a direct debit.

**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 our Parish Electronic Funds Transfer Only Account the details are: Account Name: Morisset Parish Church BSB:066739 Account Number: 100004064 please use one of the following Payment References PG + your giver number or PG + SURNAME or SURNAME you can also use the Online Payments or Planned Giving button on the Parish Website Home page or the Diocese App. If you are considering taking up **planned giving** you may like to know that **a percentage of the contributions are tax deductible**. If you would like to know more or set up planned giving please contact the Parish Office.

WEEKEND ROSTERS			
		<u>THIS WEEK</u>	<u>NEXT WEEK</u>
<u>PRESIDERS</u>	5PM 9.30AM	Mass Mass	Mass Mass
<u>PROCLAIMERS:</u>	5PM 9.30AM	P Melvey S Matthew	R Hay D Peterson
<u>PSALMIST:</u>	5PM 9.30AM	P Robertson D Joyce	J Vipan R Hay
<u>GIFTS</u>	5PM 9.30AM	L Hutchinson G Hutchinson K Tonkin A Dussin	H White D Whitten S Matthew
<u>SERVERS</u>	5PM 9.30AM	M Melvey V Paulo	M Melvey C Lawandos
<u>AV</u>	5PM 9.30AM	U France M Fowler	U France T Alexander
<u>WELCOMERS</u>	5PM 9.30AM	K Lendon M Melvey	J France P Melvey
<u>CHURCH CLEANING</u>	COOR MOR	A Dussin C Lawandos K Lendon	XXXX R Hay C Hay

*The Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle has an abiding commitment to promote the safety, welfare and wellbeing of children and vulnerable adults.*

*Our Parish supports The Diocese in its zero-tolerance approach to abuse. Every one of us must each day commit ourselves individually and collectively to safeguard each child and every vulnerable person to whom we interact with.*

*Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.*

*If you have any concerns for a child or vulnerable person please contact the Office of Safeguarding Phone: 02 4979 1390*

*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**

- THE HOLY INNOCENTS (F) - 28TH DEC
- THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH (F) - 29TH DEC
- SAINT SYLVESTER I (OM) - 31ST DEC
- SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD (S) - 1ST JAN
- THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD—5TH JAN
- SAINT RAYMOND OF PENYAFORT (OM) - 7TH JAN
- THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD (F) - 12TH JAN
- SAINT HILARY (OM) - 13TH JAN
- SAINT ANTHONY (M) - 17TH JAN
- SAINT FABIAN (OM) - 20TH JAN
- SAINT SEBASTIAN (OM) - 20TH JAN

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

Jackie Purnell, Nancy Overton, Ross Dickson, Betty Smith, Frank Simons, Anna Dussin, Koby Smith, Annette Boyd, Mary Monaghan, Clare Wallington, Donna Hazzard, Pam Mullaly, Tintumol Thomas, Peter Martyn, Bernadette Martin, Bruce Gillett.

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

**Remembrance:** Les Fowler, Grace Lyons, Cornelius Lyons, Carmel Brereton, Emily Williams.



**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)**



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

**SUNDAY PRAYER SERVICE**  
**The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph Year C**  
**Sunday 29 Dec 2024**

**The Introductory Rites**

**Acknowledgement of Country**

We Acknowledge the Awabakal and Darkinjung nations as the Traditional Custodians who have walked upon and cared for this land our parish encompasses for thousands of years, and honour and pay respect to, Elders past, present and emerging. 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.

**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 Christ the Word made flesh  
who is proclaimed among the nations.

**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  
rejoicing at the birth of the Saviour.

**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, son of Mary: Lord, have mercy:

**All: Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, loved by Joseph: Christ, have mercy.

**All: Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, way to the Father: 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, our Father,  
in your wisdom and kindness  
you watched over your Son, Jesus,  
and the Holy Family.

Fill us with gentleness and patience  
so that we may follow their example of love and faith.

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

**All:**

**Amen.**

**The Liturgy of the Word**

**First Reading**

**1 Sm 1:20-22. 24-28**

A reading from the first book of Samuel

*For the whole of his life, Samuel shall be lent to the Lord.*

Hannah conceived and gave birth to a son, and called him  
Samuel 'since' she said 'I asked the Lord for him.'

When a year had gone by, the husband Elkanah went up again  
with all his family to offer the annual sacrifice to the Lord and to  
fulfil his vow. Hannah, however, did not go up, having said to her  
husband, 'Not before the child is weaned. Then I will bring him  
and present him before the Lord and he shall stay there for ever.'

When she had weaned him, she took him up with her together  
with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour and a skin of wine,  
and she brought him to the temple of the Lord at Shiloh; and the  
child was with them. They slaughtered the bull, and the child's  
mother came to Eli. She said, 'If you please, my lord. As you live,  
my lord, I am the woman who stood here beside you, praying to  
the Lord. This is the child I prayed for, and the Lord granted me  
what I asked him. Now I make him over to the Lord for the whole  
of his life. He is made over to the Lord.'

There she left him, for the Lord.

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

The word of the Lord.

**All reply:**

**Thanks be to God.**

**Responsorial Psalm**

**Ps 83:2-3. 5-6. 9-10. R. v.5**

**(R.) How happy they who dwell in your house, O Lord.**

1. How lovely is your dwelling place,  
Lord, God of hosts.  
My soul is longing and yearning,  
is yearning for the courts of the Lord.  
My heart and my soul ring out their joy  
to God, the living God. **(R.)**
2. They are happy, who dwell in your house,  
for ever singing your praise.  
They are happy, whose strength is in you;  
they walk with ever growing strength. **(R.)**
3. O Lord, God of hosts, hear my prayer,  
gave ear, O God of Jacob.  
Turn your eyes, O God, our shield,  
look on the face of your anointed. **(R.)**

## Second Reading

**1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24**

A reading from the first letter of St John

*He calls you his own children, and that is what you are.*

Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us,  
by letting us be called God's children;  
and that is what we are.

Because the world refused to acknowledge him,  
therefore it does not acknowledge us.

My dear people, we are already the children of God  
but what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed,  
all we know is, that when it is revealed  
we shall be like him

because we shall see him as he really is.

My dear people,  
if we cannot be condemned by our own conscience,  
we need not be afraid in God's presence,  
and whatever we ask him,

we shall receive,  
because we keep his commandments  
and live the kind of life that he wants.

His commandments are these:

that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ  
and that we love one another  
as he told us to.

Whoever keeps his commandments  
lives in God and God lives in him.

We know that he lives in us  
by the Spirit that he has given us.

*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 2:41-52**

*His parents found him in the temple, sitting among the learned men, listening to them.*

Every year the parents of Jesus used to go to Jerusalem for the feast of the Passover. When he was twelve years old, they went up for the feast as usual. When they were on their way home after the feast, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem without his parents knowing it. They assumed he was with the caravan, and it was only after a day's journey that they went to look for him among their relations and acquaintances. When they failed to find him they went back to Jerusalem looking for him everywhere.

Three days later, they found him in the Temple, sitting among the doctors, listening to them, and asking them questions; and all those who heard him were astounded at his intelligence and his replies. They were overcome when they saw him, and his mother said to him, 'My child, why have you done this to us? See how worried your father and I have been, looking for you.' 'Why were you looking for me?' he replied. 'Did you not know that I must be busy with my Father's affairs?' But they did not understand what he meant.

He then went down with them and came to Nazareth and lived under their authority. His mother stored up all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom, in stature, and in favour with God and men.

*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. What might Mary and Joseph have felt when Jesus was missing and when they found him again?

Q. Why do you think this is the only incident from Jesus' childhood reported in the four gospels?

Q. Why does Jesus appear to place little importance on his family in this and other gospel incidents?

Q. Why is it that families can be both the most frustrating and fulfilling parts of our life?

Q. How could you improve relationships within your family?

## 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.**

## Prayer of the Faithful

*Leader:* Dear friends, through the Holy Family of Nazareth, let us bring our prayers before the Lord.

*Reader:* That our Holy Father Pope Francis may be filled with grace and holiness as he exercises his pastoral care over the Christian family.

In your kindness:

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

*Reader:* That leaders and governors will recognise the sanctity of the family unit and serve them with peace, justice and harmony.

In your kindness:

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

*Reader:* That those from broken families will find a welcoming and loving home with God's people.

In your kindness:

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

Reader: That as a family of the Church, our community will bestow grace and peace to all of God's children.  
In your kindness:

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

Reader: That the sick will be filled with the consolation of God's abundant love, especially for our loved ones.  
In your kindness:

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

Reader: That those who have died will be gathered into eternal life in God's heavenly home, especially for our loved ones.  
In your kindness:

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

Leader: Loving Father, you have created the human family as an image of your love for us. Hear our prayers and give us the grace to love one another as we follow in the ways of your Son. 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:

We believe that the Son of God once came to us  
and we look for him to come again.  
May his coming bring us the light of his holiness  
and free us with his blessing.

All make the sign of the cross during the blessing.

All:

**Amen.**

### Dismissal

Leader:

Let us go in the peace.

All:

**Thanks be to God.**

### Bishop Mykola Bychok elevated to Cardinal

Bishop Mykola Bychok – Eparch of the Eparchy of Saints Peter and Paul of Melbourne for Ukrainian Catholics in Australia, New Zealand, and Oceania – was elevated to the dignity of Cardinal of the Holy Roman Church by Pope Francis on December 7.

Australian Catholic Bishops Conference PUBLISHED December 10, 2024

Australian Catholic Bishops Conference vice-president Bishop Greg Bennet, Archbishop of Melbourne Peter Comensoli and Conference general secretary Fr Chris De Souza travelled to Rome to support Cardinal Mykola.

The ceremony took place in St. Peter's Basilica and began with a short prayer and a reading from the Gospel of Mark.

In this passage, James and John, the sons of Zebedee, ask Jesus to allow them to sit at His right and left in His glory.

Then Jesus called them and said to them, "You know that those who are supposed to rule over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great men exercise authority over them. But it shall not be so among you; but whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of man also came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." (Mark 10:42–45).

Following the Gospel reading, Pope Francis delivered a homily, emphasising that the cardinal's ministry must have Jesus Christ and His teachings as its centre, foundation, and primary focus.

After the homily, the formal ceremony of creating the new cardinals began. Pope Francis declared: "Dear brothers and sisters, we are about to carry out an agreeable and solemn task of our sacred ministry.

"It chiefly concerns the Church of Rome, but it also affects the entire ecclesial community: we will call certain of our brethren to enter the College of Cardinals, so that they may be united to the Chair of Peter by a closer bond our apostolic ministry.

"Having been invested with the sacred purple, they are to be fearless witnesses to Christ and his Gospel in the City of Rome and in faraway regions. Therefore, by the authority of almighty God, of Saints Peter and Paul and our Own, we create and solemnly proclaim Cardinals of Holy Roman Church these brothers of ours."

Pope Francis then read the names of the newly proclaimed cardinals.

The new cardinals recited the Profession of faith and took an oath of fidelity, pledging to remain faithful to Christ and His Gospel for the rest of their lives.

They also promised to remain obedient to the Holy Apostolic Roman Church and the Holy Father and to join the ranks of the Roman clergy, working closely with Pope Francis and his canonical successors.

Each cardinal received a scarlet biretta, symbolising the dignity of the cardinalate and their readiness to defend the Christian faith with courage, even to the point of martyrdom.

They also received a cardinal's ring, signifying their love for the Church, which is strengthened by the love of the Prince of the Apostles. Additionally, each cardinal was assigned with the title/deaconry of titular church in honour of Almighty God and Saints Peter and Paul. Bishop Mykola received the title of Basilica of Santa Sofia, which will now be his cardinal seat in Rome.

It is worth noting that, as Bishop Mykola belongs to the Eastern Catholic Church, his vestments differed somewhat from the traditional attire of the other cardinals.

He wore a purple robe in the old Kyivan tradition, adorned with embroidered images of Saints Peter and Paul. On his head, he wore a black kookoul in accordance with Ukrainian monastic tradition, styled after the 17th-century Brest Union and trimmed with a thin red border.

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On this day, in addition to Bishop Mykola Bychok, 20 new cardinals were created.

As part of the Consistory for the Proclamation of New Cardinals, there is a tradition known as a "courtesy visit" to the new cardinals.

Immediately after the Consistory, clergy and faithful from around the world who had come to Rome to share in this joyous event with Bishop Mykola had the opportunity to meet the newly proclaimed cardinal in the Hall of Blessing (Aula della Benedizione), located at the entrance to St. Peter's Basilica.

Story reproduced from Bishop Mykola Bychok — Cardinal of the Catholic Church • Materials • Ukrainian Catholic Church (Australia, New Zealand and Oceania)

### **Supernova Showcase**

"Sometimes we found it difficult to take charge of our own learning, at other times we felt a little lost until we realised that we are being empowered to take greater participation in our own education."

Catholic Schools Office PUBLISHED December 11, 2024

On Friday 29 November students, teachers and families from St Joseph's Primary School, East Maitland gathered to celebrate a year of dedication and achievement at their annual Supernova Showcase.

The Supernovas proudly presented their projects to parents and special guests, highlighting an impressive range of studies.

Over the year, students were encouraged to delve into topics of personal interest, guided by two key criteria: they were tasked with becoming experts in their chosen field and their projects needed to align with the theme of this year's showcase, Transformation.

The topics showcased the students' curiosity and creativity, spanning diverse areas such as:

How does sport and exercise transform the mind and body?

How do black holes change and transform?

How have art materials changed over time?

A History of Human Evolution (Years 2 and 3)

How is AI transforming the world? (Years 4, 5, and 6)

As part of their studies, students navigated various personal challenges, including sensitivities, overexcitabilities, social dynamics, perfectionism, self-concept, learning styles, worry and peer pressure. These experiences not only deepened their understanding of their individual learning styles but also enabled them to develop resilience and an appreciation for the external factors that shape their education.

The Supernova program provided a valuable opportunity for students to embrace their unique approaches to learning while developing a range of essential skills. Reflecting on the program, one student shared:

"We love that we get to use our brains as much as we like, choosing topics to research and learn about. It teaches us to work independently, with teachers supporting us along the way." This year's showcase was a testament to the students' growth, curiosity, and determination to expand their understanding of the world around them. As one student beautifully summarised:

"Supernovas has transformed our lives, giving us the opportunity to expand our knowledge and helping us gain courage, self-confidence, and creativity."

### **There's no place like Scone**

"If I die tomorrow, I don't regret anything. I've had a very happy life."

Tiahn Pesterey PUBLISHED December 06, 2024

At 82 years old, Janice Maria Waters, affectionately known as Jan, has lived a life filled with change, grief, enduring love and

great joy.

Over the decades, Jan has worn many hats: entrepreneur, secretary, pastoral care worker, dedicated teacher's aide, loving mother and grandmother, tireless volunteer, and trusted friend.

Jan's journey in Scone began in 1945 when she moved to the area with her Brazilian father and Italian mother. As a young girl starting kindergarten at St Mary's Primary School, she was an Italian-speaking daughter of immigrants in a small country town.

"I was often singled out for being a foreigner," Jan recalls. "Some children weren't allowed to play with me. Those early experiences of feeling different shaped me; they made me independent and strong."

Despite the challenges, Jan embraced her education and quickly learned English. She thrived academically and dreamed of becoming a teacher when she finished at St Aloysius High School in Hamilton.

"I'd always loved children and wanted to study education. But my parents couldn't afford to send me for further schooling. And we were an Italian family – we couldn't just leave home and our family.

"So I stayed in Scone and worked at an accountant's office," Jan said.

After her mother passed away from breast cancer at just 50, Jan's life took another turn. Recognising the need for a hairdressing salon in Scone, she took a leap of faith.

"I didn't know anything about hairdressing, so I hired a professional and started an apprenticeship myself," Jan says. Her sister later joined her in the business, and together they ran the salon for 12 years until Jan shifted focus to raise her family.

Jan's connection to St Mary's only deepened over time. Her children, and eventually her grandchildren, attended the school. In the meantime, a nun from the school had asked Jan to assist with administrative work in the school office, a role that grew into a 13-year career. Later, she returned as a pastoral care worker, a position she held for another 12 years.

"My husband passed away two years after I returned to the school," Jan said. "I was meant to retire the year he passed, but I knew I would be a wreck if I was at home all day, so I stayed at St Mary's as a way of coping.

"The children helped me heal. On my first day back after my husband passed, I remember a group of girls coming up to me and saying, 'Mrs. Waters, we'll look after you.' That moment helped my heart," she said.

Jan's impact extended well beyond the school grounds. She was a founding committee member of the Scone Chamber of Commerce and an active participant in the St Vincent de Paul society. Inspired by her mother's battle with breast cancer, Jan dedicated over 20 years to clinical trial participation, driven by a desire to help future generations.

"I thought of my daughter, my sister's daughter, and all the girls to come," she explains. "I had to do it."

She's 82 years young, and she's still very busy.

After clocking up over 70 years in the St Mary's community, Jan resigned last year. However, she is yet to hand in her official notice.

"I still work in the canteen sometimes. Next year I'll volunteer to do reading at school," Jan said.

"I will always be here with a shoulder to cry on and ear to listen to any of our St Mary's community.

"My focus is on spending more time with my family and just enjoying life. Doing whatever I want to do, whenever I want to do it.

"Whatever happens, I'm happy. That's all I can say. I have a lovely family, lovely grandchildren, lovely friends. Life has been good to me. I'm happy."