



**St John
Vianney**
Parish Morisset



TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR B SUNDAY 10TH OCTOBER 2021

Today's Gospel is very challenging. We hear a man put this question to Jesus, 'Good master, what must I do to inherit eternal life?'

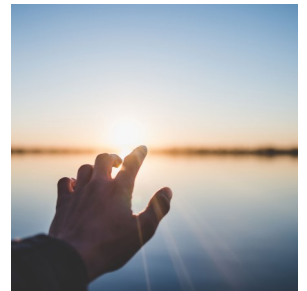
On the face of it, he was a good and honourable man. He felt that he kept all the commandments, and ticked all the boxes.

Well, not as far as the Gospel was concerned! The poor bloke was stunned.

The Jews believed that the prosperity of the rich, was a sign of God's blessing. But Jesus presents wealth as a stumbling block to the kingdom.

When Jesus says, 'Sell what you have...' he doesn't mean that a disciple must be destitute. But neither is the desire for the accumulation of possessions and wealth healthy.

Our presence here on a Sunday, brings us face to face with the same question which the young man had for Jesus. Jesus asks the same of us as he did of that young man.



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

PRIEST IN RESIDENCE: Fr Kevin Corrigan, Sacramental Priest

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

OFFICE: 60 Yambo Street, Morisset, PO Box 87,
Office Hours: 9.00 am to 2.00pm—Monday to Friday
Ph: 02 4973.6859, Fax 02 4973.2937

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 10th October 9.30am

Mass— ZOOM

Sunday 17th October 9.30am

Mass— Zoom

Book your place via the Book for Services button on the Parish Website, or the Eventbrite App or Website:

<http://vianneymorisset.eventbrite.com>.

PASTORAL CARE

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SPEAK WITH A PRIEST PLEASE CONTACT FR KEVIN ON 02 4973 1537 .

PARISH OFFICE

DUE TO THE CURRENT COVID RESTRICTIONS THE PARISH OFFICE IS CLOSED AS ROSANNA IS WORKING REMOTELY THE BEST CONTACT METHOD IS VIA EMAIL OR YOU CAN CALL THE OFFICE NUMBER AND SPEAK TO A PLT MEMBER.

RE-OPENING

PLEASE SEE NOTICE ON PAGE 2 ON THE ADVICE RECEIVED FROM THE DIOCESE'S VICAR GENERAL ABOUT RE-OPENING FOR MASSES AND LITURGIES.

DISCLAIMER: Unless otherwise stated, the advertisements placed in this bulletin are placed by independent third parties who have no legal relationship with the Diocese. The activities or services of the advertisers are not supervised or controlled in any way by the Diocese. The Diocese is not in a position to endorse the advertisers or the services provided and makes no representation about those matters. Accordingly, the Diocese cannot accept any responsibility for the advertisers or the activities or services that are the subject of these advertisements.

REFLECTION FOR THE 28th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

I was reading an article the other day from Dick Folger, he was reminiscing about a television spectator sport called "Texas Hold-Em".

I was a bit befuddled what he meant, but, as it turned out it is the World Series Poker competition and you need \$1 million dollars to buy into the game. In 2012 the winner walked away with \$18,346,000.00. If he banked it, he could take out \$1,000 a day for over 50 years before he ran out.

I was still puzzled when he continued that if a player thinks he holds a winning hand he can bet all his chips. This move is called "going all-in", it forces all other players to match the bet or fold their hands.

Then the penny dropped for me. In the Gospel this week Jesus was confronted by a young man. He was a good man, always trying to do what was right but he balked at the last hurdle.

Basically Jesus invited him to go and seek all he owned, give it to the poor and then follow him.

This was a step too far for the young man and in a sense he folded his hand and left the game.

The stakes were high- he wanted eternal life- but he could not let go of his security.

This does not make him bad, we all have things we cling to as security, not just money.

These things possess us- not us possessing them! We will do anything to keep whatever it is that possesses us.

In Pope Francis' writings, he is challenging me to learn from this Gospel story. He is challenging me to see if there is anything that possesses me in my life. What can't I let go of at any cost?

He says that if I can't, then I will never see the person who has to do without everything, and who needs my companionship and help. My clinging on to something at any cost, blinds me to everything and everyone else around me. My only mission is to cling onto what is mine.

The Bible does not say that money is the root of all evil, but it does say that the "love of Money" is the root of all evil. It is not what we have but it is what we do with it that counts.

Just as the young man was challenged to "go all-in" to achieve the prize, you and I are challenged to let go, to "go all-in" and change our focus from ourselves and look to God.

Jesus says, "For human beings, it is impossible but all things are possible for God".

Every challenge, every demand Jesus made on his disciples, and on us, becomes possible if we learn to rely on God's grace and approach each challenge as an opportunity to respond to God's call.

I pray that you and I can accept the challenge, look within ourselves, and see what is our stumbling block is that is keeping us from "going all-in" and accept God's challenge to become more!

Uta France

aMeN caMiNo

aMeN caMiNo Expressions of Interest are now open for 2022. Dates for 2022 are May 28 - June 1, June 18-22, July 2-6, July 9-13 & August 6-10.

For more information and to register your interest, go to <https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/adult-faith-formation/amen-camino/> or contact formed@mn.catholic.org.au

ADVICE FROM THE DIOCESE ON RE-OPENING

You have probably heard this past week about the NSW Government's roadmap to reopening of the State. Late on Friday last week we received this advice from Fr Andrew Doohan Vicar General. I will mention very briefly what it will mean for Places of Worship.

There are essentially three phases to the NSW Government's roadmap, and the reopening of churches in the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle will be staged to match those phases
PHASE ONE: reopening commences when 70% of eligible people are fully vaccinated. It is estimated that this milestone should be reached by 11 October

We would then be entitled to reopen our churches at this point, but only to those who are fully vaccinated.

For that reason, it has been decided not to reopen at 70%, but to await the next milestone at 80%, before we reopen our churches to the public, and for the celebration of Mass.

The state expects to reach 80% fully vaccinated, around the end of October.

We will keep you informed as the month progresses, of what it will mean for us here at Morisset.

APPLICATIONS ARE NOW OPEN FOR THE 2022 PASTORAL PLACEMENT PROGRAM

The Pastoral Placement Program offers participants an experience of ministry in the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle. The purpose of this program is to enable participants the opportunity to experience different workplaces and ministries across the diocese. These 'on the ground' ministry work placements help participants explore the opportunities that are available to them to serve God and the local community of the Catholic Church in the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle.

The Pastoral Placement Program provides participants a year-long discernment journey, involving the see, judge, act philosophy, to make an informed choice about the possibility of their future ministry or career choices.

For more information and to learn to how to apply go to: <https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/pastoral-placement-program/>



JOIN TOGETHER IN OCTOBER FOR
THE MONTH OF THE ROSARY

**PRAY
THE ROSARY**

3:30 PM DAILY

Via Zoom
Meeting ID: 651 3017 1629
Passcode: rosary

Contact Rose-Marie: Family Ministry Coordinator
for more information or help with zoom
0408796252

PALMS AUSTRALIA / GLOBAL MISSION

Since 1961 [Palms Australia](https://palms.org.au) has quietly prepared and supported humble Catholics like you for mission. It's our response as church to calls from Australian and overseas communities to help bring opportunity to the poor.

Sharing your skills with local co-workers helps them to develop their essential community organisations. Improving their self-reliance aids sustainable poverty reduction and removes dependence on foreign aid and influence. Your relationships within the local community will transform your heart and soul.

To be prepared for a 2022 placement [at https://palms.org.au/enquire-now/](https://palms.org.au/enquire-now/) by Friday October 29.

Visit palms.org.au Email palms@palms.org.au or call Christine on 02 9560 5333

"AMORIS LAETITIA FAMILY YEAR " 19 MARCH 2021- 26 JUNE 2022

The "Amoris Laetitia (The Joy of Love) Family Year" is an initiative of Pope Francis, which aims to reach every family around the world through several spiritual, pastoral and cultural proposals that can be implemented within parishes, dioceses, universities, ecclesial movements and family associations.

Over the course of ten monthly episodes, hear the Holy Father talk about each of the chapters of the Apostolic Exhortation Amoris Laetitia, along with the testimonies of different families who will share some aspects of their daily lives.

This initiative is a joint collaboration between the Dicastery for the Laity, Family and Life and Vatican News, and aims to facilitate the reading of the Apostolic Exhortation, with the aid of downloadable material prepared for personal and community reflection.

To access this resource:

<http://www.laityfamilylife.va/content/laityfamilylife/en/amoris-laetitia/iniziativa-e-risorse/10-video-amoris-laetitia.html>

SACRED STORIES – SACRED SPACES: A JOURNEY INTO DISCOVERY, TRUTH AND RIGHT RELATIONS

Kamilaroi woman and member of the Aboriginal Catholic Ministry, Jennifer Rumbel, extends an invitation to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholics to participate in an empowering research project that seeks to address the lack of Indigenous voices in our Diocese history.

The survey is part of a University of Newcastle post graduate student research project which is exploring the shared histories and stories of Aboriginal Catholics and the Maitland-Newcastle Diocese.

This research seeks to provide a platform for the previously unheard voices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in relation to their experiences both past and present with the Catholic Diocese.

This study aims to provide culturally appropriate, Sacred Spaces in which to share our Sacred Stories.

This survey will allow you to register your contact details for a one-to-one interview and will only take a couple of minutes to complete.

You can access the survey here: <https://redcap.hmri.org.au/surveys/?s=RWN7FMCXXH>

ACU CENTRE FOR LITURGY / RITUAL BODIES AS 'REASONABLE WORSHIP': PUTTING LITURGY IN PROPER ETHICAL PERSPECTIVE

Bruce T Morrill SJ will present on Ritual Bodies as 'Reasonable Worship': Putting liturgy in proper ethical perspective. In our current Synod process we hear a longing for more formation opportunities so this lecture is an opportunity not to be missed. It will explore the challenges of theological rhetoric for 21st century Catholics, and how those challenges can illuminate the connection between liturgy and ethical living.

Time: 10:00AM-11:30AM Date: 18 October 2021

Register: www.acu.edu.au/publiclecturecfl

'EARTHY WOMEN' WEBINAR 2021 / ENGAGING WITH LAUDATO SI'

In a special event hosted by the Diocesan Council for Women, you are invited to join other women of our Diocese in sharing our approach and action in caring for our land.

The webinar will explore:

- How do you as a women respond to God's call to care for the Earth?
- What actions will you take to protect our planet?
- Are our schools places of living examples of what can be done to show that care of the Earth matters?

Guest speakers include Sue Martin from Catholic Earthcare and Maryanne Murray from St Mary's High School Gateshead.

Via ZOOM At: 6:00PM-8:00PM On 26 October 2021

Register: www.eventbrite.com.au/e/earthy-women-webinar-2021-tickets-179659485357

BUILDING BRIDGES: REACHING OUT TO OUR LGBTQIA+ COMMUNITY WITH JAMES MARTIN SJ

Globally, people who are LGBTQIA+ are at increased risk of depression, suicide, and verbal, physical and sexual harassment and abuse. James recognised a lack of Church advocacy on these issues following the 2016 Orlando nightclub shooting in the USA, noticing that few Catholic Bishops publicly spoke out about the massacre.

This prompted him to consider how the Church could better minister to LGBTQIA+ Catholics, discussed in his book, *Building a Bridge: How the Catholic Church and the LGBT Community Can Enter into a Relationship of Respect, Compassion, and Sensitivity* (2017).

Join this online conversation with James to explore how the Church in Australia can do more to welcome and truly respect and enhance the dignity of all, honouring the diversity in humanity.

Via ZOOM At: 10:00AM On: 26 October 2021

Register: <https://www.trybooking.com/BTQTX>

PLENARY COUNCIL FAN THE FLAME

Keep updated with what is happening at the 1st Assembly of the Plenary Council watch the current day's Mass and Live streams at: <https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/>

You can also catch up on previous days Masses and sessions <https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/masses-and-livestreams/>

Live stream Mass every Sunday at 9.30am at <https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/places/live-stream/>

CURRENT COVID RESTRICTIONS—STAY AT HOME ORDERS

All Places of Worship in the Lake Macquarie local government area are currently closed due to stay-at-home orders the NSW government are reassessing these on weekly basis .The only exception is for a Funeral or Memorial Service, which are limited to 10 mourners. If any of the mourners reside in Greater Sydney they can only attend if they are the spouse, de facto partner, parent, child, or sibling of the deceased person. We will be placing copies of the Parish Newsletter in the holders located at the doors near the breezeway. The Newsletter contains a Sunday Prayer Service that everyone can use at home. If you know someone who doesn't have access to the internet please let them know they can pick one up from outside the Church.

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.

If you would like to make contributions to support the Diocese Clergy / 1st Collection the Bank Account Details are:
Account Name: CDF 96020 Morisset Parish BSB: 062815
Account Number 00328161 Ref: 5016 1st Collection

WEEKEND ROSTERS

		<u>THIS WEEK</u>	<u>NEXT WEEK</u>
<u>Presiders</u>	9.30	Virtual Mass	Virtual Mass
<u>PROCLAIMER:</u>	9.30		
<u>PSALMIST:</u>	9.30		
<u>UNIVERSAL PRAYER</u>	9.30		
<u>SERVERS</u>	9.30		
<u>AV:</u>	9.30		
<u>SOUND/ VIDEO:</u>	9.30		
<u>COVID-19 SAFETY TEAM</u>	9.30		
<u>COMMUNION USHERS</u>	9.30		
<u>CLEANERS</u>	9.30		

UPCOMING FEAST DAYS MEMORIALS AND SOLEMNITIES

SAINT TERESA OF JESUS— 15TH OCTOBER
SAINT LUKE— 18TH OCTOBER
SAINTS SIMON AND JUDE— 28TH OCTOBER
ALL SAINTS—1ST NOVEMBER
ALL SOULS— 2ND NOVEMBER
SAINT CHARLES BORROMEO— 4TH NOVEMBER
THE DEDICATION OF THE LATERAN BASILICA— 9TH NOVEMBER
SAINT LEO THE GREAT— 10TH NOVEMBER
SAINT MARTIN OF TOURS— 11TH NOVEMBER

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

William Eggins, Bishop Bill Wright, Robert Jay .

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



PRAYER REQUESTS FOR THE BULLETIN

If you would like the parish to pray for a **family member who is sick, recently deceased or you would like remembered** please call or email the parish office or complete a prayer card for each person and place in the mail box near the parish office door. Cards are available at the back of the church and at the Parish Office.

All prayer requests require permission from a family member or the person. Due to Australian privacy laws.

AN ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

My Jesus,

I believe that You

are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.

I love You above all things,

and I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment

receive You sacramentally,

come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You.

Never permit me to be separated from You.

Amen.



Live stream Mass every Sunday at 9.30am at <https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/places/live-stream/>





A voice for youth: Plenary Council's youngest member looks ahead to historic gathering

A quietly-spoken 20-year-old university student and youth minister from the regional New South Wales city of Orange is

set to make history as the youngest member of the Fifth Plenary Council of Australia.

GUEST CONTRIBUTION PUBLISHED OCTOBER 01, 2021

Matthew Brown is currently in the first year of a double law and international studies degree at the University of Wollongong, but has returned to his home town to prepare for what he believes will be perhaps the greatest challenge he has faced so far in his young life.

A proud graduate of James Sheahan Catholic High School in Orange, Mr Brown received a surprising phone call from the Diocese of Bathurst last year, inviting him to become one of only five members on the Plenary Council from his rural diocese, including Bishop Michael McKenna.

"I was school captain in my final year and loved my time there so much that I decided to take up a position as a youth minister in my gap year. It wasn't long into my time in that role that I received the call from the Diocese", he explained.

"I was a little hesitant at first because I didn't really appreciate what a plenary council entailed. But after some discernment, I knew this was such a landmark event for the future of the Catholic Church in Australia and such a great opportunity for youth to be represented".

Mr Brown attributes his strong Catholic faith and commitment to serving the community to his education at James Sheahan High, where he was heavily influenced by its dual charism of the De La Salle Brothers and the Mercy Sisters.

"A real turning point for me came in year 11 when I volunteered for an immersion trip to the northern Sri Lankan city of Mannar, where I spent a week alongside my classmates teaching at a Lasallian school there", he said.

"I had spent a year fundraising for the trip and it was so rewarding seeing the impact that had as students benefited from having new computers and iPads thanks to the fundraising we had been involved with in Orange."

Mr Brown said he wants to build upon that spirit of serving those in greatest need through the Plenary Council – the first such event in Australia in more than 80 years.

"I really want to see a Church more open to serving the marginalised, especially Indigenous Australians who have such a beautiful spirituality we can learn from," he said.

"I also feel very much called to be a genuine voice for youth at the Plenary Council. I believe our young Catholics really want to see our Church heal from its dark past, especially around its history of clerical abuse where there is a real need for greater accountability.

"In the interests of future generations, we need to move forward and build up a Church which is committed to a greater future."

Plans to hold an in-person gathering of 280 members of the Council's first assembly in Adelaide from October 3-10 have been abandoned and replaced with each member now participating in the assembly from their own homes. In some regions not affected by COVID-19 at that time, members might gather in small groups.

Mr Brown said he has been undertaking his university studies largely online since the pandemic began and he is therefore very much at home as the Plenary Council shifts towards largely online delivery.

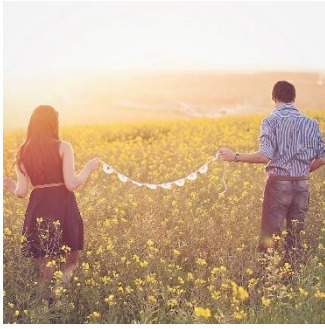
"While I was very much looking forward to meeting and socialising with other members in person, I'm very used to working online," he explained.

"But certainly, depending upon the COVID restrictions in place by October, there may still hopefully be a way that we can gather in a Diocese of Bathurst hub, given our relatively small numbers."

Over recent months, Mr Brown has been speaking about the Plenary Council at local youth festivals, helping to encourage other young Catholics to engage with this historic event.

"Youth ministry has really helped provide me with the skill set to step into this important role and I'm really looking forward to engaging with fellow Plenary Council members to serve our Church in such a special way," he said.

Author: Michael Kenny, Archdiocese of Sydney



SUNDAY PRAYER SERVICE

Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B
Sunday 03 Oct 2021

The Introductory Rites

Gathering

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

A short hymn might be sung.

Sign of the Cross

Leader:

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

All:

Amen.

Greeting

Leader:

Blessed be Jesus who makes us one,
and strengthens us
by the power of his Spirit.

All:

Blessed be God forever.

Introductory Remarks

Leader (in these or similar words):

Friends in Christ,
although we cannot celebrate the Eucharist this day,
we gather in God's name
for when two or more come together
God is always with us.

We worship in union with the whole Church
keeping this day of the Lord holy.

Opening Rite

LITANY OF PRAISE

Leader:

Before listening to the Word of God
let us praise the Lord Jesus Christ
who has raised us to new life.

A brief period of silence follows.

Leader:

Lord Jesus, you are our strength and our help: Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord have mercy.

Christ Jesus, you have given us your commandments of love: Christ, have mercy.

All: Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you intercede for us at the right hand of 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.

O God
Jesus redeemed the world
and became the cornerstone of the Church.
Help us to listen to what Jesus asks of us.
May our words and deeds bear fruit
and build your holy Church on earth.
We ask this through Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
for ever and ever.

All:

Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

Gen 2:18-24

A reading from the book of Genesis

They were two in one flesh.

The Lord God said, 'It is not good that the man should be alone. I will make him a helpmate.' So from the soil the Lord God fashioned all the wild beasts and all the birds of heaven. These he brought to the man to see what he would call them, each one was to bear the name the man would give it. The man gave names to all the cattle, all the birds of heaven and all the wild beasts. But no helpmate suitable for man was found for him. So the Lord God made the man fall into a deep sleep. And while he slept, he took one of his ribs and enclosed it in flesh. The Lord God built the rib he had taken from the man into a woman, and brought her to the man. The man exclaimed:

'This at last is bone from my bones,
and flesh from my flesh!
This is to be called woman,
for this was taken from man.'

This is why a man leaves his father and mother and joins himself to his wife, and they become one body.

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

The word of the Lord.

All reply:

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 127. R. v.5

(R.) May the Lord bless us all the days of our lives.

1. O blessed are those who fear the Lord
and walk in his ways!
By the labour of your hands you shall eat.
You will be happy and prosper. **(R.)**
2. Your wife will be like a fruitful vine
in the heart of your house;
your children like shoots of the olive,
around your table. **(R.)**
3. Indeed thus shall be blessed
the man who fears the Lord.
May the Lord bless you from Zion
in a happy Jerusalem
all the days of your life!
May you see your children's children.
On Israel, peace! **(R.)**

Second Reading

Heb 2:9-11

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

He who sanctifies, and those who are sanctified have one origin.

We see in Jesus one who was for a short while made lower than the angels and is now crowned with glory and splendour because he submitted to death; by God's grace he had to experience death for all mankind.

As it was his purpose to bring a great many of his sons into glory, it was appropriate that God, for whom everything exists and through whom everything exists, should make perfect, through suffering, the leader who would take them to their salvation. For the one who sanctifies, and the ones who are sanctified, are of the same stock; that is why he openly calls them brothers.

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 Mark.

All:

Glory to you, O Lord.

Mk 10:2-16

What God has joined together, no one must divide.

Some Pharisees approached Jesus and asked, 'Is it against the law for a man to divorce his wife?' They were testing him. He answered them, 'What did Moses command you?' 'Moses allowed us' they said 'to draw up a writ of dismissal and so to divorce.' Then Jesus said to them, 'It was because you were so unteachable that he wrote this commandment for you. But from the beginning of creation God made them male and female. This is why a man must leave father and mother, and the two become one body. They are no longer two, therefore, but one body. So then, what God has united, man must not divide.' Back in the house the disciples questioned him again about this, and he said to them, 'The man who divorces his wife and marries another is guilty of adultery against her. And if a woman divorces her husband and marries another she is guilty of adultery too.'

People were bringing little children to him, for him to touch them. The disciples turned them away, but when Jesus saw this he was indignant and said to them, 'Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. I tell you solemnly, anyone who does not welcome the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.' Then he put his arms round them, laid his hands on them and gave them his blessing.

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. How does this passage help explain the Church's position on divorce?

Q. Is the clash between the church's position on divorce and society standards helpful or harmful?

Q. Why does the gospel writer include this passage in a section about what it means to be a disciple?

Q. In what ways does the teaching about children challenge us today?

Profession of Faith

Leader:

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

All:

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

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

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

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

Prayer of the Faithful

Leader: Dear friends, let us bring our needs to the Lord, who is near to all who call.

Reader: That the Lord will watch over the Holy Church with peace, mercy and wisdom
from above.

(pause)

In your compassion:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That nations and leaders will seek the way to peace by putting aside conflict and ambition.

(pause)

In your compassion:

All:Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That, through faith, our community will encourage children and young people to receive Christ.

(pause)

In your compassion:

All:Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That, as servants of the Lord, we may put others first and strive to build a community of peace and sincerity.

(pause)

In your compassion:

All:Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That as we reflect on the future of the Church in Australia and immerse ourselves in the Plenary Council, let us follow the example of Mary, remembering her trust that the Spirit of God would be with her.

(pause)

In your compassion:

All:Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That all who are sick or housebound will be upheld by God's healing power, especially those in our community and families.

(pause)

In your compassion:

All:Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That all who have died will receive the Lord Jesus Christ through the promise of eternal life, especially those in our community and families.

(pause)

In your compassion:

All:Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Loving God, you guide us through your Gospel of truth. Hear our prayers and grant us the words and deeds we need to serve others in your name. 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 forth, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

All:

Thanks be to God.

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