

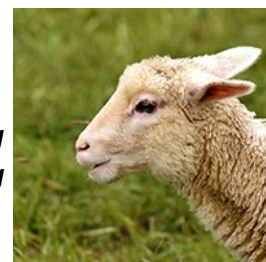


## SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR B 14 JANUARY 2024

*We are now in what the church calls the season of ordinary time. The crib is back in storage, the wise men have returned to the east, the shepherds to their flocks, the angels have stopped singing, and Christmas is a memory.*

*The main theme of the readings this Sunday, is that of call and response. In the Gospel we hear Jesus say to his first two disciples, 'Come and see'.*

*Jesus is forever passing by. He is always available to those who are sincerely looking for him. But he never forces himself on anyone. To those who are interested in knowing more, he says what he said to John and Andrew: 'Come and see'.*



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 PRIEST:** Fr John Purnell

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

**PARISH SECRETARY:** Rosanna Suckling

OFFICE: 60 Yambo Street, Morisset, PO Box 87, Ph: 02 4973.6859  
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(We ask that you make an appointment to come to the office)  
Morisset Parish Office email: [morparish@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:morparish@mn.catholic.org.au)  
Morisset Parish Web site: [www.vianneymorisset.org](http://www.vianneymorisset.org)  
Morisset Parish Facebook : <https://www.facebook.com/stjvparish>  
Morisset Parish Instagram : [https://www.instagram.com/stjvparish\\_morisset/](https://www.instagram.com/stjvparish_morisset/)  
Morisset Parish Bulletin Items: [morparish@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:morparish@mn.catholic.org.au)  
(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 :

Saturday	13th January 5pm Mass—Cooranbong
Sunday	14th January 9.30am Mass—Morisset
Saturday	20th January 5pm Family Mass—Morisset
Sunday	21st January 9.30am Mass—Morisset
Saturday	27th January 5pm Mass—Cooranbong
Sunday	28th January 9.30am Mass—Morisset
Tuesday	30th January 9.30am Liturgy—Morisset
Saturday	3rd February 5pm Family Mass—Morisset
Sunday	4th February 9.30am Mass—Morisset
Tuesday	6th February 9.30am Liturgy—Morisset
Saturday	10th February 5pm Mass - Cooranbong
Sunday	11th February 9.30am Mass—Morisset
Tuesday	13th February 9.30am Liturgy—Morisset

## 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.

## Reflection for The Second Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B — 14th January 2024

The Christmas Season is over for another year!

To the song of the angels Christ was born - Shepherds & Kings adored Him - Herod threatened to kill Him - with His parents He fled to Egypt & returned to live in Nazareth where His hidden life began.

This period of 30 years was not a waste of time but, in fact, enabled Him to "increase in wisdom, stature & favour with God & men" (Lk 2:40) & preceded all the words & miracles with which Jesus astonished the world in His later life. Before the Father transfigured His only-begotten Son on Mt. Tabor, this hidden life of Jesus had found His favour.

We rejoice that the gift of another year has been given to us & perhaps the most enticing thing about it is the word NEW ! It is indeed an invitation to re-view & re-energise our lives but more importantly, re-evaluate our standing with God & our neighbour.

Everything in life is a process in motion & as long as we live we are always heading somewhere & it is God's wish that we enjoy ourselves on the way. However, all the resolutions we might make are meaningless unless we are truly new from the inside out.

Once we realise that we are unconditionally loved by God - not because of anything we are or anything we have done - we can stop trying to EARN His love & gratefully RECEIVE & ENJOY IT.

The readings in Ordinary time have no particular "theme", instead they reflect the ordinariness of life, but, importantly, we learn how God is involved as a loving Father in every aspect of our lives & we must never forget that He knows each one of us by name & holds us in the palm of his hand!

For sure, there will be many times when we need to call on a wise guide like Eli or John the Baptist or St Joseph to help us recognise the voice of God in our lives, and we are assured that when we do this they will answer our prayers!

The main theme throughout today's readings is the importance of "seeing" or looking closely at situations in our lives while knowing that HE is always with us.

-Notice how Eli recognises the presence of God in Samuel's encounters & guides him on what to say.

-Paul's message to the Corinthians uses "seeing" in a more subtle way, encouraging his readers to honour their bodies so as to truly live as God sees them, as temples of the Holy Spirit.

-The Gospel message describes a number of different ways of seeing—we note how John "stared hard" at Jesus, recognising Him as the Messiah & prompted his disciples to follow Him. Then as Jesus saw these disciples He invited them to "come & see" the place where He was staying.

When Jesus met Andrew's brother Simon, He "looked hard at him" & gave him a new name, "Cephas" based on "what He had seen".

We are reminded of the importance of RECOGNISING God's presence around & within us in our everyday lives - " My presence shall go with you & I will give you rest" (Exodus 33:14 ) These early weeks of our New Year may well be the perfect time to reflect on how God has revealed Himself to each of us & how we have responded. He eagerly awaits our conversation! The privilege of belonging to God is greater than we can fully realise now, as "we walk by faith & not by sight", but we will eventually comprehend it in the light of eternity.

"We put our souls in God's hands because we know that if God inspects them regularly, they will work as they should". Bishop Fulton Sheen (America)

St Mary MacKillop said in 1875 " I am daily more & more amazed at God's patience with myself"

## Clergy assisting in the Macquarie Region.

With the appointment of Fr Priyantha Fernando as Assistant Priest, assisting Fr George Anthicad in the six parishes of the Maitland, Bishop Michael Kennedy has appointed the following Priests to assist Fr Greg Barker in our Macquarie Region.

Fr Raphael Madukwe, Fr Darryl Mackie, and Fr John Purnell.

Fr Greg Barker will celebrate the 5pm Vigil Mass at Cooranbong Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> January.

Fr Darryl Mackie will celebrate the 9.30am Sunday Mass Morisset 14<sup>th</sup> January.

## Monthly Cuppa and Conversation.

Our monthly 'Cuppa' with biscuits and conversation, will resume next Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> January after the 9.30am Mass in the Callinan Centre.

## Save the Date

Our Parish will be hosting the 2024 Ecumenical World Day of Prayer, Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March in the Morisset Church. Every year, the worship service focuses on a different country and a specific theme. This year the focus country is Palestine. More information as we move closer to the date.

## Rostered Ministries

It is again time to revisit our Rostered Ministries for 2024. If you have been involved in the various 2023 ministries, now is the time to indicate your willingness to continue, change your ministry, or have some time out. The new rosters will commence in March. A 'carry over' roster for February will operate. Volunteer Forms are available at the back of the church, or you may complete the Form 'online' at <https://forms.office.com/r/HF67vcVbXQ> or the link provided in the Bulletin email or the Button Link on the Parish Website or via the Mass App.

## SJV Primary School News

Please remember the following dates:

School resumes for students Years 1-6 on Thursday 1 February.

Kindergarten will commence on Monday 5 February

## Aurora

The December edition of the Aurora is available to read online at: <https://mnnews.today/aurora/december-2023/>

## Easter

Easter is a 'movable feast' so it doesn't happen on the same date from year to year. In the Gregorian calendar, it is always observed on a Sunday between March 22 and April 25. Easter Sunday 2024 falls on March 31.

## Points to Ponder

Traditions have always been an important dimension of celebrating faith. Each age is a time of special grace, including our age of high technology.

### Did you Know?

**Relics:** The religious tradition of venerating the relics of saints began with the custom of solemnly burying the bodies of martyrs and caring for their graves. This popular practice of veneration was eventually extended to their exhumed clothes, to the dust of their graves, and to objects touched by these holy relics. By the 5th century, there were warnings from church authorities against abuses and superstitious practices associated with the veneration of relics.

Individuals acquired real or 'pseudo' relics and used them for private purposes of devotion and intercession before God. This led to questionable or superstitious practices. The church continued to issue warnings and corrections, and today carefully regulates this religious practice, (canon 1190)

## With a Light Heart

An elderly man in Sydney calls his son in Perth and says, "I hate to ruin your day son, but I have to tell you that your mother and I are getting a divorce; 45 years of marriage, and I can only take so much of this misery!"

"Dad, what are you talking about?" The son yells.

"We can't stand the sight of each other any longer," the old bloke explains. "We're sick of each other, and I'm sick of talking about this, so you call your sister in Adelaide and tell her!"

Frantic, the son calls his sister, who shouts. "Absolute rubbish! They're not getting divorced. I'll take care of this." She calls her elderly father immediately, and screams at him, "You are not getting divorced. Don't do a single thing until I get there. I'm calling my brother back, and we'll both be in Sydney by the end of the week. Until then, don't do a thing, you hear me?" she yells and hangs up abruptly.

The old man puts the phone down, smiles, and turns to his wife. "Okay," he says. "It's all settled. They're both coming for Christmas and paying their own airfare."

## Voice of the Spirit

To access the latest Catholic Charismatic Renewal Newsletter, visit: [www.mn.catholic.org.au/media/6739/novvos2023e.pdf](http://www.mn.catholic.org.au/media/6739/novvos2023e.pdf) There are also two events to Save the Date for. CCR Leadership Day – Saturday 3 February 2024 and CCR NSW Conference – 7 to 8 September 2024.

## Men's Rosary Crusade Group

Bishop Michael supports our Men's Rosary Crusade group which meets on the 1st Saturday of every month at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Newcastle at 1pm.

The Men's Rosary Crusade also meet every Tuesday at 7.30pm on zoom Time: \*7.30pm every Tuesday\*

Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82498429031?pwd=NHlrYjlsZ1grRzRpclBMbXU0NzBLQT09>

Meeting ID: 824 9842 9031 Passcode: 733946

## Pope Francis' prayer intention for January 2024.

That we may recognise the gift of different charisms within the Christian community, and discover the richness of different ritual traditions in the heart of the Catholic Church.

# PROJECT COMPASSION FOR ALL FUTURE GENERATIONS



## Caritas Australia: Project Compassion Launch 2024

The Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle invites you to the launch of the 2024 Project Compassion appeal themed "For All Future Generations".

During the Liturgy, all attendees from across our schools, parishes and agencies are called forward by Parish region to receive their 2024 Project Compassion box and commissioning from Bishop Michael Kennedy.

Donations to Project Compassion allows Caritas Australia, the Catholic Agency for International Aid and Development, to work with local communities around the world to alleviate poverty, hunger, oppression and injustice.

At the conclusion of the Liturgy, complimentary pancakes will be served at the Southern Cross Hall. \*\*Gluten Free pancakes are available; please advise when prompted at registration\*\*.

Date: Shrove Tuesday - 13 February 2024

Time: 10.15am for a 10.30am start, concluding at approximately 12.30pm.

Parking is limited, we advise arriving with sufficient time to locate suitable parking. There is also paid parking at the Wilson St Carpark, a short five minute walk away.

Location: Sacred Heart Cathedral, HAMILTON. Followed by Pancakes in the Southern Cross Hall.

RSVP by: 5pm, Thursday 8 February 2024 at : <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/caritas-australia-project-compassion-launch-2024-tickets-777386843977?aff=ebdsoporgprofile>

## Tilling the Church - Theology of an Unfinished Project

You are invited to discuss Father Richard's latest publication, "Tilling the Church: Theology for an Unfinished Project".

We will be going through Richard's book chapter by chapter over several months online. Between 7:00PM and 8:30PM on the following dates:

**Wednesday February 21** - Chapter 3. The Pilgrimage Community of Faith and Hope

**Wednesday March 20** - Chapter 4. Engaging the Graced World

**Wednesday April 17** - Chapter 5. The Future-Oriented Past

**Wednesday May 15** - Chapter 6. The Art of Faithfulness and Conclusion

Register at: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/tilling-the-church-theology-of-an-unfinished-project-tickets-708148319687>

**Children and  
vulnerable Adults  
should have a say  
about decisions  
affecting them**





### SUPPORTING THE CLERGY / 1st Collection

If you would like to make contributions to support the Clergy / 1st Collection please do so at Mass in the BLUE bucket or electronically using the Online Payments button on the Parish Website Home page, Diocese App, Bank Account Name: CCF BSB: 062815 No: 00328161 Ref: 5016 1st Collection or set up a direct debit contact the parish office for this option.

### SUPPORTING OUR PARISH / 2nd Collection

If you would like to make contributions to support our Parish please do so at Mass via the RED bucket or deposit directly into the Parish Account our details are: Account Name: CCF BSB:062815 Account Number: 00328161 one of the following Payment References are required by CCF for all deposits: 5004 or 5004 + SURNAME or 5004 + PG + your Giver Number, or 5004 + PG + SURNAME, or you can use the Online Payments button on the Parish Website Home page or the Diocese App. If you are considering taking up **planned giving** you may like to know that **a percentage of the contributions are tax deductible**. If you would like to know more or set up planned giving please contact the Parish Office.

WEEKEND ROSTERS			
		<u>THIS WEEK</u>	<u>NEXT WEEK</u>
<u>PRESIDERS</u>	5PM 9.30AM	Mass Mass	Mass Mass
<u>PROCLAIMERS:</u>	5PM 9.30AM	J France H White	K Lendon P Melvey
<u>PSALMIST:</u>	5PM 9.30AM	L Hutchinson M Foo	D Joyce L Hutchinson
<u>GIFTS</u>	5PM 9.30AM	K Lendon J Vipan L McRae L McRae	C Tuck P Melvey A Walker G Walker
<u>SERVERS</u>	5PM 9.30AM	M Melvey  V Paulo C Lawandos	M Melvey R Lawandos V Paulo C Lawandos
<u>Av</u>	5PM 9.30AM	J France T Alexander	J France J Vipan
<u>WELCOMERS</u>	5PM 9.30AM	J France  A Walker G Walker	A Dussin P Herbert J France P Herbert
<u>CHURCH CLEANING</u>	COOR MOR	P MacIntyre C Lawandos	XXXX K Lendon

**Our Parish supports The Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle 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 minister and interact with. If you have any concerns for a child or vulnerable adult please contact the Office of Safeguarding P:02 4979 1390 or email: [childprotection@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:childprotection@mn.catholic.org.au), or visit their website for further information [www.officeofsafeguarding.org.au](http://www.officeofsafeguarding.org.au).**

### UPCOMING FEAST DAYS MEMORIALS AND SOLEMINITIES

SAINT ANTHONY (M) - 17TH JAN  
SAINT FRANCIS DE SALES (M) - 24TH JAN  
CONVERSION OF SAINT PAUL (F) - 25TH JAN  
AUSTRALIA DAY—26TH JAN  
SAINT JOHN BOSCO (M) - 31ST JAN  
THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD (F) - 2ND FEB  
SAINT AGATHA (M) - 5TH FEB  
SAINTS PAUL MIKI AND COMPANIONS (M) - 6TH FEB  
SAINT SCHOLASTICA (M) - 10TH FEB  
THE CHAIR OF SAINT PETER (F) - 22ND FEB

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

Kim Smith, Sr Patricia Adams rsm, Annette Boyd, Mary Monaghan, Clare Wallington, Donna Hazzard, Pam Mullaly, Mary Johnson, Tintumol Thomas, Pat Findley, Les Findley, Peter Martyn, Bernadette Martin, Joan Gillett, Bruce Gillett.

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



### Prayer Requests for the Bulletin

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

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

### An Act of Spiritual Communion

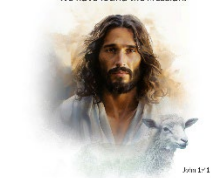
My Jesus,  
I believe that You  
are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.  
I love You above all things,  
and I desire to receive You into my soul.  
Since I cannot at this moment  
receive You sacramentally,  
come at least spiritually into my heart.  
I embrace You as if You were already there and unite  
myself wholly to You.  
Never permit me to be separated from You.  
Amen.



**Live stream Mass every Sunday at 9.30am at [www.mn.catholic.org.au/places/live-stream](http://www.mn.catholic.org.au/places/live-stream)**



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



## SUNDAY PRAYER SERVICE

### Second Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

### Sunday 14 Jan 2024

#### The Introductory Rites

##### Acknowledgement of Country

We Acknowledge the Traditional Custodians who have walked upon and cared for this land for thousands of years. We acknowledge the continued deep spiritual attachment and relationship of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples to this country and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of reconciliation. We especially acknowledge the Awabakal and Darkinjung peoples who were the original custodians of the land this parish sits on.

##### 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:

God's kindness brings hope to the world.  
To prepare ourselves to hear his Word  
let us praise the Lord Jesus Christ.

A brief period of silence follows.

Leader:

Lord Jesus, you are the Lamb of God: Lord, have mercy.

**All: Lord, have mercy.**

Christ Jesus, you summon us to follow you: Christ, have mercy.

**All: Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you send your spirit to those who serve you: 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 peace,  
your Holy Spirit rests on those who look to you.  
Help us to welcome you into our hearts  
so that we may do your will  
and share the Good News of Jesus Christ with all people.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
for ever and ever.

All:

Amen.

##### The Liturgy of the Word

##### First Reading

**1 Samuel 3:3-10.19**

A reading from the first book of Samuel

*Speak, O Lord, your servant is listening.*

Samuel was lying in the sanctuary of the Lord where the ark of God was, when the Lord called, 'Samuel! Samuel!' He answered, 'Here I am'. Then he ran to Eli and said, 'Here I am, since you called me.' Eli said, 'I did not call. Go back and lie down.' So he went and lay down. Once again the Lord called, 'Samuel! Samuel!' Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, 'Here I am, since you called me.' He replied, 'I did not call you, my son; go back and lie down.' Samuel had as yet no knowledge of the Lord and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. Once again the Lord called, the third time. He got up and went to Eli and said, 'Here I am, since you called me.' Eli then understood that it was the Lord who was calling the boy, and he said to Samuel, 'Go and lie down, and if someone calls say, "Speak, Lord, your servant is listening."' So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

The Lord then came and stood by, calling as he had done before, 'Samuel! Samuel!' Samuel answered, 'Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.'

Samuel grew up and the Lord was with him and let no word of his fall to the ground.

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

The word of the Lord.

All reply:

**Thanks be to God.**

##### Responsorial Psalm

**Ps 39:2. 4. 7-10. R. vv. 8.9**

**(R.) Here am I, Lord;**

**I come to do your will.**

1. I waited, I waited for the Lord.  
and he stooped down to me;  
he heard my cry.  
He put a new song into my mouth,  
praise of our God. **(R.)**
2. You do not ask for sacrifice and offerings,

but an open ear.

You do not ask for holocaust and victim.

Instead, here am I. (R.)

3. In the scroll of the book it stands written  
that I should do your will.

My God, I delight in your law  
in the depth of my heart. (R.)

4. Your justice I have proclaimed  
in the great assembly.

My lips I have not sealed;  
you know it, O Lord. (R.)

## Second Reading

### 1 Corinthians 6:13-15. 17-20

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

*Your bodies are members of the body of Christ.*

The body is not meant for fornication; it is for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. God, who raised the Lord from the dead, will by his power raise us up too.

You know, surely, that your bodies are members making up the body of Christ; anyone who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with him.

Keep away from fornication. All the other sins are committed outside the body; but to fornicate is to sin against your own body. Your body, you know, is the temple of the Holy Spirit, which is in you since you have received him from God. You are not your own property; you have been bought and paid for. That is why you should use your body for the glory of God.

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 John.

All:

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

### John 1:35-42

*They saw where Jesus lived and they stayed with him.*

As John stood with two of his disciples, Jesus passed, and John stared hard at him and said, 'Look, there is the lamb of God.' Hearing this, the two disciples followed Jesus. Jesus turned round, saw them following and said, 'What do you want?' They answered, 'Rabbi,' – which means Teacher – 'where do you live?' 'Come and see' he replied; so they went and saw where he lived, and stayed with him the rest of that day. It was about the tenth hour.

One of these two who became followers of Jesus after hearing what John had said was Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter. Early next morning, Andrew met his brother and said to him, 'We have found the Messiah' – which means the Christ – and he took Simon to Jesus. Jesus looked hard at him and said, 'You are Simon son of John; you are to be called Cephas' – meaning Rock.

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.*

## 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: Dearest friends, as chosen ones to fulfil his will, let us bring our intentions before God.

Reader: That the Holy Church will always be a just authority for all Christians.

(pause)

In your kindness:

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

Reader: That governments will model the truth and grace of Christ the Messiah when making decisions for others.

(pause)

In your kindness:

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

Reader: That counsellors and psychologists are blessed as they give their time and peace to those who are troubled.

(pause)

In your kindness:

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

Reader: That our parish community will not be tempted by sin, but remember that we are all members of the body of Christ.

(pause)

In your kindness:

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

Reader: That all sick and housebound will find strength and healing in the Lord, especially for those who we know and love.

(pause)

In your kindness:

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

Reader: That all who have died may come to everlasting life with Christ, especially for those who were members of our community and families.

(pause)

In your kindness:

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

Leader: Loving Father, your son the Messiah brings us truth and grace. Hear our prayers and grant us patience and understanding as we live to fulfil your will. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen.**

### The Lord's Prayer

Leader:

At the Saviour's command  
and formed by divine teaching,  
we dare to say:

All:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.**

### The Concluding Rite Blessing

Leader:

May the God of glory fill our hearts with peace and joy,  
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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## Hidden in plain sight – the plight of the modern slave

When you shop, have you ever paused to consider where the products you buy come from? Were children exploited to make the beans that are in your morning coffee? Was your latest outfit made in a factory that has hazardous working conditions?

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Did those individuals have the freedom to choose to work and the right to leave if they wished? Were they given a 'living wage' – a wage that allows workers to live, not just survive? These questions are crucial if enslavement is to be stamped out.

Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking are critical issues on the Catholic Church's radar. There are approximately 50 million people trapped in situations of modern slavery, equating to nearly one in every 150 individuals worldwide.

The victims of modern slavery might be much closer to you than you realise. This practice takes various forms, including: entrapment, financial coercion, withholding wages, seizing of identity documents (which can lead to trafficking in persons), slavery, servitude, forced labour, forced marriage, debt bondage, deceptive recruitment for labour or services, and the worst forms of child labour. It infiltrates numerous global supply chains, touching the products we often take for granted.

The Catholic Church has a strong commitment to eradicating modern slavery, a stance grounded in Catholic Social Teaching: "At its heart the call to eradicate modern slavery and human trafficking is a call to make a choice for respecting the intrinsic and inalienable dignity of every human person."

The Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle has taken a stand against modern slavery. Its Modern Slavery Policy outlines the commitment it has made to work with others to end this abhorrent practice globally. The Diocese is dedicated to protecting and respecting the freedom and dignity of people everywhere.

### St Josephine Bakhita The Patron Saint of Sudan and victims of Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking

Josephine Bakhita was born around 1869 at Dafur (modern-day Western Sudan), and was a member of the Daju people. In 1877 she was kidnapped and sold into slavery. She was bought and sold several times,

eventually finding herself in Italy. There she found freedom and became a Canossian Sister. Josephine died on the 8 February 1947. On 1 October 2000, Josephine Bakhita was declared a saint by the Catholic Church and 8 February was established as her feast day.

On the 8 February 2024, the Diocesan Liturgy Council will invite people throughout the Diocese to highlight the feast of St Josephine Bakhita as a way of drawing attention to the plight of modern slavery. A range of resources regarding formation and prayer have been made available to provide assistance. The goal is to create a greater awareness of the issue of subjugation and the need to uphold the dignity of all people. It is a reminder for everyone to open their minds and hearts and be inspired to act in ways that comfort and empower the oppressed, promote justice and challenge social structures. The International Day of Prayer and Awareness Against Human Trafficking is also held on 8 February every year.

### What can you do?

- Become knowledgeable. The more you know, the more you can help.
- Learn to spot the signs. Be aware of your neighbour/neighbourhood.
- Be a responsible consumer. Check if your favourite brands have a modern slavery statement on their website.
- Join the movement. Support CatholicCare and other agencies.
- Spread the word. Educate your friends, family and peers.

### The trailblazers

St Bede's Catholic College first Year 12 graduates History in the making, St Bede's Catholic College Chisholm has farewelled its first Year 12 graduates.

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Opening in 2018 with the now Year 12 students as the only class cohort, the school has evolved into a comprehensive 7 to 12 Secondary College.

John Murphy, Foundation Principal said, "I think back to this journey of interviewing these students and meeting their families. I feel like we've really created this school from Years 7 to 12 and the students have built a great culture."

"We've allowed students to have a voice, allowed parents to have a voice and co-construct the type of school we

wanted to build. It's been about building relationships and the culture," he said.

"There are so many fond memories over these school years for this group, a lot of satisfaction and I hope they are excited for their next chapter."

Eaden Dawson, 2023 College Captain reflected on the early days.

"I think back to when we started in Year 7 and there were hardly any buildings but it's like we've really grown with the school," she said.

"Sometimes in our junior years we felt like the guinea pigs, especially as other groups coming through and things were different for them, but as we got older we started to realise, we're not the guinea pigs, we're really the trailblazers. We've built the culture and community."

"I feel a mixture of excitement and uncertainty and a little bit sad in ways, as it's really hard to say goodbye to St Bede's. I love it and I feel like we have grown so much in this College community. I feel like we've built a strong legacy."

Bella Sepos, fellow Year 12 graduate agreed. "As the first Year group through we have known we had to build the culture, we could pave the way for others and that's been really exciting," she said.

Standing in a landscaped courtyard surrounded by St Bede's impressive multi-storey buildings Bella gestured to the change in surroundings as she said, "I actually can't really believe we're here graduating considering I remember starting out across the road, basically in a little house, where we did our family interviews."

Eaden, Bella and their peers have completed their HSC exams and are eagerly awaiting results. Many have received early acceptance to university courses locally and afar, while others are contemplating a break and part time work.

Blaze Brockman looks forward to his future with a foundation of learning from St Bede's.

"I feel good moving onto the next chapter in my life but St Bede's will always have a special place in my heart. Even the buildings and the people here – I'll miss it and I feel it's been special," he said. Hear more from St Bede's graduates.