



**St John  
Vianney**  
Parish Morisset



## **TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A 17 SEPTEMBER 2023**

*Today's readings address an all-too-familiar piece of advice that is easier to talk about than to do: Forgive.*

*Forgiveness is not usually our first response to real or perceived hurts or injustices, and it may require our commitment to live as totally new people in Christ.*

*We hear people say 'They must be brought to justice!' What do they mean by justice? Punishment...comeuppance?*

*Very often when people speak of justice, it is revenge or retribution that they mean. But in Gods ways, justice means healing, putting things right, making people whole and holy.*

*Healing the past, involves preparing for the future.*



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

### **PARISH LEADERSHIP TEAM:**

Foundation	Leader	In Office
1. Identity and Community		
2. Worship and Prayer.	Uta France	Mon
3. Formation and Education		
4. Mission and Outreach.		
5. Leadership and Structure.	John France	Sat & Sun

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

**PRIEST SUPERVISOR:** Fr Joseph Figuardo  
**SACRAMENTAL PRIEST:** Fr John Purnell  
**Parish Secretary:** Mrs Rosanna Suckling

OFFICE: 60 Yambo Street, Morisset, PO Box 87, Ph: 02 4973.6859  
 Office Hours: 9.00 am to 2.00pm—Monday to Friday (except public holidays)  
 (We ask that you make an appointment to come to the office)  
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 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)

### **UPCOMING WORSHIP TIMES :**

Saturday	16th September 5pm Family Mass— Morisset
Sunday	17th September 9.30am Mass— Morisset
Tuesday	19th September 9.30am Liturgy— Morisset
Saturday	23rd September 5pm Mass—Cooranbong
Sunday	24th September 9.30am Mass— Morisset
Saturday	30th September 5pm Family Mass— Morisset
Sunday	1st October 9.30am Mass—Morisset
Saturday	7th October 5pm Mass— Cooranbong
Tuesday	9th October 9.30am Liturgy— Morisset
Saturday	14th October 5pm Family Mass—Morisset
Sunday	15th October 9.30am Mass—Morisset
Tuesday	17th October 9.30am Liturgy—Morisset
Saturday	21st October 5pm Mass—Cooranbong
Sunday	22nd October 9.30am Mass—Morisset

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## Reflection for The Twenty—Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A — 17th September 2023

When the Pharisees were testing Jesus, he was asked which is the most important commandment in the Law. He replied, *"You shall love the Lord, your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind"* and added there is another one like it, *"You shall love your neighbour as yourself."* (Matt. 22:36-40) He said that the whole Law was summed up in this. But how can we achieve this?

Displayed on the walls of our Church last weekend, we saw posters recording the **gifts** of the Holy Spirit and the **fruits** of those gifts. At our Confirmation we each received these gifts and what wonderful gifts they are: Wisdom; Understanding; Right Judgement or Counsel; Courage or Fortitude; Knowledge; Reverence or Piety; Wonder and Awe or Fear of the Lord. However, these gifts will only bear fruit if we use them and continually practice them. We have what we need to live in right relationship with God and people around us, if we let our gifts bear fruit.

However, in the Scriptures today we have further guidance. In the reading from Sirach we are advised, *"Forgive your neighbour the hurt he does you, and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven. If a man nurses anger against another, can he then command compassion from the Lord?"*

This is reinforced in Matthew's Gospel account. Peter is probably quite pleased with his question to the Lord, when he asked if he should forgive the one who offends him seven times. (Seven was a number that represented perfection for the Jews - the days it took God to create the world). Christ put him in his place with his response that seventy times seven was required, suggesting that there is no limit to the number of times. Then there is a warning in the story he tells of the King who forgave his servant a huge debt. He justifiably expected that the servant would extend the same mercy to a fellow servant who owed him, but this was not the case and the first man suffered the dire consequences.

Our God has unconditional love for us and there is no limit to the number of times He is prepared to forgive us our transgressions, but there is an expectation that we will extend that same forgiveness to those who offend against us. The consequences that befell the servant demonstrate this clearly. Do we really consider the implications as we pray the "Our Father" and say, *"Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us"*?

If we try to consciously nurture the gifts we received at Confirmation, they will bear the fruits of love, joy and peace as we demonstrate self-control, patience, kindness, gentleness and generosity in our dealings with others. We will be faithful in our following of Christ's teaching and better able to forgive others, as we are required to do, when they hurt or offend us. When we harbour anger and resentment, we end up damaging ourselves.

Paul reminds us that everything we do has an impact on others as we go about our daily lives. What we choose to do has its consequences.

Pam Melvey

## Anointing Mass

An Anointing will be held during 9.30am this Sunday Mass 17<sup>th</sup> September, Fr John Purnell will administer the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. Anybody with an illness, serious or otherwise, who needs healing, may receive the sacrament. After Mass, a 'cuppa and biscuits' will be held in the Callinan Centre – All welcome.

## Perpetual Day of Remembrance Sunday.

Last Sunday was decreed by the late Bishop Bill as 'Perpetual Day of Remembrance Sunday' and took precedence over the Twenty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time.

In 2020 Bishop Bill Wright decreed Perpetual Day of Remembrance Sunday as a feast inscribed in the Diocesan liturgical calendar. It is now the desire of Bishop Michael Kennedy that we continue to mark the Perpetual Day of Remembrance in our parishes – particularly on Perpetual Day of Remembrance Sunday.

This day holds before us our history of child sexual abuse and the reality of its continual unfolding in the lives of those directly and indirectly affected. It is important that the Church mark this day with prayer, ritual, and worship. As a people of faith, commissioned by Jesus to live in remembrance of him, we know the importance and power of remembering. As members of the community of Jesus disciples we stand together, with survivors, against all forms of abuse and for cultural change that will promote fullness of life for all.

In other Dioceses around Australia, it was Safeguarding Sunday. One of the basic starting points for safeguarding is that prevention is better than cure. We need to nip things in the bud, and not allow things to build up until a case of abuse happens.

This is why safeguarding is everybody's business.

## Appointment of SJV Assistant Principal Letter of appointment received from CSO

Parents and Carers of St John Vianney, Morisset. Dear Parents and Carers Re: Appointment of Assistant Principal – St John Vianney, Morisset

On behalf of Mr Steven Lemos, Head of Catholic Schools, I am delighted to announce the appointment of Christine Hibbard to the permanent position of Assistant Principal, St John Vianney Primary School, Morisset.

I am sure the community of St John Vianney will join with me in congratulating Christine on her appointment. Yours sincerely Trish Coelho Assistant Head Transition and Projects CSO

## Watagan Deanery News.

At the beginning of 2023, the Parish Priests and Leaders in the Watagan Deanery gathered to re-establish the Watagan Deanery. A Deanery is a collection of parishes in a particular area of a Diocese. The Watagan Deanery had not functioned for many years. Parishes in the Watagan Deanery include Shortland, Wallsend, Glendale Boolaroo, Warners Bay, Booragul, Toronto, and Morisset. Fr Joseph Figurado was appointed as the Dean of the Watagan Deanery.

At the meeting discussion was held around how parishes in the Watagan Deanery could collaborate to develop a sense of connection. Events such as Movie Nights, Outdoor Mass, Fund Raising Dinner for Seminary Students, and a Melbourne Cup Lunch were some suggestions offered, to assist with regional awareness. The following is a letter from Fr Joseph

## 2024 Year B Liturgical Books

The Parish is placing its annual Liturgical Book Order Soon. If you would like to Order: Break Open the Word 2024, 2024 Daily Mass Book, God's Word 2024, 2024 Ordo, or a Community Bible, please complete the online form by using the link on the Parish Website or Bulletin email by Sunday 24th September 2023 or call the Parish Office by 1pm on Friday 22nd September 2023.

## **Dear Parish Priests, Leaders, and Parishioners of Watagan Deanery,**

We have a Watagan Deanery event coming up with a screening of the Fr Stu movie at Event Cinemas Glendale on Friday 20th October starting at 6:30 pm, as detailed in the accompanying flyer. This presents a wonderful opportunity to gather together, to get to know one another better firsthand, and enjoy the company of each other. In the spirit of collegiality, we are developing pastoral and personal relationships for the good of the Deanery as we become acquainted not only with the work in the various offices of the Deanery but with parishioners and parish personnel.

I extend my grateful thanks to St John Vianney Morisset Parish Leaders and Parish Secretary for their dedicated work in arranging this gathering. I look forward to meeting up with you all. With Prayers and Love in the Lord, Fr. Joseph Figurado, Dean.

### **Some 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?**

**Imprimatur:** Latin word meaning 'let it be printed'. Official permission given by a qualified Church authority for the printing of a book. The imprimatur declares that nothing in the book is against the teaching of the church.

**Lectionary:** The book containing the readings from scripture that are to be read at Mass, on weekdays, Sundays, feasts, and special Masses throughout the liturgical year.

**Missal:** A book containing the formulas and rights for the celebration of the Eucharist. It contains the prayers said by the priest, at different kinds of Masses throughout the year, as well as responses made by the people.

## **Caritas Australia's Emergency Appeals – Morocco / Libya**

Caritas Australia needs your support to respond to the devastating earthquake in Morocco and floods in Libya. Thousands of people have died and others have been injured. Communities need shelter, food, water and medical assistance. Please support Caritas Australia's emergency appeals.

Donate at [www.caritas.org.au](http://www.caritas.org.au)

## **Tilling the Church: Theology for an Unfinished Project.” Zoom discussion.**

While Father Richard's visit was short, he last left our Diocese with riches that we can continue to explore together, as our church is an unfinished project and in need of tilling.

So, let's continue the discussion!

You are invited to discuss Father Richard's latest publication, "Tilling the Church: Theology for an Unfinished Project" chapter by chapter over the next several months online.

Wednesday 18 October: Introduction and Chapter 1. The Church as Project

Wednesday 22 November: Chapter 2. Symbolizing Grace

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

Wednesday 20 March: Chapter 4. Engaging the Graced World

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

Wednesday 15 May: Chapter 6. The Art of Faithfulness and conclusion

To register go to: [www.eventbrite.com.au/e/tilling-the-church-theology-of-an-unfinished-project-tickets-708150125087](http://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/tilling-the-church-theology-of-an-unfinished-project-tickets-708150125087)

## **Season of Creation Gathering**

This Season of Creation you are invited to join us for prayer and reflection, then participate in the 5km Awabakal Coastal Walk. It is an opportunity to surround yourself with the beauty of God's creation and consider how we might respond as the people of God caring for our common home.

Date: Saturday 30 September Time: 9am-12pm

Location: We will commence with prayer and reflection at St John Vianney's Church Redhead, then walk 5km on the Awabakal Coastal Walk and loop back to Redhead. Light lunch provided.

To register go to [www.eventbrite.com.au/e/season-of-creation-community-walk-tickets-704984426397](http://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/season-of-creation-community-walk-tickets-704984426397)

## **The Chosen Season 3**

We invite you to join us in soaking up the sights, smells, and tastes of 1st Century Palestine as we view Season 3 of The Chosen.

The Chosen is a series that brings to life an interpretation of what life might have been like for Jesus starting his ministry. The series has been creatively produced and includes the backstories for each of the disciples that were individually chosen by Jesus. We are first invited into each of their lives, into their struggles and baggage. But once introduced to Jesus and the invitation to spend time with him, we are invited to witness such a transformation of each of his first followers.

Each Thursday evening join us to share a meal, watch and discuss the episode. The Chosen Experience commences on 12 October at 6pm in the Murray Room. Viewing of Seasons 1 & 2 is not required. We hope to see you there.

To register go to: [www.eventbrite.com.au/e/the-chosen-season-3-tickets-702923361697](http://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/the-chosen-season-3-tickets-702923361697)

## **Safeguarding Standard 3 PARTNERING WITH FAMILIES, CARERS AND COMMUNITIES**

Families, carers and communities are informed and involved in promoting the safeguarding of children and adults.

Standard 3 highlights that safeguarding occurs in a range of settings. Families and carers are often best placed to advise about the needs (and capabilities) of those they care for.

This Standard promotes the importance of an inclusive approach to safeguarding that considers families, carers and legal guardians of adults who have diminished capacity, or cognitive impairment. The knowledge of families, carers and communities can inform organisations about practices and environments that are safe for children and adults at risk.

## **Alive in the Spirit**

The Pastoral Ministry Network is excited to invite you to the annual 'Alive in the Spirit' Event!

After two years of dynamic online gatherings, Alive in the Spirit is thrilled to be gathering for an in-person event on Wednesday 25 October 2023 at Hornsby RSL from 10am - 4pm.

This year's conference will focus on the theme of Communion, Participation, and Mission, which is drawn from the Synod on Synodality. The Synod encourages us to seek new vision, energy, and life for the Catholic Church.

The Pastoral Ministry Network AGM will follow at 4.30pm to top off a great opportunity for networking, growing in faith and sharing our hope for the Church.

Tickets are \$149 for non-members. We encourage you to share this image across your own networks inviting all wanting to be Alive in the Spirit!

For all enquiries, please contact Lisa on 0419 418 547 or email [info@aliveinthespirit.com.au](mailto:info@aliveinthespirit.com.au)

### SUPPORTING THE CLERGY / 1st Collection

If you would like to make contributions to support the Clergy / 1st Collection please do so at Mass in the BLUE bucket or electronically using the Online Payments button on the Parish Website Home page, 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	U France P Melvey	J France M Melvey
<u>PSALMIST:</u>	5PM 9.30AM	C Tuck L Hutchinson	L Hutchinson D Joyce
<u>GIFTS</u>	5PM 9.30AM	K Lendon P Robertson H White M Fowler	K Lendon J Vipan A Dussin D Whitten
<u>SERVERS</u>	5PM 9.30AM	J Lawandos R Lawandos V Paulo C Lawandos	M Melvey J Lawandos R Lawandos
<u>Av</u>	5PM 9.30AM	U France M Foo	U France M Fowler
<u>WELCOMERS</u>	5PM 9.30AM	H White J France P Herbert P Melvey	P Herbert K Amon M Melvey
<u>CHURCH CLEANING</u>	COOR MOR	XXXX R & C Hay	K Lendon C Lawandos

**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

SAINTS CORNELIUS AND CYPRIAN (M) - 16TH SEPT  
SAINTS ANDREW KIM TAEON, PAUL CHONG HASANG AND COMPANIONS (M) - 20TH SEPT  
SAINT MATTHEW (F) - 21ST SEPT  
SAINT PIUS OF PIETRELCINA (M) - 23RD SEPT  
SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL (M) - 27TH SEPT  
SAINTS MICHAEL, GABRIEL AND RAPHAEL (F) - 29TH SEPT  
SAINT JEROME (M) - 30TH SEPT  
THE HOLY GUARDIAN ANGELS (M) - 2ND OCT  
SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI (M) - 4TH OCT

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

Clare Wallington, Donna Hazzard, Pam Mullaly, Mary Johnson, Tintumol Thomas, 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**  
**Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**Year A**  
**Sunday 17 Sep 2023**

**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:**

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, we belong to you: Lord, have mercy.

**All: Lord, have mercy.**

Christ Jesus, you teach us how to forgive: Christ, have mercy.

**All: Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you lavish us with mercy and compassion: 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 mercy  
you give pardon and peace to sinners  
for your love knows no bounds.  
Give us hearts that remember your mercy.  
May we always be ready to forgive others  
when they do wrong.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
for ever and ever.

**All:**

**Amen.**

**The Liturgy of the Word**

**First Reading**

**Sirach 27:30 – 28:7**

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus

*Forgive your neighbour's faults and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven.*

Resentment and anger, these are foul things,  
and both are found with the sinner.

He who exacts vengeance will experience the vengeance of the Lord,

who keeps strict account of sin.

Forgive your neighbour the hurt he does you,  
and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven.

If a man nurses anger against another,  
can he then demand compassion from the Lord?

Showing no pity for a man like himself,

can he then plead for his own sins?

Mere creature of flesh, he cherishes resentment;  
who will forgive him his sins?

Remember the last things, and stop hating,  
remember dissolution and death, and live by the commandments.

Remember the commandments, and do not bear your neighbour ill-will;

remember the covenant of the Most High, and overlook the offence.

**All reply:**

**Thanks be to God.**

**Responsorial Psalm**

**Ps 102:1-4. 9-12. R. v.8**

**(R.) The Lord is kind and merciful;**

**slow to anger and rich in compassion.**

1. My soul, give thanks to the Lord,  
all my being, bless his holy name.  
My soul, give thanks to the Lord  
and never forget all his blessings. **(R.)**
2. It is he who forgives all your guilt,  
who heals every one of your ills,  
who redeems your life from the grave,  
who crowns you with love and compassion. **(R.)**
3. His wrath will come to an end;  
he will not be angry for ever.  
He does not treat us according to our sins

- nor repay us according to our faults (R.)
4. For as the heavens are high above the earth  
so strong is his love for those who fear him.  
As far as the east is from the west  
so far does he remove our sins. (R.)

## Second Reading

### Romans 14:7-9

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

*Whether alive or dead, we belong to the Lord.*

The life and death of each of us has its influence on others; if we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord, so that alive or dead we belong to the Lord. This explains why Christ both died and came to life, it was so that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

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

The word of the Lord.

All reply:

Thanks be to God.

## Gospel

Reader:

From the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

All:

Glory to you, O Lord.

### Matthew 18:21-35

*I tell you that you forgive not seven times but seventy times seven.*

Peter went up to Jesus and said, 'Lord, how often must I forgive my brother if he wrongs me? As often as seven times?' Jesus answered, 'Not seven, I tell you, but seventy-seven times. 'And so the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who decided to settle his accounts with his servants. When the reckoning began, they brought him a man who owed ten thousand talents; but he had no means of paying, so his master gave orders that he should be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, to meet the debt. At this, the servant threw himself down at his master's feet. "Give me time," he said "and I will pay the whole sum." And the servant's master felt so sorry for him that he let him go and cancelled the debt. Now as this servant went out, he happened to meet a fellow servant who owed him one hundred denarii; and he seized him by the throat and began to throttle him. "Pay what you owe me", he said. His fellow servant fell at his feet and implored him, saying, "Give me time and I will pay you." But the other would not agree; on the contrary, he had him thrown into prison till he should pay the debt. His fellow servants were deeply distressed when they saw what had happened, and they went to their master and reported the whole affair to him. Then the master sent for him. "You wicked servant," he said. "I cancelled all that debt of yours when you appealed to me. Were you not bound, then, to have pity on your fellow servant just as I had pity on you?" And in his anger the master handed him over to the torturers till he should pay all his debt. And that is how my heavenly Father will deal with you unless you each forgive your brother from your heart.'

Reader:

The Gospel of the Lord.

All:

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

All are seated.

## Reflection on the Word

Q. What stops a person confronting a friend about a way in Q. In the parable of the unforgiving servant, which character do you identify with? Why?

- Q. What aspect of the gospel passage do you find most challenging / interesting?
- Q. Have you ever truly forgiven someone and tried to forget about what happened? Is it difficult?
- Q. How might it be possible to forgive someone who has committed a crime against you?
- Q. In the light of the gospel passage, what is the role of 'punishment'?

## 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: Dear sisters and brothers, mindful of God's mercy, we turn to the Lord in prayer.

Reader: That the Church will continue the work of Christ in welcoming outcasts and sinners.

In your mercy:

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

Reader: That leaders, globally and locally, will make decisions showing mercy to the poor.

In your mercy:

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

Reader: That those who are burdened by sin will find courage to repent and believe in the Lord.

In your mercy:

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

Reader: That we will be generous in forgiveness and resist the temptation to hold grudges.

In your mercy:

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

Reader: That those affected by the deadly earthquake in Morocco and flood in Libya will receive the help they urgently need and prayerful support from all of us.

In your mercy:

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

Reader: That in this Season of Creation we will take time to learn more about the causes and impacts of climate change, and help others to

understand the need to take urgent action to care for our common home, the Earth.

In your mercy::

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

Reader: That the delegates to the Synod on Synodality – lay, religious and bishops – will listen attentively to the Holy Spirit as they prepare for their gathering in Rome.

In your mercy::

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

Reader: That as we prepare for the referendum on the Voice to Parliament, we will heed the words of St Paul reminding us that “Love is the one thing that cannot hurt your neighbour”.

In your mercy::

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

Reader: That all who are sick or housebound will not be neglected by family, friends, neighbours and community.

In your mercy:

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

Reader: That those who have died will live forever in the Heavenly Kingdom, especially those who we knew and loved.

In your mercy:

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

Leader: Loving God, you are generous and compassionate in forgiveness. Help us to be forgiving people as we strive to follow your Word. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen.**

### The Lord's Prayer

**Leader:**

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

**All:**

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

### The Concluding Rite

#### Blessing

**Leader:**

May the Lord be with us, and protect us now and for ever.

**All make the sign of the cross during the blessing.**

**All:**

**Amen.**

### Dismissal

**Leader:**

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

**All:**

**Thanks be to God.**

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### FAITH MATTERS: The Season of Creation

Throughout the month of September, Christians across the world will celebrate the Season of Creation, this is an annual invitation to pray and reflect on our shared call to care for the earth - our common home and the good creation of God.

**ROSEMARY MCALLISTER** PUBLISHED SEPTEMBER 12, 2023

On 1 September the Pastoral Placement Participants joined as they do on the first Friday of the month for prayer, and formation, they take turns to lead the group in reflection. This month Xanthe Lamont led the group with her personal insights of the season.

*"As today we sit here on the first day of Spring, I wanted to reflect upon the wonder of nature, beauty, and creativity. The changing of the seasons, especially from winter to spring, is one of my favourite things to witness. To watch the trees, don their coats again, and the sun warming your arms as you sit outside. The air smells different too, I love the crisp breath of a winter morning, but the spring carries the grass seeds, the leaves. Never have I been so sure that God is real when I saw His creation, when my eyes swept over the landscape or when they settle on something so insignificant, like the running skip of ants. I think of the things that religious architecture, but the Catholics especially want to do with their buildings, is to inspire a profound sense of awe and beauty, beauty so big that you just can't help but kneel at its majesty. In response to an*

*argument about why Catholics build such extravagant churches when people are starving, I once heard someone say, "God deserves the most beautiful home, and this beauty tells a tiny bit about how beautiful God is." And while I love our great imposing gothic cathedrals, I can't help but think that nothing humans could build could ever compare to what God Himself has fashioned for us to enjoy.*

*One of my favourite quotes is from my favourite book, Anne of Green Gables; "I'd go out into a great big field all alone or into the deep, deep, woods, and I'd look up into the sky--up--up--up--into that lovely blue sky that looks as if there was no end to its blueness. And then I'd just feel a prayer." I ask himself why God created beauty, God could just as easily have gotten the job done by placing us in the desert and making us physically capable of eating sand, why did God give humans the devastating and amazing gift of creativity, and of romance, and all these things that we do not need to survive? I think it is because He loves us, and we love Him. Sometimes when my eyes comb over the layers of rock or the trees stretching up to the sky, I picture the words "I love you" carved into everything I see. God wants to have these amazing things because He loves us and He doesn't just want us to survive, but to feel and think, and be awe. And humans can do the same thing, by using our creative gifts, in whatever that looks like, whether that is designing beautiful houses for God in churches, or writing, or painting. So, today's question is: how do we say back to God, "I love you too" within us and around us?"*

It was earlier in the year that the Pastoral Placement Participants attended their annual retreat which focused on the Holy Spirit. During this time together they completed the Catholic Spiritual Gifts Inventory by Sherry Weddell. Xanthe's spiritual gift which was highlighted from the exercise was writing, and we can appreciate this from her reflection at the monthly gathering.

Teaching was the spiritual gift that shone for Johanna Soo who has been Youth Minister at St Therese's Lambton since 2022. Her role is to connect with and mentor students in our schools and parishes so that they are able to explore what it means to encounter Jesus in a variety of settings.

Johanna is currently facilitating regular podcasts with the senior students and this week her theme for discussion was fittingly centred around Pope Francis' Laudato Si and the Season of Creation.

Conversation flowed from the students around the importance of stewardship, caring for our earth and acting upon our words. Johanna challenged the students to think about what they currently do and what they can do in the future. It was refreshing to witness these young people demonstrate their genuine concern for the

irresponsible actions of the past. The students spoke about our accountability and the fact that it matters that we all take part in our call to action.

*"Everyone is hurting the earth," said Liam, "and we are all responsible."*

Johanna is passionate about sharing her faith with the students and she openly and eagerly devotes her time journeying alongside the students. How comforting it is to know that today's youth care deeply about God and creation.

This Season of Creation you are invited to join us for prayer and reflection, then participate in the 5km Awabakal Coastal Walk. It is an opportunity to surround yourself with the beauty of God's creation and consider how we might respond as the people of God caring for our common home.

Date: Saturday 30 September

Time: 9am-12pm

Location: We will commence with prayer and reflection at St John Vianney's Church Redhead, then walk 5km on the Awabakal Coastal Walk and loop back to Redhead. Light lunch provided.

To register go

to <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/season-of-creation-community-walk-tickets-704984426397>

## **Pope Francis' prayer intention for September 2023**

That people living on the margins of society may they not be overlooked by institutions, and never considered of lesser importance.

