



**St John
Vianney**
Parish Morisset



TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A 03 SEPTEMBER 2023

People with all the answers can't learn anything new. The sting of being wrong often blocks them from accepting even obvious corrections to their worldview.

It goes without saying that those who can handle being wrong are the greatest learners in the world. Peter gets to be one of these in today's Gospel, when he goes from the head of the class to the dunce, by assuming that Jesus does not need to suffer and die as part of his mission. He is rebuked and will be stung again, often, until he is shaped into the humble leader Jesus wants for his church.

May we have the courage to follow the example of Christ and live fully the demands of Christian discipleship. May we live the powerlessness and vulnerability of Jesus as a way to share with the suffering and to rebuild human society with kindness and compassion.



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.

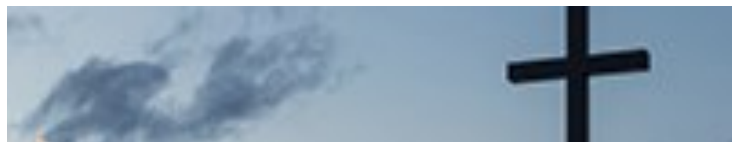
PRIEST SUPERVISOR: Fr Joseph Figuardo
SACRAMENTAL PRIEST: Fr John Purnell
Parish Secretary: Mrs Rosanna Suckling

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
 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

UPCOMING WORSHIP TIMES :

Saturday	2nd September 5pm Family Mass— Morisset
Sunday	3rd September 9.30am Mass— Morisset
Tuesday	5th September 9.30am Liturgy Morisset
Saturday	9th September 5pm Mass— Cooranbong
Sunday	10th September 9.30am Mass— Morisset
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

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Reflection for The Twenty—Second Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A — 3rd September 2023

In contrast to last Sunday, today's Gospel is about denial, not self-indulgence. It's about losing, not gaining. It's about subtraction, not addition. It's about less, not more. It's about transformation, not glorification.

Jesus summons us to follow him. Follow him in refusing to make wealth and power the ultimate meaning of life. "Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle to me. You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do. Scripture teaches us that Christian life is not about winning or staying on top of the social ladder.

Life is fully lived when it can make a difference to others, that it can transform society and make it into a mirror of God's Kingdom. In the Gospel Jesus asks for commitment from his followers

Nelson Mandela tells the story of when he was struggling to establish himself as a young lawyer in Johannesburg and became friendly with Hans Muller a businessman. Muller saw the world through the prism of supply and demand. Muller advised Nelson that he must work hard for money, and nothing else but money. Once you have enough money, there is nothing else in life that you will want.

Mandella was an intelligent man. If he had taken Muller's advice, he could have done very well for himself. Luckily for South Africa he didn't look after 'Number One', instead Mandela decided to dedicate himself to serving his country.

We live in an age of finger pointing. Look at our politics. But we don't need politics to teach us how to point fingers. We are pretty good at it ourselves. We love to notice how everyone else is doing wrong. We often forget that the Gospel is not a tool by which we measure the actions of others. Rather, the Gospel is a mirror by which we judge ourselves. It takes courage to look in the mirror and courage to change what we see. A religion of commitment is a religion of challenge, risk, and unselfishness, not comfort and centred on self.

Being a disciple is a serious business. Yet this doesn't mean that suffering is something Christians should seek. Jesus did not seek suffering. Gethsemane makes that clear

The most important task at hand is that we learn to live the Gospel afresh. We learn to be true "leaven and salt" to the world. Pope Francis has reminded us time and time again, that the Church should not be a museum. It is not in yearning for, or holding onto the familiar, but in reimagining the future and venturing into the unknown chaos, reading the signs of the times, that we shall find new life.

This Sunday, Jesus puts a cross in front of us, and asks us to get in line. This is the time to just do it. John France

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 recently sent via email on the Parish Website, Facebook Page or Mass App by Sunday 24th September 2023 or call the Parish Office by 1pm on Friday 22nd September 2023.

Letter from Bishop Michael Kennedy Received Friday 25th August. To Parish Priests and Parish Leaders

As you may be aware, an action from the 2022 Catholic Schools Review was to transition schools to a single community engagement model. The Parent Engagement Group (PeG) model was identified as the supported model, eventually leading to dissolution of the Parent and Friends Associations (P&F Associations) in our schools. The evolution to a single model is in response to the declining engagement of families in official school forums across the Diocese and recognises the importance of consistency.

The initial date flagged for this transition was 31 December 2023, this has since been extended to 31 December 2025. In addition, the Trustees have accepted a subsequent recommendation that schools' PeG forums be renamed Family and Community Engagement (FACE). This name change recognises that school engagement is larger than just parents and highlights our Catholic schools' inclusive nature.

Furthermore, the acronym FACE is a symbolic representation that the Church views families and community as being at the forefront of schools. With change comes opportunity for improvement. As part of the transition process, we have tasked the Diocesan Governance Team to develop a strengthened framework for the FACE in consultation with key stakeholder groups, including clergy, parishes, families, and school staff. I am hopeful that by partnering to support the Governance Team in this process, we can increase family engagement in our schools and parishes, thus, the life of the Church.

Yours in faith Most Reverend Michael Kennedy Bishop of Maitland-Newcastle

Governance Meeting

Parish Leaders from the Wattagan Deanery, (Parishes of Shortland, Wallsend, Glendale, Warners Bay, Boolaroo, Booragul, Toronto, Morisset) together with their Parish Secretaries, met with Megan Grainger, head of the Diocesan Governance Team, Brendan Upcroft, Diocesan Risk & Insurance Adviser and Fr Matthew Muller Diocesan Chancellor & VG on Wednesday at Warners Bay Parish Hall. This Governance meeting which is also being held in other locations around the Diocese, discussed ongoing parish viability, and changes in the insurance landscape (including CCI entering in to run off, and the new complaints framework).

After many years of Insurance cover from Catholic Church Insurance, CCI advised the Aust Bishops (ACBC), that it would no longer be able to offer Insurance, to meet the demands of the Australian Catholic Church.

Recently Bishop Michael Kennedy in a letter to Parish Leaders said, 'It is the intension of the Dioceses of Australia to work together, where possible, to seek new insurance coverage for our parishes, schools, and agencies so that we continue to have cover across all parishes, schools, and agencies. This includes insurance for the likes of property and public liability. The Diocese remains fully committed to meeting its financial responsibility for any substantiated sexual abuse claims made against it. The Diocese will continue to pursue concrete ways to repair wrongdoings, including through the payment of compensation, and to bring some healing, where that is possible.

The Diocese has been working for many years to ensure abuse claims are handled fairly, whether cases are covered by insurance policies or not'.

The meeting was informed that AON Insurance Brokers, have been appointed to manage the Insurance, of the Catholic Church.



NATIONAL CHILD PROTECTION WEEK

3 - 9 September 2023

NAPCAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL CHILD NURSES

About the Community Jigsaw image:

The Community Jigsaw that has been used during National Child Protection Week is based on research by Dr Sharon Bessell, Australian National University from the Children Communities and Social Capital Report.

During the research, a 9-year-old girl pointed out that "A community is like a puzzle, you need to have all the bits to make it work."

This gave the researchers the idea to use the jigsaw as a way to graphically represent the elements that children identify as central to a positive community.

When all the pieces are in place, a community is strong and supportive of children. The more pieces that are removed, the less supportive the community is for children.

In some cases, so many pieces are missing that the jigsaw falls apart. At this point, communities have become dysfunctional places from children's perspective.

The Community Jigsaw can also be an important tool for policymakers and practitioners. The key question is "how do we ensure as many pieces as possible are in place?"

We need to ask how policies, services and interventions can reinforce pieces of the Community Jigsaw that are already in place and add those that are missing.

In reinforcing and adding pieces of the Community Jigsaw, it is crucial that those pieces that children consider to be in place and working well are not undermined. In some communities, the decision may be taken to focus on strengthening one piece of the Community Jigsaw because that piece is weak or missing. In doing so, it is important that decisions are based on knowledge of the local area, including – crucially – children's knowledge.

In this representation of the Community Jigsaw, the edges are left unfinished. This shows that this research is not exhaustive or comprehensive, and the Community Jigsaw can be refined and extended based on future research with children.

What is Safeguarding. & The National Catholic Safeguarding Standards.

The 'Standards' have been developed to ensure the safety of all who encounter the Church, with a focus on children and adults at risk. The Standards hold the Catholic Church to the highest degree of accountability in response to failures uncovered by the Royal Commission.

These Standards are a 'must do', not an option, for all Dioceses and Parishes to adopt. To ensure that Dioceses and Parishes are compliant with the Standards, they will be systematically audited.

Standard 1 Committed leadership, governance and culture The safeguarding of children and adults is embedded in the entity's leadership, governance and culture, and focuses on how leadership influences a positive safeguarding culture. Strong leadership includes an accountable and transparent governance structure within an entity.

This Standard includes the expectation of zero tolerance to abuse and that all people (children and adults) are provided a safe environment, free from abuse and discrimination.

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?

Preface (Latin prefacio, a saying beforehand) The prayer of praise and thanksgiving that introduces the Eucharistic prayer at Mass. It ends with the acclamation, 'Holy. holy, holy Lord, God of power and might

Eucharistic Prayer That part of the Mass that begins with the Preface, after the Holy, holy, holy, and ends with the Great Amen, just before the Our Father.

Anamnesis. A Greek word meaning 'memorial', calling to mind. It is that part of the Eucharistic Prayer which begins just after the acclamation that follows the consecration.

Confirmation

The Sacrament of Confirmation will be conferred in our St John Vianney Church Morisset by Bishop Michael Kennedy on Friday evening 8th September 7pm We ask that you keep our children and their families, who are preparing for this sacrament in your prayers.

Perpetual Day of Remembrance

In 2020 Bishop Bill Wright decreed Perpetual Day of Remembrance Sunday 10th September as a feast inscribed in the diocesan liturgical calendar. It is 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. On this day we pray that the abuse that devastated the lives of so many children and young people and their families, never happens again.



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 K London	U France J France
<u>PSALMIST:</u>	5PM 9.30AM	M Lawrence M Foo	D Peterson J Shamley
<u>GIFTS</u>	5PM 9.30AM	P Herbert H White M & P Melvey	P Herbert H White G Hutchinson L Hutchinson
<u>SERVERS</u>	5PM 9.30AM	M Melvey R Lawandos V Paulo C Lawandos	M Melvey F Dyson J Lawandos R Lawandos
<u>Av</u>	5PM 9.30AM	J France J France	J France J Vipan
<u>WELCOMERS</u>	5PM 9.30AM	K London J France A & G Walker	J France M Melvey A Dussin
<u>CHURCH CLEANING</u>	COOR MOR	XXXX T Alexander P Herbert	F Dunn B Hutcheson

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, or visit their website for further information www.officeofsafeguarding.org.au.

UPCOMING FEAST DAYS MEMORIALS AND SOLEMNITIES

THE NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY (F) - 8TH SEPT
SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM (M) - 13TH SEPT
THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS (F) - 14TH SEPT
OUR LADY OF SORROWS (M) - 15TH SEPT
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 PIETRELICINA (M) - 23RD SEPT
SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL (M) - 27TH SEPT

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

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

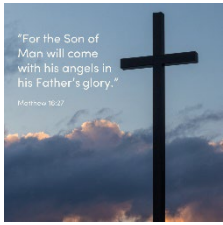
My Jesus,
I believe that You
are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.
I love You above all things,
and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment
receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly 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



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



SUNDAY PRAYER SERVICE
Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary
Time Year A
Sunday 03 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, you suffered death for our sake: Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, your love is better than life: Christ, have mercy.

All: Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you call us to take up the cross and follow 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, our Father
Jesus gave his life for us
and showed us the pathway to heaven.
Help us to give all we have
and, in the footsteps of the cross,
follow Jesus every day.
We ask this through Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
for ever and ever.

All:

Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

Jeremiah 20:7-9

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

The word of the Lord God has meant derision for me.

You have seduced me, Lord, and I have let myself be seduced;
you have overpowered me: you were the stronger.

I am a daily laughing-stock,
everybody's butt.

Each time I speak the word, I have to howl
and proclaim: 'Violence and ruin!'

The word of the Lord has meant for me
insult, derision, all day long.

I used to say, I will not think about him,
I will not speak in his name any more.

Then there seemed to be a fire burning in my heart,
imprisoned in my bones.

The effort to restrain it wearied me,
I could not bear it.

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

The word of the Lord.

All reply:

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 62:2-6. 8-9. R. v.2

(R.) My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

1. **O God, you are my God, for you I long;**
for you my soul is thirsting.

My body pines for you
like a dry, weary land without water. **(R.)**

2. So I gaze on you in the sanctuary
to see your strength and your glory.

For your love is better than life,
my lips will speak your praise. **(R.)**

3. So I will bless you all my life,
in your name I will lift up my hands.

My soul shall be filled as with a banquet,
my mouth shall praise you with joy. **(R.)**

4. For you have been my help;
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice.

My soul clings to you;
your right hand holds me fast. **(R.)**

Second Reading

Romans 12:1-2

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

May you present your bodies as a living sacrifice.

Think of God's mercy, my brothers, and worship him, I beg you, in a way that is worthy of thinking beings, by offering your living bodies as a holy sacrifice, truly pleasing to God. Do not model yourselves on the behaviour of the world around you, but let your behaviour change, modelled by your new mind. This is the only way to discover the will of God and know what is good, what it is that God wants, what is the perfect thing to do.

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 16:21-27

Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself.

Jesus began to make it clear to his disciples that he was destined to go to Jerusalem and suffer grievously at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, to be put to death and to be raised up on the third day. Then, taking him aside, Peter started to remonstrate with him. 'Heaven preserve you, Lord,' he said. 'This must not happen to you.' But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle in my path, because the way you think is not God's way but man's.'

Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it. What, then, will a man gain if he wins the whole world and ruins his life? Or what has a man to offer in exchange for his life?

'For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of his Father with his angels, and, when he does, he will reward each one according to his behaviour.'

Reader:

The Gospel of the Lord.

All:

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

All are seated.

Reflection on the Word

Q. What part of the gospel passage do you find most interesting / challenging? Why?

Q. What are some of the challenges to being a follower of Jesus today?

Q. In what ways have you had to 'take up your cross' – deal with a great difficulty – and still tried to live in a positive and hopeful way?

Q. Our society today is very self-centred, there are not too many people who 'deny themselves' very much at all. What is one way that you can be more self-less?

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: Sisters and brothers, as we walk in the footsteps of Christ, let us bring our prayers before God.

Reader: That the holy Church will continue to carry the cross of responsibility and obligation to its people.

In your glory:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That leaders of nations will not be tempted by gain or greed.

In your glory:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

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

In your glory:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That, in this Season of Creation, we will all listen to the cry of the earth, and respond in whatever ways we can.

In your glory:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That fathers will be supported by their communities and blessed by God for the love and care they give to their families.

In your glory:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That our parish community may take up our cross each day and walk in the ways of Christ.

In your glory:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That all the sick will be healed through Christ, especially those who are dear to us.

In your glory:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That all who have died will be held with the Lord forever, especially those who were members of our community and families.

In your glory:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Loving God, we discover your will through the Cross. Hear our prayers and help us to live as a pilgrim people, following in the steps of your Son. We ask this through Christ our Lord. All: Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Leader:

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

All:

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

The Concluding Rite Blessing

Leader:

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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140TH JUBILEE OF THE SISTERS OF ST JOSEPH, LOCHINVAR

On Monday 4 September the Sisters of St Joseph, Lochinvar are celebrating 140 years of ministry within the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle. Four Sisters arrived from Perthville on 2 September, 1883 and enrolled the first children in Primary school the next day. We rejoice that this ministry of education continues today in many schools throughout the Diocese in the hands of faith-filled, deeply committed lay teachers. And so it is with great joy, that we give God thanks for the graces and blessings given to us, our students, their parents, our school staff and friends over these many years. We invite you to remember us in prayer at this very significant point in our history.

St Joseph's Men Newcastle

St Joseph's Men Newcastle is hosting a trivia night at the Sydney Junction Hotel, Hamilton on Tuesday 19 September from 6.00pm. Get a team together or come alone for some fun trivia and a delicious meal. Great prizes to be won. FREE entry.

Alpha Series at the University of Newcastle

Join us as we journey together through the Alpha series at the University of Newcastle, meet new friends and enjoy some yummy food. Alpha is a series of interactive sessions exploring the Christian faith, based on hospitality, sharing, and prayer. Each session includes a meal, a video presentation and a small group discussion. Thursday 7 September, the University of Newcastle, Callaghan Campus, meet at the Chaplaincy Centre VG03. 6.00pm to 7.45pm. The night will also include a FREE dinner and refreshments. FREE entry.

FAITH MATTERS: Moved Through Ministry

"It has enriched my life in so many positive ways, I think this is definitely something I want to do with my life!"

NICKI GRAHAM PUBLISHED AUGUST 29, 2023

"It has enriched my life in so many positive ways, I think this is definitely something I want to do with my life!"

So says Abbey, one of our Pastoral Placement Participants, about her recent experience in the program. Each fortnight, the participants reflect upon their placement and journal the practical aspects as well as the spiritual formation elements that are shaping their own faith journey.

The Pastoral Placement Program is an opportunity, provided by the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle, for people to explore a variety of pathways that might help them find meaning and purpose whilst working within the Church community. Along the way, participants will encounter their own growth as they see the value in how their work can make a difference to the lives of others.

Abbey has recently been placed in Youth Ministry at St Paul's Booragul. She was mentored by previous Pastoral Placement Participant and now current Youth Minister, Summer. Together, in their ministerial work, the pair have implemented a social justice movement called Young Christian Students. They meet each week and follow the teachings of the "formation through action" movement of the program. They provide an opportunity for students who are passionate about social justice issues to work for a more just society consistent with the teachings and values of Jesus Christ. They challenge students to focus on the reality of their own lives and the lives of those around them including the needs of the students and their local community.

"It really has given me time to think about my purpose in life and God's plan. I have come away with a renewed perspective on my faith, whilst recognizing that mine is different to those around me," says Abbey.

The program offers a multitude of opportunities for participants to work with people from a large variety of agencies, encountering and accompanying communities as they go forth as missionary disciples, promoting the Kingdom of God on earth.

The program also allows participants to research and explore an area that lies close to their heart. Kristine is currently working on a project that involves facilitating induction and training opportunities for parishes who wish to be a part of the Neighbourhood Companions Program. The program trains skillsets that assist people in accompanying members of the community through active listening, spiritual companionship and intentional engagement in conversations and social interactions.

"My experience is undoubtedly coloured by my experience in the parish placement space in PPP. I feel that I would like my gifts to be used for the service of others."

Morgan has had a number of incredible moments within her various placements. She recalls a time when she was visiting an elderly resident in a nursing home, where she was asked to sing to a woman in her final stages of life.

“What happened to me next was a God moment. In that moment there was a profound connection between us, and the words being sung held an ever deeper meaning and purpose. I haven’t been able to stop thinking about this beautiful pastoral connection that was made; I was so deeply moved I had to take a moment to gather myself immediately afterwards.”

Xanthe is passionate about social justice issues. Earlier in the year she had a placement working at the Mission to Seafarers. Following one of her placements, she visited St Pius Adamstown High School and spoke in front of over five hundred students about the conditions of the workers on the ships that enter our harbour. Her speech had such an impact that numerous donations of care packs were made by students from the school community to be handed out to Seafarers. Xanthe has spread her wings to become more involved in the Hunter Community Alliance. She has recently accepted the position within the HHSI committee, focusing on public and social housing.

“I’ve loved getting involved in the Hunter Community Alliance, and it feels like the space that I want to be in. I’m feeling passionate about the work that I can contribute to the housing, homelessness, and social justice team.”

These ‘on the ground’ ministry work placements help participants to explore the many ways that are available for them to serve God and the local community. If you, or someone you know, is interested in being a part of the Pastoral Placement Program in 2024 and learning about future ministry or career choices, please contact us.

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Applications are now open for the Pastoral Placement Program for 2024, for more information go to <https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/pastoral-placement-program/>

Profitable parenting - Taking risks and asking questions

Parents and carers are invited to take part in free, online presentations that will empower you with engaging and practical ways to raise your child or young person to be resilient and ready to take on the world!

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS OFFICE PUBLISHED AUGUST 30, 2023

The Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle’s Federation of P & F Associations has invited teacher and high-profile author, Daisy Turnbull, to share practical advice with parents and carers on ways you can develop your child’s independence and confidence.

Daisy’s presentations will draw on the knowledge of some of the world’s leading psychologists, but it’s her relatable style and realistic suggestions that reflect her experience as both a parent and the Director of Wellbeing in schools that will leave you feeling empowered to navigate the modern-day challenges associated with raising children and teens.

Session 1:

BUILDING RESILIENCE AND INDEPENDENCE IN YOUR CHILD
Most suitable for parents and carers of children ages 5-10 years

In this session, Daisy will encourage parents and carers to get outside their comfort zone, by encouraging their children to take more risks. She’ll explain how this approach helps nurture kids’ independence and resilience, by teaching them to recognise and assess consequences for themselves, readying them for life and all that it brings.

Attendees will leave this session with loads of fun ideas on ways that they can connect with their children that will also help to build their young one’s physical and social skills, responsibility, and character.

- DATE: Tuesday 12 September
- TIME: 7.30pm - 8.30pm
- Registrations essential at: www.mn.shor.tn/PFBuilding

Session 2:

FOSTERING COMMUNICATION AND CONFIDENCE IN YOUNG PEOPLE
Most suitable for parents and carers of young people ages 11-18 years.

This session is for parents and carers seeking to build a stronger connection with their tweens and teens. Daisy will help parents and carers to better understand the social and emotional needs of young people and provide them with ideas on how they can help them to navigate common concerns that arise during adolescence including friendships, consent, self-compassion, managing conflict, mental health, boundaries and media influences.

Attendees will leave this session with (realistic) conversation starters that will promote their teens’ awareness of the world and encourage them to take responsibility and understand consequences and risks in a fast-changing world.

- DATE: Wednesday 13 September
- TIME: 7.30pm - 8.30pm
- Registrations essential at: www.mn.shor.tn/PFFostering

Read more

here: <https://mnnews.azurewebsites.net/media/2863211/cso-pf-profitable-parenting-a4-flyer-3.pdf>