

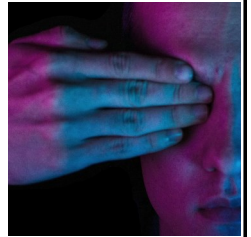


FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR A 19 MARCH 2023

In today's Gospel the Pharisees refuse to accept the story of the cure of the blind man, because that would mean they'd have to accept Jesus.

As we continue our journey through this season of Lent, we are met with the question of who is worthy in God's eyes. The question of human suffering was a big problem in biblical times. It still is a big problem. Suffering was seen as God's punishment for sin. Hence, when the apostles saw the blind man in today's Gospel, they immediately concluded that his blindness was the result of sin. And they asked Jesus 'Why was the man blind?' Who sinned? Was it the man himself or his parents?

The Word of God on this Fourth Sunday in Lent speaks of the God who does not look, judge and behave the way we human beings are inclined to do by our worst nature. On the contrary, we come face-to-face with not only a benevolent God, but also one who is drawn to the lowly and the marginalised.



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 (PPC) 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)
(Due to COVID we ask that you make an appointment to come to the office)
Morisset Parish Office email: morparish@mn.catholic.org.au
Morisset Parish Web site: www.vianneymorisset.org
Morisset Parish Facebook : <https://www.facebook.com/stjvparish>
Morisset Parish Instagram : https://www.instagram.com/stjvparish_morisset/
Morisset Parish Bulletin Items: morparish@mn.catholic.org.au

UPCOMING WORSHIP TIMES :

Saturday	18th March 5pm Family Mass— Morisset
Sunday	19th March 9.30am Mass— Morisset
Tuesday	21st March 9.30am Liturgy— Morisset
Saturday	25th March 5pm Mass— Cooranbong
Sunday	26th March 9.30am Mass— Morisset
Tuesday	28th March 9.30am Liturgy— Morisset

We are back to walk in at all services.

We are still recording our Sunday Services and placing them on our Website and Facebook page for you to view if you are sick and unable to attend services.

TO KEEP OUR COMMUNITY SAFE WE ENCOURAGE :
MASK WEARING ,
PHYSICAL DISTANCING,
HAND SANITISING,
And STAYING HOME IF SICK

REFLECTION FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT: 19 March 2023

I was reading a commentary of my favourite Theologian, Sr Mary McGlone on this Gospel and she made me aware of something I hadn't thought of before. The blind man in the Gospel never said a word before his cure. He didn't complain about being ostracised because of his disability, he just did the best he could. He was the object of people's judgement "surely he must have sinned to be so afflicted?" As she said he was just there for Jesus to see.

What Jesus saw was a person with the potential of showing God's abundant love. So Jesus made a paste of clay, and touched the man. He used the mud as if it was an anointing, he smeared it on the man's useless eyes. He then invited the man's acceptance by commanding him to go and wash. The man had no idea what the outcome would be, but, he did as he was asked and went away to wash. He came back transformed! He could see! He was no longer invisible.

Then his troubles started! People had trouble seeing him as their neighbour, whom they knew well, as a blind beggar. They doubted their own eyes when they saw him whole and sighted. It turned their world view upside down, their sense of justice, sin and retribution. Because of his sin he must have been punished with blindness-so- now he can see- where is the justice.

Even the religious leaders could not accept that this had happened. The man however stuck to his story and said "I was blind, but now I can see." Then he went one step further and said "Never, ever has anyone healed someone born blind! How could he do it without God's help?"

As a result he was vilified for trying to instruct them! So they excommunicated him, presumably because he was healed and had the nerve to say that the person who healed him must be on God's side.

How dare he!

Again Jesus took the initiative and sought him out. He asked him if he believed in the Son of man, who was to come. To his credit the man wholeheartedly said "I do believe!"

The blind man can be seen as everyone. He is the one we all can identify with. No matter what our mindset is, whether we are convinced of our ideals, we may be people who wish others to make our decisions for us, whatever we are, we are also invited to be the person who realises that they are blind and are willing to be given sight.

As Mary concluded:- "We must accept that we are all blind when it comes to seeing the depth and breadth of God's possibilities."

This Lent can we be open to God's possibilities? Or are we diminished by our fears and preconceptions? I hope we are open. Uta France

MINISTRY WORKSHOPS

Thank you to those who indicated what ministries they would like to be involved in at Mass. New rosters will be available shortly. In the meantime the February roster has rolled over to March.

Workshops have been organised for;

Proclaimers Saturday 18th March 10am Morisset Church.

Offertory Gifts & Altar Servers Saturday 25th March 10am Morisset Church.



POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTION FOR MARCH 2023

We pray for those who have suffered harm from members of the Church; may they find within the Church herself a concrete response to their pain and suffering.

HOLY WEEK MINISTRIES:

If you wish to exercise your Ministry over Easter's Holy Week, could you please indicate when you will be available. Please note that 9.30am Easter Sunday will be rostered in the normal roster. All care will be taken to ensure everyone who wishes to, will have a role to play. Our services for sign-up are :

- Reconciliation 7pm Wed 5th April
- Holy Thursday 7pm Thu 6th April
- Good Friday 3pm Fri 7th April
- Easter Vigil 6.30pm Sat 8th April

Sign-Up Forms are available online via the link sent with the electronic Newsletter or by using the QR code below, paper forms will be at the back of the church.

CHRISM MASS

This year's Chrism Mass will take place in Holy Week on Tuesday 4 April at 7.00pm in the Sacred Heart Cathedral Newcastle West. This is a first opportunity for all who wish to gather, to celebrate with our new Bishop, Michael Kennedy at Mass and a light supper. All are welcome. Those with a specific role in the Mass please arrive early as communicated. Read more at <https://tinyurl.com/chrism2023>

PARISH EMPLOYEE AND VOLUNTEER SAFEGUARDING TRAINING – WEDNESDAY 26 APRIL

All parish workers are required to attend Course 2: Safeguarding in Parishes within 6 months of commencing in their role and every 6 years thereafter.

This training forms part of the Diocese's mandatory training regime and is specifically designed to support paid and unpaid helpers undertaking a broad range of ministries in church facilities and out in the community. The training targets the safeguarding needs of faith communities. The course will address:

- the Diocese's Safeguarding Framework policy
- indicators of risk and vulnerability
- indicators of abuse and neglect
- boundaries in ministry
- responding to disclosures
- reporting obligations
- contributing to a 'Safe' culture

Please register your attendance before Thursday 20 April by contacting the Office of Safeguarding on 4979 1390 or email: oosgtraining@mn.catholic.org.au

Easter Holy Week Services Sign-Up





Priscilla lives in the Hwange district in Zimbabwe with her husband, Charles, and their two grandsons. Climate change continues to bring unprecedented challenges for people living in the most vulnerable and remote communities in Zimbabwe. With the support of Caritas Hwange, Priscilla learnt conservation farming skills to grow drought-resistant crops to support her family during the current food crisis. Priscilla was able to produce a bumper harvest in her first year of practising conservation farming. Priscilla used the funds from her harvest to start poultry farming, which enabled her to sell eggs to pay for her grandchildren's school fees, books and stationery. The poultry farming provides a safety net for Priscilla and her family during times of hardship, like the current drought.

While the situation in Zimbabwe and across eastern Africa remains dire, the work of Caritas Hwange means that Priscilla can learn the skills she needs to build resilience and support her family during this current food crisis.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2023.

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your parish, by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion, or by calling 1800 024 413.

Photo: Richard Wainwright/Caritas Australia

BECOME A VOLUNTEER AT CATHOLICARE'S REFUGEE HUB

CatholicCare's Refugee Hub is looking for more volunteers to support their tutoring program, community garden, men's and women's groups, art program, casework support and OzHarvest food support program. If you have a couple of hours to spare here and there, please reach out. You could help CatholicCare make a difference. To register your interest, please fill out the volunteer enquiry form: www.catholiccare.org.au/community-programs/community-refugee-hub/volunteer

WAY OF THE CROSS – SUNDAY 26 MARCH

This year, following over 55 years of local tradition, the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle will once again celebrate the Ecumenical Way of the Cross on the grounds of Toronto Parish, Kilaben Bay on the Fifth Sunday of Lent.

Picking up the theme from this year's World Youth Day (WYD) – "Mary arose and went with haste" – we will join with Bishop Michael Kennedy as we experience the Way of the Cross through the eyes of Mary. We will journey with creative retellings of Mary's story as shared by women from across our Diocese and fellow Christian Churches. This prayerful experience will be supported by our school communities and local WYD pilgrims.

People will start gathering at St Joseph's Toronto from 2pm at the Community Centre. The event will start at 3pm, afternoon tea will be provided.

THANKYOU

I would like to thank the SJV parishioners who attended Ian's funeral on 2nd March and the many people for their condolences, prayers and phone calls. I still feel very attached to SJV Morisset and will still attend SJV from time to time. Many thanks Jenny Douglas

HELP NEEDED FOR WAY THE CROSS—SUNDAY 26 MARCH

Toronto Parish Needs some help with providing afternoon tea mainly with share plates of food. If you are able to help please contact our Parish Office.

DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION OF PASTORAL MINISTERS

Since the 1980's the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle has had some form of an Association to support people who are commissioned in parishes or the life of the diocese for Pastoral Ministries. In earlier times these people were known as Pastoral Associates.

Presently, that Association is called the **Diocesan Association of Pastoral Ministers (DAPM)**. I have attached their Statement of Purpose. Each year the members of the DAPM put together a plan for their five meetings. This year the hope is to go to five parish locations across our diocese to break open our five foundations:

- Identity and Community
- Worship and Prayer
- Formation and Education
- Mission and Outreach
- Leadership and Structure

The Statement of Purpose states that:

The Purpose of the Association shall be to:

2.1 Provide a support network for Pastoral Ministers.

2.2 Facilitate communication among Pastoral Ministers and between Pastoral Ministers, Diocesan staff, Shared Services and Diocesan Councils.

2.3 Formulate activities consistent with the Diocesan Pastoral Plan.

2.4 Organize ongoing formation for Pastoral Ministers.

The first meeting for 2023 of the DAPM will be held here at Morisset on Thursday 30th March beginning at 9.30 am and we are inviting members of any Teams PPC,FC and any interested parishioner to come and see what is involved, RSVP by 17 March via email kate.crncevic@mn.catholic.org.au or phone 4979 1329.

The full schedule of dates for the 2023 Diocesan Association of Pastoral Ministers meetings are:

Thursday 30 March	Morisset	9.30am – 2.30pm
Identity & Community	- RSVP by 17 March	
Thursday 18 May	Morpeth	9.30am -2.30pm
Worship & Prayer	- RSVP by 12 May	
Thursday 6 July	Tea Gardens	9.30am – 2.30pm
Formation & Education	- RSVP by 30 June	
Thursday 3 August	Toronto	9.30am – 2.30pm
Mission & Outreach	- RSVP by 28 July	
Thursday 2 November	Newcastle	9.30am – 2.30pm
Leadership & Structure	- RSVP by 27 October	
Interested parties	should email	
	kate.crncevic@mn.catholic.org.au or phone 4979 1329	

to confirm attendance or further information.

SACRED@SEVEN

Join us for the next edition of Sacred@Seven on Wednesday 22nd March at Sacred Heart Cathedral (841 Hunter Street, Newcastle West). Fr. Peter Street, Parish Priest of Forster-Tuncurry, will preside over the event as we explore the hidden treasures of spending time together with each other and with the Lord. Enquiries or RSVP: E: eliza.beletich@mn.catholic.org.au P: 4979 1329

PRAYING THE GOSPELS

You are invited to connect and pray with each other across the Diocese from your own home. God speaks to us through the words of the Gospel and then through artist's images of the Gospel message. Join us each Wednesday 5.00 - 5.45pm.

Zoom link: <https://mncatholic.zoom.us/j/68191395109>

Password: 316071 For more information contact:

rose.mcallister@mn.catholic.org.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, the Diocese App, Bank Account Name: CCF BSB: 062815 No: 00328161 Ref: 5016 1st Collection or set up a direct debit arrangement (contact the parish office for this).

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 96014 Morisset Parish BSB:062815 Account Number: 00328161 Ref: 5004 2nd Collection or 5004 PG and your Giver Number or 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 on how planned giving works 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	L Hutchinson J France	L Hutchinson P Melvey
<u>PSALMIST:</u>	5PM 9.30AM	P Melvey J Shamley	P Melvey M Melvey
<u>GIFTS</u>	5PM 9.30AM	H White Jo Patrick J Vipani K London	F Dunn K Dunn H White P Herbert
<u>SERVERS</u>	5PM 9.30AM	M Melvey V Paulo	M Melvey V Paulo
<u>AV</u>	5PM 9.30AM	C Hibbard T Alexander	U France D Joyce
<u>SOUND / VIDEO</u>	5PM 9.30AM	R McArdle J France	J France J France
<u>WELCOMERS</u>	5PM 9.30AM	J Andersen TBA	TBA TBA
<u>COVID TEAM</u>	5PM 9.30AM	A Walker G Walker L McRae L McRae	K London P Melvey R Hay P Herbert
<u>COVID CLEAN- ING</u>	5PM 9.30AM	All available Covid team members	All available Covid team members
<u>CHURCH CLEANING</u>	COOR MOR	XXXX R Hay C Hay	P Herbert A Walker G Walker

The Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle has an abiding commitment to promote the safety, welfare and wellbeing of children and vulnerable adults. If you have any concerns for a child or vulnerable adult please contact the Office of Safeguarding (ph: 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

SAINT JOSEPH— 19TH MARCH
THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD— 25TH MARCH
PALM SUNDAY— 2ND APRIL
THURSDAY OF THE LORD'S SUPPER— 6TH APRIL
FRIDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD— 7TH APRIL
PASCHAL VIGIL IN THE HOLY NIGHT— 8TH APRIL
SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION— 9TH APRIL
ANZAC DAY— 25TH APRIL
SAINT MARK— 26TH APRIL
SAINT PETER CHANEL— 28TH APRIL

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

Barbara Millers, Anna Fitzgerald, Tintumol Thomas, Christopher Maloney, 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.

Remembrance: Dymphna Foo



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.

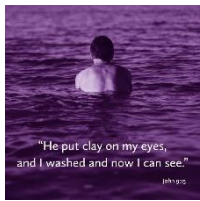
AN ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

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





SUNDAY PRAYER SERVICE

Fourth Sunday of Lent Year A

Sunday 19 Mar 2023

The Introductory Rites

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples as Australia's First Peoples and the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the land on which we work and live. Our Parish of St John Vianney Morisset is located on the traditional lands of the Awabakal and Darkinjung people. We honour and pay respect to, Elders past, present and emerging. We acknowledge the spiritual culture of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples across Australia.

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 God
who has reconciled us through Christ
and renews us by his grace.

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.
In union with the whole Church,
we call upon the mercy of the Lord
in this season of repentance and renewal.

Opening Rite

LITANY OF PRAISE

Leader:

The Lord is rich in mercy and kindness.
Let us prepare ourselves to hear God's Word
and praise the Lord Jesus Christ.

A brief period of silence follows.

Leader:

Lord Jesus, you are light to those who live in darkness: Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, you heal those who seek your face: Christ, have mercy:

All: Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, your Spirit rests on those who believe: 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:

All: Amen.

Opening Prayer

Leader:

Let us pray.

All pause for silent prayer.

Faithful God,
only with the eyes of faith
can we see your glory.
Give us your saving help
even when we do not see your goodness.
Heal us and forgive us all our sins.
We make this prayer through Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
for ever and ever.

All:

Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

1 Sm 16:1. 6-7. 10-13

A reading from the first book of Samuel

In the presence of the Lord God, they anointed David king of Israel.

The Lord said to Samuel, 'Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen myself a king among his sons.' When Samuel arrived, he caught sight of Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed one stands there before him,' but the Lord said to Samuel, 'Take no notice of his appearance or his height for I have rejected him; God does not see as man sees; man looks at appearances but the Lord looks at the heart.' Jesse presented his seven sons to Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen these.' He then asked Jesse, 'Are these all the sons you have?' He answered, 'There is still one left, the youngest; he is out looking after the sheep.' Then Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send for him; we will not sit down to eat until he comes.' Jesse had him sent for, a boy of fresh complexion, with fine eyes and pleasant bearing. The Lord said, 'Come, anoint him, for this is the one.' At this, Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him where he stood with his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord seized on David and stayed with him from that day on.

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

The word of the Lord.

All reply:

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 22 R. v.1

(R.) The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

1. The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me,
to revive my drooping spirit. (R.)
2. He guides me along the right path;
he is true to his name.
If I should walk in the valley of darkness
no evil would I fear.

- You are there with your crook and your staff;
with these you give me comfort. (R.)
3. You have prepared a banquet for me
In the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing. (R.)
4. Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me
all the days of my life.
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
for ever and ever. (R.)

Second Reading

Eph 5:8-14

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.

You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord; be like children of light, for the effects of the light are seen in complete goodness and right living and truth. Try to discover what the Lord wants of you, having nothing to do with the futile works of darkness but exposing them by contrast. The things which are done in secret are things that people are ashamed even to speak of; but anything exposed by the light will be illuminated and anything illuminated turns into light. That is why it is said:

Wake up from your sleep,
rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.

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.

Jn 9:1. 6-9. 13-17. 34-38

The blind man went off and washed himself and came away with his sight restored.

As Jesus went along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. He spat on the ground, made a paste with the spittle, put this over the eyes of the blind man and said to him, 'Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam' (a name that means 'sent'). So the blind man went off and washed himself, and came away with his sight restored.

His neighbours and people who earlier had seen him begging said, 'Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?' Some said, 'Yes, it is the same one.' Others said, 'No, he only looks like him.' The man himself said, 'I am the man.'

They brought the man who had been blind to the Pharisees. It had been a sabbath day when Jesus made the paste and opened the man's eyes, so when the Pharisees asked him how he had come to see, he said, 'He put a paste on my eyes, and I washed, and I can see.' Then some of the Pharisees said, 'This man cannot be from God: he does not keep the sabbath.' Others said, 'How could a sinner produce signs like this?' And there was disagreement among them. So they spoke to the blind man again, 'What have you to say about him yourself, now that he has opened your eyes?' 'He is a prophet' replied the man. 'Are you trying to teach us,' they replied 'and you a sinner through and through, since you were born!' And they drove him away.

Jesus heard they had driven him away, and when he found him he said to him, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' 'Sir,' the man replied 'tell me who he is so that I may believe in him.' Jesus said, 'You are looking at him; he is speaking to you.' The man said, 'Lord, I believe', and worshipped him.

Reader:

The Gospel of the Lord.

All:

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

All are seated.

Reflection on the Word

Q. How does the pattern of this story differ from most of the healing stories in the gospels?

Q. What is the man's logical argument to the Jewish authorities regarding Jesus?

Q. What are areas of blindness or darkness in our world today that need the light of Jesus?

Q. In what ways can you be the light of Christ for others?

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, through Christ the light of the world, let us bring our prayers before God.

Reader: That our Holy Father Pope Francis. will unite Christians everywhere through Jesus the Light.

(pause)

In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That nations and leaders will put aside rivalry and gain, and strive for peace.

(pause)

In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That those experiencing depression and sadness will find hope and healing in the light of Christ.

(pause)

In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That our parish community will live in renewed faith and rekindled hope during this time of fasting and prayer.

(pause)

In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For those who live in confusion and doubt. May we try to support positive approaches to even the most difficult problems, such as the partnerships created by Caritas Australia through Project Compassion.

(pause)

In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That the sick and housebound will find comfort in the word of God, especially those who are members of our community and families.

(pause)

In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That those who have died will forever live with God in fresh and green pastures, especially those who were members of our community and families.

(pause)

In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Loving God, as with the blind man, we proclaim and believe in Christ the Lord. Hear our prayers and deepen our faith in your Son, the light of all the world. 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 peace to love and serve the Lord.

All:

Thanks be to God.

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You and me, and the rising sea

Bulla Vanaka! I begin with the warm and friendly greeting of the people of Fiji.

FR GREG BARKER PUBLISHED MARCH 07, 2023

I recently attended a conference on the 'Synod on Synodality and Climate Change' with the bishops of Oceania on the beautiful island of Fiji.

My two 'take homes' from the conference; Synodality is integral to the survival and salvation of all Christian communities and must offer better gender inclusion moving forward; and two, climate change is a call and a demand of the earth and ocean for greater protection, action and care.

The Pope launched the Synod on Synodality, in October 2021, as an invitation to the whole church, via a number of regional stages, to reflect on leadership which is inclusive, open, transparent, and overtly listening. This synodal process will culminate in 2024. As I reflect on the process of Synodality, I note that we are always a work in progress and we can always do better.

I also walked away from the conference with a greater sense of urgency that a global and personal response to climate change is demanded of me. It's not just about governments or the global village, it's about me and my response as well.

The oceans form one lung of the earth's oxygen production and carbon assimilation. It works in much the same way as areas like the Amazon Rainforest. Two lungs for the life and re-generation of the planet. One doesn't work as well without the other. Both need care.

Standing in the village of Togoru between, what was once, the town cemetery and the homes of the villagers themselves, was an eye opening experience. It is in that space you realise the true reality of climate change, in four or five years' the village will no longer exist. The cemetery is only visible at low tide when the tops of the gravestones poke through the waves moving over them. Acres of the village have been consumed by the rising waters of the Pacific Ocean.

This village's story is not unique, more communities across the Oceania region will be forced to relocate to other parts of their island home or to new regions in the Pacific. Nations such as

Kiribati remain on a knife edge as the rising waters threaten the islands' infrastructure.

Whether we believe in climate change or not, most agree that we cannot sustain the continued destruction of our natural resources or the polluting of our natural home as we have been doing. Governments must do more to find a better way to produce fuels and reduce emissions.

However, it is not just up to politicians.

We all play a significant personal role in saving the planet.

Being aware, informed and committed to reducing waste helps.

Creating less garbage, recycling more and using natural packaging more effectively, will assist in the care of the earth and ocean.

How and where we dispose of our waste should be a mindful and thoughtful commitment to sustainability long term, creating lasting change for future generations.

FAITH MATTERS: Welcome to the change we want to see

Through our acts of compassion and generosity, we can be the change we want to see.

ROSEMARY MCALLISTER PUBLISHED MARCH 14, 2023

"Welcome to Newcastle" is a phrase that Novocastrians are again becoming accustomed to saying as more and more people are deciding that the once Steel City is home. This week we excitedly await the installation of Bishop Michael Kennedy as the 9th Bishop of the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle. You will also have seen the construction works on the corner of Tutor St and Parry St as our new Diocesan Christian Library takes shape. We envision the new library as a special space for human connection and enlightenment by God's infinite grace.

One of the blessings of the ongoing growth of Newcastle is the diversity of new people arriving here bringing with them a wealth of gifts, ideas, and experiences. Many are passionate and generous individuals who have a genuine desire to share these with others and to contribute to our community.

This week, Faith Matters sat down with Australian Writer, Michael Hislop. A recent settler in Newcastle, Michael Hislop moved from Sydney a year ago and was warmly welcomed by the parishioners of Immaculate Heart of Mary, Tighes Hill. As a newcomer, he enrolled in the Christian Formation Course run by the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle, and it was here that Michael shared his love of Philosophy and Writing.

Poetry is Michael's first Love which he confesses to writing every day under the pseudonym "MH." He has just Released two Books entitled 'A Tale of Opposites' and 'Soul Searching' both of which are available on Amazon and Kindle. He is currently finishing his first novel and several other Projects.

Michael is accustomed to writing of various kinds as he holds degrees in Politics, International Relations, and African Decolonization, as well as holding a Juris Doctor. In our interview, Michael described how writing poetry and literature was different than the formulaic writing of the academic and business worlds. For him, a writer must seek to engage and interrogate the world from a place of Heart and Soul and a foundation of abiding Faith alongside a wide experience of the Human condition. "I am a Writer and a Poet. I write about the good, the bad and all sorts. I aim to hold a mirror to our World. I strive for a better World."

Michael, the first of seven children, was born in India to Christian missionary parents. Due to the strictness of his upbringing, Michael said that he walked away from his Faith in his teenage years. Yet, he says that as he grew older, he came

aware of a compelling and abiding Faith that was strangely strong and a source of great comfort and wonder. He says that he found his relationship with The Divine provided him with a crucial foothold in which to understand himself and his place in the greater scheme of things. Forming a connection and a community of Faith which placed him in a more fundamental communion with The All. It was these experiences of reconnection with his Christian cultural roots that spurred him to begin to write.

Having travelled widely, Michael is well-versed in the world's societies and cultures, and he has an abiding love and respect for humanity, its history and traditions and stories, as well as the natural environment.

Michael's writings are born out of his diverse personal experiences and the rich library of ancient stories and ideas about being Human. He gets emotional talking about this, expressing an enduring love and appreciation of the legacies bestowed on us by those who walked before. However, he notes that it is important to reimagine them so that they fit into a contemporary context as relevant to how people today choose to live their lives.

Historically "God" was seen as all-encompassing, omnipresent, and omniscient, however, when God is talked about today this is most often not the case. God in contemporary Australia is not well understood within the context of the ancient and rich ideas from which our understanding has been born.

"Our most ancient stories are about Being Human... We are not just bags of skin and bones living in a physical sense. We are much more than this... Most of my peers today do not even realize that they are a sovereign and eternal Soul. And in much of the modern domain, it is almost unseemly to talk about this... And, I wonder and ask why..."

"Our world is supposed to be based on the ideas and ideals of our greatest thinkers and scientists, but there is a vast and growing gulf between how our world works and how it could and should be..." Michael's two million plus readers around the world regularly tell him of how tough Life is becoming... "It is generally harder to meet the needs of Life, it is harder to feed and educate the kids... People the world over still suffer most often needlessly."

Michael believes and argues that a central Principle of Christianity is the need to respond with kindness and compassion to those most vulnerable and those in need. "The power of the Story of Christ is his exemplar of compassion and self-sacrifice as an ultimate expression of love and surrender to The All. Faith for some can be a lofty idea only for Sundays, whereas for others like myself, Faith and Belief are the core of a feasible and Right relationship with both my fellows and The Divine. Being a Christian means replicating as far as we are able the Example of Christ."

"Most people don't realize that the Catholic Church is one of the most present and active agencies in our world responding to the needs and demands of the most vulnerable of us across the world. This is rarely publicized or reported. The scale of these endeavours is truly enormously and is only made possible on the strength of our communities."

It is always important to consider those in need but more especially during the season of Lent. Each year, Project Compassion comes as a timely reminder of the importance of solidarity and how a single act of kindness – whether big or small, can make a life-changing impact in the lives of those who need it most.

Through our acts of compassion and generosity, we can be the change we want to see.