



### **THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR C SUNDAY 13 NOV 2022**

*As we approach the end of the Church's Liturgical Year, the readings look forward to the end of time.*

*Speculation about the end of time as we know it, is not unusual. We live in a world which is full of confusion, social and political turmoil, and lurch from one crises to another. This uncertainty can cause great fear and anxiety. We are still here. The end has not yet come.*

*The Gospel tells us there will be natural disasters and that we will be persecuted. But at the end, we're told: "By patient endurance we will save our lives."*

*Our churches may not be destroyed like the temple in Jerusalem. But in many ways, the death of the old way of being church is already evident for all to see: our reputation, moral credibility and trust have effectively been destroyed in the wake of the sexual abuse crisis*

*Like Francis of Assisi and his namesake Pope Francis, let us go and rebuild the church of God which will "shine with its healing rays" after the burning. Just like the early Christians, we are told to take heart and discern the way of God in times of crisis.*



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 Geoff Mulhearn
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](mailto:morparish@mn.catholic.org.au)  
Morisset Parish Web site: [www.vianneymorisset.org](http://www.vianneymorisset.org)  
Morisset Parish Facebook : <https://www.facebook.com/stjvparish>  
Morisset Parish Instagram : [https://www.instagram.com/stjvparish\\_morisset/](https://www.instagram.com/stjvparish_morisset/)  
Morisset Parish Bulletin Items: [morparish@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:morparish@mn.catholic.org.au)

#### **UPCOMING WORSHIP TIMES :**

Saturday	12th November 5pm Mass— Cooranbong
Sunday	13th November 9.30am Mass— Morisset
Tuesday	15th November 9.30am Liturgy— Morisset
Saturday	19th November 5pm Family Mass— Morisset
Sunday	20th November 9.30am Mass— Morisset
Tuesday	22nd November 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 33RD  
SUNDAY O/T YR C 13TH  
NOVEMBER 2022**

This week marks the last week of Ordinary Time in the Church's calendar & next week's description of the Crucifixion concludes the Year of Luke, so it is in this context that we need

to read today's Gospel passage.

In the interval between the arrival of Jesus in Jerusalem & his execution outside the city, the Temple plays a significant role. You'll recall how he cleansed it of the merchants & then made it his base for teaching - but in this instance, the peoples' comments about the magnificence of the building immediately trigger a series of warnings from him.

He states in no uncertain terms that they are about to experience a period of distress, betrayal & persecution, stretching well into the future - but that ultimately, God's love & mercy will triumph, not only in their own lives but also in the world.

The language of passages such as today's Gospel can be off-putting at times, and in particular when they are interpreted literally--- graphic descriptions certainly lend themselves to predictions of doom & gloom! We must remember that this Gospel was written about 50 years or more AFTER the death of Jesus, so at the time of writing, many of the events mentioned had already

come to pass. The message for the community then, was not to despair because all of it was anticipated by Jesus but also that ultimately the reign of God would come about & the effort & distress endured would be vindicated.

It is not written as a biography but as a means of conveying a message about Jesus, so the writer seeks to give comfort to his audience by having Jesus "predict" all the things that have actually happened in their community! His overall message to them is to have faith in him & KEEP GOING, telling them that their ENDURANCE will win them their lives! He assures his disciples that the kingdom will surely come to pass. This, then, is the promise that we affirm every time we say the Creed.

Hollywood has done very well out of movies about "the end of the world", so much so that the word "apocalypse" has somehow assumed that meaning - - - however, it's correct meaning comes from the Greek word "to lift a veil" or "reveal". Therefore, the apocalypse is NOT the END of the world, but the REVELATION that will come at the end of the world. Writings such as today's Gospel passage about what will happen at the end of the world & how God will be REVEALED are described in the Christian tradition as "apocalyptic writing" -- the most famous of these writings is called the book of Revelation.

Our Christian expectation of the risen Lord's return in glory is of profound importance to us. It is the horizon against which we believers live out our Gospel lives.

In our world today, many Centuries after the Gospels were written, all successive predictions have proven to be false. Even contemporary threats--the possibility of planetary catastrophe from either nuclear war or global warming are no guide to the divine wisdom which will determine the ultimate destiny of creation. Faith & hope remain integral to our daily lives, as it was in the lives of the early Christians.

St Mary McKillop said in 1907- "Prayer is our greatest weapon"

But as for that day or hour, nobody knows it, neither the Angels nor the only Begotten, no one but ABBA, God. Be constantly on the watch. Stay awake! Mk13:32 Heather White

**THE RETIREMENT OF FR GEOFF MULHEARN**

Last Friday Fr Geoff Mulhearn informed Fr Greg Barker the Diocesan Administrator, of his intention to retire from the roles of Priest Supervisor and of Sacramental Priest at the Parishes of Toronto and Morisset

Fr Geoff's intention is to say his last official Mass at Cooranbong on Saturday, 12 November. And his last Mass at Morisset on Sunday, 11 December, and his last Mass at Toronto on 18 December. This makes Sunday, 18 December, his official retirement date.

**APPOINTMENT OF PRIEST SUPERVISOR.**

Last Friday our leaders John & Uta together with leaders from the five other Lay Led Parishes in the Diocese, presented an overview of their parish to a group of assembled Priests at Charlestown.

The priests who had gathered for the occasion, were those who are exploring and discerning the Priest Supervisor role.

The next phase of the journey for those gathered is to discern what they heard and who they might choose to work with (Priests choosing a Parish, Parishes choosing a Priest)



**CHRISTMAS 2022**

Was an item discussed at the PPC meeting on Thursday.

Fr John Purnell will be with us for Christmas, and again it is planned to hold a Christmas Eve Mass at the Morisset Showground commencing at 6pm.

Christmas Day Mass will be held in the Morisset Church at 9.30am.

If you are available to assist with the various ministries, would you please complete the 'sign up' form, using the link that was sent with emailed newsletter, clicking on the button on the parish website homepage, or if you can't complete the online form paper versions are available at the back of the church.

**BECOME AN SRE VOLUNTEER**

Did you know that some 50% of Catholic children are in state schools? Have you ever thought of spreading the good news of the gospel and the love of Jesus Christ with children? Have you ever thought about becoming a Special Religious Educator?

This could be an opportunity for you to meet new people, discover new friendships and build quality relationships whilst mastering skills and confidence in Catechetics.

You can make a difference in the schools within your parish! For people of faith, knowing you are participating in Christ's call to share the Good News to all is a great source of joy and meaning.

If you would like to learn more about how you can help, please contact the Pastoral Ministries team on 4979 1200.



### **INTERFAITH DIALOGUE EXPLORES LEADERSHIP AND COMMUNITY**

What does leadership look like in a Catholic, Jewish, Anglican or Buddhist community?

ELIZABETH SYMINGTON PUBLISHED NOVEMBER 07, 2022

What are the differences? Are there any similarities?

Those questions were answered last week at the Diocesan Ecumenical and Interfaith Council's first Interfaith Dialogue event.

Almost 50 people were lucky enough to hear from Jonathan Mantel (Jewish), Father Greg Barker (Catholic), Bishop Peter Stuart (Anglican) and Greg Heathcoate (Buddhist) as they spoke about their different approaches to leadership and how it impacts their faith community.

A common thread among the presenters was that good leadership is not possible without consulting the people it impacts.

Attendee Moira Gordon thought the event was fantastic.

"I relished the opportunity to gather with others while we thought about what Leadership might mean to us and how different people might approach the topic," she said.

"All four speakers were quite unique and sparked different flavours of thought."

For Project Coordinator, Pastoral Ministries Alyson Segrott, the Interfaith Dialogue gave her a chance to connect with people from different backgrounds.

"It is important that we learn from each other and continue to develop friendships with other faiths," she said.

She believes the event shows how important learning about leadership across diverse faith communities is.

"It is the faith communities that drive the leadership. When change happens, it is important not to leave behind any of our community members, which is why it takes time to bring about change," Alyson said.

"In our learning the presentations challenged us to know more about our own faith leadership. They asked us to question whether this is the best model, could we do better with change, and what would we need to consider when making leadership changes moving forward?"

The Ecumenical and Interfaith Council are excited to host more events like this in the future – they're preparing for a big 2023.

### **DIVINE RETREAT CENTRE – UPCOMING RETREATS**

The Divine Retreat Centre has three remaining retreats this month. An Inner Healing Growth Retreat will be hosted from Friday 18 to Sunday 20 November, a Spiritual Retreat will be hosted on Monday 21 November and a One Day Pilgrimage will occur on Sunday 27 November. For more information or to book, call 04 6848 6782.

### **CHRISTMAS GIFTS THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

This Christmas, share a gift that can change a life, by choosing a Caritas Global Gift go to: <https://www.globalgifts.org.au/>

### **BRENDON MANNYX: PRISON SUNDAY**

This week's message comes to you from Brendon Mannyx, Manager Mission and Outreach.

Last Sunday, 6th November, was Prison Sunday. During the Year of Mercy in 2016, Pope Francis announced a Jubilee for Prisoners, and since that time the Bishops Commission for Social Justice, Mission and Service has continued to encourage dioceses and parishes to mark the first Sunday in November in recognition of those in prison and those who provide pastoral support to them.

Our Diocese currently supports two full-time prison chaplains and, through them, hundreds of incarcerated people and their families every year.

From 2013 – 2016, I was privileged to serve as a sessional chaplain, attending prison one day a week. In 2015, I shared the following reflection with my parish community.

BRENDON MANNYX PUBLISHED NOVEMBER 08, 2022

There's a bit in the New Testament where St Paul writes about his personal struggles. And he writes:

I have pleaded with the Lord three times for it to leave me.

We can imagine St Paul's cry as one similar to our own:

Lord, take away this thorn in my side. Take away my weakness, my pain, my sorrow, my brokenness.

And God's reply:

'My grace is enough for you: my power is at its best in weakness.'

God dwells in our weakness. God is at home in our brokenness. This is the place where God's presence is often made known. Why is that? What does that mean? It goes against everything the world tells us. It goes against everything we learn at school, through work, in the media. Do better, be the best, be strong, be independent. Be beautiful, be rich, be popular. We hide from pain. We pride ourselves in being successful, in not needing any help. Yet God says my power is at its best in weakness. My Spirit is able to do so much more in your brokenness and your struggles. God turns worldly wisdom upside-down. And we can learn much from what God is saying. To read the rest of the story go to: <https://mnnews.today/opinion-comment/2022/brendon-mannyx-prison-sunday/>

### **CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE AUSTRALIA: ANNUAL THANKSGIVING MASS**

The Catholic Women's League Australia – New South Wales Inc. Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle is excited to invite you to their Annual Thanksgiving Mass and Luncheon on Friday 18 November. Mass is at St Paul's Church, Rutherford at 11.30am and lunch will be at the Telarah Bowling Club at 1pm. Cost for lunch is \$40 per person. For more information contact Margo Nancarrow on 0418 657 989 or [bjmnan4@bigpond.com](mailto:bjmnan4@bigpond.com) or [cwlamn214@bigpond.com](mailto:cwlamn214@bigpond.com)

### **BISHOP'S AWARD 2022**

Nominations are now open for the 2022 Bishop's Award! The award aims to recognise the good works of students and young people across our Diocese who were actively involved in their parish communities. Applications close on 2 December 2022.

Find out more: [www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/youth/bishops-award](http://www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/youth/bishops-award)

### **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/61036103033>



### **SUPPORTING THE CLERGY / 1ST COLLECTION**

We wish to thank those who have continued to support the Clergy and are asking for those who are not doing so to consider making contributions to support the Clergy / 1st Collection 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: CDF BSB: 062815 No: 00328161 Ref: 5016 1st Collection or set up a direct debit arrangement (contact the parish office for this option).

### **SUPPORTING OUR PARISH / 2ND COLLECTION**

We wish to thank everyone who has continued their support of our Parish during these very different times. You can support our Parish at Mass via the RED bucket or deposit directly into the Parish Account our details are: Account Name: CDF 96014 Morisset Parish BSB:062815 Account Number: 00328161 Ref: 5004 2nd Collection or 5004 PG and Giver Number, or you can use the Online Payments button on the Parish Website Home page or the Diocese App.

<u><b>WEEKEND ROSTERS</b></u>			
		<u><b>THIS WEEK</b></u>	<u><b>NEXT WEEK</b></u>
<u><b>Presiders</b></u>	5PM 9.30AM	Mass Mass	Mass Mass
<u><b>PROCLAIMERS:</b></u>	5PM 9.30AM	J Vipan R Hay	L Hutchinson H White
<u><b>PSALMIST:</b></u>	5PM 9.30AM	K Lendon D Joyce	G Hutchinson M Shamley
<u><b>GIFTS</b></u>	5PM 9.30AM	F Dunn K Dunn A Walker G Walker	J Vipan Jo Patrick P Melvey A Dussin
<u><b>SERVERS</b></u>	5PM 9.30AM	M Melvey V Paulo	M Melvey J France
<u><b>AV</b></u>	5PM 9.30AM	J France M Foo	J France J Vipan
<u><b>SOUND / VIDEO</b></u>	5PM 9.30AM	U France J France	L McArdle U France
<u><b>WELCOMERS</b></u>	5PM 9.30AM	TBA TBA	J Andersen TBA
<u><b>COVID TEAM</b></u>	5PM 9.30AM	P Herbert P Melvey K Amon B Hutcheson	P Herbert K Lendon A Walker G Walker
<u><b>COVID CLEAN- ING</b></u>	5PM 9.30AM	All available Covid team members	All available Covid team members
<u><b>CHURCH CLEANING</b></u>	COOR MOR	J Scully P Herbert T Alexander	XXXX R Hay C Hay

*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](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 SOLEMNITIES**

SAINT JOSAPHAT— 12TH NOVEMBER  
SAINT ELIZABETH OF HUNGARY— 17TH NOVEMBER  
CHRIST THE KING— 20TH NOVEMBER  
PRESENTATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY— 21ST NOV  
SAINT CECILIA— 22ND NOVEMBER  
SAINTS ANDREW DUNG LAC AND COMPANIONS— 24 NOV  
SAINT ANDREW— 30TH NOVEMBER  
SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER— 3RD DECEMBER  
SAINT AMBROSE— 7TH DECEMBER  
SAINT LUCY— 13TH DECEMBER

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

Peter Martyn, Chris Crowe, Brian Grogan, Fiona McAlinden, Stephen McKay, June Purcell, Jeremy McMullen, Harry Goldman, Yvonne Beecroft, Bernadette Martin, John Francisco, Joan Gillett, Bruce Gillett, Koby Smith, Patricia Jones.

**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)





**SUNDAY PRAYER SERVICE**  
**Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C**  
**Sunday 13 Nov 2022**

**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.  
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.  
The Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle is located on the traditional lands of the Awabakal, Biripi, Darkinjung, Kamilaroi, Wiradjuri, Wonnarua, and Worimi people.

**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.

**A brief period of silence follows.**

**Leader:**

Lord Jesus, you give us words of wisdom: Lord, have mercy.

**All: Lord, have mercy.**

Christ Jesus, you bring peace, not fear: Christ, have mercy.

**All: Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you are with us till the end of time: 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.**

Almighty God  
into our hands  
you have placed many blessings and gifts.  
Help us to use them wisely  
so that we may become your faithful servants.  
with the Holy Spirit,  
for ever and ever.

**All:**

**Amen.**

**The Liturgy of the Word**

**First Reading**

**Mal 3:19-20**

A reading from the prophet Malachi

**The sun of righteousness will shine on you.**

The day is coming now, burning like a furnace; and all the arrogant and the evil-doers will be like stubble. The day that is coming is going to burn them up, says the Lord of hosts, leaving them neither root nor stalk. But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness will shine out with healing in its rays.

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

The word of the Lord.

**All reply:**

**Thanks be to God.**

**Responsorial Psalm**

**Ps 97:5-9. R. see v.9**

**(R.) The Lord comes to rule the earth with justice.**

1. Sing psalms to the Lord with the harp  
with the sound of music.  
With trumpets and the sound of the horn

- acclaim the King, the Lord. **(R.)**
2. Let the sea and all within it, thunder;  
the world, and all its peoples.  
Let the rivers clap their hands  
and the hills ring out their joy  
at the presence of the Lord. **(R.)**
  3. For the Lord comes,  
he comes to rule the earth.  
He will rule the world with justice  
and the peoples with fairness. **(R.)**

## Second Reading

### 2 Thes 3:7-12

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

*Do not give anyone food who refuses to work.*

You know how you are supposed to imitate us: now we were not idle when we were with you, nor did we ever have our meals at anyone's table without paying for them; no, we worked night and day, slaving and straining, so as not to be a burden on any of you. This was not because we had no right to be, but in order to make ourselves an example for you to follow.

We gave you a rule when we were with you: not to let anyone have any food if he refused to do any work. Now we hear that there are some of you who are living in idleness, doing no work themselves but interfering with everyone else's. In the Lord Jesus Christ, we order and call on people of this kind to go on quietly working and earning the food that they eat.

*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 Luke.

*All:*

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

### Lk 21:5-19

*Your endurance will win you your life.*

When some were talking about the Temple, remarking how it was adorned with fine stonework and votive offerings, Jesus said, 'All these things you are staring at now – the time will come when not a single stone will be left on another: everything will be destroyed.' And they put to him this question: 'Master,' they said, 'when will this happen, then, and what sign will there be that this is about to take place?'

'Take care not to be deceived,' he said, 'because many will come using my name and saying, "I am he" and, "The time is near at hand." Refuse to join them. And when you hear of wars and revolutions, do not be frightened, for this is something that must happen but the end is not soon.' Then he said to them, 'Nation will fight against nation, and kingdom against

kingdom. There will be great earthquakes and plagues and famines here and there; there will be fearful sights and great signs from heaven.

'But before all this happens, men will seize you and persecute you; they will hand you over to the synagogues and to imprisonment, and bring you before kings and governors because of my name – and that will be your opportunity to bear witness. Keep this carefully in mind: you are not to prepare your defence, because I myself shall give you an eloquence and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to resist or contradict. You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, relations and friends; and some of you will be put to death. You will be hated by all men on account of my name, but not a hair of your head will be lost. Your endurance will win you your lives.'

*Reader:*

The Gospel of the Lord.

*All:*

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

*All are seated.*

## Reflection on the Word

Q. In what ways is this passage relevant in our own time?

Q. Why does Jesus need to warn the disciples not to be deceived by false prophets?

Q. In what ways is a literal interpretation of this passage problematic?

Q. Why might this passage be included in the Sunday lectionary?

## 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 friends, with mercy in our hearts, let us bring our intentions before God.

Reader: That our Holy Father Pope N. will faithfully lead the Church in times of uncertainty and opposition.

(pause)

In your mercy:

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

Reader: That war and fighting will be ended through justice and peace.

(pause)

In your mercy:

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

Reader: That all who encounter difficult conditions at work will be rewarded for their perseverance.

(pause)

In your mercy:

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

Reader: That our parish community will bear witness to the Word of God and the coming of Christ.

(pause)

In your mercy:

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

Reader: That the sick and housebound will be blessed with peace, especially those in our community and families.

(pause)

In your mercy:

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

Reader: That those who have died will be rewarded for their faithfulness and take their place with God, especially those in our community and families.

(pause)

In your mercy:

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

Leader: Loving God, we seek your merciful wisdom in all we do. Hear our prayers and help us to always live with justice and goodness in our hearts as we look forward to the coming of your Son. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen.**

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## The Lord's Prayer

Leader:

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

All:

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

## The Concluding Rite

### Blessing

Leader:

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

All make the sign of the cross during the blessing.

All:

**Amen.**

### Dismissal

Leader:

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

All:

**Thanks be to God.**

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### **FAITH MATTERS: Listen to the voices of how to be light in the world**

Last month community gathered at St Pius X Adamstown to view the finalist from the Season of Creation film competition.

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The theme this year was Listen to the Voice of Creation and we had over 40 entries from across the Diocese. The winner of the competition was a year 9 student from Pius X Adamstown, Makayla Lawrence. The judges were impressed with Makayla's poetic submission and use of local imagery. Makayla spoke about intentionally using a voice that was much younger than hers as listening to the voice of creation needs to start from the earliest point in a child's development.

To view Makayla's entry, go to <https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/faith-formation/recent-events/>

It came to light at the gathering that Makayla is one talented young lady who has a way with words and images. Earlier this year Makayla won the 2022 Young Voices Awards by Australian Catholics magazine and sponsored by Australian Catholic University.

Makayla has kindly allowed us to share her winning entry in Faith Matters.

Light in the World

By Makayla Lawrence

For me, Faith means using kind words and the voice given to us by God to make a difference. I have faith that God has a purpose for me; if something unplanned and disastrous happens, I know that it is part of God's plan for me to grow, learn and become a better person. As Pope Francis tells us, "The worst enemy of a fragile faith is fear. Do not be afraid!" My faith in God helps me to face challenges with confidence and determination.

On February 28th, extreme weather caused unprecedented flooding in Northern NSW and left thousands of people homeless. As I began to research this, I was introduced to a man named Steve. He lives in a small NSW town located 300m from the Tweed River on the border of Queensland. Steve was strongly impacted by the devastating flooding and kindly let me interview him about his experience and faith.

Steve told me that as water began to rise, he and his neighbours moved their cars to higher ground at 4am as they thought they would experience minor flooding. However, the water rose faster than expected and later that day Steve and his neighbours had to evacuate.

"My wife and I packed a bag for what we thought would be 3 or 4 days before we would return to our home. Then we waded through the water to our neighbour's house," he explained.

The water eventually rose to extraordinary levels, and the flooding caused devastating damage to his newly renovated home. It swept away Steve's possessions and damaged 90% of everything he owned. Steve told me that at the time, he felt a great sense of loss; however, he felt a duty to fulfill in his community through looking after his elderly neighbours and being there for others to listen and be a friend.

When I asked Steve about his faith in God, he told me that "the Bible tells us to be a light in the world. Every day, I simply be the person I know Jesus would want me to be. I try to get to know others, care for them, and always believe that there are people worse off than I am. I try to be a friend," Steve told me.

Steve has a loving relationship with his wife and family. He added that he finds great strength in his relationship and connection with God, and he told me that his faith strongly helped him through this difficult chapter in life.

"For me, it's trust that God will be there to listen when you pray; and confidence that through his power, he will look after you. I understand my role in the world is to serve, and this led me to my work in charity," he added.

Steve's story inspired me. "We have our lives and that's what matters. We have lost our material possessions and although we will not return to the home we had, we have each other. We will rebuild, which means new opportunities for myself and my wife. I'm looking forward to being together in our home, going on holidays, and getting out and meeting new people," he exclaimed.

After this interview, I learned from Steve that connection to your faith is different for everyone – yet it is so important. Steve taught me that we don't need a badge of honour or special attention to spread the Word of God – if we are connected to him in our heart, we will 'be the light in the world.'

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