



EASTER SUNDAY YEAR A 09 APRIL 2023

Easter Day is the greatest day in the Church's calendar. This is the day for which we have been preparing, since the beginning of Lent. Easter is a feast which gives us hope and encouragement in this world of pain, sorrows and tears.

To be a Christian is to be a person of hope, because of what happened on the third day. The resurrection is the main thing, but we must not forget that it was preceded by the passion and death. We can't have Easter Sunday without Good Friday. But when we are experiencing Good Friday, we should remember Easter Sunday.

Let Easter bring new life to all of us despite whatever catastrophe we may face in the world, or in our own personal situations. Let Easter break open our tombs of fear, sin, worries, difficulties, problems, and fill us with Hope – with life.



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 :

Thursday	6th April 7pm Holy Thursday— Morisset
Friday	7th April 3pm Good Friday— Morisset
Saturday	8th April 6.30pm Easter Vigil— Morisset
Sunday	9th April 9.30am Easter Sunday— Morisset
Saturday	15th April 5pm Family Mass— Morisset
Sunday	16th April 9.30am Mass— Morisset
Saturday	22nd April 5pm Mass— Cooranbong
Sunday	23rd April 9.30am Mass— Morisset
Tuesday	25th April 9.30am Liturgy— Morisset
Saturday	29th April 5pm Mass— Cooranbong
Sunday	30th April 9.30am Mass— Morisset
Tuesday	2nd May 9.30am Liturgy— Morisset



REFLECTION FOR EASTER SUNDAY 9TH APRIL 2023. YR A

Easter Sunday is, without a doubt, the greatest day in the Church's Liturgical Calendar & marks the conclusion of our Lenten journey of repentance & preparation for the events that unfolded in the life of Jesus, the

predicted Messiah & Saviour of the Jews.

During this 6 week period we have recalled, pondered on & absorbed the familiar stories of the Gospels that reveal the whole of CHRIST's teaching life, then the events that eventually lead to his suffering, horrific death & finally his glorious resurrection from the dead.

These are some of the events that represent the very pillars of our faith.

We have learnt about his deep love & concern for his family, disciples, friends, people with all kinds of disabilities & problems & yes, even those people with whom the Jews never associated - the Samaritans!

We were present in the Upper room during the Last Supper with his disciples, when he broke the bread & blessed the wine & heard him instruct them to "do this in memory of me".

During their travels, Jesus had told his disciples on a number of occasions that he would leave them but would rise from the dead, however they failed to understand what he was saying.

On Easter morning when Mary of Magdala ran to tell them the news that Jesus was not in the tomb, Peter & John came to see for themselves - Peter saw the cloths & didn't react - but John entered, saw the cloths and believed. He saw with the eyes of his heart & realised at once that God had raised Jesus from the dead, no question!

Easter Sunday celebrates darkness being overcome by light, but Easter is not a once-only event.

We catch something of the reality of resurrection whenever we experience new life emerging from hopelessness.

This transformation can relate to our own personal circumstances—when relationships break down or disaster of one sort or another strikes -and it can be global, such as Pandemics

We Christians have learnt to call some things that cause us to struggle "our cross".

Our crosses can take us to the edge, but what's important in the end is the effect they have on us.

It is all a matter of seeing reality through the EYES of our HEARTS.

We, too, will meet the risen Christ in unexpected moments during this Easter season -definitely in

the Mass & the Sacraments & in our prayers. Like Mary of Magdala, we will meet him in our brothers & sisters, in people we meet from day to day & those in need of our help.

We experience how peace & joy can flow from woundedness & agony. Our spirits resonate with the truth of this language of paradox.

I will turn their mourning into joy, I will console them after their sorrows". Jeremiah 31:13

"Rejoice in hope, be patient under trial, persevere in prayer". Romans 12:12

On Easter Sunday, let us pray - "This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice & be glad"

Let all of us offer up our best to God today & we will surely see his character, & have no doubt that He is definitely "El Shaddai" — the God of more than enough. Exodus 6: 3

Heather White

BISHOP MICHAEL KENNEDY'S EASTER MESSAGE

"With Easter Sunday fast approaching, I warmly invite you to come to Easter Mass and encounter the risen Jesus. I wish you, your family and loved ones a very happy and blessed Easter." Watch the Bishop's message at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dfj7ww5p4Qw>

FIRESIDE CHAT CHRISTIAN INITIATION FORMATION DAY

All Christian Initiation Ministers, ministering with adults via the Rite of Christian initiation of Adults (RCIA) and with children and their families via Sacraments of Initiation for Children, and all parishioners with an interest in the ministry of Christian Initiation, are invited to the Diocesan Christian Initiation Forum's formation day. Fireside Chat

It was so renewing to 'rest a while' at our reflection day last spring. The second of our yearly get-togethers is coming soon. This day will be focused on formation that seeks to support you in the ministry of Christian Initiation.

Join us to learn, discern and grow relationships with other ministers from other communities.

Further information about the topics for discussion will come out closer to the date. Be brave and register your interest now.

When: Saturday 17 June 2023 10.00 am – 3.30 pm

Where: MacKillop' Parish Hall, Milson St, Charlestown

Catering Morning tea & Lunch provided. RSVP

by Monday 5 June to fiona.duque1@mn.catholic.org.au



POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER

INTENTION FOR APRIL 2023

For a culture of peace and non violence
We pray for the spread of peace and non violence, by decreasing the use of weapons by States and citizens.

MISSION: ONE HEART MANY VOICES CONFERENCE

We are experiencing cultural, social, environmental, political and economic changes in our world and you are invited to be curious and creative in this time of liminality, transition and interruption in how to lead with a mission heart now. If you are:

- Passionate about mission and wanting to nurture your vocational heart for mission
- Striving creatively for justice, peace, reconciliation and inclusion
- Believing in God's mission of love and mercy in Australia and globally
- Serving or leading in an agency, organisation, community, Religious Congregation or parish
- Seeking professional and personal development
- Looking to engage with people of goodwill and diversity in a multi-sector dialogue
- Interested in engaging with the concerns and themes of the Plenary Council and the Synod 2023
- Hoping to be empowered with a vision of mission that is collaborative, scriptural and deeply theological, that affirms, enables, encourages and inspires;
- Looking for a few surprises

Then this conference is for you! Inspired by Jesus, this conference will focus on themes of truth-telling, encounter on the margins, inclusion, governance and synodality and challenge you to consider contemporary Mission in light of Pope Francis' teaching, witness and vision of synodal leadership for mission.

This is our sixth Mission: one heart many voices conference and we're taking the opportunity to do things differently, in response to the signs of the times.

When: 3-5 May, 2023 Where: SMC Conference & Function Centre, 66 Goulburn St, Sydney Registration: Three Days: \$500 + GST (\$590 + GST after April 12, 2023) Three Days Concession: \$490 + GST (Pensioners, Students and Youth) Single Day: \$190 + GST

Our Parish School is having a School Tour and Kindy 2024 Information Night on Wednesday 3rd May 2023 starting at 6.30pm. For more information contact the school on 02 4973 4073.



Happy Easter from all at Caritas Australia! Thank you for your continued support for Project Compassion – past, present and future. Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow For All Future Generations.

Thank you for supporting Caritas Australia's Project Compassion 2023 Lenten appeal.

Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow For All Future Generations.

Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow For **All Future Generations**.

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.

DIOSOUNDS 2023 - WALK TOGETHER

Tickets are on sale now for the DioSounds 2023 performance!

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS OFFICE PUBLISHED MARCH 30, 2023

Join the talented students across our secondary schools as they come together to share their love of music.

Featuring genres ranging from pop and rock to musical theatre and Jazz, there is something for everyone in this incredibly entertaining celebration of music.

Event Details Thursday 8 June 2023, 6.30pm Newcastle Civic Theatre All ages event. Book online or at the Civic Theatre box office.

THE LGBTIQ+ FORUM INVITES YOU TO MASS AT WARNERS BAY

Eucharistic celebration with LGBTIQ+ people, their families, friends and supporters at St Mary's Church, Warners Bay (2 Bayview Street) Date: Friday 21 April Time: 6pm

Event contact: LGBTIQ@mn.catholic.org.au

SCHOOL OPEN DAYS

If you're interested in enrolling your child at a Catholic School for 2024, you should attend one of our open days. Visit www.mn.catholic.edu.au/schools/open-days/ for more information.

AURORA MAGAZINE

Copies of the March 2023 issue are available at the back of the church.

PRINT AND PRAY- APRIL 27- CORCORAN CENTRE- MORPETH

Join us during this Easter period for a day of prayer and printing. Participants will make their own Gelatine printing plate and experience the joys of using this form of monoprinting while engaging in prayerful reflection throughout the day. The printing process is extremely simple, versatile and addictive. It is equally well suited for professional or novice printmakers, craft enthusiasts, professional artists, and children. You will need to bring an apron, morning tea and lunch.

Cost: \$25 for materials - participants will take home their own Gelatine printing plate.

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/print-and-pray-april-2023-tickets-595247941617>

THE CHOSEN EXPERIENCE – SEASON 2

We invite you to join us in soaking up to the sights, smells, and tastes of 1st Century Palestine as we view the second season about the life of Christ. *The Chosen* is a series which brings to life an interpretation of what life might have been like for Jesus starting his ministry. The series has been creatively produced and includes the backstories for each of the disciples that were individually chosen by Jesus. We are first invited into each of their lives, into their struggles and baggage. But once introduced to Jesus and the invitation to spend time with him, we are invited to witness such a transformation of each of his first followers.

Each Thursday evening join us to share a meal, watch and discuss the episode.

The Chosen Experience commences on 27 April at 6pm in the Murray Room.

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/the-chosen-season-2-tickets-595299666327>

TUESDAY LITURGIES

Tuesday Liturgies will resume after the school holidays.



CATHOLIC
THEOLOGICAL
COLLEGE



Catholic Theological College
Sign up for one of 18 online sessions.

Engaging Your Faith– May 2023

*Theology, Vatican II,
Scripture,
Spirituality, Science &
Faith.*

Choose what interests you from
\$25 per session.

For more information and to register:

ctc.edu.au/engaging-your-faith/



**St John Vianney
Parish Morisset**

Easter Services 2023

**Reconciliation 7pm
Wednesday 5th April**

**Holy Thursday 7pm
Thursday 6th April**

**Good Friday 3pm Friday
7th April**

**Easter Vigil 6.30pm
Saturday 8th April**

**Easter Sunday 9.30am
Sunday 9th April**

**All Services will be held in
St John Vianney Church
60 Yambo Street Morisset**

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	Easter Roster J France	P Robertson M Foo
<u>PSALMIST:</u>	5PM 9.30AM	Easter Roster H White	R Hay P Melvey
<u>GIFTS</u>	5PM 9.30AM	G Hutchinson L Hutchinson K Amon M Melvey	G Hutchinson L Hutchinson L McRae L McRae
<u>SERVERS</u>	5PM 9.30AM	Easter Roster TBA	TBA TBA
<u>AV</u>	5PM 9.30AM	J Vipan T Alexander	J France M Fowler
<u>SOUND / VIDEO</u>	5PM 9.30AM	J France J France	J France J France
<u>WELCOMERS / USHER</u>	5PM 9.30AM	H White A Walker G Walker	M Melvey P Melvey J Hutchins K Amon
<u>COVID CLEAN- ING</u>	5PM 9.30AM	L Hutchinson G Hutchinson P Melvey M Melvey Li McRae Le McRae	L Hutchinson G Hutchinson L McRae L McRae T Alexander P Stewart
<u>CHURCH CLEANING</u>	COOR MOR	K & F Dunn R Hay	F Dunn

The Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle has an enduring and 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: 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

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
SAINT CATHERINE OF SIENA— 29TH APRIL
SAINT ATHANASIUS— 2ND MAY
SAINTS PHILIP AND JAMES— 3RD MAY

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

Mary Johnson, 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: John Tome



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.

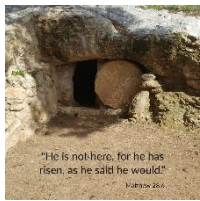
AN ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

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
Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord
Sunday 09 Apr 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 Jesus Christ who has redeemed us and raised us to new life.

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.

United with the whole Church,
we celebrate the joy of Easter
and keep this day of the Lord holy.

Opening Rite

Gloria

Leader:

With peoples everywhere,
let us glorify our God (in joyful song).

All:

**Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.**

**We praise you,
we bless you,
we adore you,
we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,**

**you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.**

Opening Prayer

Leader:

Let us pray.

All pause for silent prayer.

O Lord, your Son Jesus
has unlocked the gates of heaven
and won for us eternal life.
Filled with Easter joy
may we join our lives with Christ
and be renewed by the light of the Spirit.
We make this prayer through Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
for ever and ever.

All:

Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

Acts 10:34. 37-43

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

We have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection from the dead.

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household: 'You must have heard about the recent happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil. Now I, and those with me, can witness to everything he did throughout the countryside of Judaea and in Jerusalem itself: and also to the fact that they killed him by hanging him on a tree, yet three days afterwards God raised him to life and allowed him to be seen, not by the whole people but only by certain witnesses God had chosen beforehand. Now we are those witnesses – we have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection from the dead – and he has ordered us to proclaim this to his people and to tell them that God has appointed him to judge everyone, alive or dead. It is to him that all the prophets bear this witness: that all who believe in Jesus will have their sins forgiven through his name.'

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

The word of the Lord.

All reply:

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 117:1-2. 16-17. 22-23. R. v.24

(R.) This is the day the Lord has made;

let us rejoice and be glad.

1. Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,
for his love has no end.
Let the sons of Israel say:
'His love has no end.' (R.)
2. The Lord's right hand has triumphed;
his right hand raised me up.
I shall not die, I shall live
and recount his deeds. (R.)
3. The stone which the builders rejected
has become the corner stone.
This is the work of the Lord,
a marvel in our eyes. (R.)

Second Reading

Col 3:1-4

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians

Look for the things that are in heaven, where Christ is.

Since you have been brought back to true life with Christ, you must look for the things that are in heaven, where Christ is, sitting at God's right hand. Let your thoughts be on heavenly things, not on the things that are on the earth, because you have died, and now the life you have is hidden with Christ in God. But when Christ is revealed – and he is your life – you too will be revealed in all your glory with him.

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

The word of the Lord.

All reply:

Thanks be to God.

Sequence

The sequence is said or sung on this day. On the weekdays of the Octave of Easter, its use is optional.

Christians, to the Paschal Victim offer sacrifice and praise.
The sheep are ransomed by the Lamb;
and Christ, the undefiled,
hath sinners to his Father reconciled.
Death with life contended: combat strangely ended!
Life's own Champion, slain, yet lives to reign.
Tell us, Mary: say what thou didst see upon the way.
The tomb the Living did enclose;
I saw Christ's glory as he rose!
The angels there attesting;
shroud with grave-clothes resting.
Christ, my hope, has risen: he goes before you into Galilee.
That Christ is truly risen from the dead we know.
Victorious king, thy mercy show!

Gospel

Reader:

From the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

All:

Glory to you, O Lord.

Mt 28:1-10

He has risen from the dead and now he is going before you to Galilee.

After the Sabbath, and towards dawn on the first day of the week, Mary of Magdala and the other Mary went to visit the sepulchre. And all at once there was a violent earthquake, for the angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled

away the stone and sat on it. His face was like lightning, his robe white as snow. The guards were so shaken, so frightened of him, that they were like dead men. But the angel spoke; and he said to the women, 'There is no need for you to be afraid. I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here, for he has risen, as he said he would. Come and see the place where he lay, then go quickly and tell his disciples, "He has risen from the dead and now he is going before you to Galilee; it is there you will see him." Now I have told you.' Filled with awe and great joy the women came quickly away from the tomb and ran to tell the disciples.

And there, coming to meet them, was Jesus. 'Greetings,' he said. And the women came up to him and, falling down before him, clasped his feet. Then Jesus said to them, 'Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers that they must leave for Galilee; they will see me there.'

Reader:

The Gospel of the Lord.

All:

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

All are seated.

Reflection on the Word

Q. Why is the passion, death and resurrection central to Christian belief?

Q. What message do you take from the beloved disciple who 'saw and believed'?

Q. Does the significance of the Easter events receive proper recognition in society today?

Q. Why do you think the cross became the symbol of Christianity, rather than the empty tomb?

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, rejoicing in Christ's triumph over death, we bring our prayers before the God of glory.

Reader: That our Holy Father, Pope N., may continue to proclaim the new life that Jesus Christ offers to all people.

(pause)

In your glory:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That nations in conflict will be lead from war and death into peace and new life.

(pause)

In your glory:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That missionaries and all who dedicate their lives to God will find strength in their faith and draw inspiration from the Easter message.

(pause)

In your glory:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers will reach their destinations safely and receive the welcome and support needed to rebuild their lives.

(pause)

In your glory:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That we will fully appreciate the gift of water and do all we can to protect our oceans and waterways from pollution and degradation.

(pause)

In your glory:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That all people will have access to good healthcare, especially those who are vulnerable or marginalised.

(pause)

In your glory:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That governments, organisations and individuals will cooperate in efforts to provide affordable housing to those seeking permanent, safe homes.

(pause)

In your glory:

All: Lord, hear our prayer

Reader: That our parish community will be filled with the joy of Easter and find strength to reflect the risen Christ in all that we do.

(pause)

In your glory:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That the sick will be shown the healing light of Christ, especially those in our community and families.

(pause)

In your glory:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That those who have died will be raised to new life with Christ, especially those who were members of our community and families.

(pause)

In your glory:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: God our Father, we rejoice this day in Christ's triumph over death. Hear our prayers and help us to bear witness to the risen Lord as we are freed by the mystery of his Resurrection. 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:

Through the resurrection of his Son
God has redeemed us and made us his children.
May the Lord bless us with joy
and fill us with fruits of the Spirit.

All make the sign of the cross during the blessing.

All:

Amen.

Dismissal

Leader:

Let us go in peace. Alleluia.

All:

Thanks be to God.

© The scriptural quotations are taken from the Jerusalem Bible, published and copyright 1966, 1967 and 1968 by Darton Longman and Todd Ltd and Doubleday & Co Inc, and used by permission of the publishers.

The English translation of the Psalm Responses, the Alleluia and Gospel Verses, and the Lenten Gospel Acclamations, and the Titles, Summaries, and Conclusion of the Readings, from the Lectionary for Mass © 1997, 1981, 1968, International Committee on English in the Liturgy, Inc. All rights reserved. The prayers are from the English Translation of the Roman Missal © 2010 International Committee on English in the Liturgy Inc. (ICEL). All rights reserved.

LITURGY MATTERS: Christian Initiation Update

Where are we heading as a Christian community whose reason for existence is to proclaim the love of God and make disciples?

LOUISE GANNON RSJ FIONA DUQUE PUBLISHED APRIL 04, 2023

It seems like quite some time ago that Nick Wagner and Diana Macalintal, from Team RCIA, joined us here in our Church of Maitland-Newcastle. They brought with them years of experience and left us with ideas on how we could move forward regarding the ministry of Christian Initiation in the diocese, and how it could be reimagined if we view all of it through the lens of the *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults* (RCIA).

Much has happened in this space, albeit with a couple of mountains to climb, over the last several years. The Christian Initiation Forum has been busy. After two years of formation in the Rite and Mystagogical Reflection, it is exciting to hear that Mystagogical Reflection is becoming more known, used and loved. It has become the basis of our diocesan Lent and Advent programs thanks to Rose McAllister and her Formation and Education team.

The purpose of the Christian Initiation Forum is to support all the faithful across our parishes, and the various parish Initiation teams, be they RCIA or Sacraments of Initiation of Children. Across the diocese hundreds of people minister in this space, serving selflessly, often without a break from one year to the next. We are growing the support we offer in response to need.

Over recent years parish ministers of Christian Initiation have expressed a need for something that refreshes them and for formation on specific topics or questions. In response the Forum is establishing **two annual days**.

- 'Come Rest a While' is a reflection day. It ran for the first time at Morpeth on Saturday 10 September 2023 and those who participated were grateful for the experience. The day provided participants with an opportunity to rest in God's love, to get to know other ministers in the diocese and to share their experience of and questions about ministry. Last year's [flyer](#) gives more information. 'Come rest a While' will run again this year on Saturday 9 September.
- 'Fireside Chat' is shaping up as our annual formation day, so named because it will take place in winter. We are planning for Saturday 17 June in a nice warm venue. We have a list of formation topics people have nominated and we are yet to make the final choice for this year. This [date claimer flyer](#) gives you more information.

Reimagining the Ministry of Christian Initiation

Since our time with Nick and Diana in October 2019 we have been immersing ourselves in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. When Vatican Council II called for the restoration of the adult journey of Christian Initiation, it imagined that this rite would sit at the heart of parish life, as the hinge around which everything would turn. We have all continued to struggle in this space, not only here but across our nation and indeed the world.

For years now we have heard the cry from parishes indicating that Christian Initiation – be it with children and their

families or adults – is not working. Parishes are frustrated and to a large degree feel paralysed.

One of the great wisdoms of our day comes from Henry Ford who is reported to have said, 'If you always do what you always did, you'll always get what you got.'

The Christian Initiation Forum is desiring to accompany and support parishes who are ready to stop doing what they've always done, and want to reimagine the ministry of Christian Initiation through the lens of the RCIA.

A first step for those willing to take this journey is to immerse themselves in the wisdom of the RCIA.

To assist interested parishes and members of the faithful to immerse themselves anew in the RCIA, Fr Andrew Doohan and Louise have developed a formation process called **Go Make Disciples**. It has run several times and any parish or region in the diocese who would like to engage with this formation can contact [Louise](#) to arrange it. The [flyer](#) for the late 2022 formation that ran at Hamilton has more information. The experience of this group was very rich because it included members of a parish looking to start RCIA, and people from a variety of existing parish teams. The mix of new and experienced people made for a wonderful formation environment.

The next step has been reached by four parishes who have expressed a desire to actively reimagine the ministry of Christian Initiation. In the latter part of 2022, a large group met twice to engage in exploratory conversation and review a range of resources from around the country. Since then, the Christian Initiation Forum has developed a resource called **Come and See** to support and guide those parishes who are ready, in preparing for and engaging in this journey within their unique local context. *Come and See* is invitational. It grounds communities in the vision and processes of the RCIA, articulates guiding principles, identifies possible steps and outlines a range of different ideas, all using a process of Mystagogical Reflection. It will be up to individual parishes to plan their particular reimagining journey. They will support each other by sharing ideas, learnings and questions. Each parish will be supported by a member of the Christian Initiation Forum.

Come and See will be a 'live' document, always under revision in light of the experience of the four reimagining parishes. We are aiming for our next conversation together on Saturday 6 May. We imagine this to be a journey that will take years. After our next conversation *Come and See* and other resources will be available to everyone via the diocesan website.

In making this journey the four reimagining parishes are hoping to help the whole Church of Maitland-Newcastle reimagine the ministry of Christian Initiation so that, together, we will keep growing our capacity to make life long missionary disciples. We will keep everyone updated in this space. It is an exciting time as we live and learn together.

Henry Ford was right at a deeper level than he could have imagined. It is not in the DNA of the faithful to 'always do what we always did!' Conversion, becoming, renewal and change is at the centre of our individual and ecclesial life. To be unsettled is our mode of existence.

It is good to be thinking about all this as Holy Week begins and so many of our parishes will be baptising new members of the community at the Easter Vigil.

Wishing you and your families and communities every blessing as we journey through this week, embedding the dying and rising pattern of God's love into our own hearts and muscle memory.