



**St John  
Vianney**  
Parish Morisset



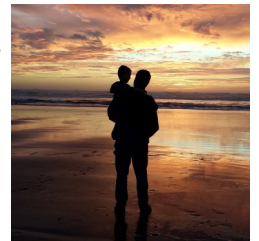
**TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR B SUNDAY 19TH SEPTEMBER 2021**

*In today's Gospel Jesus tells his apostles that true greatness shows itself in service towards the weaker members of the community.*

*We tend to define and evaluate people in terms of the job they do. If we learn that a person has an important position, our estimation of the person may soar. But if we learn that a person is an ordinary worker, our estimation often stays restricted. This is rather unfair. There is something more important than the job, namely, the kind of person behind the job.*

*The mistake that the apostles had made was to put the job, or the position, first. In their eyes, the greatest among them was the one who had the highest position. But Jesus told them that his kingdom was not about seeking honour and glory for oneself, but about serving others.*

*One's self worth does not depend on the work that one does. It's not what I do, but what I am, that is important.*



We Acknowledge the traditional owners of this land the Awabakal Peoples. And pay our respects to the elders past and present, and any that may be with us today.

**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 & Juliet Hutchins	Sat & Sun Tues

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

**PRIEST SUPERVISOR:** Fr Geoff Mulhearn

**PRIEST IN RESIDENCE:** Fr Kevin Corrigan, Sacramental Priest

**Parish Secretary:** Mrs Rosanna Suckling Mon— Fri 9am-2pm

**OFFICE:** 60 Yambo Street, Morisset, PO Box 87,  
**Office Hours:** 9.00 am to 2.00pm—Monday to Friday  
**Ph:** 02 4973.6859, Fax 02 4973.2937

**Morisset Parish email:** [morparish@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:morparish@mn.catholic.org.au)

**Parish Leadership Team Email:** [morparishplt@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:morparishplt@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)

**Morisset Parish Presbytery:** Ph: 02 4973 1537

(Please submit all Bulletin Notice requests to the parish office by 2pm Wednesdays)

Email the Parish Office to Subscribe for an Electronic Bulletin .

***Due to stay—at—home orders all services are cancelled.***

**UPCOMING WORSHIP TIMES :**

Sunday	19th September 9.30am ZOOM Mass— Morisset
Sunday	26th September 9.30am Mass— Morisset
Tuesday	28th September 9.30am Mass— Morisset

**DUE TO VERY LIMITED CAPACITIES  
BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL.**

Book via the Eventbrite App or Website:

<http://vianneymorisset.eventbrite.com> or  
click on the Book for Services button on the  
Parish Website, or call the Parish Office.

**When you come to Mass or Liturgy you will  
need to check in electronically.**

**PASTORAL CARE**

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SPEAK WITH A  
PRIEST PLEASE CONTACT FR KEVIN ON  
02 4973 1537 .**

**PARISH OFFICE**

**DUE TO THE CURRENT COVID RESTRICTIONS  
THE PARISH OFFICE IS CLOSED AS ROSANNA  
IS WORKING REMOTELY THE BEST CONTACT  
METHOD IS VIA EMAIL OR YOU CAN CALL  
THE OFFICE NUMBER AND SPEAK TO A PLT  
MEMBER.**

**REFLECTION FOR THE 25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
**YEAR B – 19<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2021**

**How do I choose to live my life? How do I pray?**

The Scripture readings for this Sunday had me asking myself these questions.

The reading from the Book of Wisdom tells us of the plans to attack “the virtuous man” because of the annoyance he had caused to those he reproached. In these words we can see the foreshadowing of Christ’s suffering and death on the Cross. ‘Let us test him.. Let us condemn him to a shameful death.’ Tragically, in the world today in many places, virtuous men and women are under attack for being followers of Christ and suffer greatly. We are fortunate in Australia as we are relatively free of persecution because of our religious beliefs. We may be mocked or considered gullible, but we do not live in fear. I choose to live as a Christian, though I am a far from perfect one, but I keep trying. I make this choice because I believe that Christ is ‘the way, the truth and the life.’ Sometimes, it would be easier, more convenient, not to be a Christian, but life would lose so much of its promise and purpose.

The Jews had certain expectations of the promised Messiah: they expected him to be the warrior leader who would restore the Kingdom, but his kingdom was of another kind. He confronted his disciples with the reality: ‘The Son of Man will be delivered into the hands of men, they will put him to death; three days after he will rise again.’ Although they had acknowledged him as the Messiah, they did not understand and were more concerned with their own ambitions and standing in this new kingdom. It was Christ, who turned the existing social order upside down, by telling them, ‘If anyone wants to be first, he must make himself last and servant to all.’ He also brought a small child to the centre of their attention. This, in itself, was remarkable as children in the Palestine of the time were without any legal rights, status or power; they were considered possessions of their father, to be exploited, sold, even killed, if he so chose. What is Christ telling them (and us) about how to live when he says, “Anyone who welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me, and anyone who welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me”?

Christ himself surrendered everything for the sake of our salvation and, in these words, he challenges us to live a life of service, caring for those who are the most needy and vulnerable. This is certainly a challenge in a secular society which seems to value success, wealth, status, power and acquisitions above those things that Christ teaches us really matter. Just consider the beatitudes!

In his letter James tells us “the wisdom that comes down from above is essentially pure; it also makes for peace.. it is full of compassion and shows itself by doing good.” No wonder the disciples, who were arguing over their own ambitions, were embarrassed to answer when Christ asked them what they were discussing. James warns us that our prayers are not answered if we have not prayed properly, if we have prayed for something to indulge our own desires. This left me questioning myself about how I pray: Do I give God praise for the wonders of Creation? Do I give thanks for all that has been done for me? Do I acknowledge that any gifts and blessings I have come by the grace of God?

Perhaps, in this time of isolation, we can each spend a little time reflecting on how we live our lives and how we pray.

Pam Melvey

**LIVESTREAM DETAILS OF MICHELLE CLIPSHAM’S FUNERAL**

Many of you may remember parishioner Michelle Clipsham who also volunteered in our parish. She passed away last week and in light of the current COVID restrictions her funeral will be live streamed through Zoom, as only 10 people will be able to physically attend.

The livestream link is: Michelle Anne Clipsham Funeral Service  
Time: Sep 20, 2021 10:15 AM Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney  
Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82747662712?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82747662712?pwd=c2tIMnVyemp3M0ZQUdRiaXN0WtQdz09)

[pwd=c2tIMnVyemp3M0ZQUdRiaXN0WtQdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82747662712?pwd=c2tIMnVyemp3M0ZQUdRiaXN0WtQdz09)

Meeting ID: 827 4766 2712

Passcode: 495345

**2021 INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE**

Will be held online on 21 September 2021 from 6:00 pm to 7:00pm

International Day of Peace, is usually held at the Mayfield Mosque as way bringing people together. Due to COVID this is not possible, we would like to recognise this day by inviting our faith communities to join together in the virtual space.

The theme this year is Recovering better for an equitable and sustainable world.

We invite you to join the us for the International Day of Peace as we focus on recovering better for a more equitable and peaceful world. Celebrate peace by standing up against acts of hate online and offline, and by spreading compassion, kindness, and hope in the face of the pandemic, and as we recover.

As an interfaith community, we stand together in peace with one another, to explore what peace means in faith communities and how we can make peace with nature. To be able to recover from the devastation of the pandemic, we must make peace with one another and nature.

Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/international-day-of-peace-tickets-170254657263>

**CARITAS AUSTRALIA - MATCHED GIVING WEEK**

**(17-23 September DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT FOR VULNERABLE WOMEN AROUND THE WORLD!)**

You can help raise a quarter of a MILLION dollars to support vulnerable women around the world! Thanks to a group of very generous Caritas Australia’s supporters, all donations until Thursday, 23 September will be matched, until we reach our target of \$250,000.

Your donation can help to provide education, develop livelihoods and improve healthcare and protection for some of the most vulnerable women and girls in marginalised communities. Donate before 23 September, or until we meet \$250,000, and your donation will be matched dollar-for-dollar. **Double your donation today at [www.caritas.org.au/matched](http://www.caritas.org.au/matched) or call 1800 024 413.**

**‘Anyone who welcomes one of these little children in my name, welcomes me;’**

*Mark 9:30-37*

Our parishes in particular are challenged to renew the formation of children, young people and families who may not be strongly connected to the Church but who still have an ‘instinct for the faith’ which prompts them to seek the sacraments or engage in part with of the Church’s life.

*(Instrumentum Laboris #133)*

[www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/fanthe flame/](http://www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/fanthe flame/)



One of the latest appeal letters distributed by Catholic Mission focuses on the story of Kusa, a 5-year-old boy whose mother Samorn\* is being supported by a kindergarten centre in Bangkok, in Thailand. The kindergarten is an initiative of the Good Shepherd Sisters who, like Jesus reminds his followers, affirm the importance of "receiving one child" in His name. As October, the time when the Church celebrates World Mission Month, approaches, let us turn our hearts and minds – and perhaps our financial assistance – to the missionary work that the Catholic Church does with, and for, children around the world, including Thailand. Jesus puts one child in "their midst" – there are many like Kusa, in the midst of our consciousness, who need us to provide them with hope for their long-term future, through education, food, uniforms and health care.

For more information about the vital, life-giving work of the Good Shepherd Sisters in Thailand, go to [https://www.catholicmission.org.au/mothers?utm\\_term=parish](https://www.catholicmission.org.au/mothers?utm_term=parish)  
For a short video clip, focusing on Kusa and his mother Samorn\* (not her real name), go to: <https://youtu.be/pbZkDejKzHY>

To follow up Catholic Mission, about any aspect of its work or your support and contact details, please call the Diocesan Director in Maitland/Newcastle, David McGovern on 0488 115 401 or email him at [dmcgovern@catholicmission.org.au](mailto:dmcgovern@catholicmission.org.au)

#### **PARISHES IN HARMONY WITH CREATION**

Join us to explore how parishes can best respond to Pope Francis' 2015 Encyclical *Laudato si'*: On Care For Our Common Home.

To be held on Wednesday 06 October two sessions to choose from: 10:00 am to 11:00 am and 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm, a repeat of the previous session.

The one-hour online presentation and discussion will explore how parishes can best respond to Pope Francis' 2015 Encyclical *Laudato si'*: On Care For Our Common Home.

On 04 October 2021, the Vatican will release resources for its *Laudato si* Action Platform. With the expected media coverage, some parishioners might want their parish to commit to the *Laudato si* Action Platform.

The Parishes in Harmony with Creation session will include:  
a brief overview of the main teaching in *Laudato si'*;  
an overview of the *Laudato si* Action Platform;  
an overview of the Catholic Earthcare Parishes option and other resources; an introduction to the Diocesan Environmental Sustainability Manager; and small group discussion of the hopes and challenges of developing Parishes in Harmony with Creation

#### **aMeN caMiNo**

aMeN caMiNo Expressions of Interest are now open for 2022. Dates for 2022 are May 28 - June 1, June 18-22, July 2-6, July 9-13 & August 6-10.

For more information and to register your interest, go to <https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/adult-faith-formation/amen-camino/> or contact [formed@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:formed@mn.catholic.org.au)

#### **SEASONS OF CREATION CELEBRATION**

This year the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle, is partnering with Seasons of Creation to help raise awareness of the urgent need to care for the earth and for one another.

Join us to hear guest speakers break open this year's Season of Creation theme, "A Home for All? Renewing the Oikos of God". Finalists from the film competition will be viewed and the winner will be announced.

For more information on the film competition go to: [www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/adult-faith-formation/upcoming-events/](https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/adult-faith-formation/upcoming-events/)

Time: 2:00PM Date: Saturday, 25 September 2021  
More information: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/season-of-creation-tickets-167271083313>

#### **HAITI EARTHQUAKE SUPPORT / CARITAS AUSTRALIA**

Caritas Australia's thoughts and prayers are with the people of the Haiti who have been devastated by a 7.2 magnitude earthquake.

Over 1,400 people have died, and thousands more left injured. Homes, churches and schools have been damaged in the quake, and reports indicate that more than 30,000 families have been left homeless.

The country also continues to grapple with COVID-19, poverty, and ongoing political instability and violence.

There is immediate and urgent need for food, water, shelter, hygiene kits and first aid on the ground.

To provide support, you can donate to Caritas Australia's Emergency Response Appeal.

Donate today at [www.caritas.org.au](http://www.caritas.org.au) or by calling 1800 024 413 toll free.

#### **HUMANITARIAN CRISES UNFOLDING IN AFGHANISTAN AND LEBANON**

As the situations in Afghanistan and Lebanon deteriorate, you can help to support families caught up in the crises.

In Afghanistan, people have been forced from their homes, with half of the population in urgent need of food, water, shelter and protection.

In Lebanon, the country is running out of power, water, fuel, medicine and food. Even hospitals are facing massive fuel shortages and will soon have to turn off the lights.

Please donate to Caritas Australia so that we are able to respond to crises like these and others across the world.

Visit [caritas.org.au/Lebanon](http://caritas.org.au/Lebanon) or [www.caritas.org.au/afghanistan](http://www.caritas.org.au/afghanistan) or call 1800 024 413 toll free to provide much needed support.

***Live stream Mass every Sunday at 9.30am at <https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/places/live-stream/>***

### **CURRENT COVID RESTRICTIONS—STAY AT HOME ORDERS**

All Places of Worship in the Lake Macquarie local government area are currently closed due to stay-at-home orders the NSW government are reassessing these on weekly basis .The only exception is for a Funeral or Memorial Service, which are limited to 10 mourners. If any of the mourners reside outside the LGA of the funeral they can only attend if they are the spouse, de facto partner, parent, child, or sibling of the deceased person. We will be placing copies of the Parish Newsletter in the holders located at the doors near the breezeway. The Newsletter contains a Sunday Prayer Service that everyone can use at home. If you know someone who doesn't have access to the internet please let them know they can pick one up from outside the Church.

### **SUPPORTING OUR PARISH**

We thank everyone who has continued their support for our Parish during these very different times. As cash is deemed a transmission hazard by NSW Health they recommend that donations and payments be made electronically.

There is an online parish payments button on the Parish Website Home page or alternatively you can 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.

If you would like to make contributions to support the Diocese Clergy / 1st Collection the Bank Account Details are: Account Name: CDF 96020 Morisset Parish BSB: 062815 Account Number 00328161 Ref: 5016 1st Collection

### **WEEKEND ROSTERS**

		<b><u>THIS WEEK</u></b>	<b><u>NEXT WEEK</u></b>
<b><u>Presiders</u></b>	9.30	Virtual Mass	Mass
<b><u>PROCLAIMER:</u></b>	9.30		M Foo
<b><u>PSALMIST:</u></b>	9.30		P Melvey
<b><u>UNIVERSAL PRAYER</u></b>	9.30		P Melvey
<b><u>SERVERS</u></b>	9.30		V Paulo
<b><u>AV:</u></b>	9.30		U France
<b><u>SOUND/ VIDEO:</u></b>	9.30		J France
<b><u>COVID-19 SAFETY TEAM</u></b>	9.30		G & A Walker B Hutcheson M Sloman L & L McRae
<b><u>COMMUNION USHERS</u></b>	9.30		COVID-19 Safety Team
<b><u>CLEANERS</u></b>	9.30		COVID-19 Safety Team

### **UPCOMING FEAST DAYS MEMORIALS AND SOLEMINITIES**

SAINTS ANDREW KIM TAEGON, PAUL CHONG HASANG AND COMPANIONS— 20TH SEPTEMBER  
SAINT MATTHEW— 21ST SEPTEMBER  
SAINT PIUS OF PIETRELCINA— 23RD SEPTEMBER  
SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL— 27TH SEPTEMBER  
SAINTS MICHAEL, GABRIEL AND RAPHAEL—29TH SEPTEMBER  
SAINT JEROME— 30TH SEPTEMBER  
SAINT THÉRÈSE OF THE CHILD JESUS—1ST OCTOBER  
THE HOLY GUARDIAN ANGELS— 2ND OCTOBER

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

Bishop Bill Wright, Mark Patrick, Robert Jay, .

**Please pray for those who have been called to eternal life may they always be in our prayers.**

**Recently Deceased:** Michelle Clipsham



### **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.



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## OFFICE OF BISHOP WILLIAM WRIGHT

### ***Lead Kindly Light:***

A Message of Bishop Bill Wright on his health and ministry.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Recent times have involved many difficulties for people in our region and across New South Wales and beyond. In such times, it is the duty of a bishop to be present with his people, to encourage and support wherever he can, to provide some point of stability in a shook-up world. I am acutely conscious that for some months I have been incapable of providing that episcopal service.

At the end of June, I was an emergency admission to hospital, struggling to breathe. Despite very good care and treatment, the condition of my lungs has not improved and, we now know, is an illness from which I will not recover. Meanwhile, I am physically incapable of performing public ceremonies or of getting about without considerable assistance. I can no longer fulfil a bishop's role or duties.

Accordingly, I have written to the Holy Father, Pope Francis, submitting my resignation as bishop. What happens next is, of course, entirely up to the Holy See. In the meantime, I will effectively remain on sick leave and my place will be filled by the Vicar General and the excellent staff of the bishop's office, as has been the case these last months.

I should like to thank all of you who have sent me 'get well' wishes during my illness, and most especially those who have held me in prayer. The sensation of a peace and tranquility of spirit that come from beyond oneself has been very palpable in some of the challenging moments. May we continue to support each other in faith and love through all life's challenges.

Bishop Bill Wright  
**Bishop of Maitland-Newcastle**

16 September 2021



# LITURGY MATTERS: How might we become a more contemplative people?

Last Thursday many of us participated in the third diocesan Plenary Council conversation focusing on the two agenda questions on Prayer.

**LOUISE GANNON RSJ** PUBLISHED SEPTEMBER 14, 2021

As part of that conversation, I was asked to share some reflections. I offer some of them here because the questions concern us all and invite a response from us all.

The focus is on the first question on prayer from the [Plenary Council agenda](#).

*How might we become a more contemplative people, committing more deeply to prayer as a way of life, and celebrating the liturgy of the Church as an encounter with Christ who sends us out to “make disciples of all the nations”?*

Who is the ‘we’ to whom the question is addressed? The answer lies in the opening statement of the Plenary Council agenda. The questions are addressed to the faithful, ‘the children of God, disciples of JC (who are) guided by the Holy Spirit’.

## Two ways of praying

This is important to note because all forms of prayer and liturgy are a response to the experience of God’s loving presence. Prayer and liturgy are impossible and make no sense outside of faith. Prayer is relational or it is nothing.

What Vatican Council II says about liturgy is equally true about prayer ... ‘People must be called to faith and conversion before they can come to the liturgy.’ (CLS a.9) It is interesting that in the scripture it is the disciples who ask Jesus to teach them to pray ... not the crowds and not the followers, the disciples.

*Our job as the faithful – the Church – is to proclaim the Good News of God’s love and to lead people to encounter Christ. Then, like Jesus we hang out with them, sharing our life of faith and waiting until they say, ‘teach us to pray.’*

Appreciating the nature of prayer as response to the experience of Christ leads us to re-examine some of the hopes and suggestions we make – including in our Synod process.

The frame of the question reveals great wisdom, acknowledging that our becoming a more contemplative people involves two ways of praying:

a commitment to prayer as a way of life ...AND  
celebrating the liturgy of the Church as an encounter with Christ that sends us out to ‘make disciples ...’

It’s a very catholic question with its both/and approach. Becoming a more contemplative people requires a balance of both. What’s the balance like in your life?

## Prayer as a way of life

Our Synod Paper reflects the need for us to develop our prayer life beyond the liturgy. In it we hear the people longing for more opportunities to pray, that are varied and interactive, and include faith sharing. There is a longing for parishes to become centres of prayer.

*This longing acknowledges the truth that for prayer to become a way of life we must spend time praying – personally and communally.*

Nurturing my personal prayer life is my responsibility. I am lucky to have many resources available to me that support and nourish my prayer life. I think the challenge of the question is for us to ponder how ‘we’ can support each other and open up the rich treasury of prayer that is part of our Catholic life and tradition. People are



asking for support to find and experience different ways of praying so they might find what is 'home' for them, individually and together.

As an example, the form of prayer that I am learning about and finding a most enriching joy in my life is **Mystagogical Reflection**. I came across it ages ago through my exploration of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) but have only recently really discovered its inherent nature and am still learning how to reflect mystagogically. Because Mystagogical Reflection is the central dynamic of the entire RCIA, I believe it has a natural home in the broader parish community.

Mystagogical Reflection is not only a rich form of prayer, it is **the** Catholic way for faith formation. It meets people where they are and is grounded in their personal experience of Christ in the scriptures, liturgy and life. It invites them to pay attention to that experience and to reflect on it in order to find meaning for life. In other words – it is Christ centred! Catechesis, or linking our personal experience and meaning to the wisdom of our living Catholic Tradition, happens in response to what is revealed in the personal encounter with Christ. Catechesis does NOT happen according to what I think people should know or some externally imposed 'program' that seeks to answer questions people haven't even asked.

Mystagogical Reflection is an amazingly rich form of faith sharing and formation that leads to conversion. The final step is always focused on how I/we are going to live differently as a result of what Christ has revealed.

This is just one example of many forms of prayer and faith sharing that are part of our Catholic life and that some of us know little about. The Diocesan Liturgy Council and its associated groups, particularly the Christian Initiation Forum, wants to support people who are longing to experience more varied forms of prayer.

*When we each and together have a rich, varied and meaningful prayer life beyond the liturgy, the liturgy is freed from the burden of carrying all our prayer expectations which we want met in one hour a week. Not only will the liturgy be freed, but we too will be freed from constant disappointment because the liturgy does not meet my often unrealistic and inappropriate expectations.*

### **The Liturgy of the Church as an encounter with Christ who sends us out**

Note the focus of the question is liturgy rather than only eucharist. Note too that it talks about the 'liturgy of the Church'. Liturgy is something we – the Church – do together. It is not my private time with God. It doesn't belong to me as an individual but to the Church.

*I like to refer to the liturgy of the Church as a treasure chest, full to overflowing with the most beautiful opportunities to celebrate and encounter the mystery of God in relationship to all manner of life experiences.*

I would love for our local Church to celebrate the liturgy of the Church in all its breadth and depth, wonder and variety, and power to engage people in all their joys and hopes, griefs and anxieties ...



Alas I find in many places a resistance to this – not just disinterest but resistance. Repeatedly, and often in the most inappropriate forums we act as if there is only one liturgy in the chest – Mass – and that there is no need to 'read the signs of the times' and therefore change our pastoral practice.

To some degree I think this resistance is blocking a greater diversity of people from opportunities to celebrate meaningful liturgy as an encounter with Christ that sends them out.

And what of the liturgy as an encounter with Christ? Encounter with Christ in the liturgy is different to the encounter with Christ in non-liturgical prayer. In the liturgy we gather to encounter Christ together as members of his body. This encounter shapes us, changes us, converts us more deeply as members of the Church community, and sends us out on mission in the name of the community. We are sent to be living words of God and be a sacramental people embodying the love of God wherever we are.

We do not come to the liturgy to get something, to be consumers or to be entertained. We come to the liturgy together to join ourselves fully, consciously and actively to Christ in word and sacrament so that we will become more authentic and integrated members of the Body of Christ. We do this in the liturgy of the Church – as is made most explicit in the Eucharist – by handing ourselves over to God to be taken, blessed, broken open and given in love for the life of the world.

*The liturgy is judged to be good, not by its adherence to rubrics, but by how we the Body of Christ live during the week.*

We must come to celebrate the liturgy of the church as an encounter with Christ because in the liturgy, we the faithful, encounter Christ through our celebration and proclamation of the Paschal Mystery which is the source of the true Christian spirit; and what makes the Church in the image of Christ. (CSL a. 2, 14)

In the liturgy of the Church – in Christ – we learn the steps of paschal living:

- We gather in Christ with our brothers and sisters standing equal before God ... so we learn that all people are our brothers and sisters and we are to stand shoulder to shoulder with them ...
- We mark ourselves with the sign of the cross ... so we learn that the cross is our sign; that we are called to take it up, carry it and stand by it in the various circumstances of life
- We participate in greetings ... so we learn that we are a people who greet others and respect them as people filled with the Spirit of God ...
- We engage in dialogue ... so we learn to live in dialogue with God and each other ... listening first before responding ...
- We are silent ... so we learn the importance of silence and space in human life and relationships ...
- We listen to God speak to us in the scriptures ... so we train our ears to recognise the voice of God in the midst of the many voices we hear every day ...
- We respond to the Word of God ... so we learn the nature of faith as a response to our experience of God's love and that indeed God's love demands a response ...
- We exchange a sign of peace ... so we learn that we who have received the peace of Christ are impelled to share it with others ...
- We are blessed ... so we learn to live as a blessing ...
- We process and sit and stand and kneel ... so we learn that we are a pilgrim people ... that we can never settle or rest for long in one place or one idea or one group of people ...

The liturgy not only sends us out to make disciples, it sends us out to commit more deeply to prayer as a way of life.

We need the balance of a prayer life and the liturgy of the Church if we are to become a more contemplative people who are Christ-centred and missionary. Both are about becoming, conversion, renewal, formation, mission ...

How are we to make this a reality for the Church in Australia at this time?

How can we support each other in becoming a more contemplative people who are committed more deeply to prayer as a way of life, and to celebrating the liturgy of the Church as an encounter with Christ who sends us out in daring and bold delight at the power of God's love to lift us up in wonder ...?

### Abbreviation

CSL: The Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy

### Acknowledgements

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## A change of heart

"God gave us a garden. Are we going to give our children a desert?"

**SARAH JAMES** PUBLISHED SEPTEMBER 08, 2021

Council for Mission co-chair, Lawrie Hallinan posed Pope Francis' question as we sat down to discuss the launch of the Vatican's *Laudato si'* Action Platform, a space for

institutions, communities, and families to learn and grow together.



There is certainly no shortage of examples which would cause you to answer his question in the affirmative. The City of Newcastle reports that Stockton Beach is slowly disappearing, losing 112,000 cubic metres of sand every year. Additionally, a study by the Journal of Rural Health found residents living in the Hunter Valley are being exposed to higher levels of air pollution than those in inner-city Sydney due to the ongoing effects of the coal mining industry. Globally, Madagascar is experiencing its worst drought in 40 years, which the UN World Food Programme has warned will push 400,000 people into famine. At the other extreme, nearly 200 people in Europe have lost their lives in unprecedented floods.

"We're polluting; we're poisoning; we're robbing this place of nutrition," Mr Hallinan said.

"I think what God is saying is, if you look at what has happened, you will appreciate that He had a different plan. So, we need to start healing the Earth."

The degradation of our environment and the rise of poverty are inextricably linked. As our planet continues to be battered by worsening natural disasters and experiences the full brunt of climate change, the world's poorest citizens suffer the harshest of consequences. Livelihoods are increasingly becoming endangered, water and food sources depleted, and an ever-growing number of people are being dislocated from their homes.

Pope John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI both called for an ecological conversion. However, it was not until Pope Francis' *Laudato si'* was published that the protection of all of God's creations was formally brought to the forefront of Catholic social teaching.

Mr Hallinan said, "Pope Francis has brought all of the Vatican's previous statements on the environment together in a much more integrated way. I think because he comes from a developing country, he sees that the poor are the ones who suffer most when the environment is degraded."

"Pope Francis talks about needing an integral ecology where we see people and all of the environment as interconnected."

Historically, the understanding of Creation was that God put humans in charge of all of Creation. Throughout *Laudato si'*, Pope Francis challenges this point of view by emphasising that we are interconnected and that we are brothers and sisters with Creation.

Mr Hallinan notes other creatures have value, not simply because of their use to human beings, but in themselves.

"It's about understanding each other and appreciating the perspective of the other, whether the other is a slug, seal or student in a school. If we take this seriously it has implications beyond the environment."

"It also invites us to organise our social structures on the same principles of mutual respect, supporting a diversity of voices and expressions, and advancing each others welfare."

"God is saying, 'you need to convert, you've gone on a wrong track. If you really want to be with me in bringing about a better world, a world where you are closer to me, then you need to be working in harmony with the natural world'."

The *Laudato si'* Action Platform, launched by Pope Francis in May 2021, is a unique collaboration between the Vatican, an international coalition of Catholic organisations. Taking a truly ground-up approach, it is rooted in the strengths and realities of communities around the world, empowering all to take "decisive action, here and now" as we journey towards a better future together. (LS 161)

Mr Hallinan believes that if the Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle were to take part in the seven-year action plan, it would be nothing short of transformational.

With the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor having never seemed louder, what can we do on a local level to help? According to Mr Hallinan, it all begins with changing our mindset.

"The action platform is for the whole Church. Parishes, schools, welfare ministries, and families sign up for a seven year commitment to work at implementing *Laudato si'*. It isn't just about doing practical things – it is about a change of heart, and a change of mind as well."

"The cry should not just be understood as 'I'm hurting – you need to stop hurting me'. The cry is also, 'I am your brother. I am your sister. You and I are of the same stuff' and have the same Creator."

"We're not the boss of Creation. What we do impacts others. Once we take that to heart as a Church, it changes how we do everything."



# SUNDAY PRAYER SERVICE

Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

Sunday 19 Sep 2021

## The Introductory Rites

### Gathering

The Lectionary/Roman Missal or a Bible may be placed on a table together with a candle and a cross.

A short hymn might be sung.

### Sign of the Cross

Leader:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All:

**Amen.**

### Greeting

Leader:

Blessed be Jesus who makes us one,  
and strengthens us  
by the power of his Spirit.

All:

**Blessed be God forever.**

### Introductory Remarks

Leader (in these or similar words):

Friends in Christ,  
although we cannot celebrate the Eucharist this day,  
we gather in God's name  
for when two or more come together  
God is always with us.

We worship in union with the whole Church  
keeping this day of the Lord holy.

## Opening Rite

### LITANY OF PRAISE

Leader:

Before listening to the Word of God  
let us praise the Lord Jesus Christ  
who has raised us to new life.

A brief period of silence follows.

Leader:

Lord Jesus, you humbled yourself for our sake: Lord, have mercy.

**All: Lord, have mercy.**

Christ Jesus, you are the wisdom of God: Christ, have mercy.

**All: Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you call us to live a life of service: Lord, have mercy.

**All: Lord, have mercy.**

Leader:

May almighty God have mercy on us,  
forgive us our sins,  
and bring us to everlasting life.

All:

**Amen.**

## Opening Prayer

Leader:

Let us pray.

All pause for silent prayer.

Living God  
you are generous and kind  
and call us to work in the fields of your kingdom.  
May we always be thankful  
for the many gifts you have given us.  
Help us to use these gifts wisely  
so that we may build your kingdom on earth.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
for ever and ever.

All:

**Amen.**

# The Liturgy of the Word

## First Reading

**Wis 2:12, 17-20**

A reading from the book of Wisdom

*Let us condemn him to a most shameful death.*

The godless say to themselves,

‘Let us lie in wait for the virtuous man, since he annoys us  
and opposes our way of life,  
reproaches us for our breaches of the law  
and accuses us of playing false to our upbringing.  
Let us see if what he says is true,  
let us observe what kind of end he himself will have.  
If the virtuous man is God's son, God will take his part  
and rescue him from the clutches of his enemies.  
Let us test him with cruelty and with torture,  
and thus explore this gentleness of his  
and put his endurance to the proof.  
Let us condemn him to a shameful death  
since he will be looked after – we have his word for it.’

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

The word of the Lord.

*All reply:*

**Thanks be to God.**

## Responsorial Psalm

**Ps 53:3-6. 8. R. v.6**

**(R.) The Lord upholds my life.**

1. O God, save me by your name;  
by your power, uphold my cause.  
O God, hear my prayers;  
listen to the words of my mouth. **(R.)**
2. For proud men have risen against me,  
ruthless men seek my life.  
They have no regard for God. **(R.)**
3. But I have God for my help.  
The Lord upholds my life.  
I will sacrifice to you with willing heart  
and praise your name for it is good. **(R.)**



## Second Reading

### Jas 3:16 – 4:3

A reading from the letter of St James

*Justice is the harvest of peacemakers from seeds sown in a spirit of peace.*

Wherever you find jealousy and ambition, you find disharmony, and wicked things of every kind being done; whereas the wisdom that comes down from above is essentially something pure; it also makes for peace, and is kindly and considerate; it is full of compassion and shows itself by doing good; nor is there any trace of partiality or hypocrisy in it. Peacemakers, when they work for peace, sow the seeds which will bear fruit in holiness.

Where do these wars and battles between yourselves first start? Isn't it precisely in the desires fighting inside your own selves? You want something and you haven't got it; so you are prepared to kill. You have an ambition that you cannot satisfy; so you fight to get your way by force. Why you don't have what you want is because you don't pray for it; when you do pray and don't get it, it is because you have not prayed properly, you have prayed for something to indulge your own desires.

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 Mark.

All:

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

### Mk 9:30-37

*The Son of Man will be delivered into the hands of humanity ... All who wish to be first must make themselves the servants of all.*

After leaving the mountain Jesus and his disciples made their way through Galilee; and he did not want anyone to know, because he was instructing his disciples; he was telling them, 'The Son of Man will be delivered into the hands of men; they will put him to death; and three days after he has been put to death he will rise again.' But they did not understand what he said and were afraid to ask him.

They came to Capernaum, and when he was in the house he asked them, 'What were you arguing about on the road?' They said nothing because they had been arguing which of them was the greatest. So he sat down, called the Twelve to him and said, 'If anyone wants to be first, he must make himself last of all and servant of all.' He then took a little child, set him in front of them, put his arms round him, and said to them, 'Anyone who welcomes one of these little children in my name, welcomes me; and anyone who welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.'

Reader:

The Gospel of the Lord.

All:

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

All are seated.

## **Reflection on the Word**

A short period of reflection may be observed.

Q. Why might Jesus have wanted to go away secretly to instruct his disciples?

Q. Have you ever had the disciples' experience of completely missing an important point?

Q. What are the attributes of being 'first' in our contemporary society?

Q. How is it possible to be first by making yourself last of all?

Q. Who do you need to be more welcoming toward?

## **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.**

## Prayer of the Faithful

Leader: Dear friends, let us bring our needs to the Lord, who is near to all who call.

Reader: That the Lord will watch over the Holy Church with peace, mercy and wisdom from above.

(pause)

In your compassion:

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

Reader: That nations and leaders will seek the way to peace by putting aside conflict and ambition.

(pause)

In your compassion:

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

Reader: That, through faith, our community will encourage children and young people to receive Christ.

(pause)

In your compassion:

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

Reader: That, as servants of the Lord, we may put others first and strive to build a community of peace and sincerity.

(pause)

In your compassion:

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

Reader: That all who are sick or housebound will be upheld by God's healing power, especially those in our community and families.

(pause)

In your compassion:

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

Reader: That all who have died will receive the Lord Jesus Christ through the promise of eternal life, especially those in our community and families.

(pause)

In your compassion:

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

Leader: Loving God, you guide us through your Gospel of truth. Hear our prayers and grant us the words and deeds we need to serve others in your name. 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 God of hope fill us with every joy in believing.  
May the peace of Christ abound in our hearts.  
May the Holy Spirit enrich us with his gifts,  
now and for ever.

All make the sign of the cross during the blessing.

All:

**Amen.**

### Dismissal

Leader:

Let us go forth, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

All:

**Thanks be to God.**

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