



**St John  
Vianney**  
Parish Morisset



## **TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A 24 SEPTEMBER 2023**

*We live in a culture that values rationality, fairness and justice, weighing carefully on what we think we ,or others ,deserve.*

*We commonly read about labour disputes in the headlines of our newspapers. The Gospel is not really about labour law. Today's readings make it clear that God's ways are not our ways, and show us another view of what a worthy life looks like, and requires of us.*

*In many and different ways, we all come late to the vineyard. The fact that no one can earn heaven is not a loophole, which gives us freedom to do whatever.*

*On a human level, our reasons for being good change throughout our lives. First, it's not wanting to be punished.*

*Then, it's wanting a reward. Then, it's because we truly want to help, not hurt, others.*



We acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land, the Awabakal People who, long before us lived, loved, educated and raised their children on this Country. We pay our respects to Elders past and present and we recognise the young people who are our future. We acknowledge all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families in our communities. We respect their deep physical and spiritual connections to Country through their stories, traditions and living cultures.

### **PARISH LEADERSHIP TEAM:**

Foundation	Leader	In Office
1. Identity and Community		
2. Worship and Prayer.	Uta France	Mon
3. Formation and Education		
4. Mission and Outreach.		
5. Leadership and Structure.	John France	Sat & Sun

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

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

OFFICE: 60 Yambo Street, Morisset, PO Box 87, Ph: 02 4973.6859  
 Office Hours: 9.00 am to 2.00pm—Monday to Friday (except public holidays)  
 (We ask that you make an appointment to come to the office)  
 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	23rd September 5pm Mass—Cooranbong
Sunday	24th September 9.30am Mass— Morisset
Saturday	30th September 5pm Family Mass— Morisset
Sunday	1st October 9.30am Mass—Morisset
Saturday	7th October 5pm Mass— Cooranbong
Tuesday	9th October 9.30am Liturgy— Morisset
Saturday	14th October 5pm Family Mass—Morisset
Sunday	15th October 9.30am Mass—Morisset
Tuesday	17th October 9.30am Liturgy—Morisset
Saturday	21st October 5pm Mass—Cooranbong
Sunday	22nd October 9.30am Mass—Morisset
Tuesday	24th October 9.30am Liturgy—Morisset
Saturday	28th October 5pm Mass—Cooranbong
Sunday	29th October 9.30am Mass—Morisset

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## **Reflection for The Twenty—Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A — 24th September 2023**

We commonly read about labour disputes in our newspapers. Labour disputes, like the one in today's Gospel story, have a long history dating far back in time, and it is nothing new. In earlier times people argued over the wages to be paid to an ox driver, a surgeon, or a labourer.

Many people consider this story about the workers in the vineyard as unfair, as it seems to favour the idler at the expense of the hard worker. Today's Gospel is not about labour laws. Jesus used this parable to provide some hints about God's perspective. Jesus was saying that God was offering the Kingdom to sinners and Gentiles on equal terms with the Jews. The Jews objected vigorously. They didn't think it was fair and thought they should get preferential treatment.

To believe in a God who is an unconditional friend, is a liberating experience. On the contrary, to live in the presence of an avenging and threatening God could change us into the most dangerous and self-destructive neurotics. We need to learn not to confuse God with our own narrow and stingy plans. We sometimes wish to distort God's unfathomable goodness. What Jesus is saying, in effect, is that God is kind, merciful and generous, much more than any human being can ever be. Our understanding of God, then, needs to change and we need to let God be God.

The goodness of God is a great comfort to us. But it is also a great challenge because we are called to imitate it, and make our ways of dealing with one another, more like God's way.

John France

## **World Day of Migrants and Refugees 24<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

World Day of Migrants and Refugees is celebrated every year on the last Sunday of September. Every year since 1914 the church has been celebrating this day. The inception of this day can be traced to just a few months before the First World War. It is an opportunity to learn more about refugees and migrants on the move, to pray for them as a community, and work together for positive change.

**Morisset Parish has a history of resettling refugees. From the late 1970s until the mid-1990s, our parish resettled many families from Vietnam, El Salvador, Honduras, and Costa Rica, who were fleeing war torn countries. These families were given accommodation in our parish house at 111 Dora St, and help in navigating a new country, until they became accustomed to the 'Aussie' way.**

As a former refugee, the Bishop of Parramatta Vincent Long says that he remembers with pride and gratitude the Australia that rose to the biggest challenge since the abolition of the White Australia policy. It accepted an unprecedented number of Asian refugees – boat people to be precise.

## **2024 Year B Liturgical Books**

The Parish is placing its annual Liturgical Book Order Soon. If you would like to Order: Break Open the Word 2024, 2024 Daily Mass Book, God's Word 2024, 2024 Ordo, or a Community Bible, please complete the online form by using the link on the Parish Website or Bulletin email by Sunday 24th September 2023 or call the Parish Office by 1pm on Friday 22nd September 2023.

## **Tuesday Liturgy's**

There will be no Tuesday Liturgy in the Morisset Church for the next 2 weeks. (School Holidays-Parent/Grand Parent duties)) Liturgy will recommence Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October 9.30am.

## **Watagan Deanery News.**

Dear Parish Priests, Leaders, and Parishioners  
of Watagan Deanery,

We have a Watagan Deanery event coming up with a screening of the Fr Stu movie at Event Cinemas Glendale on Friday 20th October starting at 6:30 pm, as detailed in the flyer in the notice board.

This presents a wonderful opportunity to gather together, to get to know one another better firsthand, and enjoy the company of each other. In the spirit of collegiality, we are developing pastoral and personal relationships for the good of the Deanery as we become acquainted not only with the work in the various offices of the Deanery but with parishioners and parish personnel.

I extend my grateful thanks to St John Vianney Morisset Parish Leaders and Parish Secretary for their dedicated work in arranging this gathering. I look forward to meeting up with you all. With Prayers and Love in the Lord,  
Fr. Joseph Figurado, Dean.

## **Thank You**

John & Uta would like to thank everyone for their kind wishes, cards and hospitality offered last Sunday, to help them celebrate their wedding anniversary. The 'cuppa' and special anniversary cake after Mass was an occasion that they said will never be forgotten.

## **Some Points to Ponder**

Traditions have always been an important dimension of celebrating faith. Each age is a time of special grace, including our age of high technology.

### **Did you Know?**

### **What does the Church teach about Suicide?**

Some people, both Catholics and those of other traditions, are sometimes distraught in thinking that those who commit suicide are sent to hell. Before modern science helped us understand suicide, those who died by suicide were often buried outside the Church, and even outside the cemetery's physical gates.

Now, funerals for suicide victims can be held in Catholic churches, and their bodies may be buried in consecrated graves. By ways known to him alone, God will provide for those people.

### **What is the difference between Sacraments and Sacramentals?**

The Church teaches that the sacraments, seven of them, were instituted by Christ. Sacramentals however, are established by the Church. They include, for example, objects such as holy water as a reminder of baptism, rosary beads, and statues.

## **Parish Cemetery & Columbarium**

St John Vianney Parish has its own Cemetery & Columbarium situated in the beautiful grounds of St Patrick & St Brigid Cooranbong. This parish operated cemetery, which commenced in 1861, is maintained by parish volunteers, and is for Catholics in our area.

The cemetery is classified as a Category 3 operation, and is compliant with the *Cemeteries and Crematoria Act 2013*. For more information contact Rosanna at the Parish Office. Ph:49736859.

## **Caritas Australia Newsletter**

The next edition of the Caritas Australia Newsletter is out. You can access it here: <https://www.caritas.org.au/media/qsyfbnmu/your-compassion-in-action-september-2023-digital-1.pdf>

## **Safeguarding Standard 4 EQUITY IS PROMOTED AND DIVERSITY IS RESPECTED**

Equity is upheld and diverse needs respected in policy and practice.

The principles of Catholic Social Teaching, particularly the inherent dignity of the human person, underpin the focus of Standard 4. This is reinforced by an emphasis on inclusion and empowerment. By acknowledging people's diverse needs and circumstances the entity can safeguard them more effectively.

Standard 4 builds a safeguarding culture where ministries and services are provided in culturally safe and inclusive ways, facilitating self-determination.

## **Caritas Australia's Emergency Appeals – Morocco / Libya**

Caritas Australia needs your support to respond to the devastating earthquake in Morocco and floods in Libya. Thousands of people have died and others have been injured. Communities need shelter, food, water and medical assistance. Please support Caritas Australia's emergency appeals.

Donate at [www.caritas.org.au](http://www.caritas.org.au)

## **Tilling the Church: Theology for an Unfinished Project." Zoom discussion.**

While Father Richard's visit was short, he last left our Diocese with riches that we can continue to explore together, as our church is an unfinished project and in need of tilling.

So, let's continue the discussion!

You are invited to discuss Father Richard's latest publication, "Tilling the Church: Theology for an Unfinished Project" chapter by chapter over the next several months online.

Wednesday 18 October: Introduction and Chapter 1. The Church as Project

Wednesday 22 November: Chapter 2. Symbolizing Grace

Wednesday 21 February: Chapter 3. The Pilgrimage Community of Faith and Hope

Wednesday 20 March: Chapter 4. Engaging the Graced World

Wednesday 17 April: Chapter 5. The Future-Oriented Past

Wednesday 15 May: Chapter 6. The Art of Faithfulness and conclusion

To register go to: [www.eventbrite.com.au/e/tilling-the-church-theology-of-an-unfinished-project-tickets-708150125087](http://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/tilling-the-church-theology-of-an-unfinished-project-tickets-708150125087)

## **Alive in the Spirit**

The Pastoral Ministry Network is excited to invite you to the annual 'Alive in the Spirit' Event!

After two years of dynamic online gatherings, Alive in the Spirit is thrilled to be gathering for an in-person event on Wednesday 25 October 2023 at Hornsby RSL from 10am - 4pm.

This year's conference will focus on the theme of Communion, Participation, and Mission, which is drawn from the Synod on Synodality. The Synod encourages us to seek new vision, energy, and life for the Catholic Church.

The Pastoral Ministry Network AGM will follow at 4.30pm to top off a great opportunity for networking, growing in faith and sharing our hope for the Church.

Tickets are \$149 for non-members. We encourage you to share this image across your own networks inviting all wanting to be Alive in the Spirit!

For all enquiries, please contact Lisa on 0419 418 547 or email [info@aliveinthespirit.com.au](mailto:info@aliveinthespirit.com.au)

## **Men's Rosary Group**

The Month of the Holy Rosary 2023 begins on Saturday 1 October and ends on Monday 31 October.

The first Newcastle Maitland diocese Men's Rosary will be held on Saturday 28 of October, 1pm at Sacred Heart Cathedral, 841 Hunter St, Newcastle West. For More Information contact Jason on 0499 854 928.

## **From child soldier to entrepreneur**

Please support Caritas Australia's Women for the World Campaign. Your support today can help women like Rosalie create a future with agency and choice, where they can not only survive but thrive. Donate online at [www.caritas.org.au/choice](http://www.caritas.org.au/choice)

## **The Chosen Season 3**

We invite you to join us in soaking up the sights, smells, and tastes of 1st Century Palestine as we view Season 3 of The Chosen.

The Chosen is a series that 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 12 October at 6pm in the Murray Room. Viewing of Seasons 1 & 2 is not required. We hope to see you there.

To register go to: [www.eventbrite.com.au/e/the-chosen-season-3-tickets-702923361697](http://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/the-chosen-season-3-tickets-702923361697)

## **Made Free: Creative Retreat, 20-22 October 2023**

Join the MGL Sisters in a weekend retreat that explores a range of creative prayer experiences. Recapture the freedom you were made for, let go of what is burdening you, and let God fill you again with life.

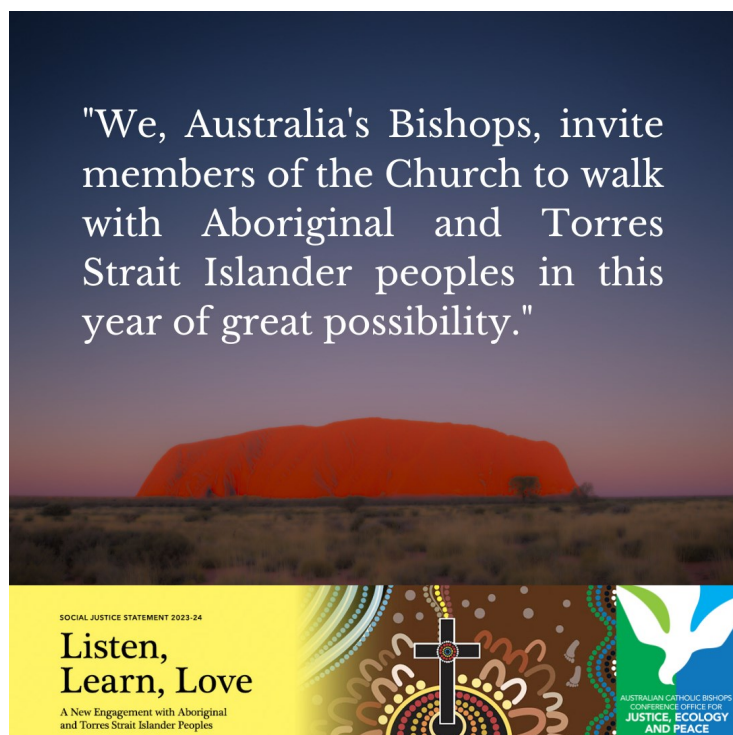
Venue: Carmel House, 345 St Andrews Rd, Varroville NSW

Bookings: <http://www.trybooking.com/CFBRD> (by 6 October)

Contact: Judy - [mgl sisters.sydney@gmail.com](mailto:mgl sisters.sydney@gmail.com)

## **Pope Francis' prayer intention for September 2023**

That people living on the margins of society may they not be overlooked by institutions, and never considered of lesser importance.





### SUPPORTING THE CLERGY / 1st Collection

If you would like to make contributions to support the Clergy / 1st Collection please do so at Mass in the BLUE bucket or electronically using the Online Payments button on the Parish Website Home page, Diocese App, Bank Account Name: CCF BSB: 062815 No: 00328161 Ref: 5016 1st Collection or set up a direct debit contact the parish office for this option.

### SUPPORTING OUR PARISH / 2nd Collection

If you would like to make contributions to support our Parish please do so at Mass via the RED bucket or deposit directly into the Parish Account our details are: Account Name: CCF BSB:062815 Account Number: 00328161 one of the following Payment References are required by CCF for all deposits: 5004 or 5004 + SURNAME or 5004 + PG + your Giver Number, or 5004 + PG + SURNAME, or you can use the Online Payments button on the Parish Website Home page or the Diocese App. If you are considering taking up **planned giving** you may like to know that **a percentage of the contributions are tax deductible**. If you would like to know more or set up planned giving please contact the Parish Office.

WEEKEND ROSTERS			
		<u>THIS WEEK</u>	<u>NEXT WEEK</u>
<u>PRESIDERS</u>	5PM 9.30AM	Mass Mass	Mass Mass
<u>PROCLAIMERS:</u>	5PM 9.30AM	J France M Melvey	K Lendon R Hay
<u>PSALMIST:</u>	5PM 9.30AM	L Hutchinson D Joyce	F Pascoe M Shamley
<u>GIFTS</u>	5PM 9.30AM	K Lendon J Vipan A Dussin D Whitten	A Walker G Walker J Vipan K Amon
<u>SERVERS</u>	5PM 9.30AM	M Melvey  J Lawandos R Lawandos	J Lawandos F Dyson V Paulo C Lawandos
<u>Av</u>	5PM 9.30AM	U France M Fowler	J Vipan D Peterson
<u>WELCOMERS</u>	5PM 9.30AM	P Herbert  K Amon M Melvey	P Herbert A Dussin H White J France
<u>CHURCH CLEANING</u>	COOR MOR	K Lendon C Lawandos	XXXX K Lendon

**Our Parish supports The Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle in its zero-tolerance approach to abuse. Every one of us must each day commit ourselves individually and collectively to safeguard each child and every vulnerable person to whom we minister and interact with. If you have any concerns for a child or vulnerable adult please contact the Office of Safeguarding P:02 4979 1390 or email: [childprotection@mn.catholic.org.au](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 SOLEMINITIES

SAINT PIUS OF PIETRELCINA (M) - 23RD SEPT  
SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL (M) - 27TH SEPT  
SAINTS MICHAEL, GABRIEL AND RAPHAEL (F) - 29TH SEPT  
SAINT JEROME (M) - 30TH SEPT  
THE HOLY GUARDIAN ANGELS (M) - 2ND OCT  
SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI (M) - 4TH OCT  
OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY (M) - 7TH OCT  
SAINT IGNATIUS OF ANTIOCH (M) - 17TH OCT  
SAINT LUKE (F) - 18TH OCT  
SAINTS SIMON AND JUDE (F) - 28TH OCT

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

Margo Cluff, Clare Wallington, Donna Hazzard, Pam Mullaly, Mary Johnson, Tintumol Thomas, Les Findley, Peter Martyn, Bernadette Martin, Joan Gillett, Bruce Gillett.

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

Recently Deceased: Diane Bennett



### 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

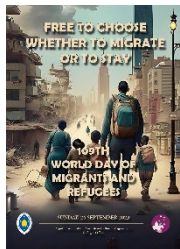
My Jesus,  
I believe that You  
are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.  
I love You above all things,  
and I desire to receive You into my soul.  
Since I cannot at this moment  
receive You sacramentally,  
come at least spiritually into my heart.  
I embrace You as if You were already there and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



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



## SUNDAY PRAYER SERVICE

Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

109th World Day of Migrants and Refugees  
Sunday 24 Sep 2023

### The Introductory Rites

#### Acknowledgement of Country

We Acknowledge the Traditional Custodians who have walked upon and cared for this land for thousands of years. We acknowledge the continued deep spiritual attachment and relationship of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples to this country and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of reconciliation. We especially acknowledge the Awabakal and Darkinjung peoples who were the original custodians of the land this parish sits on.

#### 109th World Day of Migrants and Refugees

Today we mark the 109<sup>th</sup> World Day of Migrants and Refugees are being encouraged to reflect on the Holy Family's experience as migrants.

Dating back to the First World War, the commemoration takes places on the final Sunday in September – which is September 24 this year. It will come just after Pope Francis travels to Marseille, France, for a cultural festival called “the Mediterranean Encounter”.

The visit will shed light on the experience of people seeking refuge from the Middle East and Africa – many of whom haven't survived the journey across the sea. The Holy Father has called the Mediterranean Europe's “largest cemetery”.

In his message for this year's World Day of Migrants and Refugees, Pope Francis encourages people to carefully analyse and understand the complexity of the migration phenomenon. This includes understanding the different stages of migration and ensuring that people's decision to migrate is truly free.

“Persecutions, wars, atmospheric phenomena and dire poverty are among the most visible causes of forced migrations today,” the Pope writes.

“Migrants flee because of poverty, fear or desperation. Eliminating these causes and thus putting an end to forced migration calls for shared commitment on the part of all, in accordance with the responsibilities of each.

“Encouraged by Pope Francis' words, may we all work to build a community that is prepared to welcome, protect, promote, and integrate everyone.”

#### Gathering

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

#### Sign of the Cross

Leader:

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

All:

Amen.

#### Greeting

Leader:

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

All:

Blessed be God forever.

### Introductory Remarks

Leader (in these or similar words):

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

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

### Opening Rite

#### LITANY OF PRAISE

Leader:

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

A brief period of silence follows.

Leader:

Lord Jesus, you call us to turn back to you: Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, your generosity is boundless: Christ, have mercy.

All: Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, in you, the last will be first: 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

Isaiah 55:6-9

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

*My thoughts are not your thoughts.*

Seek the Lord while he is still to be found,  
call to him while he is still near.

Let the wicked man abandon his way,  
the evil man his thoughts.

Let him turn back to the Lord who will take pity on him,  
to our God who is rich in forgiving;  
for my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
my ways not your ways – it is the Lord who speaks.  
Yes, the heavens are as high above earth  
as my ways are above your ways,

my thoughts above your thoughts.

*All reply:*

**Thanks be to God.**

### Responsorial Psalm

**Ps 144:2-3. 8-9. 17-18. R. v.18**

**(R.) The Lord is near to all who call him.**

1. I will bless you day after day  
and praise your name for ever.  
the Lord is great, highly to be praised,  
his greatness cannot be measured. *(R.)*
2. The Lord is kind and full of compassion,  
slow to anger, abounding in love.  
How good is the Lord to all,  
compassionate to all his creatures. *(R.)*
3. The Lord is just in all his ways  
and loving in all his deeds.  
He is close to all who call him,  
who call on him from their hearts. *(R.)*

### Second Reading

**Philippians 1:20-24. 27**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

*For me to live is Christ.*

Christ will be glorified in my body, whether by my life or by my death. Life to me, of course, is Christ, but then death would bring me something more; but then again, if living in this body means doing work which is having good results – I do not know what I should choose. I am caught in this dilemma: I want to be gone and be with Christ, which would be very much the better, but for me to stay alive in this body is a more urgent need for your sake. Avoid anything in your everyday lives that would be unworthy of the gospel of Christ.

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

The word of the Lord.

*All reply:*

**Thanks be to God.**

### Gospel

*Reader:*

From the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

*All:*

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

**Matthew 20:1-16**

*Why are you jealous because I am generous?*

Jesus said to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner going out at daybreak to hire workers for his vineyard. He made an agreement with the workers for one denarius a day, and sent them to his vineyard. Going out at about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the market place and said to them, "You go to my vineyard too and I will give you a fair wage." So they went. At about the sixth hour and again at about the ninth hour, he went out and did the same. Then at about the eleventh hour he went out and found more men standing round, and he said to them, "Why have you been standing here idle all day?" "Because no one has hired us" they answered. He said to them, "You go into my vineyard too." In the evening, the owner of the vineyard said to his bailiff, "Call the workers and pay them their wages, starting with the last arrivals and ending with the first." So those who were hired at about the eleventh hour came forward and received one denarius each. When the first came, they expected to get more, but they too received one denarius each. They took it, but grumbled at the landowner. "The men who came last" they said "have done only one hour, and you have treated them the same as us, though we have done a heavy

day's work in all the heat." He answered one of them and said, "My friend, I am not being unjust to you; did we not agree on one denarius? Take your earnings and go. I choose to pay the last-comer as much as I pay you. Have I no right to do what I like with my own? Why be envious because I am generous?" Thus the last will be first, and the first, last.'

*Reader:*

The Gospel of the Lord.

*All:*

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

*All are seated.*

### Reflection on the Word

Q. What is the 'shift' in this parable that takes it from a narrative story to a parable about the kingdom?

Q. What is the point that Jesus was trying to make about the kingdom?

Q. Why do you think Jesus always portrayed the kingdom as challenging the norm?

Q. What parallels can you draw between this parable and casual / itinerant workers today?

Q. What situation would Jesus use to illustrate the kingdom today?

### 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, coming to God in prayer we bring our intentions before the Lord.

Reader: That our Holy Father Pope Francis, may serve God's people with justice. In your mercy:

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

Reader: That communities in troubled or warring countries will experience justice and freedom. In your mercy:

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

Reader: That workers will be provided with rights and just rewards for their labour. In your mercy:

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

Reader: That, on this Migrant and Refugee Sunday, we will listen to the words of Pope Francis that

God's inclusive plan gives priority to those living on the peripheries, especially migrants, refugees, displaced people and those seeking asylum. In your mercy:

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

Reader: That our parish community will be generous with our time in helping those in need. In your mercy:

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

Reader: That delegates to the Synod of Bishops will listen to the voices of the faithful and be guided by the Holy Spirit as they prepare for their first gathering in Rome later this year. In your mercy:

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

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

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

Reader: That we will consider the proposed referendum on the Voice to Parliament in a thoughtful, prayerful manner, and without resorting to insult or abuse. In your mercy:

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

Reader: That the sick and housebound will be shown kindness and compassion, especially those who we hold dear to us. In your mercy:

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

Reader: That those who have died will dwell forever in the kingdom of heaven, especially those who were members of our community and families. In your mercy:

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

Leader: Holy Father, you are near to all and loving in your deeds. Hear our prayers and help us to always live by your ways as generous and compassionate people. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen.**

## The Lord's Prayer

**Leader:**

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

**All:**

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

## The Concluding Rite

### Blessing

**Leader:**

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

**All make the sign of the cross during the blessing.**

**All:**

**Amen.**

### Dismissal

**Leader:**

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

**All:**

**Thanks be to God.**

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### LITURGY MATTERS: Pay attention!

The fundamental starting point for human life and faith – all religions and faiths – is the imperative to pay attention.

**LOUISE GANNON RSJ** PUBLISHED SEPTEMBER 19, 2023

In spirituality and faith, we tend to talk about the imperative to 'be attentive.' We find this call echoing through scripture and our living tradition.

Human beings are all created in the image of God and filled with the breath of divine life. (Gen 1: 27)

### Be attentive!

*'Be still and know that I am God' (Psalm 46: 10)*

### Be attentive!

*... happy are your eyes because they see, your ears because they hear! I tell you solemnly, many longed to see and never saw it; to hear what you hear and never heard it. (Mt 13: 16. [It's worth checking v 15!])*

### Be attentive!

How often do we hear Jesus' frustration with the disciples because they fail to understand?

### Be attentive!

*'The people of God believes that it is led by the Spirit of the Lord who fills the whole world. Impelled by that faith.*

*They try to discern the true signs of the God's presence and purpose in the events, the needs and the desires which it shares*



with the rest of humanity today.’  
(Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World. a.11)

### **Be attentive!**

The imperative to be attentive often finds expression in the call to listen and to see.

The Rule of St Benedict begins with ‘To listen with the ear of the heart!’

### **Be attentive!**

Health and wellbeing are grounded in the imperative to pay attention to our body and mind. To the reality of how we really are.

### **Be attentive!**

The great theologian Bernard Lonergan’s theological method – a journey of conversation – involves five steps. The first step is to be attentive.

If you follow his methodology through, to be intelligent, to make good judgements, to discern wisely, to be in love, all the other steps flow from and build on attentiveness.

### **Be attentive!**

What has this got to do with liturgy you may well be asking by now? The answer is ‘Everything!’

Over this year members of the Diocesan Liturgy Council have been facilitating a lot of formation, mainly for specific groups. Some formation has focused on liturgical ministry, some more generally on the liturgical life of the Church.

For nearly all formation we use a process of Mystagogical Reflection (MR). The first step in all MR – whether the focus of reflection is scripture, liturgy, an experience of ministry or art – is to ask, ‘What happened?’ or ‘What did the passage say?’

The interesting revelation for us has been that, by and large, we the faithful are not paying attention, to what happens in the liturgy, or to the detail of the Word proclaimed.

The faith of the church as expressed in the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy (CSL) (a 14) and developed through all the subsequent documents and rites since states:

*Mother Church earnestly desires that all the faithful should be led to that full, conscious and active participation in liturgical celebrations which is demanded by the very nature of the liturgy. Such participation by the Christian people as "a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a redeemed people" (1 Pet. 2:9; cf. 2:4-5), is their right and duty by reason of their baptism.*

*In the restoration and promotion of the sacred liturgy, this full and active participation by all the people is the aim to be considered before all else; for it is the primary and indispensable source from which the faithful are to derive the true Christian spirit ...*

If the liturgy is ‘the primary and indispensable source from which the faithful are to derive the true Christian spirit ...’ and we are not paying attention, then ‘Houston, we have a problem’.

Simple questions posed in formation – such as the following – usually meet with blank stares.

- Who was in the entrance procession? In what order? Who carried what?
- What did the ministers do when they reached the sanctuary?
- Which Greeting did the presider use? Where was he standing? What gestures were involved? What did we do?
- What was the Gospel about? What symbols marked it out as different to the other readings?
- What did you pray for in the Universal Prayer?
- What Eucharistic Prayer was used?

The level of inattentiveness that we have encountered in formation fascinates me, and I can be as inattentive as the next person. What is going on? Why is our celebration of the liturgy not grabbing and demanding our attention? This question is the focus of one of the workshops at next week’s National Liturgy Conference.

Thankfully when we engage in Mystagogical Reflection as part of formation, most participants report a change in their attentiveness to the liturgy, and particularly the Word proclaimed. I think we are beginning a small revolution that provides us with hope.

Why is our riveted attention so important? If we’re not paying attention to what we see, hear, taste, touch and smell in liturgy and life, then we are not going to encounter the living God who is present with us in and through signs perceptible to our senses. (CSL a 7) We are, after all, a sacramental church and a sacramental people. (Dogmatic Constitution on the Church a 1)

The world needs us to be attentive. Liturgy is not an end in itself. We celebrate the liturgy in order that we will be changed, and the church will be made new by Christ for mission. So, if we are not practicing and achieving attentiveness to the presence of the living God in the liturgy, how are we going to be attentive to the presence of the living God that fills the whole world? How are we going to help others open their eyes and hearts to the presence of God and the movement of the Holy Spirit already with them before we encounter them?

We need to be attentive.

If you’re having trouble being attentive I recommend hanging out with a toddler. I learn many lessons in life and faith when a little hand goes into mine and I am invited to pay attention to a worm, or a flower, or a mud puddle or even a monster truck! Things I would otherwise not notice!

Let’s be more attentive! Too much is at stake when we are not.

### **Diocesan Liturgy Council Update**

To keep abreast of the work of the [Diocesan Liturgy Council](#) you can review the Report published on the website after each meeting. The September report will be available soon.

### **Acknowledgements**

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