



**St John
Vianney**
Parish Morisset



FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A 16 JULY 2023

Today we hear Jesus telling us another parable. It is the one about the seed sown in different kinds of soil and what happens to it.

It is a parable many of us have heard so often and know so well, that we may cease to listen

The seed is the word of God; the four kinds of soil are four kinds of people. There are those who never accept the word; those who believe for a while, but fall away because it is hard; those who believe, but in whom the word is choked by worldly anxiety and the lure of riches, and those who respond to the word and produce fruit abundantly.

Jesus' original purpose in sharing the parable of the Sower was, as it was with all the parables, to proclaim the kingdom of God. In describing the obstacles to growth, Jesus knowingly admitted that there would be difficulties and even resistance to the coming reign.

Does this parable challenge us, as it did the crowds who gathered to listen to Jesus, to decide what type of soil defines us?



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.

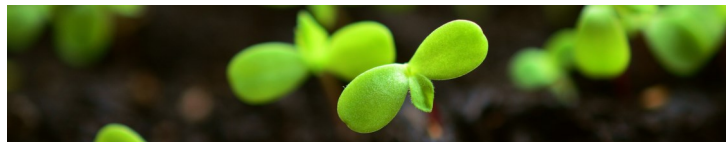
PRIEST SUPERVISOR: Fr Joseph Figuardo
SACRAMENTAL PRIEST: Fr John Purnell
Parish Secretary: Mrs Rosanna Suckling

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

UPCOMING WORSHIP TIMES :

Saturday	15th July 5pm Family Mass— Morisset
Sunday	16th July 9.30am Mass— Morisset
Tuesday	18th July 9.30am Liturgy— Morisset
Saturday	22nd July 5pm Mass— Cooranbong
Sunday	23rd July 9.30am Mass— Morisset
Tuesday	25th July 9.30am Liturgy— Morisset
Saturday	29th July 5pm Mass— Cooranbong
Sunday	30th July 9.30am Mass— Morisset
Tuesday	1st August 9.30am Liturgy— Cooranbong
Saturday	5th August 5pm Family Mass— Morisset
Sunday	6th August 9.30am Mass— Morisset
Tuesday	8th August 9.30am Liturgy— Morisset
Saturday	12th August 5pm Mass— Cooranbong
Sunday	13th August 9.30am Mass— Morisset

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Reflection for FIFTEENTH Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A — 16th July 2023

This Parable of the Sower and the Seed, we have heard many times, reflected on many times, yet it still manages to throw up new insights each time.

Jesus told parables for a couple of reasons, first to level the playing field- you did not have to be a Rhodes Scholar to understand the story, and secondly, each story has many levels to it. The story itself, Jesus' explanation and most importantly our interpretation with our own lens of experience at the time of hearing/reading it.

It is our state of mind that determines what we hear, the surface or something deeper. When it comes down to it, if I am sure of my understanding of something, will I really enter into genuine dialogue about it or am I smug in my own cleverness? The disciples were not handicapped with certainty, they were humble enough to ask questions.

We assume that the seed was grain- fruit would take a different process to sowing.

When grain is harvested it becomes as Isaiah said, "seed for the sowing and bread for the hungry."

Only a small portion comes to fruition. As Jesus said some missed the ground, some is choked by weeds, some missed rain and some flourishes. That is about a 25% success rate- yet it still produces abundance!

This parable about the sower, the seeds and soils invites us to think more about what happens to us when we hear God's Word.. Isaiah tells us that the Word of God comes to us as an invitation to allow God to permeate our world and lives, just as water saturates the soil.

Jesus' promise to us that if we allow the seed of the Word to grow in us the results will be incalculable.

The parable tells us to keep listening and asking because there will always be more. Uta

Anointing Mass

This Sunday 16th July during 9.30am Mass, Fr John Purnell will administer the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. Anybody with an illness, serious or otherwise, who needs healing, may receive the sacrament.

After Mass a 'cuppa and biscuits' will be held in the Callinan Centre.

First Holy Communion.

This Sunday Joel Lawrence will be receiving Holy Communion for the first time. Joel has been a participant in our Sacramental Process for several months.

Joel was Confirmed by Fr Greg Barker the Diocesan Administrator last October and has since been preparing for this occasion since Confirmation. Joel now feels ready to proceed to the next phase of Initiation into our community. Congratulations to Joel and his family.

2023-aMeN Camino

Thank you to the parishioners who gathered at Cooranbong to 'meet and greet' the aMeN caMiNo pilgrims and offer them hospitality with a 'Cuppa' last Monday. This was at the end of day three of their pilgrimage, after being blessed and 'flagged off' by Bishop Michael Kennedy from St John's Chapel at Maitland on Saturday.

Safeguarding SJV Parish

On Wednesday 21 June a Safeguarding Promoters Forum was held at the Diocesan Office. It was conveyed to those gathered, that it is essential to have a team of parishioners, who would support the 'Promoter of Safeguarding' for the parish. If you are interested in supporting the SJV Parish to comply with Safeguarding Standards, please contact John or Uta France.

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?

Incense: The use of incense has been part of the church's rituals since the beginning of Christianity. Early Christians also used incense at funerals. It has been used to purify, to bless, and to symbolize the motion of prayer upwards to God. This practice continues to this day.

Bells: Bells were used to call people to Mass, at the time of the Angelus, and to inform parishioners that the consecration was taking place,

Vestments: The alb (Latin *alba*, was the basic everyday garment, like a tunic: white for festivals) Today presiders usually wear an alb, a stole and a chasuble. The stole a symbol of authority was borrowed from Roman civil life.

Initiation: The Sacraments of Initiation are Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist.

Baptism is the first sacrament. Through Baptism we begin our journey into the faith and life of community. The sponsor (Godparent) must be someone fully initiated into the life of the Church. That is baptised Catholic, confirmed, and have celebrated First Communion. The sponsor also needs to be at least 16years of age.



Local World Youth Day Pilgrimage

Are you 18-35? Would you like to celebrate World Youth Day with other young people in our diocese?

Come and experience the historical and spiritual treasures of our diocesan story through a walking pilgrimage, taking in the beautiful communities and surrounds of Morpeth, Largs, and Maitland.

When: Sunday 6 August **Time:** 7.30am -7.30pm

Where: Meeting at St Joseph's East Maitland, transport will be available to leave from the Diocese at Newcastle-West.

Cost: \$10 dollars (meals and transport included)

We will start and finish our pilgrimage at St Joseph's Catholic Church, East Maitland.

Registration is now open through Eventbrite: <https://LocalWYD.eventbrite.com.au?aff=oddtcreator>

'Come rest a while' Reflection Day

Saturday 9 September, Charlestown, 10am to 3.30pm

In appreciation of current and interested Christian Initiation ministers, 'Come rest a while' is an opportunity to listen, reflect and get to know other ministers. Morning tea and lunch provided. Details and registration at come-rest-2023.eventbrite.com.au

For enquiries or registration assistance contact sharon.murphy@mn.catholic.org.au P 4979 1134.

The Good Oil 2023 Writers' Award

The Good Oil 2023 Writers' Award is an initiative of the Sisters of the Good Samaritan. The award aims to support and encourage the development of emerging and published writers aged 18 and over. The Good Oil's editorial vision is to nourish the spirit, stimulate thinking, promote social justice, and encourage reflection and dialogue about issues of the day from a Christian, Catholic, Good Samaritan perspective.

The theme for this year's award is Finding My Voice. For more information about the award, to download the guidelines or to submit an entry, Go To : [The Good Oil 2023 Writers' Award – Finding My Voice | The Sisters of The Good Samaritan \(goodsams.org.au\)](https://goodsams.org.au)

Christians for Peace Newcastle Hiroshima Day Commemoration – Sunday 6 August

A commemoration of Hiroshima Day will be held at Choral Evensong at 6pm on Sunday 6 August 2023 at Christ Church Cathedral. The Guest Preachers on this special occasion will be the Rev'd Dr Erica Mathieson & Rev'd Dr Ray Williamson.

People of all faiths are warmly invited to share in this annual service of commemoration as we remember those who have suffered as a result of war and join together in prayers for peace in the world.

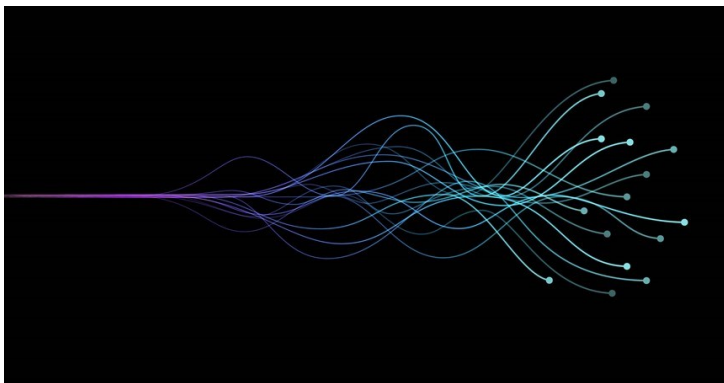
Contacts: George Garnsey 4934 2658 or Doug Hewitt 0431 935 097

Holy Cross Prayer and Healing Gathering

New Gathering at Holy Cross Church on first and third Friday of the month. Praise and worship, Teaching and prayer for healing. The next session will be on Friday 21/7 at 7pm with the option of Mass at 6:30pm. The theme of the teaching will be "Unless you become like little children....," call Wayne Caruana on 0466 631 394 for more information.

Divine Retreat Centre July Retreats

The Divine Retreat Centre has a number of retreats on offer during July, including a Family Growth Retreat, a one-day pilgrimage and a couple of spiritual retreats. For more information, visit <https://divineretreatcentre.org/>



The AI Revolution

Artificial intelligence (AI) is a topic that has been making headlines for years now, especially following the recent popularity of Chat GPT, a language model that has been trained to generate human-like responses to a wide range of questions and prompts.

ALEXANDER FOSTER PUBLISHED JUNE 27, 2023

Experts say AI models like Chat GPT are just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to the development of AI technologies. AI has the potential to revolutionise the way we live and work, from creating new opportunities for businesses and individuals to transforming entire industries.

Put simply, AI is a form of technology that can learn from data and make decisions based on that learning. This makes it possible for the technology to perform tasks that were previously the domain of human intelligence, such as language processing, image recognition and even complex decision-making.

One of the most exciting aspects of AI is its ability to revolutionise the way we do things at an industry level. In the medical field, AI is being used to develop new treatments and diagnose diseases more accurately and efficiently. AI systems can analyse vast amounts of data from medical records and imaging tests to identify patterns and predict outcomes, allowing doctors and other medical professionals to make more informed decisions about patient care.

Another way in which AI is facilitating change is through automation. By automating tedious and repetitive tasks, AI is freeing up time for individuals and businesses to focus on more creative and innovative pursuits.

However, as with many breakthroughs in technology, there are also challenges and concerns with AI that need to be addressed. One of the most pressing issues is its capacity to exacerbate existing inequalities and biases. For instance, if AI systems are trained on biased data, they have the potential to perpetuate and even amplify existing social and economic disparities.

This is a particularly significant issue when it comes to hiring and recruitment. AI systems are increasingly being used to sift through job applications and select candidates for interviews, however if these systems are trained on biased data, they may discriminate against certain groups of people. For instance, if an AI system utilises historical data that shows that men are more likely to be hired for a particular job, it may perpetuate this bias by selecting more male candidates for interviews, even if they are not the most qualified.

As AI continues to grow in complexity and sophistication, there are concerns about its ability to make decisions that are truly ethical and moral - who should be held responsible when something goes wrong? For example, if an autonomous vehicle causes an accident, who is responsible for the damages? Is it the manufacturer of the vehicle or the owner or the AI system itself?

These are questions that will need to be addressed as we continue to develop and implement AI systems in the real world. In many ways, the AI revolution is reminiscent of the industrial revolution. Both have been major technological shifts that have had a significant impact on the world, causing a disruption of traditional industries, leading to an increase in productivity and job displacement. However, whether the AI revolution has the same impact on industry and society remains to be seen.

Despite its challenges, there is no doubt that AI is poised to usher in a new era of innovation and opportunity. By leveraging its power, we can create new solutions to some of the world's most pressing problems, from climate change to healthcare.

Nonetheless, as we embrace this new beginning, it is important that we remain mindful of the challenges and risks that come with it. By addressing these issues early, we can ensure that AI continues to be a force for good in our world.



Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for July 2023

That Catholics may place the celebration of the Eucharist at the heart of their lives, transforming human relationships in a very deep way, and opening to the encounter with God and all their brothers and sisters.

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 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 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 Vipan D Whitten	M Melvey M Shamley
<u>PSALMIST:</u>	5PM 9.30AM	H White L Hutchinson	J France J Shamley
<u>GIFTS</u>	5PM 9.30AM	M Melvey A Dussin P Herbert H White	G Hutchinson L Hutchinson A Walker G Walker
<u>SERVERS</u>	5PM 9.30AM	M Melvey F Dyson V Paulo C Atkins	M Melvey V Paulo R Lawandos
<u>Av</u>	5PM 9.30AM	R McArdle M Fowler	D Peterson J Vipan
<u>SOUND / VIDEO</u>	5PM 9.30AM	J France J France	J France J France
<u>WELCOMERS</u>	5PM 9.30AM	J France J Andersen P Melvey M Melvey	J France K Lendon H White
<u>CHURCH CLEANING</u>	COOR MOR	XXXX D Whitten	K Lendon B Hutcheson

Our Parish supports The Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle in its 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 Phone: 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

SAINT BONAVENTURE (M) — 15TH JULY
SAINT MARY MAGDALENE (F) — 22ND JULY
SAINT JAMES (F)— 25TH JULY
SAINTS JOACHIM AND ANNE (M)—26TH JULY
SAINTS MARTHA, MARY AND LAZARUS (M) - 29TH JULY
SAINT IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA (M) — 31ST JULY
SAINT ALPHONSUS MARY DE LIGUORI (M) — 1ST AUGUST
SAINT DOMINIC(M) — 3RD AUGUST
SAINT JOHN VIANNEY (M) — 4TH AUGUST
THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD (F)— 6TH AUGUST

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

Pam Mullaly, Mary Johnson, 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.

Recently Deceased: Tony Pontifex

Remembrance: Enid Crowe, Paul Crowe, Chris Crowe



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.

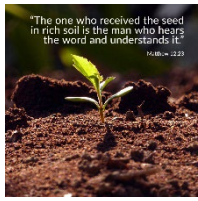
An Act of Spiritual Communion

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

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year A

Sunday 16 Jul 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 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 reveal the mysteries of the kingdom: Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, happy are those who hear your word: Christ, have mercy.

All: Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you call us to bear great fruit: 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.

God of all creation

you have sown the seeds of your kingdom
so that the world may flourish and grow in your love.

Help us to be ready to hear your Word,
and welcome it into our hearts.

May we build your kingdom of love on earth.

We ask this through Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
for ever and ever.

Lord Jesus,

help us to follow your call
to proclaim your name
to all people.

We make this prayer through
our Risen Lord Jesus.

All:

Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

Isaiah 55:10-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The rain makes the earth fruitful.

Thus says the Lord: 'As the rain and the snow come down from the heavens and do not return without watering the earth, making it yield and giving growth to provide seed for the sower and bread for the eating, so the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do.'

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

The word of the Lord.

All reply:

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 64:10-14 R. Lk 8:8

(R.) The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.

1. You care for the earth, give it water,
you fill it with riches.
Your river in heaven brims over
to provide its grain. **(R.)**
2. And thus you provide for the earth;
you drench its furrows,
you level it, soften it with showers,
you bless its growth. **(R.)**
3. You crown the year with your goodness.
Abundance flows in your steps,
in the pastures of the wilderness it flows. **(R.)**
4. The hills are girded with joy,
the meadows covered with flocks,
the valleys are decked with wheat.
They shout for joy, yes, they sing. **(R.)**

Second Reading

Romans 8:18-23

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

All creation is waiting for the revelation of the children of God.

I think that what we suffer in this life can never be compared to the glory, as yet unrevealed, which is waiting for us. The whole creation is eagerly waiting for God to reveal his sons. It was not for any fault on the part of creation that it was made unable to

attain its purpose, it was made so by God; but creation still retains the hope of being freed, like us, from its slavery to decadence, to enjoy the same freedom and glory as the children of God. From the beginning till now the entire creation, as we know, has been groaning in one great act of giving birth; and not only creation, but all of us who possess the first-fruits of the Spirit, we too groan inwardly as we wait for our bodies to be set free.

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 13:1-23

A sower went out to sow.

Jesus left the house and sat by the lakeside, but such crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat there. The people all stood on the beach, and he told them many things in parables.

He said, 'Imagine a sower going out to sow. As he sowed, some seeds fell on the edge of the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Others fell on patches of rock where they found little soil and sprang up straight away, because there was no depth of earth; but as soon as the sun came up they were scorched and, not having any roots, they withered away. Others fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Others fell on rich soil and produced their crop, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Listen, anyone who has ears!'

Then the disciples went up to him and asked, 'Why do you talk to them in parables?' 'Because' he replied 'the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven are revealed to you, but they are not revealed to them. For anyone who has will be given more, and he will have more than enough; but from anyone who has not, even what he has will be taken away. The reason I talk to them in parables is that they look without seeing and listen without hearing or understanding. So in their case this prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled:

You will listen and listen again, but not understand,
see and see again, but not perceive.

For the heart of this nation has grown coarse,
their ears are dull of hearing,
and they have shut their eyes,
for fear they should see with their eyes,
hear with their ears,
understand with their heart,
and be converted
and be healed by me.

'But happy are your eyes because they see, your ears because they hear! I tell you solemnly, many prophets and holy men longed to see what you see, and never saw it; to hear what you hear, and never heard it.

'You, therefore, are to hear the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom without understanding, the evil one comes and carries off what was sown in his heart: this is the man who received the seed on the edge of the path. The one who received it on patches of rock is the man who hears the word and welcomes it at once with joy. But he has no root in him, he does not last; let some trial come, or some persecution on account of the word, and he falls away at once. The one who received the seed in thorns is the man who hears the word, but

the worries of this world and the lure of riches choke the word and so he produces nothing. And the one who received the seed in rich soil is the man who hears the word and understands it; he is the one who yields a harvest and produces now a hundredfold, now sixty, now thirty.'

Reader:

The Gospel of the Lord.

All:

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

All are seated.

Reflection on the Word

Q. What is suggested by the final line of the parable, 'Listen, anyone who has ears'?

Q. What experiences of pathways, rocky ground, thorns and rich soil have you had in your life?

Q. What might it mean to receive the word and produce a rich harvest?

Q. What opportunities exist in your life to be the sower who scatters the seed?

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, let us bring our intentions before the Lord,
who teaches us through his word.

Reader: That, like Christ the sower, our Holy Father,
Pope Francis, will continue to reveal God's word
to all people. In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That leaders of nations will work together to
fairly share the world's resources. In your
mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That organisations who work for the poor will
find support and encouragement. In your
mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That our parish community will be fruitful in
our actions to help those affected by hunger or
disease. In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That the sick and housebound will find relief from their suffering, especially those who are members of our community and families. In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That those who have died will ever live in the divine compassion of Christ, especially those who were members of community and families. In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Loving God, Christ is the sower of your word. Hear our prayers and help us to live in your richness as we acclaim your word to all. 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:

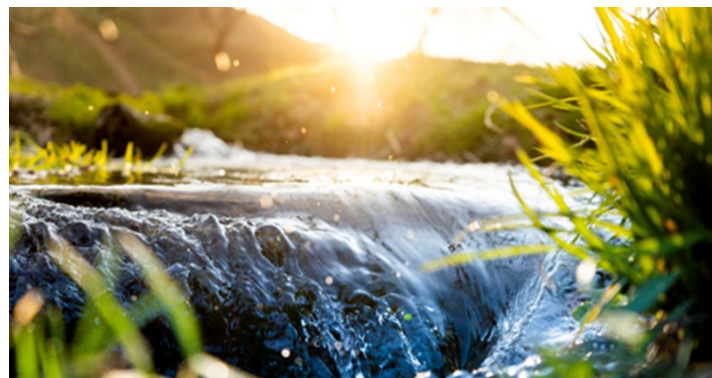
Let us go in the peace to love and serve the Lord.

All:

Thanks be to God.

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LITURGY MATTERS: You are invited to come rest a while

Last year, the Christian Initiation Forum held its first reflection day, Come Rest a While, for those ministering in Christian Initiation in their parishes and for all parishioners.

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This is an annual reflection day offered in appreciation for all parishioners that minister in this space.

This year *Come Rest a While* will be held at the Mackillop Parish Pastoral Centre with the focus being Isaiah 55:1 – 'Oh, let all who thirst, let them come to the water'.

The day will provide opportunities to spend time with Jesus' life-giving water. To be still and to listen to and reflect on God's Word, the liturgy and our Catholic life; to get to know ministers from other communities and to share experiences. To leave refreshed.

Please find time to Come Rest a While.

Please find time to come to the water.

REGISTER HERE

Water is life-giving. It is one of our basic needs. It quenches our thirst. We are often drawn to places of water for rest and reinvigoration. The sound and feel of rolling waves, the gentle flow of a river, the soft lapping of a lake shore. It can give us a new lease on life. Just like in Baptism where the water gives us a new life in Christ.

Thirsting for more is not a new concept. People of all generations thirst for 'things' other than water. Like Adam and Eve in Genesis, their thirst for what they thought they wanted, left them thirsting for more. Their lives became as a drought, separated from God. We all need to be rescued from our own droughts. Fortunately, God had a plan. A plan to bring this water of life to us. This living water comes through Jesus to satisfy our thirst. We read this in John 4:14 when Jesus meets with the Samaritan woman:

“... but those who drink of the water I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life” [NRSV].

So, we need to come to Jesus, come to the source of living water. The Paschal Mystery reminds us of this source of ‘eternal life’ when, as Jesus is on the cross, his side was pierced, and water also poured out. A sacramental moment. A reminder of our baptism. It is through our baptism that we are also called to bring life to others. We are to be the work of Christ with the Holy Spirit to guide us.

Christian Initiation is one such important life-giving work that we are all called to do. The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) affirms this:

... the people of God, as represented by the local Church, should understand, and show by their concern that the initiation of adults is the responsibility of all the baptised. Therefore, the community must always be fully prepared in the pursuit of its apostolic vocation to give help to those who are searching for Christ. In the various circumstances of daily life, even as in the apostolate, all the followers of Christ have the obligation of spreading the faith according to their abilities. Hence, the entire community must help the candidates and the catechumens throughout the process of initiation: during the period of the precatechumenate, the period of the catechumenate, the period of purification and enlightenment, and the period of postbaptismal catechesis or mystagogy^[1]. [RCIA a 9]

^[1] *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*. Study Edition. Australia: St Pauls Publication, 1985, ICEL.



Noel Pearson, Common Grace to visit our Diocese

Next week the Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle is excited to host three events with renowned Australian lawyer and activist Noel Pearson and Common Grace National Director Gershon Nimbalker.

Both Noel and Gershon will reflect on the Voice to Parliament and other issues of importance to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Find out more details about each event below – there’s also still a chance to register for two of them.

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An evening with Noel Pearson – Sunday 16 July

From 5pm to 8pm on Sunday 16 July the Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle alongside Noel Pearson will host an event at The Factory Theatre at St Pius X High School, Adamstown.

It’s a chance to hear about Noel’s connection to Aboriginal Spirituality, his work on the Uluru Statement from the Heart and The Voice to Parliament. The session will end with a Q&A panel that will include Noel, Aunty Louise Campbell (Catholic Schools Office) and Aunty Di Langham (Anglican Diocese).

Today is your last chance to book a free ticket. Register here: <https://NP2023.eventbrite.com.au>

Learning for Justice – Empowering through Education

The power of education will be on show next Monday 17 July at the Learning for Justice conference organised by the Lakes region of Catholic Schools. The one-day event aims to empower individuals through education, focusing on the Voice to Parliament referendum.

Learning for Justice – Empowering through Education is being held at the Newcastle Exhibition and Convention Centre (NEX), with approximately 400 delegates in attendance.

The day will feature various sessions designed to educate attendees about the issues faced by indigenous Australians. Guest speakers include Noel Pearson, the renowned Australian lawyer, academic, land rights activist, and founder of the Cape York Institute for Policy and Leadership. Additionally, Common Grace will offer a Christian perspective on the Uluru Statement and the Voice referendum.

This event is not open to the public.

Common Grace, Listen to the Heart, Training Workshop

On Tuesday 18 July from 10am until 12.30pm, Common Grace will host a training workshop in the Victor Peters Suite.

The event will explore the importance of the Voice to Parliament Referendum. It will spark conversations so you can make an informed decision when voting later in the year. There will be an optional creative element following the session.

Today is your last chance to book your spot. Register here: <https://listentotheheart.eventbrite.com.au>