



**St John  
Vianney**  
Parish Morisset



## **SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER YEAR A 16 APRIL 2023**

***Today we hear about Doubting Thomas, who struggled to believe. This Sunday, we also celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday.***

***We often struggle to believe the good news. What we see on TV, is so much death and destruction. We struggle to believe in mercy, when there is so much selfish violence.***

***To be a believer, or just a spiritual person, in today's world, can often be a lonely business. We need support. The first Christians supported one another by praying and worshiping together, and by a loving service of one another.***

***Right throughout the Easter season, the scriptures focus our attention on the fledgling Church and how it transforms itself into a shining instrument of the Gospel.***

***Today, in the midst of division, fragmentation and tribalism, we have an opportunity to demonstrate to the world, that love is stronger than hatred and good is greater than evil.***



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

### **PARISH LEADERSHIP TEAM:**

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

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

<b>PRIEST SUPERVISOR:</b>	Fr Joseph Figuardo
<b>SACRAMENTAL PRIEST:</b>	Fr John Purnell
<b>Parish Secretary:</b>	Mrs Rosanna Suckling

**OFFICE:** 60 Yambo Street, Morisset, PO Box 87, Ph: 02 4973.6859  
**Office Hours:** 9.00 am to 2.00pm—Monday to Friday (except public holidays)  
 (Due to COVID we ask that you make an appointment to come to the office)  
**Morisset Parish Office email:** [morparish@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:morparish@mn.catholic.org.au)  
**Morisset Parish Web site:** [www.vianneymorisset.org](http://www.vianneymorisset.org)  
**Morisset Parish Facebook :** <https://www.facebook.com/stjvparish>  
**Morisset Parish Instagram :** [https://www.instagram.com/stjvparish\\_morisset/](https://www.instagram.com/stjvparish_morisset/)  
**Morisset Parish Bulletin Items:** [morparish@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:morparish@mn.catholic.org.au)

### **UPCOMING WORSHIP TIMES :**

Saturday	15th April 5pm Family Mass— Morisset
Sunday	16th April 9.30am Mass— Morisset
Saturday	22nd April 5pm Mass— Cooranbong
Sunday	23rd April 9.30am Mass— Morisset
Tuesday	25th April 9.30am Liturgy— Morisset
Saturday	29th April 5pm Mass— Cooranbong
Sunday	30th April 9.30am Mass— Morisset
Tuesday	2nd May 9.30am Liturgy— Morisset
Saturday	6th May 5pm Family Mass— Morisset
Sunday	7th May 9.30am Mass— Morisset
Tuesday	9th May 9.30am Liturgy— Morisset
Saturday	13th May 5pm Mass— Cooranbong
Sunday	14th May 9.30am Mass— Morisset

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### **BITE SIZE THOUGHTS ON THE GOSPEL**

These elements are written by Greg Sunter

#### **Historical Context – My Lord and my God**

This extraordinarily clear statement of belief about the divinity of Jesus appears nowhere else in any of the four gospels. Why does the Gospel of John make this statement and not any of the other gospels? It must be remembered that the Gospel of John was the last of the four gospels to be written – at least 20 years after the Gospel of Mark and some 60 to 70 years after the death of Jesus. The early Christians had been cast out of the Jewish tradition and were making sense of how their own beliefs could stand apart from Jewish tradition. With the break from Judaism, Christians felt able to express their developing belief that Jesus was God.

#### **Have you thought? Those who have not seen**

Jesus says to Thomas, 'You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.' That's us! Jesus' words in the gospel are meant for people like us living today. We are not in the position of Thomas and the other disciples who were able to see the risen Lord face to face and so convince themselves of his rising. The gospel recognises that to believe in the resurrection without that physical, personal encounter with Jesus is to be celebrated even more. Happy are we – blessed are we – who have not seen and yet still believe!

#### **Scriptural context – Not an ending?**

The final two verses of today's gospel passage (Jn 20:30-31) read like the conclusion to the whole gospel. They are a statement of finality about the purpose for writing the gospel and something of a blessing for those who read it. Yet, surprisingly, there is another whole chapter that follows this passage that deals with still more post-resurrection appearances. Most scripture scholars believe that the end of Chapter 20 was the original ending of the gospel and that Chapter 21 is a later addition – possibly added by the community for whom the gospel was originally written.

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### **2023 DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY**

This Sunday we celebrate Divine Sunday. The message of The Divine Mercy is simple. It is that God loves us – all of us. And he wants us to recognize that His mercy is greater than our sins, so that we will call upon Him with trust, receive His mercy, and let it flow through us to others. Thus, all will come to share His joy.

### **CHRISM MASS.**

Thank you to Geoff and Lisa Hutchinson together with Christian, who represented our parish to collect the sacred oils for our parish, blessed by Bishop Michael Kennedy at the Chrism Mass on the Tuesday of Holy Week.

The Oil of Chrism will be used for baptisms and confirmation. The Oil of Catechumens is used at baptisms and those being initiated into the Church. The Oil of the Sick is used to bring comfort and strength to those who are sick.

### **EASTER**

Thank you to everyone who helped in any way to make Holy Week and the Easter Liturgies successful. Good crowds attended most of the ceremonies, with Easter Sunday being a 'sell out'. To accommodate the 'overflow' Mass was 'Live streamed' into the Callinan Centre. This was well received by those who had to move to the Center.

On Easter Sunday we welcomed international visitors from the four corners of the earth. These places included: Iraq, Belarus, Ukraine, Lebanon, India, Sri Lanka and The Philippines as well as Australian visitors from Sydney. A welcome to All!

### **THE RECENT MENALIVE WEEKEND AT ST JOSEPH'S TORONTO WAS A GREAT SUCCESS.**

Just prior to Easter, thirty men gathered at the St Joseph's Community Centre to experience a MenALIVE weekend. They came from Toronto, neighbouring parishes in the Maitland Newcastle diocese, the Central Coast and from Sydney.

The MenALIVE movement originated in Brisbane twenty years ago and it has held over 500 events. It is a ground up program run by laymen for men.

The weekend was presented by four members of the MenALIVE team from Sydney and included men giving testimonies from their lives, small group discussions, singing, prayerful reflection, and there was plenty of time for the participants to relax together and get to know each other.

On the Saturday afternoon we were blessed to have three priests for reconciliation and the weekend concluded with an outdoor mass presided over by Fr Geoff Mulhearn.

The weekend was catered for by the wonderful parishioners from St Joseph's Toronto who cooked and served food for the attendees. This included a barbeque lunch on Saturday, a sit down meal on Saturday evening, plus coffee, tea, cakes, slices, biscuits and fruit throughout the whole weekend.

Below are just a few of the many feedback comments from some of the attendees.

"Waited for a long time for a course like this. It did not disappoint. Met a lot of very good men looking for the same thing. It has been inspiring to me."

"Reconciliation was fantastic! It is always good to be back to God's love."

"Great weekend and fantastic format. Rarely have I experienced the level of sharing with men in the small groups. Cannot overstate the importance of personal testimony."

### **MISSION: ONE HEART MANY VOICES CONFERENCE**

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

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

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

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

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



**Caritas Australia** would like to **THANK YOU** for supporting Project Compassion 2023. If you still have your Project Compassion box or set of envelopes at home, please bring them back this week or next week or visit [caritas.org.au/project-compassion](https://caritas.org.au/project-compassion) and donate online or by calling 1800 024 413.

Your generosity will empower the world's most vulnerable communities to grow stronger and lift themselves out of poverty.

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

### **DIOSOUNDS 2023 - WALK TOGETHER**

Tickets are on sale now for the DioSounds 2023 performance!

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS OFFICE PUBLISHED MARCH 30, 2023

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

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

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

### **THE LGBTIQ+ FORUM INVITES YOU TO MASS AT WARNERS BAY**

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

Event contact: [LGBTIQ@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:LGBTIQ@mn.catholic.org.au)

### **ST JOHN VIANNEY PRIMARY SCHOOL MORISSET**

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

### **SACRED@SEVEN**

Join the Diocesan Council for Ministry with Young People for Sacred@Seven on Wednesday 19 April.

Fr. Peter Street, Parish Priest of Forster-Tuncurry, will preside over the event as we explore the hidden treasures of spending time together with each other and with the Lord. Join us afterwards for a light supper and conversation.

**When:** 19 April **Where:** Sacred Heart Cathedral (841 Hunter Street, Newcastle West) **Time:** 7pm

**Enquiries or RSVP:** [eliza.beletich@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:eliza.beletich@mn.catholic.org.au)

### **PAINT AND PRAY WITH MARY THIS MAY – 27 MAY – MACKILLOP CENTRE, CHARLESTOWN**

Join us this May as we honour and pray with Mary through the practice of painting and reflection. Participants will be guided step by step to create their own Marian icon and invited into contemplation and prayer through this process. You will need to bring an apron, BYO snacks and drinks for the afternoon.

Cost: \$35 for materials -participants will take home their own framed Marian icon.

Spaces are limited, booking is essential.

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/paint-and-pray-may-2023-tickets-595235353967>

### **ENGAGING YOUR FAITH**

Engaging Your Faith is a series of short, online presentations that invite participants to reflect on what it means to be people of faith in the contemporary world. Experienced lecturers from Catholic Theological College present on a variety of topics including Philosophy, Lumen Gentium, Spirituality, Biblical Studies, Christian Meditation, Theology, Interfaith Relations, Future Technology, and Science and Religion.

Cost \$25 per session or \$40 per session for teachers seeking accreditation.

To register go to: <https://ctc.edu.au/news-and-events/engaging-your-faith/>

### **'ANOINTED': MGL SISTERS PENTECOST RETREAT INTENSIVE**

Deepen in your anointing as a Christian called to intentional relationship with the Trinity, radical discipleship, generously sharing the charismatic gifts and a life of mission and service through inputs, discussion, and practical workshops. Join us for 5 days live-in at Carmel House, Varroville between 24-28 May 2023. More info & register: [www.trybooking.com/CFBRF](http://www.trybooking.com/CFBRF)

### **THE CHOSEN EXPERIENCE – SEASON 2**

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

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

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

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

### **FIRESIDE CHAT CHRISTIAN INITIATION FORMATION DAY**

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

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

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

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

**When:** Saturday 17 June 2023 10.00 am – 3.30 pm

**Where:** MacKillop' Parish Hall, Milson St, Charlestown

Catering Morning tea & Lunch provided. RSVP

by Monday 5 June to [fiona.duque1@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:fiona.duque1@mn.catholic.org.au)



### **POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER**

### **INTENTION FOR APRIL 2023**

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

States and citizens.

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

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

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

If you would like to make contributions to support our Parish please do so at Mass via the RED bucket or deposit directly into the Parish Account our details are: Account Name: CCF 96014 Morisset Parish BSB:062815 Account Number: 00328161 Ref: 5004 2nd Collection or 5004 PG and your Giver Number or Surname, or you can use the Online Payments button on the Parish Website Home page or the Diocese App. If you are considering taking up **planned giving** you may like to know that **a percentage of the contributions are tax deductible**. If you would like to know more on how planned giving works please contact the Parish Office.

<u><b>WEEKEND ROSTERS</b></u>			
		<u><b>THIS WEEK</b></u>	<u><b>NEXT WEEK</b></u>
<u><b>Presiders</b></u>	5PM 9.30AM	Mass Mass	Mass Mass
<u><b>PROCLAIMERS:</b></u>	5PM 9.30AM	P Robertson M Foo	M Foo R Hay
<u><b>PSALMIST:</b></u>	5PM 9.30AM	R Hay P Melvey	U France D Whitten
<u><b>GIFTS</b></u>	5PM 9.30AM	G Hutchinson L Hutchinson L McRae L McRae	K Lendon P Melvey L Hutchinson G Hutchinson
<u><b>SERVERS</b></u>	5PM 9.30AM	TBA TBA	TBA TBA
<u><b>AV</b></u>	5PM 9.30AM	J France M Fowler	D Peterson T Alexander
<u><b>SOUND / VIDEO</b></u>	5PM 9.30AM	J France J France	J France J France
<u><b>WELCOMERS / USHER</b></u>	5PM 9.30AM	M Melvey P Melvey J Hutchins K Amon	J France P Stewart A Dussin
<u><b>COVID CLEAN- ING</b></u>	5PM 9.30AM	L Hutchinson G Hutchinson L McRae L McRae T Alexander P Stewart	F Dunn H White B Cox  K Amon A Dussin R Hay
<u><b>CHURCH CLEANING</b></u>	COOR MOR	F Dunn	A Dussin K Lendon

*The Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle has an enduring and abiding commitment to promote the safety, welfare and wellbeing of children and vulnerable adults. If you have any concerns for a child or vulnerable adult please contact the Office of Safeguarding (ph: 02 4979 1390 or email: [childprotection@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:childprotection@mn.catholic.org.au)), or visit their website for further information ([www.officeofsafeguarding.org.au](http://www.officeofsafeguarding.org.au)).*

### **UPCOMING FEAST DAYS MEMORIALS AND SOLEMNITIES**

ANZAC DAY—25TH APRIL  
SAINT MARK— 26TH APRIL  
SAINT PETER CHANEL— 28TH APRIL  
SAINT CATHERINE OF SIENA— 29TH APRIL  
SAINT ATHANASIUS— 2ND MAY  
SAINTS PHILIP AND JAMES— 3RD MAY  
THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD— 21ST MAY  
OUR LADY, HELP OF CHRISTIANS— 24TH MAY  
PENTECOST— 28TH MAY

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

Mary Johnson, Barbara Millers, Anna Fitzgerald, Tintumol Thomas, Christopher Maloney, Les Findley, Peter Martyn, Bernadette Martin, Joan Gillett, Bruce Gillett.

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

**Recently Deceased:** Bob Jay, Victor Fraser  
**Remembrance:** John Tome, Jason Wismer



### **PRAYER REQUESTS FOR THE BULLETIN**

If you would like the parish to pray for a family member who is sick, recently deceased or you would like remembered please call or email the parish office or complete a prayer card for each person and place in the mail box near the parish office door. Cards are available at the back of the church and at the Parish Office.

All prayer requests require permission from a family member or the person. Due to Australian privacy laws.

### **AN ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION**

My Jesus,  
I believe that You  
are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.  
I love You above all things,  
and I desire to receive You into my soul.  
Since I cannot at this moment  
receive You sacramentally,  
come at least spiritually into my heart.  
I embrace You as if You were already there and unite  
myself wholly to You.  
Never permit me to be separated from You.  
Amen.



**Live stream Mass every Sunday at 9.30am at**  
[www.mn.catholic.org.au/places/live-stream](http://www.mn.catholic.org.au/places/live-stream)







**SUNDAY PRAYER SERVICE**  
**Second Sunday of Easter Year A**  
**Sunday 16 Apr 2023**

**The Introductory Rites**

**Acknowledgement of Country**

We acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples as Australia's First Peoples and the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the land on which we work and live. Our Parish of St John Vianney Morisset is located on the traditional lands of the Awabakal and Darkinjung people. We honour and pay respect to, Elders past, present and emerging. We acknowledge the spiritual culture of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples across Australia.

**Gathering**

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

**Sign of the Cross**

**Leader:**

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

**All:**

**Amen.**

**Greeting**

**Leader:**

Blessed be Jesus Christ who has redeemed us and raised us to new life.

**All:**

**Blessed be God forever.**

**Introductory Remarks**

**Leader (in these or similar words):**

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

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

**Opening Rite**

**Gloria**

**Leader:**

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

**All:**

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

**We praise you,  
we bless you,  
we adore you,  
we glorify you,  
we give you thanks for your great glory,  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
O God, almighty Father.  
  
Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,  
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,**

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

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

**Opening Prayer**

**Leader:**

Let us pray.

*All pause for silent prayer.*

Eternal God,  
we are your children  
who have been baptised in Jesus  
and born again in the Spirit.  
In these days of Easter joy  
stir up our hearts  
and increase our faith in you.  
We make this prayer through Jesus Christ, your Son,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
for ever and ever.

**All:**

**Amen.**

**The Liturgy of the Word**

**First Reading**

**Acts 2:42-47**

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

*The faithful lived together and owned everything in common.*

The whole community remained faithful to the teaching of the apostles, to the brotherhood, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers.

The many miracles and signs worked through the apostles made a deep impression on everyone.

The faithful all lived together and owned everything in common; they sold their goods and possessions and shared out the proceeds among themselves according to what each one needed.

They went as a body to the Temple every day but met in their houses for the breaking of bread; they shared their food gladly and generously; they praised God and were looked up to by everyone. Day by day the Lord added to their community those destined to be saved.

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

The word of the Lord.

**All reply:**

**Thanks be to God.**

**Responsorial Psalm**

**Ps 117:2-4. 13-15. 22-24. R. v.1**

**(R.) Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,  
his love is everlasting.**

1. Let the sons of Israel say:

'His love has no end.'  
Let the sons of Aaron say:  
'His love has no end.'  
Let those who fear the Lord say:  
'His love has no end.' (R.)

2. I was thrust, thrust down and falling  
but the Lord was my helper.  
The Lord is my strength and my song;  
he was my saviour.  
There are shouts of joy and victory  
in the tents of the just. (R.)
3. The stone which the builders rejected  
has become the corner stone.  
This is the work of the Lord,  
a marvel in our eyes.  
This day was made by the Lord;  
we rejoice and are glad. (R.)

## Second Reading

**1 Pt 1:3-9**

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

*He has given us a new birth as his children, by raising  
Jesus Christ from the dead.*

Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in his great mercy has given us a new birth as his sons, by raising Jesus Christ from the dead, so that we have a sure hope and the promise of an inheritance that can never be spoilt or soiled and never fade away, because it is being kept for you in the heavens. Through your faith, God's power will guard you until the salvation which has been prepared is revealed at the end of time. This is a cause of great joy for you, even though you may for a short time have to bear being plagued by all sorts of trials; so that, when Jesus Christ is revealed, your faith will have been tested and proved like gold – only it is more precious than gold, which is corruptible even though it bears testing by fire – and then you will have praise and glory and honour. You did not see him, yet you love him; and still without seeing him, you are already filled with a joy so glorious that it cannot be described, because you believe; and you are sure of the end to which your faith looks forward, that is, the salvation of your souls.

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 John.

All:

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

**Jn 20:19-31**

*After eight days Jesus came in and stood among them.*

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,' and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you.'

'As the Father sent me,  
so am I sending you.'

After saying this he breathed on them and said:

'Receive the Holy Spirit.  
For those whose sins you forgive,  
they are forgiven;  
for those whose sins you retain,  
they are retained.'

Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord', he answered, 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him:

'You believe because you can see me.

Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.'

There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.

Reader:

The Gospel of the Lord.

All:

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

All are seated.

## Reflection on the Word

Q. Which phrase or word from this gospel passage particularly stands out to you? Why?

Q. Why does Jesus particularly focus the mission of the disciples on the forgiveness of sins?

Q. In what situations do you most need to hear Jesus' words, 'Peace be with you'?

Q. In what ways can you relate to Thomas' experience?

Q. In what ways does Thomas personify elements of our own culture and society?

## Profession of Faith

Leader:

In union with the whole Church  
let us profess our faith.

All:

**I believe in God,  
the Father almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth,  
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,**

*At the words that follow, up to and including the Virgin  
Mary, all bow.*

**who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried;  
he descended into hell;  
on the third day he rose again from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty;  
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and life everlasting. Amen.**

### Prayers of the Faithful

Leader: Sisters and brothers, through Christ's victory over death, we bring our prayers before the Lord.

Reader: That our Holy Father, Pope Francis, will lead the Church in the peace of our risen Lord.

(pause)

In your glory:

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

Reader: That national leaders share their resources generously for the good of all.

(pause)

In your glory:

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

Reader: That those who doubt their faith may find belief in Christ who was once dead, but now lives forever.

(pause)

In your glory:

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

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

(pause)

In your glory:

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

Reader: That church communities will respond to the call for ecological conversion and commit to protecting our common home, the earth.

(pause)

In your glory:

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

Reader: That people affected by natural disasters will not be forgotten as they struggle with the challenge of rebuilding their lives, homes and businesses.

(pause)

In your glory:

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

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

(pause)

In your glory:

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

Reader: That our parish community, without seeing Jesus, will continue to believe and acclaim the victory of Christ.

(pause)

In your glory:

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

Reader: That the sick will experience the divine healing of Christ, especially those who are members of our community and families.

(pause)

In your glory:

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

Reader: That those who have died will share in the glory of Christ our Saviour, especially those who were members of our community and families.

(pause)

In your glory:

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

Leader: God our Father, having not seen, we believe in Jesus Christ. Hear our prayers and help to sustain our faith in Jesus and remain true to the teaching of his apostles. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen.**

### The Lord's Prayer

Leader:

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

All:

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

### The Concluding Rite

#### Blessing

Leader:

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

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

All:

**Amen.**

#### Dismissal

Leader:

Let us go in peace. Alleluia.

All:

**Thanks be to God.**

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# FAITH MATTERS: A New Way to Listen

Our Lenten journey is a time for internal and external reflection and deep listening. The Paschal mystery, that is, the life, death and resurrection is revealed to us during this period and Easter brings blessings of new life and fresh beginnings.

**ROSEMARY MCALLISTER** PUBLISHED APRIL 11, 2023

In February this year the new Pastoral Placement Participants (PPP) for 2023 and the international clergy who have recently arrived in our diocese gathered one day a week over a six-week period to complete the Introductory to the Clinical Pastoral Education course.

The course is an introduction to the theory and practice of pastoral/spiritual care. It is a qualification required by NSW Health for those wishing to become hospital visitors. It covers such topics as listening skills, empathy, grief and loss, self-awareness, and hospital procedures.

While this course is essential for our clergy who regularly visit hospitals it is a great place for the PPP's to start their time in Pastoral Ministries, as part of the program they will be placed into services such as St Vincent de Paul, Mum's Cottage, Catholic Care, the Refugee Hub and The Mission to Seafarers. Having the skills of active listening are essential when talking to anyone at any time no matter who they are.

Each week I was excited to visit the group to see how things were progressing and to my delight I could see how comfortable everyone was becoming as they started to learn more about each other and form a bond.

After six-weeks family and friends gathered for the group's graduation. It was during the ceremony that each participant reflected on what they had experienced and learnt over the course.

Many reflected on the course heightening the importance of developing relationships and really taking the time to listen. For others it provided a gentle journey of self-reflection and an awakening of awareness of the need to slow down and listen and knowing when to be quiet. The course allowed participants to meet themselves and explore their own reactions and thoughts around some of the hardest things that humans must think about and acknowledge.

Morgan Owens (PPP) reflects:

"Pastoral Care is more than just making someone feel better with a few kind words. It's not solving people's problems but offering them a calm presence and an empathetic ear. It is a gift to be given, often by the wounded healer; an individual who can sit with others through the depths of their anguish. I have learnt skills that will serve me as I will be doing some pastoral care visits to our local aged care facilities as part of my Pastoral Placement. Being able to undertake CPE with the wonderful clergy members was an honour all by itself. As someone who is relatively new to the church it felt like a privilege to spend time and develop relationships with our clergy. Their theological knowledge added an extra layer of depth to everything we learnt in this course."

Asher Watters-Cowen (PPP) reflects:

"I have found that this Clinical Pastoral Education course has been extremely beneficial to my development as a Christian. Like many of the opportunities that the Pastoral Placement offers me, I feel that the Introductory CPE course allowed me to greater expand my vocabulary of skills as led by the Spirit. My skills have been developed as an active listener and responder to those I will encounter in my future, both in parish and workplace settings.

The most valuable skill that I have been able to develop in this course is the consideration of overcoming cultural barriers when engaging in pastoral conversations. My peers and cohort from Australia, India, Sri Lanka and Nigeria have highlighted the need to always consider the cultural contexts of those to whom we pastorally attend, and to view the individual, the 'human document', as a person who shares a common humanity with us, and a right to be listened to, and loved as Christ pastorally loves us, can calls us to pastorally love."

An Introductory Clinical Pastoral Education course is being planned 17 July – 21 August at MacKillop Parish. Please contact me at [rose.mcallister@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:rose.mcallister@mn.catholic.org.au) to be sent an application form.