

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land our parish encompasses, the Awabakal and Darkinjung 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.

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER YEAR C SUNDAY 25 MAY 2025

PARISH PRIEST:

Fr Darryl Mackie

ASSISTANT PRIESTS:

Fr Raphael Madukwe

Fr Paul Macharia Kamau

Fr John Purnell

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL:

Uta France, John France, Juliet Hutchins, Mal Melvey,
Pam, Melvey, Kerry Lendon, Rod Hay

PARISH ADMINISTRATION:

Rosanna Suckling, Maryanne Barry, Vimal Valiyaveetil,
Bridget Voigt

OUR CHURCHES:

St John Vianney Church, 60 Yambo Street Morisset

St Patrick & St Brigid Church, 6 Martinsville Road Cooranbong

PARISH OFFICE:

60 Yambo Street, Morisset 2264, PO Box 87,

Ph: 02 4973 6859 Email: morparish@mn.catholic.org.au

Office Hours: 9.00 am to 2.00pm—Monday to Friday (except
public holidays. Appointments recommended).

For Urgent Anointing of the Sick Ph: 0493 969 362

Website:: www.vianneymorisset.org

Facebook : <https://www.facebook.com/stjvparish>

Instagram : https://www.instagram.com/stjvparish_morisset/

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

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 email the parish office or complete a prayer card for each person and place in the mail box near the parish office door.

UPCOMING WORSHIP TIMES :

Saturday	24th May 5pm
	Mass—Cooranbong
Sunday	25th May 9.30am
	Mass—Morisset
Tuesday	27th May 9.30am
	Mass—Morisset
Saturday	31st May 5pm
	Mass—Morisset
Sunday	1st June 9.30am
	Mass—Morisset
Tuesday	3rd June 9.30am
	Mass—Morisset

Dear Parish Family,

*It has been decided by the Holy Spirit and by ourselves
not to saddle you with any burden beyond the essentials....*

This week we celebrate two great events. Firstly, this week marks the 1700th anniversary since the acceptance of the Nicene Creed. This is the same Creed we recite most Sundays and Holy Days. It was formulated at the Council of Nicaea in 325AD (Turkey) to lay out a set of beliefs about the Trinity and the question on the divinity of Jesus. I'm sure trying to get a whole lot of priests and bishops together to come up with this statement of belief was no easy task. A bit like the above statement that came from the Council of Jerusalem in 50AD when Paul and Peter were at logger heads because Paul felt that Peter was behaving one way with the Jewish converting to Christianity and another with those gentiles converting. Peter wanted them all to follow the circumcision and dietary rules. Guided by the Holy Spirit they decided they had no right to put any burdens on anyone because belief comes through faith and not observing the law.

From the earliest acts of the Church, we have seen the working of the Holy Spirit. Jesus in the Gospel continues to talk about "going home" but his work will continue in and through his disciples through the gift of the Holy Spirit shaping and guiding us. Signs of the Spirit will be the gift of peace. Peace not as we know it. Peace that is not simply the absence of conflict but a wholeness that only God can provide. A peace that enabled the community to discover in our first reading ways of reaching harmony within its diversity. Peace that the late Pope Francis invited us to rediscover the life of the spirit within the church through synodality – a journey of mutual listening, guided by the Spirit and looking to invite those who seek to be made welcome.

The other great event this week is on Saturday 24th May, we celebrate the feast of Our Lady Help of Christians, the patroness of our parish and school of Boolaroo-Warners Bay. The title of "Helper" has been part of Mary's title as far back as the fourth century. It was in 1571 in the battle of Lepanto that the title was first used when the fleet of the Holy League under Pope Pius V defeated the Ottoman Empire. Closer to home, it was in 1844 that Mary as Our Lady Help of Christians was declared patroness of Australia. As patroness we are praying for her intercession and role as a guide particularly during the early years of the Catholic Church here when the faith relied heavily on the Rosary and the faith of the people. St Mary of the Cross MacKillop is our second patron saint for Australia.... we are in good hands!

Happy Feast Day Boolaroo – Warners Bay!!!

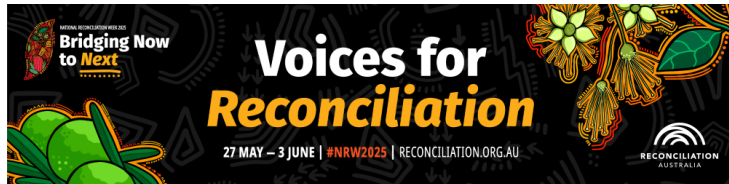
*Come, Holy Spirit; fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in
them the fire of your love.*

Just a reminder that Pentecost is in two weeks – the day when we celebrate the many gifts that are given to each and every one of us, to enrich the Church. On that Sunday, we will hold a Gifting Sunday where we will be asking for volunteers to help and support the various ministries within our parishes. What gift am I already gifting to our community or what could I gift? More information coming next weekend.

Have a great week everyone.....

Fr Darryl Mackie

Parish Priest



National Reconciliation Week

This week we recall Sorry Day (May 26) and National Reconciliation Week (May 27- June 3). These dates commemorate two significant milestones in the reconciliation journey – the 1967 referendum, and the High Court Mabo decision respectively. National Reconciliation Week (NRW) is a time for all Australians to learn about our shared histories, cultures, and achievements, and to explore how each of us can contribute to achieving reconciliation in Australia. Reconciliation must live in the hearts, minds and actions of all Australians as we move forward, creating a nation strengthened by respectful relationships among all peoples.

Collections

During COVID some of our practices had to change and one such are the collections.

At the recent Parish Finance Committee, we discussed the return of the collections at our Masses.

As of this weekend 24/25, May we will reintroduce the first collection at the offertory time and the second collection once everyone has received Holy Communion.

Do you know where these collections go?

The first collection goes towards supporting the clergy to pay their stipend and living expenses? Any surplus currently goes to the Diocese to support those parishes unable to financially support a priest.

The second collection goes towards supporting the running of the parish which includes our secretary, electricity, insurance, maintenance and the running of the priest's cars, phones etc.

We are hoping to phase out the envelope system in the coming months due to the high costs of having the envelopes printed these days. If you would like to regularly have deductions from your bank account for either of these collections, please contact Rosanna in the office.

Our parish and our clergy have always relied on your support – with many thanks for your generosity!

The "Tap n Go" machines will continue to remain in operation.

Fr Darryl Mackie

Parish Priest

Diocesan Pilgrimage

Last weekend, the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle came alive with prayer, reflection, and joyful community, as pilgrims gathered for a special three-day Diocesan Local Pilgrimage Experience from Friday 16 May to Sunday 18 May.

The pilgrimage commenced on Friday at Our Lady of the Rosary Church, Taree, with the Sacrament of Penance, Mass, and

morning tea. Saturday's journey included five significant stops: Sacred Heart Cathedral, St Mary's Star of the Sea, St Patrick and Brigid Cooranbong, St John the Baptist Shrine, and St Joseph's, East Maitland.

On Sunday, pilgrims visited Blessed Virgin Mary Queen of Peace Church in Scone, before arriving at the final destination – St Joseph's, Murrurundi

Thank you to the parishioners who came along to Cooranbong on Saturday, to 'meet and greet' the pilgrims, and offer them hospitality.

National Volunteer Week

This week marks National Volunteer Week (19–25 May)

A time to celebrate and thank the incredible individuals who generously give their time and talents to help others. With the 2025 theme "Connecting Communities," we recognise the vital role volunteers play in strengthening relationships, fostering inclusion, and making a real impact in people's lives.

Easy Access Ramp.

Parishioners with mobility issues, are encouraged to use the 'easy access' ramp when entering or leaving the Morisset Church.

Vinnies Winter Appeal

The Morisset Vinnies Conference will be holding their annual winter appeal at the Masses on the June 21& 22 weekend.

With A Light Heart

An investment counsellor decided to go out on her own. She was shrewd and diligent, so business kept coming in, and pretty soon she realised that she needed an in-house counsel. Excited at her runaway success, she began to interview young lawyers.

"As I'm sure you can understand," she started off with one of the first applicants, "in a business like this, our personal integrity must be beyond question." She leaned forward. "Mr. Peterson, are you an honest lawyer?"

"Honest?" replied the job prospect. "Let me tell you something about honesty ..." Why, I'm so honest that my father lent me \$15,000 for my education, and I paid back every penny the minute I tried my very first case."

Bowled over by the apparent honour of the applicant she exclaimed: "Impressive. And what sort of case was that?"

The lawyer squirmed in his seat and admitted: "He sued me for the money."

Parish Assembly-(Save the Date)

A Parish Pastoral Assembly, to which all parishioners are invited, will be held after 9.30am Mass on Sunday 29th June. Sunday 8th June (Pentecost Sunday) was considered as a date for the Assembly, but because it is also a 'Long Weekend'-Kings Birthday, so the 29th of June was settled on.

A Parish Pastoral Assembly is a body of faith-filled parishioners and the ordained, through which everyone works together as co-responsible partners in furthering the mission of Christ in our Parish. At the Assembly the status of the Parish will be presented, along with Financials.

Statutes for PPC, PFC and Team will also be introduced. From this Assembly, a Pastoral Plan will be developed. This Plan is a set of goals and objectives embraced through a process of shared decision-making, which will direct the parish in its activities and decisions for the next 12 months.

Sr Loretta Baker RSJ, will facilitate the Assembly.



Join the aMeN caMiNo in 2025!

In this Jubilee Year of Hope, Mission & Evangelisation are offering two unique local aMeN caMiNo pilgrimage experiences. One over 2 days and the other over 5 days.

To learn more, attend our physical Walk & Talk Information Session on Saturday, 14 June. To register: <https://forms.office.com/r/XFXfcBJ927>

Find out more about the aMeN caMiNo via our website: [aMeN caMiNo - Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle](https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/aMen-caMiNo)

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day 2025

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) is recognised annually on 15 June and brings to light the cultural, social, economic and demographic factors that underpin the negative experiences of elderly populations.

The World Health Organization defines the abuse of older people – or elder abuse – as “a single, or repeated act, or lack of appropriate action, occurring within any relationship where there is an expectation of trust which causes harm or distress to an older person.”

How can I help?

There are many ways to support the elderly within our communities and identify when further support is needed. Be sure to:

Watch and listen – take the time to speak with and connect with the elderly members of your community. Ensure that their voice is heard and respected when they make decisions.

Encourage and empower – encourage older individuals to make their own informed decisions.

Be socially connected – people may feel isolated at any age. It is important to support the elderly members of our communities to maintain their relationships and also grow their social network. It will allow the elderly to stay in touch with the people and things that matter most to them.

Lead an active and healthy lifestyle – encourage the elderly members in your community to lead a healthy and active lifestyle.

Increase online confidence and skills – with an evolving online world, ensure that the elderly members close to you can keep up to date with technology to be able to connect and manage their personal effects.

Give a caregiver a break – most caregivers do an amazing job but sometimes can feel overwhelmed. Offering to step in, where appropriate, for a caregiver gives them a chance to have a break and you a chance to connect and share quality time.

Where to seek support

The Office of Safeguarding is available to support with any concerns. More information can be found on their [website](https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/office-of-safeguarding).

Additional resources

Compass, Steps I can take for others – <https://www.compass.info/elder-abuse/preventing/steps-i-can-take-for-others#section-preventing-elder-abuse-webinar>

NSW Elder Abuse Helpline & Resource Unit (EAHRU) Elder Abuse Toolkit – <https://ageingdisabilitycommission.nsw.gov.au/documents/tools-and-resources/for-professionals/NSW-Elder-Abuse-Toolkit.pdf>

United Nations World Elder Abuse Awareness Day – <https://social.desa.un.org/issues/ageing/world-elder-abuse-awareness-day>

Elder Abuse Awareness Day.org, It's time to change the conversation about aging – <https://elderabuseawarenessday.org.au/>

Young Adult Retreat 2025

Calling all young adults in the Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle to the Young Adults Retreat 2025! A dynamic annual event designed for young people by young people, join us for a weekend to meet young people from all around the diocese, and experience Catholic community, worship, inputs by expert speakers, the Sacraments, and an opportunity to encounter Christ's personal love!

WHO: 18-35; children of participants also welcome

WHEN: 27-29 June 2025; 6pm dinner on the 27th - 12:30pm on Sun 29 June

WHERE: Catalina Lakefront Retreat, Rathmines NSW

COST: \$170 per person, incl. of food & accommodation; options available. Sponsorship available for financial hardship

Register at [YAR25.eventbrite.com.au](https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/yar25-elder-adult-retreat-2025-tickets-755555555555) or the [Diocesan website's Events](https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/events) page, or email: mission@mn.catholic.org.au with any queries.

2025 ASPIRE- The Rise of Bozz

It is the future: after a long war, technology and emotions have been banned. Young people are sent to school to learn how to make a 'positive impact' in the new world. When mysterious artworks bearing the tag "Bozz" start appearing around the city, questioning the government's decisions, a small group of outlaws called 'The UnEducated' are inspired to challenge their leaders' decisions. This year's production features over 150 students from primary and secondary schools across the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle.

INVITATION RSVP: anne.atkins@mn.catholic.edu.au by Monday 30 June 2025

When: Friday, 1 August, 7pm

Saturday, 2 August, 7pm

Confirmation

Bishop Michael Kennedy, will confer the sacrament of confirmation to our candidates on Friday evening 25th July 2025

Baptism Preparation

Baptism is a happy event and a time to ponder God's loving gifts in our lives. For those seeking baptism for their children our baptism preparation programs will usually run in the evenings on the second Tuesday of the Month starting at 7pm, bookings are essential. Our next Program will be held on Tuesday 10th June 2025.

If you are seeking baptism for your child or children in our parish please register to attend one of our baptism preparation programs at: <https://forms.office.com/r/HRzVSryKVh> or Email: morparish@mn.catholic.org.au or call 02 4973 6859.

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, Electronic Funds Transfer Only Bank Account Name: Morisset Parish Presbytery BSB: 066739 No: 100004062 Ref: 1st Collection & SURNAME or contact the parish office to set up a direct debit.

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 our Parish Electronic Funds Transfer Only Account the details are: Account Name: Morisset Parish Church BSB:066739 Account Number: 100004064 please use one of the following Payment References PG + your giver number or PG + SURNAME or SURNAME you can also use the Online Payments or Planned Giving button on the Parish Website Home page. 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	H White J Vipan	J Parkins G Whalen
<u>PSALMIST:</u>	5PM 9.30AM	J Parkins K Lendon	D Joyce L Hutchinson
<u>GIFTS</u>	5PM 9.30AM	TBA M Melvey	M Melvey H White
<u>SERVERS</u>	5PM 9.30AM	L Hutchinson J Lawandos	J Foo R & C Lawandos
<u>AV</u>	5PM 9.30AM	J France T Alexander	M Foo E Lawandos
<u>WELCOMERS</u>	5PM 9.30AM	K Cameron K Amon	A Dussin K Lendon
<u>CHURCH CLEANING</u>	COOR MOR	C Vangsnes R & C Hay	XXXX K Lendon



UPCOMING FEAST DAYS MEMORIALS AND SOLEMINITIES

OUR LADY, HELP OF CHRISTIANS (S) - 24TH MAY
SAINT PHILIP NERI (M) - 26TH MAY
SAINT AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY (OM) 27TH MAY
SAINT PAUL VI (OM) - 29TH MAY
THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD—1ST JUNE
SAINTS MARCELLINUS AND PETER (OM) - 2ND JUNE
SAINTS CHARLES LWANGA AND COMPANIONS (M) - 3RD JUNE
SAINT BONIFACE (M) - 5TH JUNE
SAINT MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT (OM) - 6TH JUNE

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

Jayden Sanders, Marjorie Black, Mary Maloney, Maureen Luxford, Steve McKay, Terry Gillett, Jackie Purnell, Nancy Overton, Ross Dickson, Betty Smith, Anna Dussin, Mary Monaghan, Clare Wallington, Donna Hazzard, Pam Mullaly, Tintumol Thomas, Peter Martyn, Bruce Gillett.

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



The Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle has an abiding commitment to promote the safety, welfare and wellbeing of children and vulnerable adults.

Our Parish supports The Diocese 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 interact with.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

If you have any concerns for a child or vulnerable person please contact the Office of Safeguarding Phone: 02 4979 1390 Email: childprotection@mn.catholic.org.au, or visit their website for further information: www.officeofsafeguarding.org.au

Live stream Mass every Sunday at 9.30am at www.mn.catholic.org.au/places/live-stream

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Natural Disaster – Letter from Bishop Michael Kennedy

May God watch over all those affected, and may we find strength in our faith and in one another. Please be assured of my ongoing prayers for your safety and recovery.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Over the past days, our Diocese has been impacted by severe and ongoing rainfall, leading to flooding across several of our communities. Many Local Government Areas within our Diocese have been declared natural disaster zones.

I write to you with a heart full of concern, prayer, and solidarity for all those affected—especially those in and around Taree, Wingham, and the wider Manning region, who are experiencing some of the worst of these conditions.

These severe weather events have caused significant disruption and damage, with many in our Diocese directly affected—whether by floodwaters, separation from loved ones, or through their tireless efforts assisting others.

In the midst of these challenging times, I have been deeply moved and filled with hope by the stories emerging from across our communities. I have heard of schools and parishes coming together to provide digital learning opportunities for students, dry and welcoming spaces for families displaced by the floods, and countless acts of quiet compassion — from offering prayers to staying connected with those who have experienced great loss.

These acts of kindness, generosity, and solidarity are a powerful witness to the love of Christ alive in our Diocese. They remind us that even in hardship, we are never alone — we are a people of faith, united in love and compassion for one another.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the NSW State Emergency Service (SES) and all first responders for their unwavering support of communities across the region. We are all grateful for their courage and commitment.

Please follow emergency services' advice, check in on your neighbours, and take all necessary precautions as the rain is expected to continue over the coming days.

If you or someone you know is struggling or in need of emotional support, I encourage you to reach out to the Rosewood Centre, who are available to provide assistance during this difficult time via telehealth appointments.

Please know that you are in my prayers and that we are inviting the people of the Diocese to pray for you as well. When the time is right, we will explore how we can best offer our practical support.

May God watch over all those affected, and may we find strength in our faith and in one another. Please be assured of my ongoing prayers for your safety and recovery.

Yours in Christ,

Michael Kennedy

Bishop of Maitland-Newcastle

A Prayer for the Community

God of comfort and strength,

we pray for all in our Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle affected by flooding.

For those whose homes are damaged, whose hearts are heavy, and whose lives are disrupted.

Protect the vulnerable, strengthen those offering help, and stir in us a spirit of compassion, that we may be your hands and heart in this time of need. Amen

Opinion: What younger church leaders envision for the next 2000 years

Originally published in the Newcastle Herald.

Over the past week and a half, I've been in London in my role as Director of Mission and Evangelisation for the Catholic Diocese, gathering with colleagues from dioceses across the globe. We came together for the annual ALPHA Leadership Conference—a program that presents a bold and focused vision for the renewal of the Church.

The conference was no Conclave – we weren't locked in, and we had full access to the outside world, freely moving between presentations and discussions. Yet, like a Conclave, we gathered with diverse, and at times, deeply held views on the kind of Pope our time and global context call for; one that speaks to the realities in which we live and carry out our mission.

This week, 133 Cardinals prayed, discussed and voted for Pope Francis' successor. During their early gatherings following the Pope's Funeral it was heartening to see the youngest and newest Cardinals find each other amongst the sea of red hats.

At 39, I'm only slightly younger than Cardinal Mykola, the Ukrainian Greek Catholic cardinal from Australia, who was elevated to the College of Cardinals just last December at age 45. As two of the younger members of Church leadership in Australia, we've found ourselves working together every few months as part of a small, four-person commission, imagining what the future of the Catholic Church might look like for young people. The conversations and emerging vision have been deeply encouraging.

Inside St Peter's Basilica, Cardinal Mykola was joined by two of the youngest Cardinals who participated for the first time in a Conclave, Cardinal Americo Manuel (51) from Portugal and Cardinal Giorgio Marengo (50) from Mongolia.

Meeting both of these remarkable men over the past five years has affirmed my hope in the future of a Church I want to remain a part of. Their willingness to be present with the people of God and be engaged, visible and accessible, is not something that can always be said of many in the College of Cardinals, whether due to age, energy, or differing priorities.

Cardinal Manuel led one of the most successful World Youth Days in 2023, welcoming millions of young people to Portugal. Among them were students and teachers from our own Diocese, many of whom describe the experience as life-changing. His bold leadership ensured that faith was presented in ways that resonated with the culture young people are living in today. The event was both creative and reverent, ecumenical yet unapologetically Catholic. Topics often avoided, such as mental health, secularisation or the complex realities facing youth, were brought to the forefront with honesty and pastoral care.

Cardinal Marengo visited Australia last year to share his experience as a missionary in Mongolia, where he has served since 2003. In a country where Buddhism is the majority religion, he has devoted himself to building meaningful relationships with the Buddhist community, emphasising that inter-religious dialogue is not just important but fundamental to our mission. In his view, such dialogue offers hope and healing in a world increasingly marked by tension and division.

While these three men have not been called to the Papacy (at least not yet), they reflect the legacy of hope Pope Francis leaves us in this Jubilee Year. Today's College of Cardinals is younger and more representative of the true universality of the Catholic Church than ever before. Cardinals from the peripheries, like these, signal a shift in the Church's centre of gravity, offering a renewed sense of hope for decades to come.

I pray that our Pope Leo XIV will be attentive to the voices of our youngest leaders, those committed to walking alongside a new generation of Catholics who are turning away from an overstimulated world, not out of apathy, but because they are searching for deeper meaning and purpose in their lives.

In 2033, the Catholic Church will mark 2,000 years since the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. This papacy must inspire the local Church in every corner of the world to be ready, open and willing to journey with all who are searching for a place to call home – a home grounded in love, mercy and charity. That's where my heart lies.

James Camden, Director of Mission and Evangelisation at the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle.



Pilgrimage of Faith: Diocese Walks Together on a Journey of Spirit and Connection

Pilgrims from across the Diocese visited up to eight local sites last weekend as part of our Jubilee Year activities.

Last weekend, the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle came alive with prayer, reflection, and joyful community as pilgrims gathered for a special three-day Diocesan Local Pilgrimage Experience from Friday 16 May to Sunday 18 May. The event formed a highlight of the Jubilee Year, offering a unique opportunity for people to connect with their faith, each other, and the rich spiritual heritage of our region.

Organised by the Mission and Evangelisation team, the pilgrimage offered a rich blend of Masses, prayer, confession, and hospitality, enabling participants to engage deeply with their faith. Each church welcomed visitors with warmth and reverence, offering opportunities to pause, pray, and reflect on their spiritual journey.

The pilgrimage commenced on Friday at Our Lady of the Rosary Church, Taree, with the Sacrament of Penance, Mass, and morning tea. Saturday's journey included five significant stops: Sacred Heart Cathedral, St Mary's Star of the Sea, St Brigid's and St Patrick's, Cooranbong, St John the Baptist Shrine, and St Joseph's, East Maitland.

On Sunday, pilgrims visited Blessed Virgin Mary Queen of Peace Church in Scone, before arriving at the final destination – St Joseph's, Murrurundi, where they were warmly welcomed by the community and treated to a remarkable celebration of life and faith.

The pilgrimage covered over 850 kilometres, and while many pilgrims only visited a few of the eight sites, some participated over the whole three days.

For Karli Chenery, Education Officer in Religious Education and Spirituality for Catholic Schools, the three-day weekend was a time of profound personal renewal.

"The Diocesan pilgrimage was a deeply spiritual experience for me. I was drawn to participate as a way of slowing down, reconnecting with my faith, and being present with others on a similar journey," she said.

"The beautiful Masses, shared Rosary, and moments of quiet reflection were truly a wonderful experience.

"One of the most memorable moments for me was the final destination, Murrurundi... to be blessed with two baptisms during the Mass – there could have been no more fitting end to our pilgrimage than celebrating the welcoming of these two children into the family of the Catholic Church," she shared.

Trish Barnes, a parishioner who also made the complete journey

to the eight sites, was moved by the connection to her family's roots.

"Three days, seven churches and a chapel, 850km, good company, various liturgies and wonderful hospitality! I'm so glad we took the opportunity to do this.

"Many thanks to the Mission and Evangelisation team for coordinating this pilgrimage and to all the communities that welcomed and looked after us.

"The highlight for me was Murrurundi, because this was also a pilgrimage to family roots. This was where my maternal great grandparents spent some years raising their many children. They would have worshipped at St Joseph's in the late 1800s and into the 1900s and received many sacraments there. My great aunt was laid to rest in the graveyard beside the church in 1909, aged 12," she said.

The pilgrimage also allowed participants to collect stamps in their Pilgrimage Passport, a visual record of their faith journey and a tangible way to affirm their spiritual commitment during this Jubilee Year. With an indulgence on offer through prayer, Eucharist, and acts of mercy, the experience was both profound and purposeful.

The Mission and Evangelisation team thanks all the participating parishes and volunteers who worked tirelessly to bring the pilgrimage to life. Their coordination, hospitality, and generous spirit made the journey not just possible but unforgettable for those in attendance.

As the Jubilee Year continues, all are encouraged to visit the eight local pilgrimage sites at their own pace to deepen their faith and become part of this ongoing spiritual journey. Whether over three days or across many months, each step of the journey brings fresh opportunities for grace, reflection, and connection.

Celebrating the Heart of Our Community: National Volunteer Week 2025

To every volunteer, we say a BIG thank you. Your commitment is deeply valued, and your impact is life-changing for many in the community.

Celebrating the Heart of Our Community: National Volunteer Week 2025

This week marks National Volunteer Week (19–25 May), a time to celebrate and thank the incredible individuals who generously give their time and talents to help others. With the 2025 theme "Connecting Communities," we recognise the vital role volunteers play in strengthening relationships, fostering inclusion, and making a real impact in people's lives.

Across our Diocese, we are lucky to have nearly 5,000 volunteers contribute to our schools, CatholicCare support services, and parishes—bringing compassion, energy, and dedication to every role. Their support is not only appreciated—it is essential. Volunteers help create welcoming environments, provide practical care, and support our mission to serve all.

Hear from Fr Greg Barker in our [video message](#), offering his heartfelt thanks to volunteers across the Diocese and acknowledging the passion and selflessness they bring to their work.

A range of events were held around the Diocese in the coming days and weeks to celebrate our volunteers. Whether preparing meals, supporting students, or offering a listening ear, each act of service helps to build a stronger, more connected community.

To every volunteer, we say a BIG thank you. Your commitment is deeply valued, and your impact is life-changing for many in the community.

If you're inspired to give back and want to explore volunteering, [visit here](#) to find out more.



SUNDAY PRAYER SERVICE

Sixth Sunday of Easter Year C Sunday 25 May 2025

The Introductory Rites

Gathering

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

A short hymn might be sung.

Sign of the Cross

Leader:

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

All:

Amen.

Greeting

Leader:

Blessed be Jesus 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

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 ask us to keep your word: Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, your Spirit lives among us: Christ, have mercy.

All: Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you give us the gift of peace: 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.

Almighty God,
may the joy of the risen Lord
bring us unity and peace.
Send your Spirit into our hearts
and help us to remember
everything that Jesus has taught us.
We make this prayer through Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
for ever and ever.
Lord Jesus,
as the Father loves you,
so you have loved us.
May we remain in your love
and follow your commandments.
We make this prayer through
our Risen Lord Jesus.

All:

Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

Acts of the Apostles 15:1-2. 22-29

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

It has been decided by the Holy Spirit and ourselves not to burden you beyond what is essential.

Some men came down from Judaea and taught the brothers, 'Unless you have yourselves circumcised in the tradition of Moses you cannot be saved.' This led to disagreement, and after Paul and Barnabas had had a long argument with these men it was arranged that Paul and Barnabas and others of the church should go up to Jerusalem and discuss the problem with the apostles and elders.

Then the apostles and elders decided to choose delegates to send to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas; the whole church concurred with this. They chose Judas known as Barsabbas and Silas, both leading men in the brotherhood, and gave them this letter to take with them:

'The apostles and elders, your brothers, send greetings to the brothers of pagan birth in Antioch, Syria and Cilicia. We hear that some of our members have disturbed you with their demands and have unsettled your minds. They acted without any authority from us, and so we have decided unanimously to elect delegates and to send them to you with Barnabas and Paul, men we highly respect who have dedicated their lives to the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Accordingly we are sending you Judas and Silas, who will confirm by word of mouth what we have written in this letter. It has been decided by the Holy Spirit and by ourselves not to saddle you with any burden beyond these essentials: you are to abstain from food sacrificed to idols, from blood, from the meat of strangled animals and from fornication. Avoid these, and you will do what is right. Farewell.'

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

The word of the Lord.

All reply:

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 66:2-3. 5-6. 8. R. v.4

(R.) O God, let all the nations praise you!

1. O God, be gracious and bless us
and let your face shed its light upon us.
So will your ways be known upon earth
and all nations learn your saving help. (R.)
2. Let the nations be glad and exult
for you rule the world with justice.
With fairness you rule the peoples,
you guide the nations on earth. (R.)
3. Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.
May God still give us his blessing
till the ends of the earth revere him. (R.)

Second Reading

Revelation 22:12-14. 16-17. 20

A reading from the book of the Apocalypse

I, John, heard a voice speaking to me: 'Very soon now, I shall be with you again, bringing the reward to be given to every man according to what he deserves. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End. Happy are those who will have washed their robes clean, so that they will have the right to feed on the tree of life and can come through the gates into the city.'

I, Jesus, have sent my angel to make these revelations to you for the sake of the churches. I am of David's line, the root of David and the bright star of the morning.

The Spirit and the Bride say, 'Come.' Let everyone who listens answer, 'Come.' Then let all who are thirsty come; all who want it may have the water of life, and have it free.

The one who guarantees these revelations repeats his promise: I shall indeed be with you soon. Amen; come, Lord Jesus.

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.

John 14:23-29

The Holy Spirit will teach you everything and remind you of all I have said to you.

Jesus said to his disciples:

'If anyone loves me he will keep my word,
and my Father will love him,
and we shall come to him
and make our home with him.
Those who do not love me do not keep my words.
And my word is not my own:
it is the word of the one who sent me.
I have said these things to you
while still with you;
but the Advocate, the Holy Spirit,
whom the Father will send in my name,
will teach you everything
and remind you of all I have said to you.
Peace I bequeath to you,
my own peace I give you,
a peace the world cannot give, this is my gift to you.
Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid.
You heard me say:
I am going away, and shall return.
If you loved me you would have been glad to know that I am going
to the Father,
for the Father is greater than I.
I have told you this now before it happens,
so that when it does happen you may believe.'

Reader:

The Gospel of the Lord.

All:

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

All are seated.

Reflection on the Word

A short period of reflection may be observed.

Profession of Faith

Leader:

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

All:

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

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

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting. Amen.

Prayer of the Faithful

Leader: Sisters and brothers, with Christ our gift of peace, let us turn to
God with our intentions.

Reader: That the Holy Church will make Christ's love visible to all
humanity. In your glory:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That world leaders and governments will strive for true peace
and justice. In your glory:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That families, children, grandparents and the elderly, now
being celebrated in the Holy Year, will be cherished in their
families and communities. In your glory:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That, as we celebrate the tenth anniversary of *Laudato Si'*, we
will continue to do all we can to care for our common home,
the earth. In your glory:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That all who are sick will be comforted through God's gracious
blessings. In your glory:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That our Holy Father, Pope Leo, may draw strength from the
Bread of Life and the Word of God throughout his pontificate.
In your glory:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That all who have died will be raised to new life with the Spirit,
especially our loved ones and those from our community. In
your glory:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: God our Father, you give us the greatest gift of love. Hear our
prayers and help us to no longer be troubled or afraid, but to
embrace your gift of peace and remain faithful to your loving
word. 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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