



**St John
Vianney**
Parish Morisset



THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A 02 JULY 2023

The Word of God today speaks to us about a God of surprises.

In the religious culture at the time of Jesus, people were very aware of being from a tribe, clan, or town. Their ancestral heritage was their identity. So in today's Gospel, when we hear Jesus demanding that disciples must love him over their parents, he was entering into their religious identity, not just their family life.

Immigrants who receive Australian citizenship, take the Naturalization Oath of Allegiance. Today, Jesus gives us a more simplified yet challenging version of his requirements for discipleship, our Christian citizenship, as it were. Our Christian ID card contains not our blood type, and nationality, but the mark of our love and service to others.

Have we ever considered that being a Christian may cost us something? Perhaps we've never asked, or had to ask the question.



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)
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 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	1st July 5pm Family Mass— Morisset
Sunday	2nd July 9.30am Mass— Morisset
Saturday	8th July 5pm Mass— Cooranbong
Sunday	9th July 9.30am Mass— Morisset
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

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Reflection for THIRTEENTH Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A — 2nd July 2023

Today's Gospel presents to us, in no uncertain terms, the necessary obligations to become true disciples of Jesus. We are made aware of the CHALLENGES on the road set before us -but also -the REWARDS of true discipleship that are awaiting those who answer the call.

In Matthew's Gospel - Chapter 10 - there is an alternating pattern of narratives & sermons. Here, today, he describes in great detail, Jesus' instructions to his disciples as they set out on their journeys to spread the Good News in their towns & beyond. He depicts the Christian life as being filled with a sense of expectation, but, importantly, his words are directed NOT just to the Twelve, but to ALL who accept the invitation to follow him & proclaim his Gospel.

They must not allow themselves to hesitate when faced with the opposition, persecution, contradictions and violent reactions their ministry is bound to attract. Confrontation is unavoidable. A Gospel that bothers no one & questions nothing is not the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

There is also a strong sense of Church in this Reading, in fact, the Greek word "ecclesia" only occurs here, thus linking the Church with the Kingdom of God.

So, today, we are invited to hear the Lord's word- act upon his command -& learn to do good in our world, as Jesus did. Certainly, "taking up one's cross" is a step further from doing a pious devotion! We also realise that the cross was an instrument of torture & to a certain degree we must be prepared to undergo ridicule & insult as He & his disciples experienced.

Choosing to "carry our cross" may result in division within our families & society- but this is where Jesus sums it up by saying that the challenging nature of his peace is more like a sword. His wishes are for us to treat everyone, particularly the poor, in the same way we treat our family members.

This in itself can cause a rift because sometimes family members expect to receive our special treatment exclusively & are not always happy to receive "shared attention", but there could be times that we may need to take some extra steps in our commitment to his mission.

These are not easy words to read, or easy things to do, but we live with the expectation given to us & try our best, helped & strengthened by the words so frequently spoken by Jesus. " Do not be afraid I go before you".

Let us always remember the reassuring words spoken to us in today's Gospel - "Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me; and those who welcome me welcome the one who sent me"- THERE IT IS- our inclusion in the Blessed Trinity, the so called "Circle Dance " of the Father, Son & Holy Spirit ! What a privileged status we have been gifted.

He is always leading us, how will we follow him? Not even the smallest gesture , like "a cup of cold water" given in charity will go unnoticed. (Matt 10:37-42)

St Francis of Assisi said the mission of every Christian was to " Preach the Gospel & sometimes even with words

St Mary McKillop said in 1890 "Everything God blesses will prosper". Heather White

Pints with a Purpose: Modern Day Pilgrims

Join us as we engage with a panel of our Pilgrims from across our diocese who are planning to journey into the Holy Land and on to World Youth Day in Lisbon. Who are they? Why are they going? What are their hopes for the journey? Date: Monday 3 of July Time: 6pm Location: Sydney Junction Hotel Please contact Eliza Beletich for any questions. P: 4931 1228 E: eliza.beletich@mn.catholic.org.au

2023 June Parish Pastoral Council Meeting

Items of interest raised at the Parish Pastoral Council meeting during the week.

- The Parish Rental Property at 111 Dora St is finally back in the hands of the Parish. The tenants who had recently attracted the attention of the NSW Police and had not paid rent for some months, after two trips to the 'Tribunal,' were finally evicted with the help of the Sheriff's Office, at the end of last week. The tenants have left the house in a deplorable and uninhabitable condition. The Parish Finance Council will now have to decide on the future of the property.
- With the pending Safeguarding Audit of the Maitland/Newcastle Diocese to be conducted by (NCSS), Parish Leaders were called to a meeting at the Diocesan Offices recently. Those who attended the meeting were informed of the standards that the auditors will be seeking. Parishes are expected to establish a team of people who keep the Parish community informed about issues relating to the protection of children and vulnerable adults and how safeguarding risks are managed.
- The PPC would like to invite parishioners who are interested in promoting Safeguarding in our parish, to please contact any member of the PPC or the parish Office.
- Change of Visitation Date We have received notification from the Bishops Office, that Bishop Michael Kennedy will now only be in our parish on Friday evening 8th September to confer the Sacrament of Confirmation. He will not be presiding at the weekend Masses as previously reported.
- 2023-aMeN Camino We have been notified by Rose Macalister from the Diocese, that two aMeN Camino pilgrimages will pass through our parish at Cooranbong, in 2023. The first date is set for Monday 10th July, and the second date is Monday 7th August. The vision behind the Hunter based Camino is to bring together people from across the diocese including staff and parishioners to take on a physical and spiritual journey surrounded by God's creation. In total, pilgrims walk almost 100km. Along the way they take in sacred Aboriginal sites in the Wattagan and Glenrock national parks. The pilgrims are provided with insightful glimpses into our Diocese's rich history, including Mary MacKillops visit to Cooranbong. If any parishioners can help on Monday 10th July with welcoming and hospitality, please let the office know, the pilgrims are expecting to arrive around 3pm.



Thankyou!!

Last weekend Our Morisset Conference of St. Vincent de-Paul had their Winter Cash Appeal. The cash donations are gratefully received and go to helping needy families in our community!! If you weren't able to contribute last weekend Monica Gray is able to collect your donation this weekend.

Church/Faith Crawl

The Ecumenical and Interfaith Council of the Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle invites you to visit four Newcastle faith communities on Wednesday, 19 July from 9:30am to 3:45pm.

Lunch will be provided by the Salvation Army (\$10 per person). Registration is now open and closes Friday, 14 July. To register, visit www.eventbrite.com.au/e/church-crawl-tickets-648540932387



Celebrating NAIDOC Week 2023

What's our Diocese doing to recognise NAIDOC Week?

This year's NAIDOC Week theme is For Our Elders.

Across every generation, our Elders have played, and continue to play, an important role and hold a prominent place in our communities and families.

They are cultural knowledge holders, trailblazers, nurturers, advocates, teachers, survivors, leaders, hard workers and our loved ones.

How will you celebrate our Elders this year? You are welcome to come along to one of our Diocesan events.

For Our Elders - NAIDOC Week Prayer Service - Sunday 2 July

You are invited to join us for our 2023 NAIDOC Week Prayer Service from 1pm at the Sacred Heart Cathedral. The service will include an official Welcome to Country with Aunty Sandra Griffin, Awabakal Country.

Join with local Elders, including Canon Aunty Di Langham who will lead us through a special reflection. This service is held in collaboration with local Aboriginal and faith communities.

A special water ceremony will take place and guests are asked to bring a small container of water from Country along with them. Refreshments and light meal will be served.

NAIDOC Week - March and Community Festival - Monday 3 July - 9am - 3pm

As part of our continued Reconciliation Action Plan journey, the Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle and CatholicCare Social Services have chosen to sponsor a tent at a community event hosted by Awabakal Ltd. We encourage all staff, volunteers and parishioners to attend and/or volunteer their time at the NAIDOC Week Community March and Festival.

The event starts at 9am in Civic Park, Newcastle with a flag-raising before marching in a procession to Foreshore Park where the Festival takes place from 10am-3pm. There will be lots of entertainment and community services, so it is a great educational event for young and old. Enquiries can be sent to Kate E: kate.crncevic@mn.catholic.org.au or P: 02 4979 1329

An evening with Noel Pearson – Sunday 16 July

From 5pm to 8pm on Sunday 16 July Noel Pearson will host an event at The Factory Threat at St Pius X High School. Listen to Noel's connection to Aboriginal Spirituality, his work on the Uluru Statement from the Heart and The Voice to Parliament. Concluding with a Q&A panel session that will include Noel, Aunty Louise Campbell (Catholic Schools Office) and Aunty Dianne Langham (Anglican Diocese). Register here: <https://NP2023.eventbrite.com.au>

Common Grace, Listen to the Heart, Training Workshop – Tuesday 18 July

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. Optional creative element following the session. Register here: <https://listentotheheart.eventbrite.com.au>

Sea Sunday

Sunday 9th July is Sea Sunday, when the church prays for all those who live and work at sea. Without them, we would not have most of the items we rely on for daily living. Even during the pandemic, seafarers continued to bring into our ports products that sustained our population and economy.

On Wednesday of last week, 9 handmade blankets, made by our Parish 'Wraps with Love' knitters, together with a bag of knitted beanies, were delivered to the Newcastle Seafarers Mission located in Hannell St Wickham.

The Newcastle Mission to Seafarers is an ecumenical (Anglican/Catholic) centre working alongside Stella Maris. The (MTS) cares for the spiritual and practical welfare of seafarers from all races and creeds and their families.

Demand rises at CatholicCare's Community Kitchens

Can you help CatholicCare's Community Kitchens?

ELIZABETH SYMINGTON PUBLISHED JUNE 27, 2023

Demand at CatholicCare's Community Kitchens has doubled in recent months and sadly, the team expects this trend to continue.

As our communities battle the cold of winter and contend with the rising cost of living more people need our help.

Here at CatholicCare, we do all we can to ensure no one is turned away and that everyone is welcomed with food, support, and a smile at our Community Kitchens.

People like Pat*.

Pat has endured a rough ride for the past couple of years. He has been hopping from one situation to another, trying to secure an affordable place he could call home.

When CatholicCare first came to know Pat, he was quite upbeat about his situation and full of confidence that he would soon land on his feet, find a job he enjoyed, and would come to have the means to live a simple and secure life.

He was determined to improve his opportunities for employment by undertaking studies at TAFE but after he completed the course, he applied for one job after another...after another.

Sadly, when the team recently saw him again, they found out that things had not improved for him.

Pat had been reduced to living in his car with a small annex close to a local reserve. Despite his studies at TAFE, and having submitted 30+ applications, he still couldn't secure a job.

But there he was on the Taree Community Kitchen doorstep, trusting that our team would welcome him with a hot meal.

CatholicCare Director Gary Christensen said Pat's story is just one of many the team hears on a daily basis.

"The demand is really picking up," he said.

"So many people are turning to us for support, and we rely on donations from our community and our dedicated volunteers to continue to help them.

"People like Pat deserve a meal, shelter, and support just as much as you and me.

"We're asking others to join with us and help us make a difference by volunteering or gifting a donation to our Kitchens."

If you have a couple of hours to spare or some money or food to donate, we would love to hear from you.

Our Food Programs have also recently expanded to deliver meals to Motto Farm Motel. This food support offers people who have little cooking facilities a hot nutritious meal every Thursday. A tax-deductible gift can help support CatholicCare's Community Kitchens. [Click here for more information.](#)

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	C Tuck H White	P Robertson M Melvey
<u>PSALMIST:</u>	5PM 9.30AM	J France D Peterson	TBA J Hutchins
<u>GIFTS</u>	5PM 9.30AM	P Robertson G Walker J Vipan M Melvey	B Cox J Vipan B Hutcheson A Dussin
<u>SERVERS</u>	5PM 9.30AM	TBA TBA	TBA TBA
<u>AV</u>	5PM 9.30AM	J Vipan D Peterson	J France T Alexanader
<u>SOUND / VIDEO</u>	5PM 9.30AM	R McArdle TBA	J France J France
<u>WELCOMERS</u>	5PM 9.30AM	K Lendon A Sillince J Hutchins K Amon	H White P Stewart A Dussin
<u>CHURCH CLEANING</u>	COOR MOR	XXXX P Stewart	A Dussin A & G Walker

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

THE NATIVITY OF JOHN THE BAPTIST (S)— 24TH JUNE
SAINT IRENAEUS (M)— 28TH JUNE
SAINTS PETER AND PAUL (S)— 29TH JUNE
SAINT THOMAS (F) — 3RD JULY
SAINT BENEDICT (M) — 11TH JULY
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

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

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
Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Year A
Sunday 02 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, if we have died with you, we live with you: Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, you call us to discipleship: Christ, have mercy.

All: Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you are our eternal reward: 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

your son Jesus put his trust in you

and called us to follow in his name.

Help us to walk in the footsteps of Jesus

and in his name,

show kindness to others.

We ask this through Jesus Christ,

for ever and ever.

All:

Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

2 Kgs 4:8-11. 14-16

A reading from the second book of the Kings

That is the holy man of God, let him remain there.

One day as Elisha was on his way to Shunem, a woman of rank who lived there pressed him to stay and eat there. After this he always broke his journey for a meal when he passed that way.

She said to her husband, 'Look, I am sure the man who is constantly passing our way must be a holy man of God. Let us build him a small room on the roof, and put him a bed in it, and a table and chair and lamp; whenever he comes to us he can rest there.'

One day when he came, he retired to the upper room and lay down. 'What can be done for her?' he asked. Gehazi (his servant) answered, 'Well, she has no son and her husband is old.' Elisha said, 'Call her.' The servant called her and she stood at the door. 'This time next year,' Elisha said 'you will hold a son in your arms.'

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

The word of the Lord.

All reply:

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 88:2-3. 16-19. R. v.2

(R.) Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

1. I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord;
through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth.
Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever,
that your truth is firmly established as the heavens. **(R.)**
2. Happy the people who acclaim such a king,
who walk, O Lord, in the light of your face,
who find their joy every day in your name,
who make your justice the source of their bliss. **(R.)**
3. For it is you, O Lord, who are the glory of their strength;
it is by your favour that our might is exalted:
for our ruler is in the keeping of the Lord;
our king in the keeping of the Holy One of Israel. **(R.)**

Second Reading

Rom 6:3-4. 8-11

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Having been buried with him through baptism, we shall walk in a new life.

When we were baptised in Christ Jesus we were baptised in his death; in other words, when we were baptised we went into the tomb with him and joined him in death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the Father's glory, we too might live a new life.

But we believe that having died with Christ we shall return to life with him: Christ, as we know, having been raised from the dead will never die again. Death has no power over him any more. When he died, he died, once for all, to sin, so his life now is life with God; and in that way, you too must consider yourselves to be dead to sin but alive for God in Christ 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 Matthew.

All:

Glory to you, O Lord.

Mt 10:37-42

Anyone who does not accept his cross is not worthy of me. Anyone who welcomes you, welcomes me.

Jesus instructed the Twelve as follows: 'Anyone who prefers father or mother to me is not worthy of me. Anyone who prefers son or daughter to me is not worthy of me. Anyone who does not take his cross and follow in my footsteps is not worthy of me.

Anyone who finds his life will lose it; anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it.

'Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me; and those who welcome me welcome the one who sent me.

'Anyone who welcomes a prophet because he is a prophet will have a prophet's reward; and anyone who welcomes a holy man because he is a holy man will have a holy man's reward.

'If anyone gives so much as a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is a disciple, then I tell you solemnly, he will most certainly not lose his reward.'

Reader:

The Gospel of the Lord.

All:

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

All are seated.

Reflection on the Word

Q. What was your immediate reaction to hearing or reading this passage?

Q. When have you had to choose between conflicting priorities in your life?

Q. How might you 'offer a cup of water' and welcome a disciple who comes in an unlikely form?

Q. How might you discuss these 'hard teachings' of Jesus with a modern audience?

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: Brothers and Sisters, with holy and contrite hearts, let us offer our prayers before the Lord.

Reader: That our Holy Church will be supported in charitable works for the poor and marginalised.
In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That our Holy Father Pope Francis, will be strengthened by the Holy Spirit to proclaim Christ's message clearly and faithfully. In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That those who desire to be parents will be granted the blessings they long for. In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That prophets of our own day will be honoured and God's blessings may descend on those who listen. In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That, as young people around the world prepare for World Youth Day in Lisbon, their parish communities will nurture them as they grow in their faith. In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That the ancient culture and heritage of our First Nations people will be honoured as we celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday. In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That like Elisha, our parish community will live our lives as holy men and women of God and give thanks for the gifts we are given. In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That the sick will find relief from their suffering in the peace of God, 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 live forever in the Lord's goodness, especially those who were members of our community and families. In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Loving God, we long to follow your son Jesus Christ. Hear our prayers and help us to be worthy of Christ by taking up our cross and following him faithfully. 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: The Collect

Praying at Mass isn't just something that the presiding priest undertakes. It is something we are all called to do.

FIONA DUQUE PUBLISHED JUNE 27, 2023

Your Prayer Matters

Praying at Mass isn't just something that the presiding priest undertakes. It is something we are all called to do.

You may have seen the title Opening Prayer at Mass or a liturgy. It is more accurately called 'The Collect'. There is an important reason behind this. It is a significant prayer within our Mass or any Catholic liturgy. So, what is it? What is it for? Before we explore those questions, it helps to reflect deeply on a Collect through the process of Mystagogical Reflection.

Mystagogical Reflection

At its heart Mystagogical Reflection is about helping people to open their eyes, their minds and their hearts to the presence of God who is already with them every moment of every day in all of creation and in every human experience.

Mystagogical questions lean into our experience and the mystery of God.

Before you begin it helps to settle your mind and your heart. Breathe deeply and relax. The following song can assist you - [Sacred Silence](#) by Tom Booth.

The Collect (for the 12th Sunday in Ordinary Time A)

The Priest, with hands joined, says:

Let us pray.

And all pray in silence with the Priest for a while.

Then the Priest, with hands extended, says the Collect prayer,

Grant, O Lord,
that we may always revere and love your holy name,
for you never deprive of your guidance
those you set firm on the foundation of your love.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.
at the end of which the people acclaim:

Amen.

The Process

1. **Encounter:** Read the Collect prayerfully...
2. **Reflection:** What word or phrase captures your attention? What did you experience/feel? What is God revealing to you? How does this relate to your life?
3. **Catechesis:** What are we learning about our Catholic life and faith?
4. **Conversion:** What is Christ asking of you today?

So, now to those questions...

If we look at the word Collect itself, it simply means to be *gathered together* from the Latin 'collecta'. As noted above, before the Collect is prayed it is introduced with a call to pray - '*Let us pray*'. This is a collective instruction. It is for all who are present. What are we being instructed to pray for? The silence draws us to come into God's presence and then be mindful of our intentions as we present them to God. Done well, through active listening and reflecting, it is a moment where the intentions of the heart speak to and with God. Then, God is openly addressed: 'Grant, O Lord'. The following phrases then highlight the importance of God in our lives. For example, in the Collect above it is reminding us that God guides and loves us. Our petition is through our reverence and love of God in the hope that, as we are set on a 'firm foundation of love', God's guidance will not leave us. Through God's love our

prayers will answered. The Collect then concludes with a Trinitarian ending giving glory to God.

The *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* stresses the Collect's importance when it states that it is the Collect "through which the character of the celebration finds expression" (n.54). Therefore, spending time reflecting on the words of any Collect gives us a better interpretation and appreciation of the celebrations purpose. Each Collect has its own particular centre of attention. What is God calling your attention to?

When you next hear 'let us pray', be ready, be present, be attentive. Let God speak to your heart, not just in that moment but throughout the whole celebration.

For more information about Mystagogical Reflection please go to: [Practising Mystagogy](#)

For more information about The Collect please go to: [General Instruction of the Roman Missal \(vatican.va\)](#)



Church leaders in Australia welcome Synod working document

As the Church approaches the first session of the forthcoming Synod of Bishops, Australian Catholics are being encouraged to continue their engagement with the global synodal journey through prayer, ongoing discernment and local conversations.

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE PUBLISHED JUNE 27, 2023

On Tuesday evening, the Secretariat of the Synod published the *Instrumentum Laboris*, or working document, for the first session of the XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops – commonly referred to as the Synod on Synodality.

The first session will take place this October; the second and final session is scheduled for October 2024. Archbishop Timothy Costelloe SDB, president of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference and a member of the Synod's preparatory commission, said it had been an extraordinary process to get to this point, with Catholics across the world helping shape the working document.

"Countless people have invested their hopes, their prayer, their time and their energy in helping the entire people of God consider how we can share in the mission entrusted by God to the Church," he said.

"This is the latest, and an enormously significant, milestone in a journey which has spanned several years. It represents both an invitation and an opportunity to remain engaged in prayer, reflection and ongoing discernment with all that has emerged so far in what has been an unprecedented worldwide consultation."

Archbishop Costelloe stressed that it will be important, as the Church in Australia is currently doing with the fruits of the Fifth Plenary Council of Australia, to consider deeply how the wisdom gathered through this synodal process can be applied in a local setting.

"The unfolding of the synodal journey will offer our dioceses, parishes, schools and other ministries a precious opportunity to consider how they might better carry out in contemporary Australia the mission entrusted to them by the Lord," he said.

"The three central themes for this Synod of Bishops – communion, mission and participation – remain at the heart of this document. We are being invited to adopt them as a fundamental lens through which we can evaluate all we are doing."

National Synod of Bishops coordinator Trudy Dantis said additional resources will be produced in the coming weeks to help the faithful support the ongoing journey.

"In Australia, we have had the benefit of the Plenary Council in coming to better understand these paths of prayer, discernment and, eventually, decision-making," said Dr Dantis, who is director of the National Centre for Pastoral Research.

"We will be encouraging people to take part in a prayer pilgrimage in the weeks leading up to the first general assembly in October, at which we will have several Australian bishops, as well as lay people, present.

"Our national Synod committee will provide material to help groups that have already been formed around the country continue their efforts to see how a synodal Church can be lived out in their context."

The 15 worksheets that are part of the *Instrumentum Laboris*, and which will guide the work of the Synod assembly in October, will also be useful for local Catholic conversations, Dr Dantis said.

Archbishop Patrick O'Regan and Bishop Shane Mackinlay will attend the Synod of Bishops as the two delegates of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference. Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP will also participate as a member of the Ordinary Council of the Secretariat of the Synod.

Ten other representatives from the Oceania region will also attend the Synod, with those participants expected to be announced in the coming weeks.

Visit the Bishops Conference's Synod of Bishops website for more information: www.catholic.org.au/synodalchurch