

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.

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD YEAR C SUNDAY 01 JUNE 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:

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recommended*).

For Urgent Anointing of the Sick

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Facebook : [https://www.facebook.com/
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Instagram : [https://www.instagram.com/
stjvparish_morisset/](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	31st May 5pm Mass—Morisset
Sunday	1st June 9.30am Mass—Morisset
Tuesday	3rd June 9.30am Mass—Morisset
Saturday	7th June 5pm Mass—Cooranbong
Sunday	8th June 9.30am Mass—Morisset
Tuesday	10th June 9.30am Mass—Morisset

Dear Parish Family,

*You will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but
throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.*

As a student in the seminary, I was required to teach religion classes in the local state primary school at Manly. One day, I was teaching a class of year fours, and I asked them to draw for me a picture of what the Ascension might look like. Well, most of them did a fairly conventional portrait of Jesus rising up on a cloud or just rising up. However, I remember one of the students, who was a particularly gifted artist, he had Jesus blasting off into the sky with Jesus holding on to a rocket. On the side of the rocket, it had NASA. I asked why a rocket, and he said..."Jesus had a long way to go"!

Since Easter we have been reflecting upon our life, in light of the resurrection and what it means to us. Over the last Sunday's, our gospels had Jesus at the last supper reflecting upon going home and trying to comfort his disciples by talking about the coming of the advocate, the Holy Spirit. He reflected upon the gifts of love and peace and how wondrous but also challenging these gifts are if we are to live these in the world. Now he talks about witnessing to the truth – *not many days from now, (you) will be baptised with the Holy Spirit*. A baptism that will help, guide and shape the church to proclaim and be the good news to the end of earth and until the end of time.

The author of the gospel of Luke is also the author of the Acts of the Apostles ...this weekend's gospel and first reading. We could say, as one book ends, the other begins as the gospel finishes with Jesus' Ascension and Acts begins with the story of the Ascension. It highlights the life of the disciples after the Ascension and Pentecost telling the story of spreading the good news even further than Jesus was able to do in his earthly life. The Acts of the Apostles really doesn't end at Acts 28.31 (that's the end of that book) because that's all that was recorded. Why? The Acts continues in the same ministry carried on by millions of people just like you and me throughout time and place.

As we conclude Reconciliation Week, the opportunity for reconciliation never ends as we are challenged by the Spirit in the call to love, peace and truth. Reconciliation takes place when we sit at table together, when we listen and not just hear, when we love and are loved, when we bring peace and experience peace, when we forgive and are forgiven. We have come a long way, we can't change our past, but we can acknowledge its hurts and pain and make a better present and future. As Pope St John Paul II once said to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities: *You are part of Australia and Australia is part of you. And the Church herself in Australia will not be fully the Church that Jesus wants her to be until you have made your contribution to her life and until that contribution has been joyfully received by others.*

As we approach Pentecost next weekend....we will hold our Gifting Sunday asking for you to put up your hand to support the various ministries within our parishes. As St Peter writes....*Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. (1 Peter 4:10)* What gift am I already gifting to our community or what could I gift? As we pray come Holy Spirit come.

Have a great week everyone.....

Fr Darryl Mackie

Parish Priest

National Reconciliation Week

This week marks National Reconciliation Week (27 May – 3 June), a time for all Australians to come together, reflect on the lessons of the past, and continue advancing towards a shared, hopeful future.

Gifting Sunday

Next Sunday, Pentecost Sunday, – the day when we celebrate the many gifts that are given to each one of us to enrich the Church. On that Sunday, we will hold 'Gifting Sunday', where we will be asking for volunteers to help and support the various ministries within our parish. What gift am I already gifting to our community or what could I gift?

Collections

During COVID some of our practices had to change and one such are the collections. Collection plates have been reintroduced.

The first collection at the offertory time and the second collection once everyone has received Holy Communion.

The first collection goes towards supporting the diocese clergy to pay their stipend, private health insurance and superannuation contribution.

The second collection goes towards supporting the running of the parish and maintenance of parish properties which includes our secretary, electricity, insurance, presbytery, parish churches, parish offices and the running of the priest's cars, phones etc! The "Tap n Go" machines will continue to remain in operation

Easy Access Ramp.

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

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,. 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

Sr Loretta Baker RSJ will facilitate the Assembly.

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.

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 Hear

Grade 5 children at St Joseph's primary school were in an RE class learning about saints and martyrs.

The teacher told them only people who had done extraordinary things during their lifetime, could be considered for sainthood.

The teacher then handed out a questionnaire about the Bible. The children had 30 minutes to write their answers. The next day, and with half-a-smile, the teacher read out some of the more interesting responses.

Adam and Eve were created from an apple tree.

Noah's wife was called Joan of Ark.

Noah built an ark which the animals walked onto in pairs.

Moses led the Hebrews to the Red Sea, where they made unleavened bread which is bread without ingredients.

The Egyptians were all drowned in the dessert. Afterwards Moses climbed Mount Cyanide to get the 10 Amendments. The seventh commandment is thou shalt not admit adultery.

The greatest miracle in the Bible is when Joshua told his son to stand still and he obeyed him.

David was a Hebrew king skilled at playing the liar. He fought with the Finkelsteins, a race of people who lived in Biblical times.

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.


New Director of Schools for Maitland-Newcastle

We are pleased to announce the appointment of Jacqueline Wilkinson as Director of Schools for Maitland-Newcastle.

With over 35 years of experience in Catholic education within our Diocese, Jacqui is a passionate, skilled, and highly experienced educational leader. She is known for her ability to communicate effectively, build trust with students, teachers, and communities, inspire others, and remain positive even in the face of challenges.

Since January 2024, Jacqui has been an integral member of the Catholic Schools leadership team; first as Assistant Head of Catholic Schools, then Head of Catholic Schools, and for the last three months, Acting Director of Catholic Schools.

With a strong Catholic faith, Jacqui is deeply motivated to share and witness the Good News of Jesus Christ. This is evident in both her personal and professional life, and her mission is clear: to ensure that every student in every school is known and valued, supported to thrive in a rich and challenging learning environment, and nurtured in their faith.

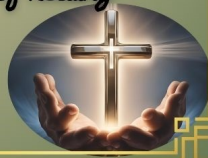
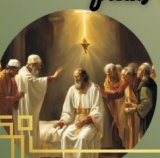
**St John Vianney Parish Morisset**

Invites you to an

ANOINTING MASS

ON TUESDAY 17TH JUNE 2025
AT 09.30AM IN
ST JOHN VIANNEY CHURCH
60 YAMBO ST MORISSET
FOLLOWED BY A CUPPA

*an anointing with the "Oil of the Sick" for the sick,
frail, elderly or anyone in need of healing*



Volunteers for Vinnies

Can you spare 2 hours a fortnight to help the needy?
Ask to see Juliet or Daphne for more information.

MacKillop Parish Faith Talks - Presented by Dr Robert Haddad

Do you want to grow deeper in your knowledge of the Catholic Faith? MacKillop Parish presents Faith Talks by Dr Robert Haddad who is a renowned Catholic apologist, author and international guest speaker. Dr Haddad is thrilled to come to Newcastle from Sydney to present a series of three especially chosen faith talks for this Jubilee year. You are most welcome to come to this free event.

Friday, June 13

Talk 1: The Jubilee of Hope 2025- How can we benefit?

Time: 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm (Doors open at 6:30pm)

Saturday, June 14

Talk 2: How the early Church was Catholic

Time: 11:00am-12.30pm (Doors open at 10:30am)

Talk 3: We have seen His Glory- How God is always among us

Time: 2:00pm-3.30pm

Venue: Function Room at St Mary of the Cross Parish, 7 Milson Street Charlestown.

For further information or for help registering please contact Yvone Rego - 0450 323 206

Formation Friday – What does it mean to have an Augustinian Pope?

Fri 6 June 2025 – 1pm

In Person or via Zoom meet with other community members in the Diocesan Resource Centre Library for a chance to reflect and discuss the Augustinian order that has shaped our new Pope Leo XIV. Bookings: <https://forms.office.com/r/Y3OLiPgYLg>

Storytime @ the Diocesan Resource Centre

Fri 6 June 2025 – 10am

Suitable for 3–5-year-olds. Bookings call Mary on 0409 033 449

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.maitland-newcastle.catholic.edu.au/aMen-caMiNo)

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.yar25.eventbrite.com.au) or the [Diocesan website's Events](https://www.maitland-newcastle.catholic.edu.au) page, or email: mission@mn.catholic.org.au with any queries.

Plant Hope with Red Cedar Trees

To recognise 10 years of Laudato Si, we're giving you the opportunity to help heal the planet and give hope to others by planting one or more red cedar trees across the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle. With thanks to the Tighes Hill Community Garden, St Benedict's Inner Newcastle Catholic Parish and the Sisters of St Joseph, Lochinvar you can reserve, receive and plant your tree now click on the following link- [Laudato Si – Plant Hope with Red Cedar Trees - Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle](https://www.maitland-newcastle.catholic.edu.au/laudato-si-plant-hope-with-red-cedar-trees)

NAIDOC Week Prayer Service

Sunday 6 July – 1:30 for 2pm

Sacred Heart Cathedral will host the NAIDOC Week Prayer Service celebrating the theme "The Next Generation: Strength, Vision & Legacy". This is the 50th year of NAIDOC Week and will feature the burial of a time capsule, a symbolic gesture preserving this legacy for generations to come. For more information and to register visit 2025 [NAIDOC Week Prayer Service - Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle](https://www.maitland-newcastle.catholic.edu.au/naidoc-week-prayer-service)

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

THE 59th WORLD DAY OF SOCIAL COMMUNICATIONS

Share with gentleness the hope that is in your hearts (cf. 1 Pet 3:15-16)

The late Pope Francis started his message with "Too often today, communication generates not hope, but fear and despair, prejudice and resentment, fanaticism and even hatred. All too often it simplifies reality in order to provoke instinctive reactions; it uses words like a razor; it even uses false or artfully distorted information to send messages designed to agitate, provoke or hurt." and asks us to "Try to promote a communication that can heal the wounds of our humanity. Be witnesses and promoters of a non-aggressive communication; help to spread a culture of care, build bridges and break down the visible and invisible barriers of the present time. Tell stories steeped in hope, be concerned about our common destiny and strive to write together the history of our future. All this you can do, and we can do, with God's grace, which the Jubilee helps us to receive in abundance." You can read his full message at: [LIX World Communications Day, 2025 - Share with gentleness the hope that is in your hearts \(cf. 1 Pet 3:15-16\) | Francis](https://www.vatican.va/holy_father/francis/messages/communion_en/2025/06/20250618_message_world_day_communications_en.html)



SUPPORTING THE CLERGY / 1st Collection

If you would like to make contributions to support the priest's monthly stipend, private health insurance and superannuation contribution.

Please do so at Mass in the First Plate or electronically using the Online Payments button on the Parish Website Home page, or by Electronic Funds Transfer Bank Account Name: Morisset Parish Presbytery BSB: 066739 No: 100004062 Ref: SURNAME.

SUPPORTING OUR PARISH / 2nd Collection

If you would like to make contributions to support our parish operating costs such as insurance, utilities, telecommunications, general maintenance and upkeep of the church, presbytery, buildings and parish property. As well as parish pastoral programs, parish staff salaries including superannuation, the car expenses for the priest(s) in the parish and the Cathedralricum (contribution) to the bishop towards the costs of running the diocese (10%).

Please do so at Mass via the Second Plate, the Tap n Go machines or by Parish Electronic Funds Transfer the details are: Account Name: Morisset Parish Church BSB:066739 Account Number: 100004064 please use one of the following Payment References PG# + SURNAME or SURNAME you can also use the Online Payments or Planned Giving button on the Parish Website Home page. Receipts can only be provided to those who are registered for planned giving.

If you would like to contribute via Direct Debit for either or both collections contact the Parish Office.

WEEKEND ROSTERS

		<u>THIS WEEK</u>	<u>NEXT WEEK</u>
<u>PRESIDERS</u>	5PM 9.30AM	Mass Mass	Mass Mass
<u>PROCLAIMERS:</u>	5PM 9.30AM	J Parkins G Whalen	D Peterson H White
<u>PSALMIST:</u>	5PM 9.30AM	D Joyce L Hutchinson	J Foo R Hay
<u>GIFTS</u>	5PM 9.30AM	M Melvey H White	J Parkins K London
<u>SERVERS</u>	5PM 9.30AM	J Foo R & C Lawandos	L Hutchinson M Melvey
<u>AV</u>	5PM 9.30AM	M Foo E Lawandos	J Vipan M Fitzgerald
<u>WELCOMERS</u>	5PM 9.30AM	A Dussin K London	J France J Hutchins
<u>CHURCH CLEANING</u>	COOR MOR	XXXX K London	TBA A Walker G Walker



UPCOMING FEAST DAYS MEMORIALS AND SOLEMNITIES

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

SAINT NORBERT (OM) - 6TH JUNE

PENTECOST— 8TH JUNE

THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, MOTHER OF THE CHURCH—9TH 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.

Recently Deceased: Felix Melinz

Remembrance: Tricia Styles



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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LITURGY MATTERS: Fostering community

By Fiona Duque

In the opening paragraph of Sacrosanctum Concilium (Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, 1963), it frames for us what is important in our liturgies; that the 'household of the Church' needs to 'foster whatever can promote union among all who believe in Christ' (n. 1). The way I read this is that whenever we come together as the faithful - and not even then if we are truly to live out our baptismal calling of being sacramentally bound in unity linking all the baptised - we come together as a family, one household.

Having grown up with two brothers and a middle child, I understand that sometimes this union that is called for can be challenging. But if we begin to look at each other as family, maybe we can try and come together as a community of faith that we are called to be.

Let's look at the Mass – the liturgy above all liturgies. A couple of years ago I wrote an article titled 'Go Forth the Mass is Ended'.

I wrote:

"If we are not full, conscious, and active participants in the liturgy we will not take away the nourishment from the table of God. To be sent into the world as Jesus has commissioned us to, we need this nourishment to be the Body of Christ, our vocation to bring his message to others in our daily lives (cf. Catechism of the Catholic Church (2000), n. 1332). Pope Francis, in his message for World Mission Day 2022, also emphasises this call to mission in response to the dismissal:

Christ's Church will continue to "go forth" towards new geographical, social and existential horizons, towards "borderline" places and human situations, in order to bear witness to Christ and His love to men and women of every people, culture and social status." (n.3)."

In the corporate world they have standard operating procedures and these SOPs assist in ensuring consistency, enhanced quality and streamlined workflow. This language clearly does not work for the Mass, but the ideas do.

They help people stay focused on their mission and avoid unnecessary confusion.

In a similar way, the Church, guided by the Holy Spirit, has given us a sacred structure in the celebration of the Mass. The Order of the Mass—from the Penitential Rite to the Liturgy of the Word, and from the Eucharistic Prayer to the final blessing—is not just a routine. It is a sacred rhythm, a spiritual SOP, if you will, that draws us deeper into communion with God and with one another.

Just as SOPs in business help teams stay aligned with their goals, the structure of the Mass helps us stay aligned with Christ. It ensures that every celebration, whether in a grand cathedral or a humble chapel, is united in purpose, reverent in spirit, and rich in grace. Sacrosanctum Concilium uses the term 'norms'. One norm that I want to share here is this:

"Therefore no other person (other than the bishop – not even a priest), may add, remove, or change anything in the liturgy..." (n. 22.3).

Therefore, let us be mindful of each other, those assembled. Let us not take this structure for granted. Instead, let us enter into it with hearts full of faith, knowing that in this holy 'order', we encounter the living God. Let us not bring anything into the Mass that may cause disunity. Let us not turn Mass into just an inward devotional service, focused on what we want, and our desires. Let us all be full, active, conscious participants together, united in Christ's call on our lives as the Body of Christ.

Planting seeds of faith: The impact of Special Religious Education

By Elizabeth Symington

"SRE is such a beautiful ministry, in giving up some of your time you will receive so much joy and go on your own journey of faith as you see the Gospel through different eyes."

In classrooms across our Diocese, a dedicated group of volunteers is quietly shaping the faith journeys of children in public schools through our Special Religious Education program (SRE).

It's something that has been running for many years in the Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle with links as far back as the 1860s.

A countless number of young people have taken part with thousands of volunteers teaching lessons over the decades.

Now, SRE sits with the Mission & Evangelisation team with 70 volunteers and more than 1,000 children receiving weekly lessons.

"SRE, sometimes known as Scripture, involves volunteers going into state schools and teaching religion to students, spreading the good news of God's love to all children," Children's Ministry Partner Nicki Graham said.

"In our program we mostly teach Catholic children, but we also have a few combined classes where we teach children of multiple faiths.

"For many children, this is the only opportunity they have to receive a religion lesson.

"I think we're incredibly lucky that we have wonderful Catholic schools, but we also have to remember that there are many, many children in state schools who are Catholic or Christian whose parents want them to still learn and know about Jesus."

SRE teachers were recently recognised in NSW Parliament for their good work – Nicki says this is a great sign of support for SRE.

"We are very fortunate to still be teaching in NSW as we are currently the only state that is allowing teachers to go in and teach SRE during school time and this recognition shows that we have support from the government," Nicki said.

"It sends a message to the community that SRE is a valuable and vital part of a child's formation and their wellbeing."

Nicki added that she wants to thank all of our existing volunteers for the part they play in our program.

"Thank you for sharing the joy of the gospel with the children," she said.

"Thank you for the love, the laughter and the creativity that you give to these children –without your dedication and passion for this ministry, so many children may never know how much they are truly loved and cared for by God."

Nicki encourages anyone who is interested in becoming an SRE teacher to reach out.

"It is such a beautiful ministry, in giving up some of your time you will receive so much joy and go on your own journey of faith as you see the Gospel through different eyes," she said.

"The Diocese provides all of the training and resources that volunteers need to be able to go into state schools and teach."

"You will be supported every step of the way."

Learn more by visiting <https://mn.catholic.org.au/catholic-life/live/special-religious-education/> or emailing mision@mn.catholic.org.au

Join us for the Called & Gifted Discernment Process

We are excited during the Jubilee Year to launch the Called & Gifted Discernment Process in the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle.

The process is designed to help Christians discern the presence of charisms in their lives. Charisms, or spiritual gifts, are special abilities given to all Christians by the Holy Spirit to give them power both to represent Christ and to be a channel of God's goodness for people.

Discerning charisms communally enables parishes to thrive on the gifts of its people. Far from being "just another program", this is a whole new way to look at our parishes. When charisms are discerned and understood, community members feel empowered, valued and they develop a sense of belonging.

The Called & Gifted™ Discernment Process has been used since 1993 by over 200,000 lay, ordained, and religious Catholics and other Christians around the world and has been incredibly successful in a number of Catholic Dioceses across Australia. The Bishops Commission for Evangelisation, Laity and Ministry will release a national statement on charisms in coming months reinforcing our Diocesan commitment to mission and evangelisation into the future.

Mission & Evangelisation is working directly with the Catherine of Siena Institute to offer the Called & Gifted Discernment Process this year. The process will be facilitated online by professionally trained practitioners based in the USA. In the future, a home-grown team will be trained to lead the process face-to-face at a local level.

The process is broken into three sections:

Part One: During the Called & Gifted™ workshop, you will take the Catholic Spiritual Gifts Inventory. (4 Tuesday evenings 10 June – 1 July 7.30pm-9.00pm)

You will learn:

- The role of every Catholic and of the local parish in the mission of the Church to the world.
- The critical role of charisms in the life and service of other lay Catholics and in the life of the parish or Christian community.
- The signs and characteristics of 24 common charisms.
- How discerning and using your charisms can change your life and the life of others, your Parish, and the world.

Part Two: After going through the introductory Called & Gifted workshop and taking the Catholic Spiritual Gifts Inventory, the second step is to have a one-hour personal gifts interview.

Experienced, CSI-trained gifts interviewers can help you:

- Look at your inventory results
- Listen to your experiences of being used by God
- Recognise patterns in your life that may indicate the presence of a charism
- Choose one charism to discern
- Find a way to "experiment" with that gift in the context of your real life
- Answer your personal questions about specific charisms or discernment

Part Three: Discernment in Depth (4 Tuesday evenings 29 July – 9 September 7.30pm-9.00pm)

- Going through the initial workshop and having an interview is all preparation for the real work of discernment. This can be done on your own or in a small group.
- You will now put into practice what you have learned about discernment. You will pick one charism to "experiment with" (two hours a week for a minimum of 6 – 8 weeks) – and

see what God does!

- There will be opportunities to share your reflections with others.

This will be a significant investment in the people of our Diocese as we grow our confidence in living and sharing our faith with others. Clergy too are strongly encouraged to participate. This is a unique opportunity to journey together as a Diocese and will begin following Pentecost. It is critical that participants are aware of, and fully commit to, the three-part process that involves workshops, a personal interview and in-depth sessions about using our gifts in the world. We will seek to bring the full cohort together face-to-face for reflection a couple of times along the way.

For more information and to express your interest, go to: <https://mn.catholic.org.au/event/register-for-the-called-gifted-program/>

Supporting ourselves and each other through ongoing Natural Disasters

Psychologist and Executive Manager at The Rosewood Centre, Kelly Pavan, highlights the importance of recognising natural emotional responses and seeking support to maintain mental wellbeing while many people across our Diocese face ongoing flood conditions.

Over the past several years, our communities have been deeply affected by a relentless series of natural disasters – bushfires, floods, and severe weather events. For many living in places like Taree and across the broader Hunter and Mid-Coast regions, these events have not been isolated. Instead, they have arrived in waves, one after another – often before the last recovery efforts were fully complete. Alongside these challenges, the community has also weathered the far-reaching impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, with its own health, economic, and social implications, further straining our collective resilience. The cumulative toll of these events has affected not only our homes and livelihoods, but also our sense of safety and emotional wellbeing.

If you're finding yourself feeling exhausted, overwhelmed, or even numb – know that this is a completely natural response. It is common for people to experience grief, anger, sadness, and confusion after traumatic events.

When we go through highly stressful or frightening experiences, our brains shift into survival mode. The part of the brain responsible for detecting danger – the amygdala – becomes more active, while the areas that help us think clearly and process emotions can become less responsive. This can make it harder to concentrate, sleep, or regulate our feelings. You might also find yourself re-experiencing the emotional impact of previous events, even as you face new challenges. These reactions aren't a sign of weakness – they're the brain's way of trying to keep us safe. Understanding this can help us respond to ourselves and others with more compassion and patience during difficult times. Some people might feel emotionally flooded, while others might feel disconnected or even guilty for not being more affected. All of these reactions are valid. Everyone copes in different ways and can experience their responses at different times.

In the face of such ongoing adversity, it's more important than ever to care for ourselves and look out for one another. At: [Supporting ourselves and each other through ongoing Natural Disasters - Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle](#) are some simple Psychological First Aid strategies you can use to support yourself during difficult times, as well as suggestions for how to help others who may be struggling.



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 are the way to the Father: Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you clothe us with power from on high: Christ, have mercy.

All: Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, your message goes out to all nations: Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Leader:

May almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us our sins,
and bring us to everlasting life.

All:

Amen.

Opening Prayer

Leader:

Let us pray.

All pause for silent prayer.

God in heaven,
we are happy and thankful
that Jesus has ascended to you in glory
for he is our hope.
May we always carry Christ in our hearts
and proclaim the Good News to all.
We make this prayer through Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,

All:

Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

Acts of the Apostles 1:1-11

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Why are you standing here looking into the sky? Jesus has been taken into heaven.

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is,' he had said, 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.' Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.' As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

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

The word of the Lord.

All reply:

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 46:2-3. 6-7. 8-9. R. v.6

(R.) God mounts his throne to shouts of joy:
a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

1. All peoples, clap your hands,
cry to God with shouts of joy!
For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear,
great king over all the earth.
2. God goes up with shouts of joy;
the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.
Sing praise for God, sing praise,
sing praise to our king, sing praise.
3. God is king of all the earth.
Sing praise with all your skill.
God is king over the nations;
God reigns on his holy throne.

Second Reading

Ephesians 1:17-23

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

He made Jesus to sit at his right hand in heaven.

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet, and made him, as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

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 **Luke**.

All:

Glory to you, O Lord.

Luke 24:46-53

While blessing them, he was taken to heaven.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You see how it is written that the Christ would suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that, in his name, repentance for the forgiveness of sins would be preached to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses to this. 'And now I am sending down to you what the Father has promised. Stay in the city then, until you are clothed with the power from on high.' Then he took them out as far as the outskirts of Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. Now as he blessed them, he withdrew from them and was carried up to heaven. They worshipped him and then went back to Jerusalem full of joy; and they were continually in the Temple praising God.

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: Brothers and sisters, with Christ ascended into heaven, let us bring our prayers to the Lord.

Reader: That the Holy Church will continue to bear witness to the Gospel with grace and courage. In your glory:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That, on this World Communications Sunday, we pray that all will heed the call to share with truth and gentleness the hope that is in their hearts. In your glory:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That young Christians will turn to God for strength, remembering that Jesus is at their side at all times. In your glory:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That, in this week of prayer for Christian unity, we will celebrate what we have in common with others and work towards building a culture of harmony, joy, peace and justice. In your glory:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That all who are sick will be strengthened by God's abundant mercy, especially our loved ones. In your glory:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That everyone who has died will ascend to glory with Christ our Saviour, especially our loved ones. In your glory:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: God our Father, your Son is with you, at your right hand.
Hear our prayers and help us to glorify the work of our Saviour now enthroned in glory, through prayer, word and actions. 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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