



**St John  
Vianney**  
Parish Morisset



**OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE SUNDAY 21 NOVEMBER 2021**

*Today's feast of Christ the King enables us to once again, consider our role in the world and Christ's kingship over us and all creation.*

*In doing so, it attempts to emphasise the kind of kingship that Jesus represents ... a kingship that redefines what true authority in this world really is. It's a kingship that refuses all of the riches common to leaders of the world. It's a kingship that uses language like mercy and forgiveness. It's a kingship that can be summarized in one word: servanthood.*

*Jesus proclaimed that the kingdom of God, the governance of God, is here and now. It is not our place to put it off. It is our task to find it, to encourage it and to implement it. Everywhere. Even among impoverished people? Yes.*

*The kingdom is wherever God's will is done on earth as it is in heaven.*



We Acknowledge the traditional owners of this land the Awabakal Peoples. And pay our respects to the elders past and present, and any that may be with us today.

**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 & Juliet Hutchins	Sat & Sun Tues

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

**PRIEST SUPERVISOR:** Fr Geoff Mulhearn

**SACRAMENTAL PRIEST:** Fr John Purnell

**Parish Secretary:** Mrs Rosanna Suckling Mon— Fri 9am-2pm

**OFFICE:** 60 Yambo Street, Morisset, PO Box 87,  
**Office Hours:** 9.00 am to 2.00pm—Monday to Friday  
**Ph:** 02 4973.6859, Fax 02 4973.2937

**Morisset Parish email:** [morparish@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:morparish@mn.catholic.org.au)

**Parish Leadership Team Email:** [morparishplt@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:morparishplt@mn.catholic.org.au)

**Morisset Parish Web site:** [www.vianneymorisset.org](http://www.vianneymorisset.org)

**Morisset Parish Facebook :** <https://www.facebook.com/stjvparish>

**Morisset Parish Instagram :** [https://www.instagram.com/stjvparish\\_morisset/](https://www.instagram.com/stjvparish_morisset/)

**Morisset Parish Bulletin Items:** [morparish@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:morparish@mn.catholic.org.au)

**Morisset Parish Presbytery:** Ph: 02 4973 1537

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

**Email the Parish Office to Subscribe for an Electronic Bulletin .**

**UPCOMING WORSHIP TIMES :**

Sunday 21st November 9.30am

Mass— Morisset

Sunday 28th November 9.30am

Mass— Morisset

**Register your place via the Book for Services button on the Parish Website, or the Eventbrite App or Website:**

<http://vianneymorisset.eventbrite.com>.

**PARISH OFFICE**

Due to the current COVID restrictions **YOU NEED** to make an appointment to come to the office.

**CHECK-IN**

Everyone is required to check-in via a QR Code when they come to the Church, Office or Callinan Centre.

**MASKS**

Everyone over the age of 12 is required to wear a Mask that covers the nose and mouth indoors or while waiting to come inside.

**BISHOP BILL FUNERAL**

The Parish will be live streaming the Funeral which is on Wed 24th Nov at 10.30am. Only **Fully Vaccinated People** can attend. Book through Eventbrite by 12pm Tuesday.

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## **REFLECTION FOR FEAST OF CHRIST THE KING**

This Sunday we celebrate the Feast of Christ the King, and it is the last Sunday in the Church's 2021 liturgical year.

The Feast of Christ the King was established by Pope Pius XI in 1925 as a spiritual weapon against what was considered at the time, destructive forces of the age, increasing atheism and secularisation.

Even though we celebrate Jesus as king, we must recognize that he was not a king, according to the ways of the world. His was a kingdom concerned with truth and life, holiness and grace, justice, love, and peace.

The 'kingdom' was in fact the central theme of Jesus' teaching. His way of communicating to his followers was the gospel values, that would counteract the evils in society and lead them to understand God's love and to enjoy happiness in this life and the next. Jesus was no ordinary man. He went out of his way to mix socially with beggars, tax collectors and prostitutes. The scandal Jesus caused in the society of his day, can hardly be imagined by people in the modern world today.

On the day of Pentecost, Jesus' disciples came to realise that they had been given the task to continue Jesus' mission of proclaiming, demonstrating and embodying God's reign. We often speak of the day of Pentecost as the 'birthday of the church,' where the disciples were first called 'Christians'. How they began to see that something new had begun, and they were called to continue this mission in every nation, in every culture and in every period. The church does not have a mission, but the mission has a church. The church comes to be, as the church engages in mission, of going into the world, and be Gods saving, healing, challenging presence.

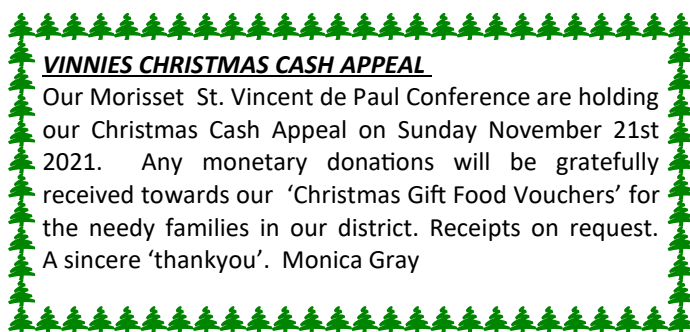
Pope Francis urges us to be a church where everyone can feel welcomed, loved, forgiven, and encouraged to live according to the Gospel. There must be a space for everyone, especially those who have been hurt, excluded, alienated. The church will be less than what Christ intended it to be, when issues of inclusion and equality are not fully addressed. Whether it be abuse victims, first nation survivors, divorcees, women, or members of the LGBTIQ+ community.

In a world where the rules are often made by the strong and the structures of power favour the privileged, the Church must be true to its founding stories and responsive to the presence of God. It must find ways to promote a community of equals and empower men and women disciples, to share their gifts for human flourishing and the growth of the Kingdom. The Church cannot have a prophetic voice in society if we fail to be a model of equality, where those disadvantaged on account of their race, gender, social status, and disability find permission for a dignified life.

Many years ago, Mohandas Gandhi, the great Hindu religious leader in India who brought about a revolution, and an overthrow of the British empire through active love, not violence, said this about Christianity: 'Christianity has not failed, it's never really been tried'.

As we celebrate our Feast of Christ the King, let us take this opportunity, to reevaluate the meaning of being church, and the idea of genuinely trying to follow Jesus. The Church is not to be turned into a museum, which preserves a record of what God once did, but it must engage with what the spirit is doing now, by drawing on the wisdom and life experience of God's people. John France.

**Live stream Mass every Sunday at 9.30am at <https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/places/live-stream/>**



## **VINNIES CHRISTMAS CASH APPEAL**

Our Morisset St. Vincent de Paul Conference are holding our Christmas Cash Appeal on Sunday November 21st 2021. Any monetary donations will be gratefully received towards our 'Christmas Gift Food Vouchers' for the needy families in our district. Receipts on request. A sincere 'thankyou'. Monica Gray

## **ADVENT REFLECTION PROGRAM: WAITING WITH PURPOSE**

As we continue our Synodal journey an Advent resource, **Waiting with Purpose** has been created for our diocese. **Waiting with Purpose** responds to the voices heard during Synod reflections of longing for different forms of prayer that include faith sharing. **Waiting with Purpose** invites us to use Mystagogical Reflection as our way of encountering Christ in the Advent gospels. It invites us to focus on the presence of Christ in our experience and in the living tradition of our faith, to connect it to life now and to be changed by it.

Mystagogical reflection meets us where we are. No preparation is needed. It's about being open to encountering Christ so we can live from Christ. It's deeply personal and communal.

If you would like to journey as part of a parish group please complete the sign-up form by clicking on the button on the parish website or complete one of the forms located at the back of the church.

## **SR MONIQUE SINGH' STORY**

Former St Clare's High School, Taree student Monique Singh had her sights set on becoming a professional dancer from a young age.

BRITTANY GONZALEZ PUBLISHED NOVEMBER 12, 2021

After school, she pursued this passion, which landed her in Brisbane. However, while living in the riverside city she met the Canossian Sisters. This encounter eventually led her to surrender to God's calling and dance to a different tune.

### **What Catholic school(s) did you attend?**

I commenced school in the Archdiocese of Sydney at St John Vianney Primary School, Greenacre. In Year 3, my family moved to the Manning, and I transitioned to St Joseph's Primary School, Taree, before graduating to St Clare's High School, also in Taree.

### **Why did your parents choose a Catholic education for you?**

Quality Catholic education was important for my family in selecting a school, for which I am grateful.

### **What is your fondest memory from your schooling years?**

I am not sure that I can name only one. I have many fond memories of my school years. While I enjoyed and worked hard at academic studies, many extra-curricular activities enriched my school life. Often these were in the creative and performing arts, and the liturgical life of the school. Some kind words of teachers and sharing of friendships, even in simple things, also remain with me. God gifted me with gentle, subtle graces through both staff and fellow students, and I believe I carry these positive experiences with me. Schooling is such a formative ground where gems may be gathered and stored for future days.

To continue reading go to: <https://www.mnnews.today/aurora/november-2021/54943-sr-monique-singh/> or pick up a copy of the November Aurora.

## **VOTE TO CHANGE THE PLIGHT OF OUR MOST VULNERABLE**

Peak advocacy group Catholic Social Services Australia said increases in income support, more social housing, and a boost to mental health funding are necessary to address the "out of control" demand for homelessness assistance.

LIZZIE SNEDDEN PUBLISHED NOVEMBER 16, 2021

The calls come on the back of data Homelessness Australia released last month, which shows the number of Australians with mental health issues seeking homelessness assistance has doubled over the past 10 years.

Between 2019-2020 more than 88,300 people with mental health issues sought homelessness assistance across Australia. This figure was up from 44,700 in 2011-12.

Francis Sullivan, Chair of Catholic Social Services Australia, said the figures are dreadful and calls on federal and state governments for increases to income support, more social housing and a boost to mental health funding.

"These figures show just how dire the situation is for some of our most vulnerable and disadvantaged citizens," Mr Sullivan said.

"Thousands of people across Australia either can't afford or can't access mental health care privately, or through Medicare or hospitals. Layered on top of this is the acute shortage of long-term affordable housing and easily accessible mental health support.

"Together, these two major community failings destined thousands of Australians to miss out on the very basic expectation of a safe and secure roof over their heads."

Mr Sullivan said the doubling of demand for homelessness services indicates how the disadvantaged and marginalised in the community are forced to live.

The Hunter Community Alliance echoes Mr Sullivan's concerns. It plans to raise the issue of rising homelessness in the region at its City of Newcastle Lord Mayor Candidates Forum and Lake Macquarie Mayoral Candidates Forum, to be held this month.

Callan Lawrence is the lead organiser for the Alliance, bringing together diverse community organisations, environmental groups, unions, and religious organisations to advance the common good.

He said that as part of the Alliance's Listening Campaign, held over six months to April 2021, many members had raised concerns about homelessness and housing in the local region.

"We know that while there are a lot of people who are accessing social support, there are also a lot of people experiencing homelessness who are not in contact with service providers," Mr Lawrence said.

"Many people envisage people who are homeless to be middle-aged men who may have mental health problems, or drug or alcohol dependency. However, there are also many older women, students, and working families, for example, who are also experiencing homelessness for short or extended periods of time.

"What we hear is, often those people are not in contact with government-funded services but instead rely on family, friends, or their own means to get by. Those government-funded services are typically the only source of data on homelessness, and so we believe there is a much larger experience of homelessness that isn't reported or widely known. It's a whole-of-community issue and one that's unfortunately on the rise."

The Alliance's discernment period informed the formation of a Research Action Team.

"Given there are local government elections later this year, the Research Action Team put together proposals on a range of issues, including homelessness and housing, which could be adopted at a local level," Mr Lawrence said.

"The proposals around homelessness and housing affordability include the development of rough car sleeping zones where people can safely take refuge in their vehicles if they have no other option; a locker system to enable people sleeping rough to store limited personal belongings; increased data collection and reporting on homelessness and poverty; and the implementation of significant affordable housing targets, and an Affordable Housing Contributions Scheme

Alliance co-chairs will present policy proposals at the online forums and negotiate with candidates to seek commitments to make them happen. A key focus of the discussion will be ongoing collaboration and inclusion of the community in developing solutions.

"They're not silver bullets, but they would enable progressive change."

For more information on the Hunter Community Alliance, visit: Hunter Community Alliance ([thehca.org.au](http://thehca.org.au))

## **PASTORAL PLACEMENT PROGRAM PRESENTATION DAY**

You're invited to the Pastoral Placement Program Presentation Day!

The Pastoral Placement Program is a faith formation experience like no other. The program provides an opportunity for people to experience working in the various ministries and services in the Diocese. It also provides participants with the relevant faith formation and education which launches them into a full life with Christ.

Each year the participants complete a variety of placements within the Diocese's agencies and parishes. They also undertake project work. The project work is centred around the development of a new idea, resource, or event for an organisation/ministry that the participants have found particularly inspiring.

Presentation Day is an annual event that provides a platform for each participant to share their idea or proposal with Parish and Diocesan leaders and to reflect on what they have learnt throughout the year.

We hope you can join us on this very special day where we can come together via Zoom to celebrate the participants' achievements.

Time: 10.30AM-12.30PM Date: Tuesday, 7 December 2021 Register: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/o/diocese-of-maitland-newcastle-18080128129>

## **MASS FOR THE HOLY SOULS**

*"It is a holy and wholesome thought to pray for the dead, that they may be freed from their sins" 11 Machabees 12:46*

For those who would like to have prayers said for their dearly departed Family, Friends and Relatives, there are November Mass envelopes available at the back of the church and also located in the plastic holder outside.

## **CARITASNEWS**

The latest CaritasNews, Spring 2021, is now available at [www.caritas.org.au/media/3pxmj2pc/caritasnews\\_spring-2021\\_digital\\_updated-rm.pdf](http://www.caritas.org.au/media/3pxmj2pc/caritasnews_spring-2021_digital_updated-rm.pdf)

### **APPLICATIONS ARE NOW OPEN FOR THE 2022 PASTORAL PLACEMENT PROGRAM**

The Pastoral Placement Program offers participants an experience of ministry in the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle. The purpose of this program is to enable participants the opportunity to experience different workplaces and ministries across the diocese. These 'on the ground' ministry work placements help participants explore the opportunities that are available to them to serve God and the local community of the Catholic Church in the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle.

The Pastoral Placement Program provides participants a year-long discernment journey, involving the see, judge, act philosophy, to make an informed choice about the possibility of their future ministry or career choices.

For more information and to learn to how to apply go to: <https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/pastoral-placement-program/>

### **SUPPORTING OUR PARISH**

We thank everyone who has continued their support for our Parish during these very different times. As cash is deemed a transmission hazard by NSW Health they recommend that donations and payments be made electronically.

There is an online parish payments button on the Parish Website Home page or alternatively you can deposit directly into the Parish Account our details are: Account Name: CDF 96014 Morisset Parish BSB:062815 Account Number: 00328161 Ref: 5004 2nd Collection or 5004 PG and Giver Number.

### **SUPPORTING THE DIOCESE CLERGY**

If you would like to make contributions to support the Diocese Clergy / 1st Collection the Bank Account Details are: Account Name: CDF 96020 Morisset Parish BSB: 062815 Account Number 00328161 Ref: 5016 1st Collection

<b><u>WEEKEND ROSTERS</u></b>			
		<b><u>THIS WEEK</u></b>	<b><u>NEXT WEEK</u></b>
<b><u>Presiders</u></b>	9.30	MASS	MASS
<b><u>PROCLAIMER:</u></b>	9.30	R Hay	L Hutchinson
<b><u>PSALMIST:</u></b>	9.30	J Hutchins	J France
<b><u>UNIVERSAL PRAYER</u></b>	9.30	J Hutchins	J France
<b><u>SERVERS</u></b>	9.30	V Paulo	M Melvey
<b><u>AV:</u></b>	9.30	U France	T Alexander
<b><u>SOUND/ VIDEO:</u></b>	9.30	G & L Hutchinson	G & L Hutchinson
<b><u>COVID-19 SAFETY TEAM</u></b>	9.30	G & A Walker B Hutcheson M Sloman L & L McRae	J Hutchins M Foo P Herbert P Melvey

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

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE—21ST NOV  
SAINT CECILIA—22ND NOVEMBER  
SAINTS ANDREW DUNG LAC AND COMPANIONS—24TH NOV  
SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER— 3RD DECEMBER  
SAINT AMBROSE— 7TH DECEMBER  
THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY— 8TH DECEMBER  
SAINT LUCY— 13TH DECEMBER  
SAINT JOHN OF THE CROSS— 14TH DECEMBER

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

Ian Douglas, Maureen Phillips, Dan Joyce, Bruce Gillett , William Eggins, Robert Jay .

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

**Recently Deceased:** Bishop Bill Wright

**Remembrance:** Grace Lyons, Cornelius Lyons, Emily Williams, Louise Kalmus



### **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**

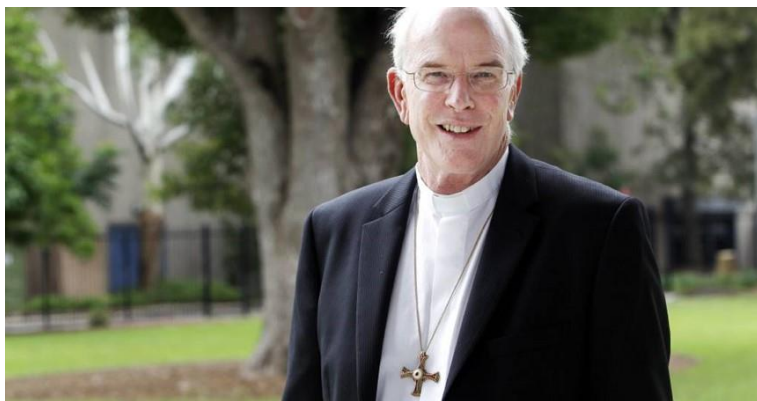
My Jesus,  
I believe that You  
are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.  
I love You above all things,  
and I desire to receive You into my soul.  
Since I cannot at this moment  
receive You sacramentally,  
come at least spiritually into my heart.  
I embrace You as if You were already there and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



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







# Death of Bishop Bill Wright

Bishop William (Bill) Wright died on, Saturday 13 November, in Maitland Hospital having succumbed to lung cancer at the age of 69.

**SARAH JAMES** PUBLISHED NOVEMBER 14, 2021

Bishop Bill announced his ill-health and confirmed he had submitted his resignation to the Holy Father, Pope Francis, in September this year. Whilst he had confirmed his ill health, the speed of Bishop Bill's death was unexpected. The Diocese offers its prayers and sympathies to Bishop Bill's family.

Bishop Bill was ordained eighth Bishop of the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle on 15 June 2011 at Sacred Heart Cathedral, Hamilton.

Acknowledging his death, Rev Andrew Doohan, Vicar General of the Diocese, said "Bishop Bill was a warm, considered and deeply faithful man, he was always dedicated to the people of the Diocese and I know he served as an inspiration, not only for many of our clergy but also those in the places he served. He will be greatly missed."

"Bishop Bill was an active and respected member of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference. He made major contributions to the Church and the wider communities in which he ministered."

Leading the Diocese during a period when it faced the terrible truths of historic child sexual abuse that occurred within the Diocese and the failures of some of its past leaders to protect children from abuse, Bishop Bill was recognised as an important figure in supporting survivors and introducing reforms to help the Catholic Church respond to the issue of child sexual abuse.

Rev Andrew Doohan, Vicar General of the Diocese, said "Bishop Bill recognised the pain of the victims and their families, he acknowledged this and made an abiding commitment to promote the safety, welfare and wellbeing of children and vulnerable adults. Bishop Bill's work to support survivors is part of his legacy."

Bishop Bill's funeral due to COVID restrictions is invite only and will be held at 10:30am on the 24<sup>th</sup> November, the Diocese is looking at setting up livestreaming for Parishes.

[\*\*View a photo gallery of Bishop Bill's time at the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle.\*\*](#)

At <https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/people/bishop-bill-wright/>

## **BACKGROUND:**

### **Most Rev William Joseph Wright BTh, BA(Hons), DD Bishop of Maitland-Newcastle**

Bishop Bill was born in Washington DC in the United States, before his family returned to Australia when he was young. He was educated by the Sisters of Mercy at Pymble and by the Jesuits at St Aloysius' College, Milsons Point, with two years at Wimbledon College, another Jesuit school, when his family was posted to London, England.

He was educated for priesthood at St Columba's College, Springwood (1971-73) and St Patrick's College, Manly (1974-77).

Bill Wright was ordained to the diaconate in October 1976 and to the priesthood on 20 August 1977 at St Mary's Cathedral. After ordination, he gained a BA(Hons), largely in History, at Sydney University.

He has served the parishes of Stanmore, Mount Druitt, Fairfield, Enmore, Dulwich Hill, Bonnyrigg, Moree, Sutherland and Liverpool. In addition, Bishop Bill was Vice-Rector of St Patrick's College, Manly (1985-1991) and Assistant Secretary to the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, in Canberra, in 1995.

Bishop Bill was ordained eighth Bishop of the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle by the former Archbishop of Sydney, Cardinal George Pell, on 15 June 2011 at Sacred Heart Cathedral, Hamilton.

Since his ordination as Bishop, he has served as the Co-Chair of the National Committee for Professional Standards. He was a member of the Truth Justice and Healing Council throughout its existence (2013-18). He has been a member of the Bishops Commission for Church Ministry and the Bishops Commission for Ecumenism and Inter-Religious Relations and was a member of the Bishops Commission for Evangelisation Laity and Ministry and the Bishops Commission for Social Justice, Mission and Service. He was Chair of the Bishops Commission for Professional Standards and Safeguarding.

Bishop Bill submitted his resignation to the Holy Father, Pope Francis, in September 2021.



## Diocesan Synodal Journey Update

While the third session of our Diocesan Synod originally planned for 20 November has been postponed, there is still plenty happening in this space! The Synod

Working Party continues to meet on a regular basis, and a number of plans are underway.

**GUEST CONTRIBUTION** PUBLISHED NOVEMBER 16, 2021

*In order to walk together, the Church today needs a conversion to the synodal experience. It needs to strengthen a culture of dialogue, reciprocal listening, spiritual discernment, consensus and communion in order to find areas and ways of joint decision-making and to respond to pastoral challenges. In this way, co-responsibility in the life of the Church will be fostered in a spirit of service....Synodality is a constitutive dimension of the Church. We cannot be Church without recognising a real practice of the sensus fidei of all the People of God. (Amazonian Synod n. 88)*

With this in mind, I will update you on our continuing synodal engagement with the Catholic Church in our Diocese, in Australia and globally.

### **Church without Walls series | November 2021 - May 2022**

'Church without Walls' is an invitation to the whole community to encounter the stories of mission and outreach that take place across our diocese every single day. Even in these difficult times, people of faith are responding to the good news of Jesus Christ and are working towards transforming people's lives, and indeed, the whole of society. This is the mission that every one of us has a part in. Yet, each of us lives out this mission in a personal and unique way.

'Church without Walls' will take us into the stories of people from all across the diocese. We will go into our parishes, our schools and our agencies. We will travel from Lake Macquarie to Taree. We will hear from people of all ages. We will hear the stories of everyday people making a difference right where they are. We will hear about what they do and why they do it.

View our Church without Walls series at <https://www.domnsynod.com.au/get-involved/church-without-walls/>

### **Plenary Council Virtual Feedback Conversations | 22 November 2021**

Join our Diocesan Plenary Council members Helen Belcher, Fr Andrew Doohan, Bernadette Gibson, who participated in the First General Assembly of the Fifth Plenary Council of Australia.

Over the coming weeks the fruits from this First General Assembly will be shared with the Catholic community.

Bernadette, Helen and Fr Andrew will provide us with feedback about the Plenary Council.

Find out more about this event at <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/plenary-council-virtual-feedback-conversations-tickets-202627834307>

### **Bishop's Synod on Synodality | November 2021 - February 2022**

In March 2020, Pope Francis announced that the theme for the XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops would be "For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission".

The journey towards the celebration of the Synod in October 2023 was opened at the beginning of October 2021 in Rome, and subsequently in each particular Church. Pope Francis invites the entire Church to reflect on a theme that is decisive for its life and mission: "It is precisely this path of synodality which God expects of the Church of the third millennium. This journey, which follows in the wake of the Church's 'renewal' proposed by the Second Vatican Council, is both a gift and a task."

A video, documents, and a response button can be found on: <https://www.catholic.org.au/synodalchurch>  
It is anticipated that individuals will engage in reflecting, sharing, and responding.

Follow the [Individual Reflection Guide](https://www.catholic.org.au/images/BishopsSynod_-_Individual_Reflection_Guide.pdf) available at [https://www.catholic.org.au/images/BishopsSynod\\_-\\_Individual\\_Reflection\\_Guide.pdf](https://www.catholic.org.au/images/BishopsSynod_-_Individual_Reflection_Guide.pdf). Submissions are invited via the website by 17 December.

Our 10-page final diocesan contribution is due to the National Centre for Pastoral Research by 28 February, 2022.

### **Advent Reflection Program (Mystagogical Reflection) | November 2021 - December 2021**

As we continue our Synodal journey, an Advent resource *Waiting with Purpose* has been created for our Diocese. *Waiting with Purpose* responds to the voices heard during Synod reflections of longing for different forms of prayer that include faith sharing. *Waiting with Purpose* invites us to use Mystagogical Reflection as our way of encountering Christ in the Advent gospels. It invites us to focus on the presence of Christ in our experience and in the living tradition of our faith, to connect it to life now and to be changed by it.

Mystagogical reflection meets us where we are. No preparation is needed. It's about being open to encountering Christ so we can live from Christ. It's deeply personal and communal.

**During Advent**, our hope is that anyone and everyone will gather a circle of people to reflect on the Advent gospels using *Waiting with Purpose*, our diocesan Advent Reflection Resource.

Parishes and schools may like to schedule some gatherings to capture those who are not able to form a group. Pastoral Ministries will host four such opportunities across each week of Advent

For more information on this event series, visit: [www.eventbrite.com.au/o/diocese-of-maitland-newcastle-18080128129](https://www.eventbrite.com.au/o/diocese-of-maitland-newcastle-18080128129)

### **Other Key Dates**

February 2022	Expression of Interest for Members of Synod (Interested People)
February 2022	Plenary Council - Continuing Conversations
March 2022 - April 2022	Lenten Reflection Program - Five Foundations (Mystagogical Reflection)
Pentecost - 5 June 2022	Launch of Five Foundations Synod Spiritual Conversations (Virtual and face-to-face)
4-9 July 2022	Plenary Council - Second General Assembly
November 2021 - 2022	'Hearing the voices' series - engaging with people from diverse communities



## Enrol in the Christian Formation Course

The Christian Formation Course (CFC) has run in different locations and in different formats across the Diocese since 1996, and has been responsible

for the ongoing faith formation of some two hundred people.

**ROSEMARY MCALLISTER** PUBLISHED NOVEMBER 16, 2021

The delivery of the CFC has been revised over the years in an effort to accommodate the demands on people today. It currently runs on a Tuesday evening for 40 weeks of the year.

As the course is coming to an end for the 2021 cohort, we asked the group to respond to several questions about why they chose to study this course, what they enjoyed, would they recommend the course and how the course has impacted their life and enriched their faith.

### Why did you study the Christian Formation Course?

"As a lifelong Catholic, having mostly absorbed this faith's practices and culture, I'd come to question my level of belief and conviction. I knew very little about the principles or history of my faith tradition, so I was looking for a grounding in knowledge of Christianity-Catholicism. That is a big subject, so the introductory Christian Formation Course was the right start for me." (Sharon Murphy)

"I wanted to get a deeper insight into my faith before I started working in the Catholic schools. I wanted to discover and have questions answered that I had about my own faith, as well as unpacking why Catholicism in a school makes such a great community. I wish to emulate these values in my teaching style." (Thomas Fairleigh)

"I am so grateful that I participated in the Christian Formation Course this year. It has provided clarity around aspects of my faith that I was questioning and opened a whole new way of looking at things which resonate with who I am. As a result, it has brought about a level of healing which has helped me to feel comfortable with being Catholic." (Mary Sultana)

"I have worked for the CSO for 11 years and I have loved the gentleness, the prayer and the community. I also enjoyed attending liturgies and going to Mass in the Cathedral but I never knew what was going on. I wanted to know more about Catholicism and I wanted to understand what we're teaching children in our Catholic schools. The Church has not had good press and I often felt conflicted about working for the Diocese." (Jenny Scepanovic)

### What did you enjoy most about the course?

"The course is introductory. It dipped into the history, principles and mission of the church - from the ancient to the contemporary, from the global to the local, from the good and the bad - and it gave me the tools to find out more. And not just about this faith - I learned a bit about myself as well. The Christian Formation Course helped me broaden my outlook." (Sharon Murphy)

"I enjoyed most discovering how people had influence the life of the church and its beliefs, separate to only learning about just the bible and its stories." (Thomas Fairleigh)

"I have gained knowledge and understanding in how to read the bible, stories of the New and Old Testament, history of the church, Vatican II, the structure of the church and sacraments." (Mary Sultana)

"The best thing about the course was being able to dedicate three hours a week to thinking about the big questions! Life, the universe, God, and everything! The group was a lovely bunch of people of all different ages, and we enjoyed each other's company. I loved all of what we learnt: From Unit 1 where we learnt about the science of the brain and how we are made for relationship, to learning how to read the Bible, to the ancient and modern history of the Church, to our relationship with our planet, to the rites and rituals and Sacraments. It's exactly what



I needed to know, and I feel it has filled in that jigsaw piece that was missing in my understanding of what religion means to people." (Jenny Scepanovic)

### **Would you recommend studying the Christian Formation Course?**

"The Christian Formation Course was developed in this Diocese. It's introductory level, well-established and theologically solid. The course is relevant to any generation – baby boomers to millennials. We all had aha moments of debunking myths about our faith. Over a year the cohort learns and grows together and creates a bond which is a lovely bonus. It's a one-year course which is long enough to get a good grounding yet short enough to enjoy seeing it through." (Sharon Murphy)

"I would recommend this course! This course is at a foundational level so anyone can apply and have no trouble understanding it. It really can answer (and create more) questions about faith." (Thomas Fairleigh)

"Yes, definitely, because it is deep and detailed, is wonderful stuff to learn about, and moves you forward in your faith formation journey. I think it would be a perfect starting point for people who want to work in roles in the Diocese. It's not academic so there's no pressure." (Jenny Scepanovic)

### **How has enrolling in this course impacted your life?**

"The Christian Formation Course has helped me to better discern what I hear about church doctrine and practice. I now have a better appreciation of scripture since studying the gospel writers and can apply context to Old Testament stories, which has enriched my prayer life." (Sharon Murphy)

"The CFC has enriched my faith by allowing me to understand why people believe what they do, and uncovered all the actions/beliefs that make us catholic. This, as a result, has enriched my life as I feel more comfortable working in Catholic education with this knowledge." (Thomas Fairleigh)

"I have gained knowledge and understanding in how to read the bible, stories of the New and Old Testament, history of the church, Vatican II, the structure of the church and sacraments. If you are struggling with aspects of your faith and are looking to gain some greater understanding and insights, this form of adult education can help you answer those questions that you have been carrying with you." (Mary Sultana)

"I have never dedicated so much time to my spirituality or learning about religion and I will never live my life again devoid of prayer and reflection and awareness. It has solidified my beliefs and connections, given me strength and courage." (Jenny Scepanovic)

### **Why do you think someone should enrol in this course?**

"If you've ever been asked what Catholics believe and felt unsure of giving a reasonably sound answer, then the Christian Formation Course will provide you with a basic, solid foundation of knowledge in a relaxed learning environment." (Sharon Murphy)

"If you want to learn more about your faith, and get a taste of theology without being overwhelmed, than this course is for you!" (Thomas Fairleigh)

"If someone is looking to explore their faith more or has recently discovered a love of God and is looking for a community to worship with but are not sure that Catholicism is for them, this is the perfect course." (Jenny Scepanovic)

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## **How you can get involved**

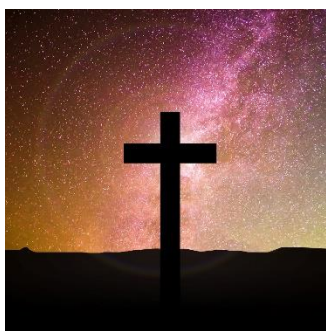
Are you wanting to know more about Christianity?

Expressions of Interest are now open for the Christian Formation Course 2022

The Christian Formation Course (CFC) is a face-to-face learning experience that allows participants to explore their life's journey and their faith within the Catholic Tradition. This one-year course introduces participants to scripture, theology, church history, sacramental life, and liturgy. The course runs across twelve months and comprises of eight units.

Commencing on Tuesday February 1 2022, no prerequisite formation or qualification is required to enrol. All who complete the Course are awarded a Diocesan Certificate in Christian Formation.

Expression of Interest close December 10. For more information, visit: [www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/adult-faith-formation/christian-formation-course/](http://www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/adult-faith-formation/christian-formation-course/)



# SUNDAY PRAYER SERVICE

## Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

### Sunday 14 Nov 2021

## The Introductory Rites

### Gathering

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

### Sign of the Cross

Leader:

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

All:

**Amen.**

### Greeting

Leader:

Blessed be Jesus who makes us one,  
and strengthens us  
by the power of his Spirit.

All:

**Blessed be God forever.**

## Introductory Remarks

Leader (in these or similar words):

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

We worship in union with the whole Church  
keeping this day of the Lord holy.

## Opening Rite

### LITANY OF PRAISE

Leader:

Before listening to the Word of God  
let us praise the Lord Jesus Christ  
who has raised us to new life.

A brief period of silence follows.

Leader:

Lord Jesus, you are Christ, the universal king: Lord, have mercy.

**All: Lord, have mercy.**

Christ Jesus, all will be brought to life in you: Christ, have mercy.

**All: Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you rescue those who are lost: 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, laid down his life and set us free  
so that we may share in his kingly glory.  
Help us to walk in his footsteps of compassion and love  
so that we may build his eternal kingdom of justice and peace.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
for ever and ever.

All:

**Amen.**

## The Liturgy of the Word

### First Reading

**Dn 7:13-14**

A reading from the prophet Daniel

*His sovereignty is eternal.*

I gazed into the visions of the night.  
And I saw, coming on the clouds of heaven,  
one like a son of man.  
He came to the one of great age  
and was led into his presence.  
On him was conferred sovereignty,  
glory and kingship,

and men of all peoples, nations and languages became his servants.  
His sovereignty is an eternal sovereignty  
which shall never pass away,  
nor will his empire be destroyed.

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

The word of the Lord.

All reply:

**Thanks be to God.**

## Responsorial Psalm

**Ps 92:1-2. 5. R.v.1**

**(R.) The Lord is king;  
he is robed in majesty.**

1. The Lord is king, with majesty enrobed;  
the Lord has robed himself with might,  
he has girded himself with power. **(R.)**
2. The world you made firm, not to be moved;  
your throne has stood firm from of old.  
From all eternity, O Lord, you are. **(R.)**
3. Truly your decrees are to be trusted.  
Holiness is fitting to your house,  
O Lord, until the end of time. **(R.)**

## Second Reading

**Rv 1:5-8**

A reading from the book of the Apocalypse

*The ruler of the kings of the earth ... made us a line of kings, priests to serve his God.*

Jesus Christ is the faithful witness, the First-born from the dead, the Ruler of the kings of the earth. He loves us and has washed away our sins with his blood, and made us a line of kings, priests to serve his God and Father; to him, then, be glory and power for ever and ever. Amen. It is he who is coming on the clouds; everyone will see him, even those who pierced him, and all the races of the earth will mourn over him. This is the truth. Amen. 'I am the Alpha and the Omega' says the Lord God, who is, who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.

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

The word of the Lord.

All reply:

**Thanks be to God.**



## Gospel

Reader:

From the holy Gospel according to John.

All:

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

### **Jn 18:33-37**

*You say that I am a king.*

‘Are you the king of the Jews?’ Pilate asked. Jesus replied, ‘Do you ask this of your own accord, or have others spoken to you about me?’ Pilate answered, ‘Am I a Jew? It is your own people and the chief priests who have handed you over to me: what have you done?’ Jesus replied, ‘Mine is not a kingdom of this world; if my kingdom were of this world, my men would have fought to prevent my being surrendered to the Jews. But my kingdom is not of this kind.’ ‘So you are a king then?’ said Pilate. ‘It is you who say it’ answered Jesus. ‘Yes, I am a king. I was born for this, I came into the world for this: to bear witness to the truth; and all who are on the side of truth listen to my voice.’

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.*

Q. Why did Pilate ask Jesus, ‘Am I a Jew?’

Q. Do you think the notion of ‘Christ the King’ has been misused at times in history?

Q. Why might the Church choose to end the liturgical year with this particular feast?

Q. What does it mean for us that Jesus is ‘king’ of a kingdom filled with the sick, poor and outcast?

## 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: Dear friends, let us bring our prayers before the Lord, the God of all.

Reader: That our Holy Father Pope Francis. will lead the Catholic Church with glory and honour.

(pause)

In your glory:

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

Reader: That young people will come to recognise Christ's kingdom in their midst.

(pause)

In your glory:

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

Reader: That nations will put aside prejudice and ambition to avoid conflict and to seek peace.

(pause)

In your glory:

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

Reader: That our parish community may demonstrate Christ as truly reigning in our hearts and homes.

(pause)

In your glory:

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

Reader: That all who are sick and housebound may they find comfort in their pain and sorrow knowing Christ is with them, especially those in our community and families.

(pause)

In your glory:

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

Reader: That all who have died will receive the grace of redemption and join their King in heavenly paradise, especially those in our community and families.

(pause)

In your glory:

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

Leader: Lord God, you gave us your only Son as King of the universe. Hear our prayers, and help us to trust in you with faithfulness as we wait for the coming of Christ our glorious King. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen.**

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## **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 forth, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

All:

**Thanks be to God.**

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