



**St John
Vianney**
Parish Morisset



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.

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR C SUNDAY 06 APRIL 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

PARISH OFFICE:

60 Yambo Street, Morisset 2264, PO Box 87,

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

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

For Urgent Anointing of the Sick Ph: 0493 969 362

Website: www.vianneymorisset.org

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

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

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

Prayer Requests for the Bulletin

If you would like the parish to pray for a family member who is sick, recently deceased or you would like remembered please email the parish office or complete a prayer card for each person and place in the mail box near the parish office door.

UPCOMING WORSHIP TIMES :

Saturday	5th April 5pm Mass—Morisset
Sunday	6th April 9.30am Mass—Morisset
Tuesday	8th April 9.30am Mass—Morisset
Saturday	12th April 5pm Mass—Cooranbong
Sunday	13th April 9.30am Mass—Morisset
Tuesday	15th April 9.30am Mass—Morisset
Wednesday	16th April 7pm Lenten Reflection and Reconciliation—Morisset
Thursday	17th April 7pm Holy Thursday— Morisset

Dear Parish Family,

He looked up...

During this time of Lent, we have been reflecting upon the image of God, the image that we should reflect in our lives. Last weekend we were left with the image of a father who was willing to risk all to say - you are my beloved. We were also left with the question of which character are we most like, the youngest son who wanted to stretch his wings; the older brother who resented everything; or the loving father willing to love his children at all costs. This weekend we heard from the Gospel of John, and we have this story of a woman caught in adultery. Once again full of symbolic meaning.

The entire scene is bit like a kangaroo court...it's a set-up not really to judge this woman but to trap Jesus. Jewish law said that if someone committed adultery it was to be punished by death for both parties. With the Romans running the country, they were the only ones allowed to carry out the death penalty. Jesus is in a no-win situation. If he says to uphold the Jewish law and ordered the death, then he goes against the Romans... and if he doesn't uphold the law then he's seen as a false teacher. What does he write in the sand? Some scripture scholars say he wrote down the accuser's sins, but others say something different which I think has merit— as this was a set-up against Jesus, was the woman also set-up so she could be caught in the act? Now Jewish law says accessories to a crime were equally guilty and subject to the same penalty. When Jesus wrote in the sand – he possibly knew this crime when he said, “if there is one of you who has not sinned?? He possibly wrote - you are all accessories to this crime....

Backing up this theory is the question where are the other characters of the story? The woman's lover - he got what he wanted and got off “scott free”, was he the married one.... then where was his wife? If she was married where was her husband? Regardless, what matters most is how Jesus reacts to the woman. The religious leaders saw her as a “thing” to debate a point of law...they looked down and judged her ...Jesus does the opposite; he looks up at her with compassion and mercy – she is someone... they want to take away her life, but he offers her now a new life.

I heard this saying once about mercy – “nobody deserves it ...mercy is sheer gift!” In other words, mercy reflects the graciousness of the one who has been wronged. The challenge of the Gospel is whether we see ourselves not as the woman who is caught in adultery but as the one caught up in forgiveness and mercy....is there someone we need to forgive? Can we forgive as easily as Jesus forgives? Most importantly can we forgive and forget? God does...and so should we!

Our last Lenten reflection with the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be held on

Wednesday 16 April, St John Vianney Morisset at 7pm

Further opportunities for the Sacrament of Reconciliation will also be held next Saturday 12th April:

Our Lady Help of Christians, Boolaroo at 9.00am

St Mary's Warners Bay at 9.00am

St Joseph's Toronto at 9.00am

Have a great week everyone.....and hopefully you remember to turn your clocks back.....

Fr Darryl Mackie

Parish Priest

Event Help

We have been asked to assist Toronto Parish with providing sandwiches and slices for Afternoon Tea at the Way of the Cross this Sunday 6th April at St Joseph's Toronto. Any assistance will be greatly appreciated.

Easter Ministries

Thank you to those who have signed up for the various ministries over Easter. If you are going to be around for Easter, we still need assistance with ministries. Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil, and Easter Sunday. Please complete the online sign-up form at <https://forms.office.com/r/8S3hQBEBKn> or the sign-up sheet at the back of the Church. Please consider.

Diocesan Local Churches Pilgrimage

The Diocesan Pastoral Ministry, Mission and Evangelising Partner, is organising the Jubilee Pilgrimage throughout the Diocese. Our parish is scheduled for:

Saturday 17th May

St Brigid's and St Patrick's, Cooranbong

1.00pm - Formation/Prayer - BYO lunch Picnic lunch on the grounds - Tea and Coffee hosted by the parish. More information will be provided closer to the event

Pilgrimage Sites

Our Jubilee Year is now well underway. It started with an incredible Pilgrimage of Hope from Nobby's Beach to Sacred Heart Cathedral where we celebrated Mass before enjoying a fun festival full of family activities.

Now, we invite you to journey beyond and go on our Pilgrimage through our Diocese! Our eight sites are open and ready for you. Please visit these Churches during the times attached or visit the link: [Jubilee Year 2025 - Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle](#)

Caring for our Housebound and Aged Care Parishioners

One of my priorities in the parish are to setup regular visits by our priests to our parishioners who are in aged care or a housebound.

To ensure we have accurate records if you could please complete the form at: <https://forms.office.com/r/qERCmhqUrQ> contact the office by phone or email with the following information please...

- Name of the person
- Their Address / Aged Care Facility and Contact Details
- Your Name if you visit them
- Any information that may assist the visit

When we have the information, we will be in contact with you about accompanying one of our priests on the first visit. Darryl

Lenten Journey-Reconciliation Morisset 16 April 7pm

Lent is a time to examine our ways, repent our failings and imitate God's love and mercy. The season culminates in the Easter liturgies, the Triduum, as the church recalls the paschal mystery. With hope and grace, we welcome this season of repentance and renewal.

During Lent the Parishes of West Lake Macquarie will host a 'Lenten Journey' in their Churches. There will also be an opportunity for reconciliation at each church on the journey.

Welcome

We welcome Naomi Chen into our community. Naomi will be baptised at the Vigil Mass this weekend.

Discover what makes St John Vianney Primary School special

During our recent visit to St John Vianney Primary School, Morisset, we had the pleasure of speaking with Principal Mark and Assistant Principal Christine about what makes their school community so unique. [Watch Now](#)

St John Vianney Parish Morisset

Holy Week Services

PALM SUNDAY SATURDAY 12 APRIL 2025 AT 5PM
ST PATRICK & ST BRIGID'S CHURCH COORANBONG

PALM SUNDAY SUNDAY 13 APRIL 2025 AT 9.30AM
ST JOHN VIANNEY CHURCH MORISSET

LENTE REFLECTION AND RECONCILIATION
WEDNESDAY 16 APRIL AT 7PM
ST JOHN VIANNEY CHURCH MORISSET

HOLY THURSDAY 17 APRIL 2025 AT 7PM
ST JOHN VIANNEY CHURCH MORISSET

GOOD FRIDAY 18 APRIL 2025 AT 3PM
ST JOHN VIANNEY CHURCH MORISSET

HOLY SATURDAY EASTER VIGIL
19 APRIL 2025 AT 6PM
ST JOHN VIANNEY CHURCH MORISSET

EASTER SUNDAY 20 APRIL 2025 AT 9.30AM
ST JOHN VIANNEY CHURCH MORISSET



PROJECT COMPASSION

The transformative work of Caritas Australia is only possible thanks to supporters like you and the dedication, passion, and resilience of our local partners, who tirelessly work to empower communities and create brighter futures.

In Vietnam, Caritas Australia's partner programs, like I-SHINE, helped Lam, a young man with a disability, gain graphic design skills and start a successful freelance business, inspiring others to pursue their dreams.

In Samoa, Caritas Australia works with Caritas Samoa to improve access to clean water and sanitation through initiatives like water tank installations, transforming health and well-being for families like Toefuata'iga's.

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Caritas Australia partners with Caritas Kongolo on the Youth Capacity Strengthening Program. This initiative equipped Irene, a single mother, with sewing and farming skills, enabling her to support her family and empower others in her community.

Through partnerships like these, Caritas Australia creates lasting change in communities across the globe.



Please donate today.

You can support Project Compassion 2025 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code above. **Or online at:** <https://fundraise.projectcompassion.org.au/o/morisset-catholic-parish-2264>

Or by calling: 1800 024 413

With A Light Heart

1 A common problem with smartphones is that when they are locked you often only see a one-sentence message. It is only fully revealed when you open the phone.

My wife recently texted, "I'm leaving you ..."

I was horrified. I quickly opened my phone to read more "... after lunch to go shopping with my sister."

Phew!

2 Why don't we ever see the headline: 'Psychic wins lottery'.

Why is 'abbreviated' such a long word?

Why lemon juice is made with artificial flavours and yet dish-washing liquid is made with real lemons.

Why you must 'put your two cents in' but it's a 'penny for your thoughts'.

3 And whoever said English was a strange language was right.

With common terminology like this who could disagree!

Seriously funny Tragic comedy Clearly confused

Same difference

Only choice Growing smaller Virtual reality Exact estimate

Living dead

Walking dead Deafening silence Organised chaos

Way of the Cross

This year's Way of the Cross will continue our pilgrimage experience that began with the Jubilee Launch. Come and walk with fellow pilgrims and build relationships as we share our responses to Pope Francis' invitation to become agents of hope within our own communities.

Join us at 3pm on Sunday 6 April (you can gather from 2pm)

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, TORONTO - 140 Wangi Road, Toronto NSW 2283

ENQUIRIES: mission@mn.catholic.org.au

REGISTER: www.eventbrite.com.au/e/the-way-of-the-cross-a-pilgrimage-of-hope-tickets-1250877762059

Diocesan Pilgrimage 2025

Join us on pilgrimage this Jubilee Year with Bishop Michael Kennedy as we visit the biblical sites and spiritual heights of Greece, Turkey and Italy from 25 September -12 October. Scan visit www.mn.catholic.org.au and click the 2025 Jubilee Year Information tile for more information, the application form, and costings.

Baptism Preparation

If you are seeking baptism for your child or children in our parish please register your interest to attend one of our baptism preparation programs at: <https://forms.office.com/r/HRzVSryKVh>

Art and Spirituality Days

We will be hosting two Art and Spirituality Days in 2025 on Friday 4 April and Friday 12 September at the Kilaben Bay Community Centre (140 Wangi Road, Kilaben Bay). Participants will engage in art-making experiences that will nourish their faith. Cost: \$25. BYO lunch. Morning tea will be provided.

Registration at :

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/1235249708129>

For further information contact Rose McAllister on rose.mcallister@mn.catholic.org.au

Pope Francis Prayer Intention for April 2025

That the use of new technologies will not replace human relationships, will respect the dignity of the person, and will help us face the crises of our times.

Chrism Mass

Bishop Michael Kennedy will preside

On
Tuesday
15th April 2025
at 7pm



Sacred Heart Cathedral
841 Hunter St Newcastle West
followed by refreshments

All Welcome

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

SUPPORTING OUR PARISH / 2nd Collection

If you would like to make contributions to support our Parish please do so at Mass via the RED bucket or our Parish Electronic Funds Transfer Only Account the details are: Account Name: Morisset Parish Church BSB:066739 Account Number: 100004064 please use one of the following Payment References PG + your giver number or PG + SURNAME or SURNAME you can also use the Online Payments or Planned Giving button on the Parish Website Home page 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	U France S Matthew	J Parkins L McRae
<u>PSALMIST:</u>	5PM 9.30AM	J France J Shamley	L Hutchinson P Melvey
<u>GIFTS</u>	5PM 9.30AM	H White J Hutchins	P Robertson K Amon
<u>SERVERS</u>	5PM 9.30AM	J Foo V Paulo	J Foo R Lawandos C Lawandos
<u>AV</u>	5PM 9.30AM	J Vipan M Fowler	J France T Alexander
<u>WELCOMERS</u>	5PM 9.30AM	K Lendon J France	K Lendon A Walker G Walker
<u>CHURCH CLEANING</u>	COOR MOR	XXXX K Lendon	K Lendon A Walker G Walker



UPCOMING FEAST DAYS MEMORIALS AND SOLEMNITIES

- SAINT VINCENT FERRER (OM) - 5TH APR
- SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST DE LA SALLE (M) - 7TH APR
- SAINT STANISLAUS (M) - 11TH APR
- PALM SUNDAY— 13TH APR
- THURSDAY OF THE LORD’S SUPPER— 17TH APRIL
- FRIDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD—18TH APRIL
- PASCHAL VIGIL IN THE HOLY NIGHT –19TH APRIL
- SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION— 20TH APRIL
- SAINT PETER CHANEL (M) - 28TH APRIL
- SAINT CATHERINE OF SIENA (M) - 29TH APRIL

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

Maureen Luxford, Steve McKay, Terry Gillett, Jackie Purnell, Nancy Overton, Ross Dickson, Betty Smith, Anna Dussin, Koby Smith, 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: Robert Christopher Ternes
Remembrance: John Tome



ANOINTING MASS
09:30AM, THURSDAY 24 APRIL 2025
 AT
ST MARY’S, WARNERS BAY
PLEASE NOTE: MORNING TEA WILL FOLLOW AFTER THE MASS

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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FAITH MATTERS: Transformed by the Way of the Cross **How do you tell a story that is at the very heart of the human condition?**

Join Us for the Way of the Cross

Every year, since 1967, the Diocesan community has gathered during Lent, first at Lochinvar and then from 2007 at Toronto, to walk the Way of the Cross and retell the story of the final moments of Jesus' earthly life. [View Video here](#)

These past four years I have had the privilege of helping shape the creative vision for this storytelling. And every year, the story of the cross brings me deeper into my own faith story as I grapple with the meaning of suffering, sacrifice, and ultimately, redemption.

My first experience with reenacting the 'Stations of the Cross' was in 2001. Our youth group was looking for a meaningful way to remember Good Friday. We wanted to put on a Passion Play with a difference. We wanted the audience to be a part of the story – to live and feel the events of Good Friday – to recreate the experience. And so, that wet Good Friday morning, we took our parish on a journey around the church grounds following Jesus as he met his Mother, fell on the slippery muddy ground, and was tormented by the guards responsible for his execution. The members of the crowd jostled for a closer look at what was happening as soldiers corralled them along the road to Golgotha. A young dad, 'Simon of Cyrene,' was chosen randomly from the assembled crowd and he willingly shouldered the cross beside Jesus. This prayerful reenactment finished with Joseph of Arimathea carrying the lifeless body of Jesus out through the crowd, sharing a look of anguish those courageous to make eye-contact. I still remember the words of the mother of one of the youths chosen to play a soldier. It grieved her to watch her son play the role of an aggressor causing the suffering of another. That year, the Way of the Cross became a personal experience for her.

In recent years, our Diocesan devotion has drawn on people's personal witness to the cross of Jesus revealed in their own lives. In 2022, we picked up the theme of 'Church without Walls.' From across our communities, unique storytellers shared their mission response to this love story – that God would become one of us and give his life for us on the cross so that we, in turn, may pour out our lives in love for God and others.

In 2023, we connected with the World Youth Day theme, 'Mary arose and went with haste,' as we invited the community to experience the Way of the Cross through the eyes of Mary as shared by women from across our Diocese and fellow Christian Churches. Each storyteller weaved together her own lived experience of suffering and sorrow, reflecting the heart of Mary and leading us to that ultimate encounter with Jesus on the cross.

For me, there is joy and transformation in this journey of accompaniment with individuals and communities as they enter the mystery of this timeless event. It is a space of privileged learning to come alongside another in this creative process and discover how Jesus has worked through the trials and triumphs of life. It is a sacred thing to be present to another person sharing the faith story that defines his or her journey. It is this sharing of faith, this space of learning together on the journey, that we hope to bring to this year's Way of the Cross.

Following on from the experience of the Pilgrim's Walk at our Jubilee Launch in March, The Way of the Cross: A Pilgrimage of Hope invites us to 'walk and talk' alongside our companions on the journey, to respond to Pope Francis' words of hope for the Jubilee, and to share our own story of encounter with Jesus.

Join us at 3pm on Sunday 6 April.

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, TORONTO

140 Wangi Road, Toronto NSW 2283

ENQUIRIES: mission@mn.catholic.org.au

REGISTER: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/the-way-of-the-cross-a-pilgrimage-of-hope-tickets-1250877762059?aff=oddtcreator>

Project Compassion helps Irene secure a brighter future for herself and her family

By Caritas Australia

In 2025, the Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle is supporting Caritas Australia's Project Compassion. Read below how our fundraising efforts can help people across the globe.

Irene is a 25-year-old single mother of two boys living in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

After her father died in conflict, Irene along with her mother and siblings were displaced, and her mother became the sole breadwinner for the family. Despite the difficulties for her mother to afford school fees, Irene attended school for as long as she could. However, when Irene was a teenager, she became pregnant, and the father of her child abandoned her not long after she gave birth. Irene's lack of education and in turn, limited job opportunities, further complicated her ability to support her family's basic needs. Thanks to Caritas Australia's partners, Caritas Kongolo, Irene was able to join the Youth Capacity Strengthening Program and take up a sewing course. In addition to this, Irene attended agricultural training sessions enabling her to grow and produce food for her family. Irene's newfound skills not only provide financial stability to her family but have also enabled her to take on a mentoring role, training other young women to sew.

"With the earnings from this job, I can not only buy my own clothes but also for my family members... Regarding the children I send to school, there are my orphaned nephews from my late brother. I make sure to provide for all their needs," Irene said.

"Our lives are so different now. Before, women depended on men's income, but now, with our sewing skills, we can take care of ourselves" Irene added.

Irene is currently safe amid the worsening conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, as the fighting has not reached her Diocese, however she is feeling the pressure of rising prices of household necessities being felt across the country.

If you would like to donate to the Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle's fundraising efforts, visit <https://fundraise.projectcompassion.org.au/o/catholic-diocese-of-maitland-newcastle>

**WESTLAKES
EASTER
MASS TIMES
2025**

HOLY THURSDAY: 17 APRIL 2025
6.00PM ST JOSEPH'S TORONTO
6.30PM ST MARY'S WARNERS BAY
7.00PM ST JOHN VIANNEY MORISSET

GOOD FRIDAY: 18 APRIL 2025
10.00AM - (STATIONS) OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS' CHURCH, BOOLAROO
3.00PM - ST MARY'S WARNERS BAY
3.00PM - ST JOSEPH'S TORONTO
3.00PM - ST JOHN VIANNEY MORISSET

HOLY SATURDAY VIGIL: 19 APRIL 2025
6.00PM - ST JOSEPH'S TORONTO
6.30PM - ST MARY'S WARNERS BAY
6.00PM - ST JOHN VIANNEY MORISSET

EASTER SUNDAY: 20 APRIL 2025
8.00AM - ST MARY'S WARNERS BAY
9.00AM - ST JOSEPH'S TORONTO
9.30AM - ST JOHN VIANNEY MORISSET
10.00AM - ST MICHAEL'S BOORAGUL

Small changes, big impacts

As a global citizen, how sustainably responsible are you?

Janine Curtis PUBLISHED March 01, 2025

Do you switch off lights when leaving a room?

Do you separate your waste from recycling?

Do you think twice before printing documents?

Do you limit water usage as much as possible?

These are the kinds of questions the Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle now considers through its daily work. And it is these small changes that are having big impacts across our region.

Sitting down with Diocesan Sustainability Manager Drew Ashworth, he spoke about the significant milestones achieved since the inception of the Diocese's 2022-2025 Sustainability Plan. The foundation for the Plan is a message from Pope Francis calling on us to care for our common home by making environmentally conscious decisions.

"Given our Diocese's footprint, a simple shift in mindset can significantly impact the environment," Drew said.

As an organisation with 5,500 staff across six distinct agencies and 10 local government areas, even the smallest of changes results in substantial impact. "As an example, the Diocese undertook a school holiday energy reduction initiative where schools shut down all non-essential equipment over the break such as printers, smartboards and computer screens that would have ordinarily stayed on. The result was an average of 15% energy reduction across our 58 schools for the summer school holiday period."

Alongside these successes, there have been some larger sustainability projects that Drew highlighted.

Soon, close to 90% of eligible Diocesan sites will have solar panels installed, a remarkable feat for an organisation of this size – this includes 58 Catholic primary and secondary schools, 12 St Nicholas Early Education centres, numerous offices, administrative buildings, and even the Diocesan library.

"The installation of these solar panel systems dramatically reduces our reliance on sourcing power from the grid. From time to time, we might not be able to generate the entirety of the energy needed. In this event, we lean on external providers who use 100% government certified renewable energy sources, such as wind or their own solar systems," he said.

Plans are now well underway for the next Sustainability Plan, set to commence in 2026, with a focus on measurable changes.

"By establishing baseline data, we can set realistic targets and show measurable results regarding our progress. This allows us to be more accountable and prepares us for forthcoming changes to government reporting requirements," Drew explained.

"An example is our new waste services contract, currently in the procurement phase."

"We are engaging a waste services contractor who will provide real-time data about our waste usage and recycling efforts. This knowledge empowers us to achieve real, measurable progress."

There will be also an increased focus on education, extending from the children at St Nicholas and our primary and secondary school students, through to staff and the communities we work within.

"I'm excited that the Tiny Forest initiative, which commenced with the inaugural Tiny Forest being planted at St Paul's Catholic Primary Gateshead last year, will expand," Drew said.

"These compact, densely planted forests are created to increase biodiversity in urban ecosystems and it's great that discussions are taking place to roll this initiative out in other schools across the Diocese."

Looking ahead, Pope Francis' message for us to care for our common home will continue to inspire the Diocese's next Sustainabil-

ity Plan from 2026 onwards. It is an opportunity to make us all consider, 'what small changes can we make that will collectively have a big impact on our world?'

Pilgrimage Churches Opening times

Sacred Heart Cathedral, Newcastle West

Tuesday 8:15 AM: Mass

Wednesday 8:15 AM: Mass

Thursday 8:15 AM- Vesper- 1st Thursday of each month 5.00pm. 3 April, 1 May, 5 June, 3 July, 7 August, 4 September, 2 October, 6 November

Friday 11:00 AM: Reconciliation 12:05 PM: Mass

Saturday 9:15 AM: Mass (followed by Novena) 5:30 PM: Mass

Sunday 9:30 AM: Mass 11:30 AM: Polish Mass 5:00 PM: Mass

Monday 8:15 AM: Mass

St Mary Star of the Sea, Newcastle

Sunday 7.30AM: Mass

During May- 11am- Noon- Marian Prayer and Reflect

St John the Baptist Shrine, Maitland

Wednesday's 2nd and 4th of the month- 9.00AM- 4.00PM

St Joseph's, East Maitland

Tuesday 9.30AM- 10.30AM Private Adoration Mass open from 5:00PM- 7.00PM

Wednesday 7:00 AM: Mass

Thursday [6.30AM Rosary](#) 7:00 AM: Mass 9.30am - 10.30am Private Adoration

Friday 6.30AM Rosary 7:00 AM – 9.00AM Mass and Private Adoration

1st Friday of the Month: 24 hour Private Adoration

Saturday 8:00 AM: Mass (includes Reconciliation)

Saturday 5:00 PM: Mass

2nd Saturday's: 8.00AM Mass followed by Marian Holy Hour, Benediction & Reconciliation

12th April, 10 May, 14th June, 12th July, 9th August, 13th September,

11th October, 8th November, 13th December

Sunday 8.30AM & 6.00PM

Monday 9.30AM- 10.30AM Private Adoration

St Joseph's, Murrurundi

Saturday 5:00 PM: Mass

To visit outside Mass times, contact these parishioners who all live in the same street as the church. (It helps you and them to ring ahead.):

Gerard or Lindy Howard 0409400824

Karen Kimpton 0432277591

Gemma Metzker 0414461165

Blessed Virgin Mary Queen of Peace, Scone

The Church is open every day sunrise to sunset when Father Graham is onsite

Tuesday 9:00 AM: Mass

Wednesday 10:00 AM (Rosary at 9:45 am)

Friday 9:15 AM: Mass during School Term OR 9:00 AM School Holidays.

Saturday 9:00 AM: Mass. Reconciliations 9:30AM to 10:15 AM

Sunday 9:00 AM: Mass

Sunday 4:00 PM: Exposition, Adoration and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. Reconciliations 4:00PM to 4:45PM during Exposition

Sunday 5:00 PM: Mass

Saints Patrick & Brigid, Cooranbong

Saturday 5:00 PM: Mass (2nd, 4th, and 5th Sunday of the month)

Our Lady of the Rosary Church, Taree

Tuesday 4.30pm: Reconciliation 5.30pm: Mass

Wednesday 9.30am: Mass (2nd, 3rd, 4th Wednesday of the month)

Friday 9.00am: Adoration 9.30am: Mass

Saturday 5.30pm: Mass

Sunday 9.30am: Mass



SUNDAY PRAYER SERVICE

Fifth Sunday of Lent Year C Sunday 06 Apr 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 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.
In union with the whole Church,
we call upon the mercy of the Lord
in this season of repentance and renewal.

Opening Rite

LITANY OF PRAISE

A brief period of silence follows.

Leader:

Lord Jesus, you are our beginning and end: Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you suffered for our sake: Christ, have mercy.

All: Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you show us the way to the Father: 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 our help
we stand in your presence
set free from sin
because of the love of Jesus.
May your grace give us strength
so that we may reach out to others
who need your love and forgiveness.
We make this prayer through Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
for ever and ever.

All:

Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

Isaiah 43:16-21

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

I am doing a new thing and I will give drink to my people.

Thus says the Lord,

who made a way through the sea,
a path in the great waters;
who put chariots and horse in the field
and a powerful army,
which lay there never to rise again,
snuffed out, put out like a wick:

No need to recall the past,
no need to think about what was done before.
See, I am doing a new deed,
even now it comes to light; can you not see it?
Yes, I am making a road in the wilderness,
paths in the wilds.
The wild beasts will honour me,
jackals and ostriches,
because I am putting water in the wilderness
(rivers in the wild)
to give my chosen people drink.
The people I have formed for myself
will sing my praises.

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

The word of the Lord.

All reply:

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 125. R. v.3

(R.) The Lord has done great things for us;
we are filled with joy.

1. When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage,
it seemed like a dream.
Then was our mouth filled with laughter,
on our lips there were songs. (R.)
2. The heathens themselves said: 'What marvels
the Lord worked for them!'
What marvels the Lord worked for us!
Indeed we were glad. (R.)
3. Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage
as streams in dry land.
Those who are sowing in tears
will sing when they reap. (R.)
4. They go out, they go out, full of tears,
carrying seed for the sowing:
they come back, they come back, full of song,
carrying their sheaves. (R.)

Second Reading

Philippians 3:8-14

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

Because of Christ I look upon everything else as useless in order to gain him.

I believe nothing can happen that will outweigh the supreme advantage of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For him I have accepted the loss of everything, and I look on everything as so much rubbish if only I can have Christ and be given a place in him. I am no longer trying for perfection by my own efforts, the perfection that comes from the Law, but I want only the perfection that comes through faith in Christ, and is from God and based on faith. All I want is to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and to share his sufferings by reproducing the pattern of his death. That is the way I can hope to take my place in the resurrection of the dead. Not that I have become perfect yet: I have not yet won, but I am still running, trying to capture the prize for which Christ Jesus captured me. I can assure you my brothers, I am far from thinking that I have already won. All I can say is that I forget the past and I strain ahead for what is still to come; I am racing for the finish, for the prize to which God calls us upwards to receive 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 **John**.

All:

Glory to you, O Lord.

John 8:1-11

Let the person without sin be the first to throw a stone.

Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. At daybreak he appeared in the Temple again; and as all the people came to him, he sat down and began to teach them.

The scribes and Pharisees brought a woman along who had been caught committing adultery; and making her stand there in full view of everybody, they said to Jesus, 'Master, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery, and Moses has ordered us in the Law to condemn women like this to death by stoning. What have you to say?' They asked him this as a test, looking for something to use against him. But Jesus bent down and started writing on the ground with his finger. As they persisted with their question, he looked up and said, 'If there is one of you who has not sinned, let him be the first to throw a stone at her.' Then he bent down and wrote on the ground again. When they heard this they went away one by one, beginning with the eldest, until Jesus was left alone with the woman, who remained standing there. He looked up and said, 'Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?' 'No one, sir,' she replied. 'Neither do I condemn you,' said Jesus 'go away, and don't sin any more.'

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, let us make our prayers before the Lord,
who saves us from all sin.

Reader: That the Holy Church will continue to bring love and mercy to
those in need of compassion. In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That leaders of government and communities make good
decisions about sharing resources for the good of all in need,

and work towards building a just and harmonious society. In
your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That those who are judged or discriminated against may receive
true consideration and empathy. In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That, through our support of Project Compassion, people in
under-resourced areas will have access to the clean water and
sanitation which is essential for their health and well-being. In
your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That all the sick will be treated with care and compassion, and
that health care workers will be supported in their vocation. In
your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That all who have died will live forever with the Lord, especially
our loved ones and those who were members of our
community. In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: God our Father, your Son Jesus Christ shows compassion and
forgiveness. Hear our prayers and help us to remain free from
sin and full of justice and compassion for all. 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 bless us in all things through Christ
so that we may work together in loving service.

All make the sign of the cross during the blessing.

All:

Amen.

Dismissal

Leader:

Let us go in peace.

All:

Thanks be to God.

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