



**St John
Vianney**
Parish Morisset



TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A 15 OCTOBER 2023

Mr and Mrs X request the pleasure or your company at the marriage of their son with Miss Y, and afterwards at the wedding reception. So runs a standard invitation.

The Gospel story today of the wedding, might seem a bit far-fetched. Who would be so crazy as to turn down an invitation to a royal wedding? But people can be very foolish.

What does it mean to be invited?

A great danger facing us today, is that we might have a tendency to ignore Gods invitation to an unearned banquet..

We live in a time, which in many ways is not unlike that of God's people in exile. Like the first Christian community, let us choose to be a place where everyone experiences divine hospitality, kindness and generosity, including the orphans, and widows of our time.



We acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land, the Awabakal People who, long before us lived, loved, educated and raised their children on this Country. We pay our respects to Elders past and present and we recognise the young people who are our future. We acknowledge all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families in our communities. We respect their deep physical and spiritual connections to Country through their stories, traditions and living cultures.

PARISH LEADERSHIP TEAM:

Foundation	Leader	In Office
1. Identity and Community		
2. Worship and Prayer.	Uta France	Mon
3. Formation and Education		
4. Mission and Outreach.		
5. Leadership and Structure.	John France	Sat & Sun

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

PRIEST SUPERVISOR: Fr Joseph Figuardo
SACRAMENTAL PRIEST: Fr John Purnell
Parish Secretary: Mrs Rosanna Suckling

OFFICE: 60 Yambo Street, Morisset, PO Box 87, Ph: 02 4973.6859
 Office Hours: 9.00 am to 2.00pm—Monday to Friday (except public holidays)
 (We ask that you make an appointment to come to the office)
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 Morisset Parish Instagram : https://www.instagram.com/stjvparish_morisset/
 Morisset Parish Bulletin Items: morparish@mn.catholic.org.au

UPCOMING WORSHIP TIMES :

Saturday	14th October 5pm Family Mass—Morisset
Sunday	15th October 9.30am Mass—Morisset
Tuesday	17th October 9.30am Liturgy—Morisset
Saturday	21st October 5pm Mass—Cooranbong
Sunday	22nd October 9.30am Mass—Morisset
Tuesday	24th October 9.30am Liturgy—Morisset
Saturday	28th October 5pm Mass—Cooranbong
Sunday	29th October 9.30am Mass—Morisset
Tuesday	31st October 9.30am Liturgy—Morisset
Wednesday	1st November 9.30am Mass—Morisset
Saturday	4th November 5pm Family Mass—Morisset
Sunday	5th November 9.30am Mass—Morisset
Tuesday	7th November 9.30am Liturgy—Morisset

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Reflection for The Twenty—Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A — 15th October 2023

Who you ate with in Jesus' time was very important – it reflected your own status. To share table with people who were regarded as 'lesser' by nature of their lifestyle or illness was seen to lessen the status of other participants. Sharing table was as much a political action as it was a social one. This week's gospel is an important one for understanding Jesus' message of an inclusive kingdom. The king invites all the 'right' people to attend his son's wedding banquet but they shame him by refusing his invitation and murdering his messengers. This would have been an extraordinary action in Jesus' time. An invitation to the table of your social superior would not be rejected lightly. To try to save face and regain some honour, the king sends his servants to bring in people off the street – the poorest and least socially acceptable people. The invitation to the people off the street, 'bad and good alike', is a reflection of Jesus' own attitude to sharing table. Jesus ate with those who were regarded as unworthy: tax collectors, prostitutes and sinners. It was one of the harshest criticisms of Jesus made by the Pharisees and Scribes: 'He eats with tax collectors and sinners!' One of Jesus' strongest messages was about the inclusive nature of the kingdom and he lived it day to day. His inclusive table fellowship was a powerful statement about the fact that the kingdom is an invitation to all – rich and poor alike, regardless of status in this world. This parable highlights the invitation to join in the kingdom of God that has been rejected by the Jewish leaders but taken up by the 'lesser' people of society. The wedding banquet is a metaphor for the kingdom of God.

Historical Context

This gospel parable is a reflection of the way in which the message of God has been extended to people through time. The first invitation was extended to the Israelites who initially accepted the message of God but in time lost the focus. Jesus further extended the invitation to the Gentiles, viewed by the Jews as unworthy of such a relationship with God. Finally, within the early Christian communities there were some who, despite belonging to the community, failed to live appropriately and demonstrate their acceptance of the message of God.

Have you thought? – Inclusivity

This gospel parable reflects the inclusive way in which Jesus lived his life. In many ways, Jesus was a scandal in his society because he didn't obey the social boundaries. He was very clear in being inclusive and attentive to those who were normally shunned. Today, those boundaries are just as clear and easily identified but the methods of excluding people have perhaps become a bit more subtle. Who are the 'shunned' and 'left out' in our society today? Where do the boundaries lie? Who would Jesus be reaching out to and seeking to include in today's society?

Gospel Focus – 'How did you get in here?'

In light of the inclusive kingdom metaphor in this passage, the final portion of the gospel may be a bit troubling to readers. When a guest is not wearing a wedding garment he is cast out of the banquet. We might say that being invited at the last minute the guest was unable to find suitable clothing. It is a sign that although he has been an unlikely inclusion in the banquet, he has not made any effort to respond to the generosity of the king and take up one of the cloaks that would have been provided and thus give due honour to his host. This is symbolic of those who refuse to change their ways and do not live as followers of Jesus even when they have been included in the kingdom.

Questions for Us

- Q. When have you ever excused yourself from an invitation because it was 'inconvenient'?
- Q. What is the message of this parable for a modern audience?
- Q. Who are the people in today's society represented by the guests brought in from the roads?
- Q. What does the expulsion of the ill-dressed guest tell us about responsibilities?

(From Greg Sunter) Dan Joyce

Anointing Mass

An Anointing will be held during 9.30am Sunday Mass this Sunday 15th October. Fr John Purnell will administer the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. Anybody with an illness, serious or otherwise, who needs healing, may receive the sacrament.

After Mass, a 'cuppa and biscuits' will be held in the Callinan Centre – All welcome

Feast of All Saints

To celebrate All Saints Day, (Wednesday 1st November) Mass will be held in the Morisset Church at 9.30am.

Melbourne Cup

Parishioners and friends are invited to share a two course meal at Callinan Centre on Tuesday the 7th November 2023. Doors will open at 12.30pm . Lunch will be served at 1pm, bring own nibbles. Sweeps will be available , \$5.00, \$2.00, & \$1.00.

A non-alcoholic punch will be available, BYO alcohol. Admission will be \$20.00. There will be a lucky door prize and a prize for most inventive fascinator, male / female. Regards Michell

November

The whole month of November, has traditionally been dedicated to the theme of those who have died. The month begins with the feast of All Saints on November 1 and the next day is the feast of All Souls. This has continued throughout the centuries, and one of the most ancient customs related to respect for the dead is to visit graves and pray there in memory of their loved ones.

Some Points to Ponder.

Traditions have always been an important dimension of celebrating faith. Each age is a time of special grace, including our age of high technology.

Did you Know?

Halloween

Halloween is thought to have influences from Christian beliefs and practices. The English word 'Halloween' comes from 'All Hallows' Eve', being the evening before the Christian holy days of (All Saints' Day) on 1 November and on 2 November, (All Souls Day)

Halloween customs have been influenced by customs and beliefs from the Celtic speaking countries, some of which are believed to have pagan roots. Throughout Ireland and Britain, especially in the Celtic-speaking regions, the household festivities included rituals and games intended to foretell one's future, especially regarding death and marriage. In the 19th century Halloween became a major holiday in America. American Halloween traditions were inherited from the Irish and Scots, Trick-or-treating is a customary celebration for children on Halloween. Children go in costume from house to house, asking for treats such as lollies or, with the question, "Trick or treat?" The word "trick" implies a "threat" to perform mischief on the homeowners or their property if no treat is given.

Safeguarding Standard 6 EFFECTIVE COMPLAINTS MANAGEMENT

Processes for raising concerns and complaints are responsive, understood, accessible and used by children, adults, families, carers, communities, and personnel.

Standard 6 addresses the importance of transparent complaints management processes. These should be formally documented in policies and procedures that are made publicly available.

An effective complaints management system outlines roles and responsibilities, approaches to dealing with different types of complaints and obligations to act and report. Personnel should demonstrate their understanding of their legal and moral responsibilities to report complaints. Bishops and leaders of Clerical Institutes have an additional responsibility to support priests in their fidelity to the inviolability of the Sacramental Seal.

This Standard includes the responsibility of supporting anyone who brings forward a complaint and to manage anyone who is subject of a complaint. Any complaints response procedure used by Church Authorities should comply with the requirements of this standard.

Advance Notice

The month of October has five Sundays. This means that on the 5th Sunday weekend, the Vigil Mass (Saturday 28th October) will be celebrated at Cooranbong by Fr John Purnell.

First Aid Equipment

If you need to use First Aid equipment, in either of our churches for whatever reason, it is kept in the sacristy at both churches. There is also an Automatic Electronic Defibrillator (AED) permanently kept in the Morisset Sacristy. This AED is also taken to Cooranbong whenever there is a function held there.

News from the Parish Pastoral Council

The Parish Pastoral Council met last Wednesday, and the following points of interest raised were:

- Christmas Eve Mass will again be held at the Morisset Showground.
- A planning meeting to organize Christmas 2023 will be held in the Callinan Centre, Tuesday 24th October at 10am. This meeting is open to anybody who would like to help organize the Christmas Eve Mass at the Morisset Showground.
- On the weekend of 21/22 October, helpers for the 'set up/pack up' and the various ministries associated with the celebration of Mass at the Showground, will have the opportunity to put their names on a 'Sign-up' sheet.
- The Annual Catholic Mission Appeal will be held on the weekend, 21/ 22 October. Envelopes will be on the seats.
- The Annual St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal will be held 18/19 November.

Parish Cemetery & Columbarium

St John Vianney Parish has its own Cemetery & Columbarium situated in the beautiful grounds of St Patrick & St Brigid Cooranbong. This parish operated cemetery, which commenced in 1861, is maintained by parish volunteers, and is for Catholics in our area. The cemetery is classified as a Category 3 operation and is compliant with the Cemeteries and Crematoria Act 2013.

Any help in maintaining the cemetery is appreciated. With the new 'Legislation', all cemeteries have a required 'standard' to satisfy CCNSW. For more information contact Rosanna at the Parish Office. Ph:49736859.

The Gospel of Mark

Is a treasure trove for the nurturing and nourishing of our faith. Mark brings us face-to-face with the One who came to serve and not to be served, to give his life as a ransom for many (Mark 10:45).

But what does Jesus' service look like according to this Gospel? What can we learn? And is any of it still relevant for the world we live in today?

A day with Debra Snoddy to explore the Gospel of Mark will be held on Wednesday 15th November 2023 in the Toohey Room 841 Hunter Street Newcastle West Between 9.30am and 3pm.

Explore the Gospel with Dr Debra Snoddy, a lecturer in biblical studies at the Catholic Institute of Sydney a partner of the University of Notre Dame Australia. As we look forward to the year when the Gospel of Mark takes pride of place in our liturgy, Debra promises to inform you, nourish you and challenge you to hear Mark's words in ways old and new.

The day will include an overview of the Gospel and a detailed treatment of some of the most illuminating texts from the Gospel of Mark.

Book your free ticket at: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/gospel-of-mark-tickets-699335259587>

Christian Meditation

The Contemplative Pathway: Where is Meditation Leading Us?

Meditators are always trying to go into greater silence. John Carroll will explore the benefits of this. There will also be a session on practical ideas for incorporating meditation into a busy life. At St James School Hall, Vista Parade, Kotara
On Saturday November 11th, 9.00am to 12 noon. Cost: \$10.00
Morning Tea Provided RSVP: mannecuskelly@hotmail.com or 0407 436 808

St Joseph's Men Newcastle

Calling all men to a talk on the Rosary- A Spiritual Weapon. Come along to hear from St Joseph's Men Newcastle Founder, Curtis Mahoney as he talks about the power of the Rosary @ The Sydney Junction Hotel, Hamilton on Monday 23 October from 6pm. Free entry and meals are available at your own cost.

Pope Francis' prayer intention for October 2023

That the Church may adopt listening and dialogue as a lifestyle at every level, and allow herself to be guided by the Holy Spirit towards the peripheries of the world.

Alive in the Spirit

The Pastoral Ministry Network is excited to invite you to the annual 'Alive in the Spirit' Event!

After two years of dynamic online gatherings, Alive in the Spirit is thrilled to be gathering for an in-person event on Wednesday 25 October 2023 at Hornsby RSL from 10am - 4pm.

This year's conference will focus on the theme of Communion, Participation, and Mission, which is drawn from the Synod on Synodality. The Synod encourages us to seek new vision, energy, and life for the Catholic Church.

The Pastoral Ministry Network AGM will follow at 4.30pm to top off a great opportunity for networking, growing in faith and sharing our hope for the Church.

Tickets are \$149 for non-members. We encourage you to share this image across your own networks inviting all wanting to be Alive in the Spirit!

For all enquiries, please contact Lisa on 0419 418 547 or email info@aliveinthespirit.com.au

PORTING THE CLERGY / 1st Collection

If you would like to make contributions to support the Clergy / 1st Collection please do so at Mass in the BLUE bucket or electronically using the Online Payments button on the Parish Website Home page, Diocese App, Bank Account Name: CCF BSB: 062815 No: 00328161 Ref: 5016 1st Collection or set up a direct debit contact the parish office for this option.

SUPPORTING OUR PARISH / 2nd Collection

If you would like to make contributions to support our Parish please do so at Mass via the RED bucket or deposit directly into the Parish Account our details are: Account Name: CCF BSB:062815 Account Number: 00328161 one of the following Payment References are required by CCF for all deposits: 5004 or 5004 + SURNAME or 5004 + PG + your Giver Number, or 5004 + PG + SURNAME, or you can use the Online Payments button on the Parish Website Home page or the Diocese App. If you are considering taking up **planned giving** you may like to know that **a percentage of the contributions are tax deductible**. If you would like to know more or set up planned giving please contact the Parish Office.

WEEKEND ROSTERS

		<u>THIS WEEK</u>	<u>NEXT WEEK</u>
<u>PRESIDERS</u>	5PM 9.30AM	Mass Mass	Mass Mass
<u>PROCLAIMERS:</u>	5PM 9.30AM	P Melvey H White	K Lendon J Vipan
<u>PSALMIST:</u>	5PM 9.30AM	C Lawandos J Hutchins	M Foo D Peterson
<u>GIFTS</u>	5PM 9.30AM	F Pascoe A Dussin K Lendon P Herbert	G Hutchinson L Hutchinson M Melvey P Melvey
<u>SERVERS</u>	5PM 9.30AM	M Melvey R Lawandos V Paulo C Lawandos	M Melvey F Dyson J Lawandos R Lawandos
<u>Av</u>	5PM 9.30AM	J France J France	M Foo M Fowler
<u>WELCOMERS</u>	5PM 9.30AM	M Melvey P Melvey K Lendon A Dussin	P Melvey A Walker G Walker
<u>CHURCH CLEANING</u>	COOR MOR	XXXX A & G Walker	M Shamley D Whitten

Our Parish supports The Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle 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 minister and interact with. If you have any concerns for a child or vulnerable adult please contact the Office of Safeguarding P:02 4979 1390 or email: childprotection@mn.catholic.org.au, or visit their website for further information www.officeofsafeguarding.org.au.

UPCOMING FEAST DAYS MEMORIALS AND SOLEMINITIES

SAINT IGNATIUS OF ANTIOCH (M) - 17TH OCT
SAINT LUKE (F) - 18TH OCT
SAINTS SIMON AND JUDE (F) - 28TH OCT
ALL SAINTS (S) - 1ST NOV
THE COMMEMORATION OF ALL THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED— 2ND NOV
SAINT CHARLES BORROMEO (M) - 4TH NOV
THE DEDICATION OF THE LATERAN BASILICA (F) - 9TH NOV
SAINT LEO THE GREAT (M) - 10TH NOV
SAINT MARTIN OF TOURS (M) - 11TH NOV

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

Margo Cluff, Clare Wallington, Donna Hazzard, Pam Mullaly, Mary Johnson, Tintumol Thomas, Les Findley, Peter Martyn, Bernadette Martin, Joan Gillett, Bruce Gillett.

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



Prayer Requests for the Bulletin

If you would like the parish to pray for a family member who is sick, recently deceased or you would like remembered please call or email the parish office or complete a prayer card for each person and place in the mail box near the parish office door. Cards are available at the back of the church and at the Parish Office.

All prayer requests require permission from a family member or the person. Due to Australian privacy laws.

An Act of Spiritual Communion

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



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



SUP-



We are committed to the
**NATIONAL CATHOLIC
SAFEGUARDING STANDARDS**



SUNDAY PRAYER SERVICE

Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year A

Sunday 15 Oct 2023

The Introductory Rites

Acknowledgement of Country

We Acknowledge the Traditional Custodians who have walked upon and cared for this land for thousands of years. We acknowledge the continued deep spiritual attachment and relationship of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples to this country and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of reconciliation. We especially acknowledge the Awabakal and Darkinjung peoples who were the original custodians of the land this parish sits on.

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 fulfil all our needs: Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, you invite all to your lavish banquet: Christ, have mercy.

All: Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you are the saviour of the world: 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 Father,
you open the doors
and welcome all to your feast of love.
May we ready and worthy when you call our names.
We ask this through Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
for ever and ever.

All:

Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

Isaiah 25:6-10

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The Lord will prepare a feast and will wipe away the tears from every cheek.

On this mountain,
the Lord of hosts will prepare for all people
a banquet of rich food, a banquet of fine wines,
of food rich and juicy, of fine strained wines.
On this mountain he will remove
the mourning veil covering all peoples,
and the shroud enwrapping all nations,
he will destroy Death for ever.
The Lord will wipe away
the tears from every cheek;
he will take away his people's shame
everywhere on earth,
for the Lord has said so.
That day, it will be said: See, this is our God
in whom we hoped for salvation;
the Lord is the one in whom we hoped.
We exult and we rejoice
that he has saved us;
for the hand of the Lord
rests on this mountain.

All reply:

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 22. R. v.6

(R.) I shall live in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life.

1. The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me,
to revive my drooping spirit. (R.)
2. He guides me along the right path;
he is true to his name.
If I should walk in the valley of darkness
no evil would I fear.
You are there with your crook and your staff;
with these you give me comfort. (R.)
3. You have prepared a banquet for me
in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;

my cup is overflowing. (R.)

4. Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me
all the days of my life.
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
for ever and ever. (R.)

Second Reading

Philippians 4:12-14. 19-20

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

I am able to do all things in him who strengthens me.

I know how to be poor and I know how to be rich too. I have been through my initiation and now I am ready for anything anywhere: full stomach or empty stomach, poverty or plenty. There is nothing I cannot master with the help of the One who gives me strength. All the same, it was good of you to share with me in my hardships. In return my God will fulfil all your needs, in Christ Jesus, as lavishly as only God can. Glory to God, our Father, for ever and ever. Amen.

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

The word of the Lord.

All reply:

Thanks be to God.

Gospel

Reader:

From the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

All:

Glory to you, O Lord.

Matthew 22:1-14

Whomsoever you find invite to the wedding.

Jesus said to the chief priests and elders of the people: 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a feast for his son's wedding. He sent his servants to call those who had been invited, but they would not come. Next he sent some more servants. "Tell those who have been invited" he said "that I have my banquet all prepared, my oxen and fattened cattle have been slaughtered, everything is ready. Come to the wedding." But they were not interested: one went off to his farm, another to his business, and the rest seized his servants, maltreated them and killed them. The king was furious. He dispatched his troops, destroyed those murderers and burnt their town. Then he said to his servants, "The wedding is ready; but as those who were invited proved to be unworthy, go to the crossroads in the town and invite everyone you can find to the wedding." So these servants went out onto the roads and collected together everyone they could find, bad and good alike; and the wedding hall was filled with guests. When the king came in to look at the guests he noticed one man who was not wearing a wedding garment, and said to him, "How did you get in here, my friend, without a wedding garment?" And the man was silent. Then the king said to the attendants, "Bind him hand and foot and throw him out into the dark, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth." For many are called, but few are chosen.'

Reader:

The Gospel of the Lord.

All:

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

All are seated.

Reflection on the Word

- Q. In the parable, why do you think the original guests refused the call to attend?
- Q. Why did Jesus tell this parable to the Jewish Chief Priests and elders?
- Q. What is the message of this parable for a modern audience?

Q. Today, who would be the equivalent of the people brought in to the banquet from the roads?

Q. What is a practical way in which you can be more inclusive of others?

Profession of Faith

Leader:

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

All:

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

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

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

Prayers of the Faithful

Leader: Brothers and sisters, called to the banquet of life, let us bring our prayers before God.

Reader: That the Church throughout the world will be nourished at the table of the Lord.

In your glory:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That those affected by hunger and drought will be filled with God's bounty.

In your glory:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That those preparing for First Holy Communion will grow in their love for God through the Body and Blood of Christ.

In your glory:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That our parish community will remain worthy to greet the Lamb of God at this table.

In your glory:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That the Pope's recent exhortation, *Laudate Deum* – Praise God, will be widely accepted, and people will heed his guidance for caring for our common home, the earth.

In your glory:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That the violence between Israel and Palestine will give way to sincere dialogue, leading to peaceful and enduring solutions.

In your glory:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That the participants in the Synod on Synodality, currently meeting in Rome, will work together in a spirit of prayer and hopefulness as they consider the themes of communion, participation, and mission.

In your glory:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That all the sick and housebound will be shown compassion, especially those who we hold dear to us.

In your glory:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That all who have died will forever enjoy the heavenly feast, especially those who were members of our community and families.

In your glory:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Loving God, you call us to share at your table. Hear our prayers and help us to spread our faith to others, so that we may bring them to your banquet. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Leader:

At the Saviour's command
and formed by divine teaching,
we dare to say:

All:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

The Concluding Rite Blessing

Leader:

May the Lord be with us, and protect us now and for ever.

All make the sign of the cross during the blessing.

All:

Amen.

Dismissal

Leader:

Let us go in the peace to love and serve the Lord.

All:

Thanks be to God.

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FAITH MATTERS: The Synodal Way

Have you ever read an article or book by a particular person and can hear their voice speaking the words? This is how I feel when I read anything written by Father Timothy Radcliffe, he simply does not write or read to you or for you but with you, he takes you on a journey. **ROSEMARY MCALLISTER** PUBLISHED OCTOBER 10, 2023

Timothy Radcliffe, OP is a Roman Catholic priest and Dominican friar of the English Province and was the former Master of the Order of Preachers from 1992 to 2001. I had the wonderful opportunity of spending some time with Father Timothy in 2017 at a Dominican Education Conference in Melbourne. It quickly became apparent that Radcliffe is "a man distinguished both for eloquence and for wit, a master theologian who has never disregarded ordinary people, a practical man who believes that religion and the teachings of theology must be constantly applied to the conduct of public life." Cited by Chancellor, the Right Honorable Christopher Patten, when Radcliffe was awarded an honorary Doctor of Divinity through Oxford in 2003.

Our Diocese was blessed in the lead-up to our second session of Synod on discernment in 2021, to have Father Timothy discuss how we can touch the imagination of our contemporaries with our faith. He recalls visiting our beautiful region in the 1980's and the magnificent wine from Brokenwood vineyards. He is personable, relatable and synodal in word and action. He is a master of making connections with people and places to assist us in understanding the living God. You may like to revisit his contribution to our diocese

at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GJ4wHKnUPKw>

2021 was the same year that Timothy was diagnosed with cancer of the jaw, and we prayed for his recovery, to which he did, and this year he accompanied Father Lukasz Popko, another Dominican in publishing *Questioning God*. The format of this literature is a conversation between the two, who turn the tables on the idea that the relationship between God and humanity is as one of passive submission and thus unquestioning. Insights into these transformative conversations are helpful as the Church questions how to be faithful to God in this uncertain time.

In the lead up to the Synod on Synodality Pope Francis called on Timothy Radcliffe to run a three-day retreat ahead of the opening at the Vatican on Oct 4 for the 300 plus delegates.

Father Timothy reflects:

"To guide us during this retreat, we shall meditate on the Transfiguration. This is the retreat Jesus gives to his closest disciples before they embark on the first synod in the life of the Church, when they walk together (syn-hodos) to Jerusalem. This retreat was needed because they were afraid of this journey they must make together. This retreat gives them the courage and hope to set off on their journey. It does not always go well. They immediately fail to free the young lad from the evil spirit. They quarrel about who is the greatest. They misunderstand the Lord. But they are on their way with a fragile hope."

"So, we too prepare for our synod by going on retreat where, like the disciples, we learn to listen to the Lord. When we set off in three days' time, we shall often be like those disciples, and misunderstand each other and even quarrel. But the Lord will lead us onwards towards the death and resurrection of the Church. Let us ask the Lord to give us hope too: the hope that this synod will lead to a renewal of the Church and not division; the hope that we shall draw closer to each other as brothers and sisters."

Over days leading up the official opening, Father Timothy spoke about themes in his meditations around hope, friendship, authority, difficulties and tension points in the Church, beauty, goodness, the need to listen to each other and the spirit of truth. Woven into each of the meditations was the Transfiguration and real-life examples of real people in real situations. This assists us to consider how we are being synodal through living in communion, living with a participatory and mission focus.

For more information on the Synod on Synodality and Father Timothy's meditations go to: <https://www.synod.va/en/highlights/retreat-for-the-participants-of-the-synodal-assembly.html>



Recognising Mental Health Month

During Mental Health Month, we're encouraging people across the Diocese to think about their wellbeing, raise awareness and drive actions that promote and protect everyone's mental health.

DIOCESE OF MAITLAND-

NEWCASTLE PUBLISHED OCTOBER 10, 2023

Across October each year, Mental Health Month promotes the importance of good mental health in our everyday lives.

This year's theme is We All Have a Role to Play. It encourages us to think about ways to connect with people to create a safe space for everyone.

Today, the Social Justice Council alongside the Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle and CatholicCare Social Services Hunter-Manning put mental health front and centre with a special event for staff.

Support services like The Rosewood Centre and CatholicCare's GambleAware program were available to provide advice and raise awareness of their services.

Giant lawn games, wood painting, succulent planting, seated yoga, and walks around the Diocesan offices in Newcastle West were also on offer along with time to connect with our colleagues over a delicious Bacon and Egg Roll breakfast.

However, the highlight of the morning was a visit from Spencer the Border Collie. As a therapy dog with The Rosewood Centre, he provides comfort and companionship to people who need a bit of extra support...or a cuddle.

Find out more about Mental Health Month by visiting, mentalhealthmonth.wayahead.org.au/

WayAhead, the organisation driving Mental Health Month in NSW, has a number of resources available to support conversations during October. Including a Schools Pack, an Activation Guide, and other downloadable items. They are available via the website link above.

