



**St John
Vianney**
Parish Morisset



THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH YEAR B SUNDAY 27TH DECEMBER 2020

Today we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family. Devotion to the Holy Family has a reasonably long history in Catholicism. It first appeared significantly in 17th-century France and was brought to the New World by Jesuit missionaries and French settlers and governors.

The Feast received official status in 1921 when, under Pope Benedict XV, the feast was inserted into the general calendar of the Roman rite. Today, when the feast falls on the Sunday after Christmas, it extends the celebration of the Nativity, putting new emphasis on the humanity of Jesus and on the gift of divine life offered to all of us.

Today's feast reminds us that Jesus was a part of a family and part of the whole human family. One of the key lessons of this feast may be that understanding Jesus for who he is will always be a process of seeking and finding, of questioning and being questioned.

Today is a day to renew our confirmation promises, expand our understanding of our spiritual lives and embrace all of our adult responsibilities. It is a tall order, but with the help of God we will succeed. The courage to listen and respond to God's word is sorely needed in our world today.



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

Email: morparishplt@mn.catholic.org.au

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

PRIEST IN RESIDENCE: Fr Kevin Corrigan, Sacramental Priest

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

Morisset Parish Web site:: www.vianneymorisset.org

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

Morisset Parish Bulletin Items: 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)

If you would like to receive an electronic copy of our Parish bulletin, please call the parish office or send an email request to morparish@mn.catholic.org.au

UPCOMING WORSHIP TIMES :

Thursday	24th Dec 6pm Mass— Morisset Showground
Friday	25th Dec 9.30am Mass— Morisset
Sunday	27th Dec 9.30am Mass— Morisset
Tuesday	29th Dec 9.30am Mass— Morisset
Sunday	3rd Jan 9.30am Mass— Morisset
Tuesday	5th Jan 9.30am Mass— Morisset

Bookings Essential via the Eventbrite App or Website: <http://vianneymorisset.eventbrite.com> .

If you don't have access to the App or the Internet call the Parish Office on 02 4973 6859 between 9am & 2pm Weekdays.

PASTORAL CARE

If you would like to speak with or see a priest please contact Fr Kevin on 02 4973 1537 .

REFLECTION FOR THE FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY YEAR B

In recent weeks we have seen scenes of joyous reunions as State borders are opened and Australians stranded overseas have been able to return. During the lockdown and border closures families have been separated: loved ones have died, babies have been born, couples have been married, often without family members being able to gather together. If this year has taught us nothing else, it has demonstrated how important family is.

On this special feast day we celebrate the most special family of all – not rich, not famous, but a family that was essential to the fulfillment of God’s plan. The Jews had always considered themselves to be God’s chosen people with whom God had a special covenant. Through the prophets they had been promised a Messiah and they lived in anticipation. However, the Christ that was born in Bethlehem and grew to maturity with his family in Nazareth was very different from what they were expecting.

For God’s plan to be fulfilled, it needed the faith of Mary and of Joseph and their absolute belief in God’s promises. When we consider that Mary, a very young woman, a virgin, betrothed to Joseph, was confronted by the angel and told that she was to conceive and bear a son, who was to be named Jesus and this son was to be called the Son of God, we can imagine her consternation. When she questioned how this could be, the angel explained that the Holy Spirit would come upon her and nothing was impossible to God. How remarkable was her response: “I am the handmaid of the Lord, let what you have said be done to me.” Joseph’s acquiescence was also needed. He was the son of Jacob of the House of David and, on learning of Mary’s pregnancy, planned to divorce her secretly and so save her from disgrace. In a dream the angel told him not to be afraid to take Mary as his wife as she had conceived by the Holy Spirit and would bear a son who was to be called Jesus and would save his people from their sins. Remarkably, he believed and, on waking from his dream, he took Mary as his wife.

Like Abram and Sarah before them, their belief in and acceptance of God’s plan for them was absolute.

The Gospels tell us little of the family life in Nazareth though Luke tells us “the child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom; and God’s favour was with him.” We can assume Jesus grew up in a devout household as Luke tells us his parents did “everything the Law of the Lord required” and during his public ministry he demonstrated his familiarity with the Hebrew Scriptures, no doubt nurtured during his formative years in Nazareth. We also know that he worked as a carpenter like Joseph, probably acquiring his skills from him. However, the family lived a simple life and were not well to do as indicated by their modest offering in the temple.

It was during this presentation in the temple that Jesus’ parents had two remarkable encounters – one with Simeon, one with Anna, both devout people inspired by the Holy Spirit and both recognising the promised Messiah in this young baby. To Simeon it had been revealed that he would not die before he set eyes on the Christ. When he encountered the family, he took the child in his arms and

blessed God saying, “Now, Master, you can let your servant go in peace.. my eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared for all the nations to see, a light to enlighten the pagans and the glory of your people Israel.” For Mary, his mother, he warns, “this child..is destined for the fall and the rising of many in Israel, destined to be a sign that is rejected – and a sword will pierce your own soul too.” At the moment the prophetess Anna came by and began to praise God, speaking of the child to all who looked forward to the deliverance of Jerusalem.

At this time let us also recognise the Christ in this child who has been born, the Christ who needs us to further his kingdom. Let us seek to emulate this Holy Family by nurturing our Faith and loving relationships in our homes, trying to heal hurts and mend rifts that have occurred. When we struggle, let us remember this family that struggled too: they were refugees when they fled into Egypt; the parents searched desperately for Jesus when they lost him for three days and found him, only to be told he had to be about his Father’s business; Mary and Jesus would have mourned Joseph’s death and imagine Mary’s grief at the foot of the Cross. The life of the Holy Family can be a source of comfort and inspiration to us. Pam Melvey

BISHOP’S BILL CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

You can view the Bishop’s Christmas Message on the Diocese Website : <https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/news-events/bishop-bills-christmas-message/>

DIOCESAN SYNOD – SESSIONS TWO AND THREE

The next sessions of the Diocesan Synod will be Session Two- Discernment to be held on the 22nd May 2021 and Session Three – Implementation to be held on the 20th November 2021.

WELCOME TO THE SYNOD WEBSITE

‘A Synod - the word means “journeying together” - is a formal assembly of representatives of the whole diocesan community: clergy, religious and lay people. Through the Synod process, which involves collaboration, discernment, governance and communion, the Bishop seeks advice on matters concerning the good of the whole diocese.’

Visit - www.domnsynod.com.au - your hub for information, resources and discussion about the Synod.

CARITAS GLOBAL GIFTS

Looking for meaningful Christmas presents? Give a Global Gift. These cards will bring hope and joy to the world’s most vulnerable and smiles to your loved ones. Buy a Global Gift this Christmas at www.globalgifts.org.au

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

Don’t miss out on anything in your Diocese! Go to mnnews.today to see updates and read stories about what is happening locally.

A MESSAGE FROM THE COUNCIL FOR CATHOLIC WOMEN (CACW)

As 2020 draws to a close there is much to look forward to for the women of our Diocese. Earlier this year the Council of Catholic Women (CACW) was disbanded hence members of the former Diocesan contact group have been challenged with keeping our women informed and included in future directions as we embark on a new beginning.

To that end some members of the former contact group have written to Bishop Bill in the interest of forming a Diocesan Council for Women. Whilst awaiting a response, a meeting has been scheduled for Thursday 11 February 2021 at 4pm in the Toohey Room. Please enter this date in your diary as our vision is to include all Diocesan women through conversations, visits or Zoom to all parts of the Diocese and interest groups that are inclusive, reflective and fun.

The annual Magdalene Awards will take a break in 2021 but will be replaced by a celebration of Women in our Diocese. On Sunday 7 March – International Women's Day, we have invited Bishop Bill to celebrate the 9.30am Mass at the Cathedral to mark this occasion. Hopefully we can all come together for a morning tea, but this will depend on Covid-19 restrictions. Parishes will also be invited to recognise women in their mass centres through prayer and hopefully hospitality.

Have a happy and holy family Christmas and when you put up your 2021 calendar or upload electronically, remember to circle 11 February 2021 as the change of direction for Diocesan women.

NSW CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC RENEWAL

To all of you, member of Prayer Groups, Communities and individuals who actively participate in the grace of Catholic Charismatic Renewal.

We pray that you be abundantly blessed with joy, and an awareness of the presence of Emmanuel, God with us, as we celebrate again this Christmas, the coming of the Christ child through whom we are blessed to know salvation. We pray this blessing be for you, your families, and your groups & communities of faith. We give thanks for your commitment to the body of Christ and for our fellowship together, as we continue to proclaim "Jesus Christ is Lord!"

With the easing of COVID Restrictions, the January Retreat Conference 'Equipped', will be able to take place at the Carmelite Retreat Centre in Varroville over the weekend 30th/31st January 2021.

With the 2 sq metre rule still in place we have been limited to a maximum of 50 people who are able to be accommodated and attend the event. There was a plan to have the Conference Room extended in time for the Conference but this has now been delayed until February next year.

To ensure that a wider audience of people are able to participate, a team from the Community of the Risen Lord will be providing a live YouTube broadcast. We recommend that Prayer Groups and individuals join together at an appropriate venue to participate via this medium.

PARISH OFFICE CLOSURE

The parish office will close at 2pm this Thursday 24th December 2020 and will re-open at 9am on Monday 4th January 2021. During this time the phone will be diverted to members of the PLT for urgent enquires and those who are unable to register for Mass via the Eventbrite App or Eventbrite Website.

INVITATION TO SYNOD DELEGATES

Dear Friends,

You may be aware that we are in the midst of a Synod of the Diocese. The first session was held in November 2019 and was open to all-comers. In 2020 the second session was postponed because of COVID, but a lot of preparation for it still went on and it will be held in the New Year.

A diocesan Synod is a very significant event. The last one was held almost 30 years ago. The coming together of people from all areas of the diocese, and all aspects and varieties of its works and communities, to reflect and plan together for our present and future is a very big undertaking and should also be a time of great grace and encouragement. It will also help us contribute our special wisdom to the National Plenary Council of the whole Australian Church.

Today I invite you to consider nominating as a delegate to our diocesan synod. We are looking for a good mix of people from every part of the diocese, from every age group, from every diocesan ministry or lay group, from those associated with our schools or CatholicCare services, workers and participants, and from both those heavily involved in our church and those who still care about it but feel rather distant from it normally.

Expressions of interest to nominate a delegate close on 4th January 2021. I warmly encourage you to consider nominating. Every voice matters.

Bishop Bill

Visit - www.domnsynod.com.au - your hub for information, resources and discussion about the Synod.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY - MEMBERS NEEDED!

Our Members are the backbone of St Vincent de Paul Society and live their faith in action by providing support and friendship through visitation in- home or within the community.

Along with visitation, Members will also have the opportunity to be a part of a variety of activities such as Mini Vinnies with local schools or Social Justice campaigns

In the 2019-2020 Financial Year, the dedicated Members of the St Vincent de Paul Maitland Newcastle Diocese were responsible for assisting approximately 7500 people within the community.

Our Conferences provide a service in most regions within the Diocese and are currently seeking individuals to become Members who are passionate about providing a hand up to those that are disadvantaged.

If you can help in any way for any amount of time that suits you, please call Sarah Kemp on 0249221801 or email on: sarah.kemp@vinnies.org.au to discuss how you can make a difference.

ELECTRONIC PAYMENTS PREFERRED

As part of our COVID-19 Safety Plan we are asked to encourage parishioners to contribute to the collections and planned giving electronically online Electronic payments can be made at: <https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/about/parish-payments/> Alternatively you can directly deposit into our bank account, Account Name: CDF 5004 Morisset Parish BSB: 062815 Account Number: 00328161. Planned Givers you need to put your giver number in the payment reference.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Christmas Mass times are up on the Diocese website: <https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/2020-christmas-mass-times/>

Please be aware that for COVID-19 tracing, you must register to attend Christmas Mass. Registration Instructions can be found next to each Mass centre.

Christmas Mass will also be livestreamed from the Sacred Heart Cathedral at the following times:

- 5:00pm Christmas Eve Vigil Mass
- Midnight Mass (Christmas Day)
- 9:30am Christmas Day Mass

DOMN COVID-19 LITURGY REFLECTIONS SURVEY

Let your voice be heard! The DoMN COVID-19 Liturgy Reflections Survey is now live!

This is an important opportunity to voice your liturgical insights and experiences during COVID-19.

If you do not have access to a computer, phone Sharon Murphy on 4979 1134 for a hard copy.

Take the survey here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/mn-liturgy>

UPCOMING FEAST DAYS MEMORIALS AND SOLEMNITIES

- THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD VIGIL— 24TH DECEMBER
- THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD DAY— 25TH DECEMBER
- SAINT STEPHEN— 26TH DECEMBER
- THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH— 27TH DEC
- THE HOLY INNOCENTS— 28TH DECEMBER
- SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD— 1ST JAN
- SAINTS BASIL THE GREAT AND GREGORY NAZIANZEN— 2ND JAN
- THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD— 3RD JANUARY
- THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD— 10TH JANUARY

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

Fr Paul O’Neill, Helen Martin, Bruce Gillett, Joan Gillett, Robert Jay.

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.**

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

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.**



<u>WEEKEND ROSTERS</u>			
		<u>THIS WEEK</u>	<u>NEXT WEEK</u>
<u>Presiders</u>	9.30	Mass	Mass
<u>PROCLAIMER:</u>	9.30	M Foo	M Melvey
<u>PSALMIST:</u>	9.30	J Hutchins	P Melvey
<u>SERVERS</u>	9.30	V Paulo	V Paulo
<u>AV:</u>	9.30	U France	M Foo
<u>SOUND/ VIDEO:</u>	9.30	L Hutchinson G Hutchinson	L Hutchinson G Hutchinson
<u>SIGN IN</u>	9.30	P Melvey	J Hutchins
<u>TEMPERATURE</u>	9.30	K Amon	J France
<u>USHER</u>	9.30	K Lendon	J Douglas
<u>CLEANERS</u>	9.30	COVID-19 Safety Team	COVID-19 Safety Team

