

**DAYLIGHT SAVING:** Having celebrated Spring's Ember Day, let's all be ready for Daylight Saving to begin next Sunday, October 6. from 2am; the clock is re-set by one hour forward. This plan continues until Sunday, April 5, 2020.

**OCTOBER STARTS NEW INTENTION: A Missionary "Spring" in the Church** That the breath of the Holy Spirit engender a new missionary "spring" in the Church. All Catholics (and any others of good will) are invited and even urged to take up this lovely intention for daily prayer during October, starting from Tuesday, which is important more for St Therese of the Child Jesus than it is for being April Fools' Day! Actually, in the church's liturgical calendar, is full of Memorial Feasts, including The Holy Guardian Angels (Wed 2nd); St Francis Borgia SJ (Thurs 3rd); St Francis of Assisi (Fri 4th).

**"FIRST DAY IN HEAVEN":**

*"I held him and would not let him go!"*

This painting is by an Egyptian artist named Kerolos Safwat.

I received it from a friend, and wanted to share it. Enjoy! Google it and see the rest.



*What would your first day in heaven look like, especially when you first met Jesus?*

**BLESSING OF PETS & OTHER ANIMALS:** Friday this week is the Feast of St Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals; it seemed like a good idea to a few of us to invite everyone to bring their 'pets & other animals' for a special blessing on this Feast Day. In accordance with some precedents in this parish, we'll have Mass outside that day! We can all gather on the slope between the Bell Tower and the church.

'Blessing of animals can be either of the animal or of the human-animal relationship, and can apply to pets and other companion animals, or to agricultural animals and working and other animals which humans depend on or interact with. World Animal Day is an international day of action for animal rights and welfare celebrated annually, but is held on 4 October, the feast day of Francis of Assisi, a Christian patron saint of animals.' All creatures, great and small, are welcome!

**CREATION WEEK:** Wow! On Friday, 4 million people stood up for climate justice. We all stood up in our own ways—from the students and allies who marched in streets around the world to Franciscans in Brazil who rang the bells of their basilica in solidarity. I attended the climate strike in New York City, where **Greta Thunberg** spoke. A big Catholic group from the New York area marched, I prayed aloud from Laudato Si', and we encountered Sisters of Mercy and their students along the route. Our faith was front and center.

As Greta said in her speech, "this is only the beginning." As we take a moment to celebrate, let's also look ahead to the weeks and months to come. We have 11 years to reduce carbon emissions by 50% in order to keep global warming to 1.5 degrees and stop the worst of the climate crisis. What next?

Keep the momentum going. We're in this for the long haul, and the best way to go is together. Form a Laudato Si' Circle in your community to share resources and hold each other accountable all year. It's completely free of charge.

Friday was amazing. I can't wait to see where the Holy Spirit takes us in the days and months to come. Joyfully, Christina Leaño, Global Catholic Climate Movement.

**DESTRUCTION OF RAINFORESTS** This is our environmental, social and ethical crisis, Vatican Secretary of State, Cardinal Pietro Parolin, said as he addressed a meeting of the UN General Assembly on Multilateral Action in Favour of the Protection of Rainforests. By Robin Gomes

The Holy See is calling for a prompt, urgent and lasting action to protect the world's rainforests saying their rapid destruction is not only an environmental crisis, but also a social and above

all an ethical one.

"We all recognize how important forests are for the whole world and indeed for the very future of humanity: they are the world's most reliable renewable resource and are essential for integral human development," Parolin said on Monday.

He stressed the need for educating people on the crucial importance of rainforests and their protection at a time of increasing urbanization, where their irreplaceable importance is often taken for granted and underestimated.

**Integral ecology and development** "Great human suffering arises from the wanton destruction of forests", whose impact falls mainly on those who depend on forests for their home, livelihood, cultural heritage and social structures. "Care for our common home, and care for our brothers and sisters in that home must go together." What is needed is an "integral ecology and integral development", that balances the responsible use of forests for economic and social development with protecting and preserving them for the good of those who depend on and care for them, and for the good of humanity and future generations.

Any decision to improve the management of our forests, he said, must include the full and meaningful participation of those whose rights, values and lives will be most impacted.

Several other important ecosystems and vast biomes, such as the Congo Basin, the rainforests in Southeast Asia, as well as national forests and vegetation covers, also face serious threats.

**Combatting poverty helps protect forests** He recalled Pope Francis' recent visit to Madagascar, which has lost 21% of its forests since 2001. Several destructive activities are reluctantly done by poor inhabitants to ensure their survival; the Pope called for protecting the environment, by creating jobs to help these inhabitants emerge from poverty.

He said that strategies to address the destruction of our forests without delay demand an integrated, multilateral approach that combats poverty and restores dignity to the excluded.

**FRIENDS NOT GOING TO MASS?**

-HOW DO I SHARE MY FAITH WITH THEM?

**MICHAEL KING** Mission Projects, Catholic Enquiry Centre

• When your friend says, I didn't go to Mass on the weekend, gently ask "Why?" Listen carefully. If they say it's a logistics problem, are you able to help them out? For example, do they need a lift or someone to look after an elderly parent or a young child while they go to Mass? If they say, they can't be bothered anymore, or that church has lost its relevance, can you pluck up the courage to challenge this?

• If your friend offers you a reason, but you don't feel confident or competent to respond, then do something about it. For example, if it is about church teaching, then do some reading on the topic. Practice your response, ensuring it is expressed in a language style that suits the person.

• To be able to encourage others to return to going to Mass may mean doing some self-evaluation. Why are you still going to Mass? Is that reason worthy of sharing with your friend?

• Let your friend know that the faith community is incomplete without their presence. Let them know they are valued, and that they have something to offer the community. And Jesus, in his presence in the Eucharist, certainly has something to offer them.

• Invite your friend to a Mass where you would like their company, for example on the anniversary of the death of a loved one.

• Returning to Mass again can be daunting especially if one has forgotten the words and gestures. So invite your friend to go with you to your parish Sunday Mass. Meet them outside the Church, go in and sit together, and introduce your friend to other members of the parish community. If a 'cuppa' isn't offered after Mass then consider going for a coffee and a chat.

**POPE: COMPASSION IS THE LANGUAGE OF GOD**

The virtue of compassion which, Pope Francis says, is the language of God, whilst often the language of man is that of indifference. By Linda Bordoni. He asked people to open their hearts to compassion, not to "close themselves" in indifference.

He reflected on the Gospel reading of the day which tells of Jesus' encounter with a widow in the city of Nain who is mourning the death of her only son as he is being taken to his grave. The evangelist does not say that Jesus had compassion, but that "the Lord was moved with compassion," as if he had been overwhelmed with the sentiment.

**The 'lens' of the heart** He went further saying it was by looking through "the lens" of compassion that Jesus sees and understands the reality of that woman. "Compassion allows you to see reality; compassion is like the lens of the heart: it allows us to take in and understand the true dimensions. In the Gospels, Jesus is often moved by compassion. And compassion is also the language of God," he said.

Compassion makes its appearance in the Bible long before the arrival of Christ: it was God who said to Moses, "I have witnessed the affliction of my people," and it is thanks to the compassion of God that He sends Moses to save the people.

"Our God is a God of compassion, and compassion is the 'weakness' of God, but also His strength," he said.

Compassion is not just a feeling of pity, a sentiment he explained, one would feel, for example, when seeing a dog die on the road. It is when compassion takes hold, "we get involved in the problems of others".

**The language of God** Drawing again from the Gospel, the Pope referred to the parable of the multiplication of the loaves. He recalled when Jesus told the disciples to feed the crowd while they wanted to dismiss those present and send them off to buy themselves something to eat. "The disciples were prudent," the Pope said, "I believe that at that moment Jesus was angry, in his heart", and when he heard their answer he urged them "to give them food!"

"The Lord had compassion because he saw these people as sheep without a shepherd," said the Pope, noting that the Gospel speaks, on one hand, of Jesus' gesture of compassion, and on the other of the selfish attitude of the disciples who "seek a solution without compromise, who do not get their hands dirty, as if to leave those people to get on with it:

We must ask ourselves: "How many times do we look away...? By doing so we close the door to compassion," he continued, inviting those present "to make an examination of conscience" and ask themselves whether they let the Holy Spirit take them along the road to compassion. "That it is a virtue of God," he said.

**An act of justice** When the Lord said to the grieving mother: "Do not weep, with his caress of compassion, Jesus returned the young man of Nain to his mother, noting that the evangelist uses the word "to return" which implies an act of justice.

"Compassion takes us along the path to true justice. We must always return what rightfully belongs to someone else, and this always saves us from selfishness, from indifference, from our own closure". And he prayed that the Lord may also have compassion for each of us: "We need it."

**AND CALUMNY A DIABOLICAL CANCER: Pope**

The act of bearing false witness to destroy someone is an attack against the body of the Church, Pope Francis said yesterday. Christians who engage in calumny are like those responsible for the martyrdom of St Stephen; they chose "the pettiest solution to annihilate a human being: slander and false witness," he said "We know that calumny always kills. This 'diabolical cancer' of calumny – born from a desire to destroy a person's reputation – also assaults the rest of the ecclesial body and seriously damages it when, for petty interests or to cover their own faults, (people) unite to sully someone."

**"THE SOVEREIGNTY OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD":**

**POPE WITH JESUITS** of Mozambique and Madagascar

By Antonio Spadaro, SJ During his recent trip to Mozambique, Pope Francis met privately with a group of 24 Jesuits.

One Jesuit asked: "How can we avoid falling into clericalism during formation for priestly ministry?"

Clericalism is a real perversion in the Church. The shepherd has the ability to go in front of the flock to show the way, stay in

the middle of the flock to see what happens within, and also be at the rear of the flock to make sure that no one is left behind. Clericalism, on the other hand, demands that the shepherd always stays ahead, sets a course, and punishes with excommunication those who stray from the flock. In short, the very opposite of what Jesus did. Clericalism condemns, separates, beats and despises the people of God.

The ministry understood not as service but as "promotion" to the altar is the fruit of a clerical mentality. I can think of an extreme example. Deacon means "servant." But in some cases clericalism paradoxically affects precisely the "servants," the deacons. When they forget that they are the custodians of service, then the desire to clericalize and be "promoted" to the altar emerges.

Clericalism has a direct consequence in rigidity. Have you never seen young priests all stiff in black cassocks and hats in the shape of the planet Saturn on their heads? Behind all the rigid clericalism there are serious problems. I had to intervene recently in three dioceses with problems that expressed themselves in these forms of rigidity that concealed moral problems and imbalances.

One dimension of clericalism is the exclusive moral fixation on the sixth commandment. Once a Jesuit, a great Jesuit, told me to be careful in giving absolution, because the most serious sins are those that are more angelical: pride, arrogance, dominion... And the least serious are those that are less angelical, such as greed and lust. We focus on sex and then we do not give weight to social injustice, slander, gossip and lies. The Church today needs a profound conversion in this area.

On the other hand, great shepherds give people a lot of freedom. The good shepherd knows how to lead his flock without enslaving it to rules that deaden people. Clericalism, on the other hand, leads to hypocrisy, even in religious life.

I often tell the story of a Jesuit in formation. His mother was seriously ill and he knew that she would not live much longer. He lived in another city in the same country, and so he asked his provincial to be moved closer to his mother so as to be able to spend more time with her. The provincial said that he would think about it before God and would answer him before leaving early in the morning the next day. The young Jesuit stayed in the chapel that night for a long time, praying that the Lord would grant him grace. But the provincial, since he had to leave early, did not really think much about it and wrote all the answers to the petitions he had received and gave them to the Minister of the community to hand them over the following day. Among them was the answer to this young man.

The Minister, since it was late and he thought that everyone was sleeping, put the letters at the doors of those concerned. The young man, who returned to his room from the chapel late at night, saw the letter from the provincial and opened it. He realized it was dated the next day. It said, "After reflecting, praying, celebrating Mass and making long discernment before the Lord, I think you should stay in this place." This is clericalism, it is the hypocrisy to which clericalism leads. The young Jesuit did not lose his vocation, but he never forgot that hypocrisy. Clericalism is essentially hypocritical.

The last question was from a young Jesuit, about rampant xenophobia. It destroys the unity of a people, even that of the people of God. Today we are tempted by a form of sterilized sociology, where you consider a country as if it were an operating theater, where everything is sterilized: my race, my family, my culture... as if there were the fear of dirtying it, staining it, infecting it. There are those who want to stop this very important process of mingling cultures, which gives life to people. Mixing makes you grow, it gives you new life. Building walls means condemning yourself to death. We can't live asphyxiated by a culture as clean and pure as an operating theater, aseptic and not microbial.



# The Liturgy of the Word

Am 6:1. 4-7

## A reading from the prophet Amos

The almighty Lord says this:  
Woe to those ensconced so snugly in Zion  
and to those who feel so safe  
on the mountain of Samaria.  
Lying on ivory beds  
and sprawling on their divans,  
they dine on lambs from the flock,  
and stall-fattened veal;  
they bawl to the sound of the harp,  
they invent new instruments of music like David,  
they drink wine by the bowlful,  
and use the finest oil for anointing themselves,  
but about the ruin of Joseph they do not care at all.  
That is why they will be the first to be exiled;  
the sprawlers' revelry is over.

## Responsorial Psalm Ps 145:6-10. R. v.2 (R.) Praise the Lord, my soul!

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,  
who is just to those who are oppressed.  
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,  
the Lord, who sets prisoners free. (R.)
2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,  
who raises up those who are bowed down.  
It is the Lord who loves the just,  
the Lord, who protects the stranger. (R.)
3. He upholds the widow and orphan  
but thwarts the path of the wicked.  
The Lord will reign for ever,  
Zion's God, from age to age. (R.)

1 Tm 6:11-16

## A reading from the first letter of St Paul to Timothy

As a man dedicated to God,  
you must aim to be saintly and religious,  
filled with faith and love, patient and gentle.  
Fight the good fight of the faith  
and win for yourself the eternal life  
to which you were called  
when you made your profession  
and spoke up for the truth in front of many witnesses.  
Now, before God the source of all life  
and before Jesus Christ,  
who spoke up as a witness for the truth  
in front of Pontius Pilate,  
I put to you the duty of doing  
all that you have been told,  
with no faults or failures,  
until the Appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who at the due time will be revealed  
by God, the blessed and only Ruler of all,  
the King of kings and the Lord of lords,  
who alone is immortal,  
whose home is in inaccessible light,  
whom no man has seen and no man is able to see:  
to him be honour and everlasting power. Amen.

Gospel Acclamation 2 Cor 8:9

## Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus Christ was rich but he became poor,  
to make you rich out of his poverty.

## Alleluia!

Gospel Lk 16:19-31

## A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Jesus said to the Pharisees:  
'There was a rich man who used to dress  
in purple and fine linen  
and feast magnificently every day.  
And at his gate there lay a poor man called Lazarus,  
covered with sores,  
who longed to fill himself with the scraps  
that fell from the rich man's table.  
Dogs even came and licked his sores.  
Now the poor man died and was carried away  
by angels to the bosom of Abraham.  
The rich man also died and was buried.  
'In his torment in Hades he looked up  
and saw Abraham a long way off  
with Lazarus in his bosom.  
So he cried out, "Father Abraham, pity me  
and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water  
and cool my tongue,  
for I am in agony in these flames."  
"My son," Abraham replied  
"remember that during your life  
good things come your way,  
just as bad things came the way of Lazarus.  
Now he is being comforted here  
while you are in agony.  
But that is not all: between us and you  
a great gulf has been fixed,  
to stop anyone, if he wanted to,  
crossing from our side to yours,  
and to stop any crossing from your side to ours."  
'The rich man replied,  
"Father, I beg you then  
to send Lazarus to my father's house,  
since I have five brothers, to give them warning,  
so that they do not come  
to this place of torment too."  
"They have Moses and the prophets," said Abraham  
"let them listen to them."  
"Ah no, father Abraham," said the rich man  
"but if someone comes to them from the dead,  
they will repent."  
Then Abraham said to him,  
"If they will not listen  
either to Moses or to the prophets,  
they will not be convinced  
even if someone should rise from the dead."

## FRIDAY'S SPECIAL MASS

## FOR THE BLESSING OF PETS AND OTHER ANIMALS

-The Feast of St Francis of Assisi

TIME: 9.15am. LOCATION: Beside Bell Tower

## SACRED HEART PARISH

Moruya, Moruya Heads, Mossy Point, Broulee,

Tuross Head, Congo, Bodalla.

36 Queen Street (PO Box 23), Moruya, NSW, 2537.

Phone: (02) 4474 2024; Fr Steve: 047 807 3995

Emails: Moruya@cg.org.au; stephen.astill@cg.org.au

Website: <http://cg.org.au/Moruya>

Parish Administrator Fr Stephen Astill SJ;

Cleaner: Mrs Sue Fawcett

Tuross Caring Group: 0497 315 534

Moruya Caring Group: 0431 354 993

PARISH SCHOOLS: St Mary's Parish Primary School

Principal: Mrs Noelene O'Neill

Carroll College Principal: Mrs Jacqui Heffernan

## Social Justice Sunday

The Australian Catholic Bishops' Social Justice Statement for 2019 – 2020, Making it Real: Genuine human encounter in our digital world, affirms the positive possibilities for encounter and solidarity offered by new digital media, while warning of those elements of our digital world that may be harmful. These include information overload; social isolation; marginalisation of the vulnerable; consumerism and fake news. The Statement reminds us that the new digital media cannot be seen as neutral or 'unaffected by any moral considerations'. While many users do not realise it, the core business of social media platforms is to sell advertising and maximise profits. People's personal lives may be reduced to data that is traded for profit or power, and it is used to target and influence us in ways previously unthinkable. Pushing users to more extreme positions and promoting fake news and conspiracy theories sells, but this is at odds with human solidarity. The Statement amplifies Pope Francis' call to us to 'boldly become citizens of the digital world', with the image of the Good Samaritan as our inspiration. We are called not only to love our neighbour, but to bring the love of God to the new global neighbourhood. The Statement points out that we are called not just to be inhabitants of this new digital world, but active citizens shaping it. All of us – whether we are users, communities, industrial or political leaders – have a role to play in rejecting hatred, divisions and falsehoods. We have a duty to foster a neighbourhood that promotes those human attributes and social values that lend themselves to genuine human encounter – love, understanding, beauty, goodness, truth and trustworthiness, joy and hope.

## Making it Real

### Genuine human encounter in our digital world

Lord, make us instruments of your peace.

Help us to recognise the evil

latent in a communication that does not build communion.

Help us to remove the venom from our judgements.

Help us to speak about others as our brothers and sisters.

You are faithful and trustworthy; may our words be seeds

of goodness for the world:

where there is shouting, let us practise listening;

where there is confusion, let us inspire harmony;

where there is ambiguity, let us bring clarity;

where there is exclusion, let us offer solidarity;

where there is sensationalism, let us use sobriety;

where there is superficiality, let us raise real questions;

where there is prejudice, let us awaken trust;

where there is hostility, let us bring respect;

where there is falsehood, let us bring truth.

Amen. A Prayer from Pope Francis, 2018

Message for the 52nd World Communications Day

## TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

(Year C) 27/9/2019

Weekend Masses: Saturday Vigil 6pm Moruya;

Sunday at 'The Pines', Tuross 8am; Moruya 10am

Weekday Masses: Monday Communion Service 9.15am;

Weekday Masses: Tues 5.30pm, Thurs & Fri 9.15am. Note: This

week, no 9.15am Mass. Wednesdays 2pm Banksia Village

-Rosary after Mass

Reconciliation: Saturday 10—10.30am

Baptisms, Anointings, Weddings & Funerals by appointment.

For the sick: Fr Kevin Murphy, Peter Morris, Debbie Morris,

Gail Moss, Kay Morton, Lauri-Anne Foran, John Bolton & Olivia

Russell (baby).

### PRAYER FOR THE BLESSING OF RAIN

*The result of saying this last week was a HAILSTORM!*

Lord God,

Bless Australia – our Great South Land of the Holy Spirit.

Grant, that as the Cross shines in our southern skies,

so may Christ bring light to our nation,

to its peoples old and new.

May we receive the blessing of abundant rain

so that the "desert blooms with the life that lies in wait."

We ask this through Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

### CARROLL COLLEGE YEAR 12 GRADUATION MASS:

This big annual event and associated Awards Ceremony took place on Wednesday. Let us pray for the Year 12s of 2019, in thanks for all they have contributed to the College and the area, in so many ways. May the subsequent stages of their lives be further sanctified by their experiences and memories of their K-12 Pathways from St Bernard's and St Mary's, as well as Carroll College. Fr Martins gave a much appreciated homily for the occasion.

Congratulations to Mrs Jacqui Heffernan, Principal, and all the tremendous staff members who have led these young people to where they are today, in collaboration with the parents, 'the first educators of their children.

**PARISH & MINISTRIES:** Last Sunday's gathering at the McCosker's place was a enjoyed by all who came. Thanks so much to Sue and Andy for their hospitality. The renovations worked out so well! There were about 30 of us, and this was a good number for people from Tuross, Bodalla, Broulee, and Moruya, and from other towns that are in the parish area. If anyone would like to get in to doing something, whether reading/proclaiming, flower arranging, cleaning, sacristy, Eucharistic ministry, music and/or singing, ... The needs/opportunities are many and diverse. Have a go! A sheet is available at the entrance of the church to sign up for something. It doesn't have to be for the rest of your life: just as long as you wish! SA

**GROUPS OF CATHOLICS WHO CARE** On Sunday, at 11.30am, we are calling together all the Catholic groups across the towns of our parish, not just Moruya, to share a little on what each group is doing for people in need of a connection in some way. We are starting just with our fellow Catholics, and subsequently to look into a more broadly based gathering. VENUE: St Mary's Year 6 classrooms. Thanks to St Mary's for their kindness and generosity!

### BODALLA ECUMENICAL EVENT:

The word is getting around thanks to Judy Rando and Jo Rummery. You'll be seeing the poster all round the place soon. Unfortunately, the Montague Singers won't be with us due to absent members. However, good things will still happen musically, thanks to Rev. Carol Wagner's organizing!