

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: First Holy Communion Enrolment letters will be sent out on 1 August. The Commitment Masses will be held on the weekend of 5 and 6 August and **First Holy Communion Mass will be celebrated on Saturday, 9 September** at 5pm Mass. The contact at St Mary's is Genevieve Schofield. For enrolment details, please email Gen: genevieve.schofield@cg.catholic.edu.au

EVANGELISATION PROGRAM: Next **Tuesday, 25 July** Parishioners are invited to Marg Croese's home (19 Costin Street, Moruya) to watch and discuss the next episode of **The Chosen** (the series about Jesus' life).



SACRED HEART PARISH MORUYA



36 Queen Street (PO Box 23) Moruya NSW 2537
 Phone: 4474 2024 Email: moruya@cg.org.au
 Web: <http://cg.org.au/Moruya>
 Priest: Fr George Azhakath
 Secretary: Mrs Vickie Moore
 Parish Office hours: Wed and Fri 9:00am—2:00pm



Mass Times:

Moruya: Sat: Vigil 5:00pm Sun: 10:00am

Tue: 5:00pm, Wed, Thu & Fri: 9:15am/1st Saturday of the month 9:15am

Tuross: Sun: 8:00am **Bodalla:** 4th Sunday of the month 3:00pm/3rd Thursday of the month 9:00am

Reconciliation: Sat @ Moruya: 1st Saturday of the month 8:30am-9:00am before Mass

4:15pm-4:45pm before Mass

Devotions: Daily Rosary and Saturdays 9:30am **Adoration:** 40 mins before weekday Mass

Schools: St Mary's Moruya: 4474 2817 Carroll College Broulee: 4471 5600

Caring Groups: Tuross Head: 0497 315 534 Moruya: 0431 354 993

World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly

The third World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly is celebrated this Sunday, 23 July.

The Church observes the World Day each year on the fourth Sunday in July, close to the feast of Jesus' grandparents, Saints Joachim and Anne.

Pope Francis instituted this Day in 2021 since, he believes, grandparents are often forgotten, yet they "are the link between generations, passing on the experience of life and faith to the young." The emphasis this year is on the connection and dialogue between the young and old, describing how Mary sets out to visit her elderly cousin Elizabeth to "proclaim, in the Magnificat, the strength of the alliance between young and old."

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A - July 22 & 23 2023

Parable of the Wheat and the Weeds

World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly

Today's readings tell us about a very patient and compassionate God who is hopeful that the so-called "weeds" among us will be converted and that we should not be in a hurry to eliminate such elements from the Church or society or the family on the basis of unwarranted and hasty judgement. The **first reading** shows us a merciful and patient God rather than the strict, angry and judging God presented in the book of Genesis. The **second reading** reminds us that the Spirit of God goes on empowering us in our weakness and hence we should be patient.



Finally, in the **Gospel parable of the wheat and the weeds**, Jesus presents a wise and patient God who allows the good and the evil to coexist in the world and blesses the evil ones for the little good they may have done, so that the evil ones may come to conversion before their time ends. "Let the seed and dandel grow together till the harvest time". In other words, God awaits repentant sinners, giving them the strength to acknowledge their weakness. He calmly recognises that there is evil in the world, but He sees that evil as no excuse for the good people not to do good with the power of God at their disposal. Through the parable of the *wheat and the weeds* in today's **gospel**, Jesus calls us to be patient with those who fail to meet the high ethical standard of a Christian.

Entrance Antiphon: See, I have God for my help. The Lord sustains my soul. I will sacrifice to you with willing heart, and praise your name, O Lord, for it is good.

Prayer after Communion: Lord, we thank you for coming into our hearts in Communion. We believe you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament. You are our life and our hope. Draw us more deeply to yourself and transform our hearts through your abiding love. May we come to know Sunday as a special day of faith, the day of our Risen Lord. May our celebration of the Eucharist on Sunday consecrate this day to you.

O Sacrament Most Holy, O Sacrament Divine, All Praise and All Thanksgiving be every moment thine.

PARISH OFFICE: The Parish Office will be closed for 3 weeks, and reopening on Wednesday, 16 August.

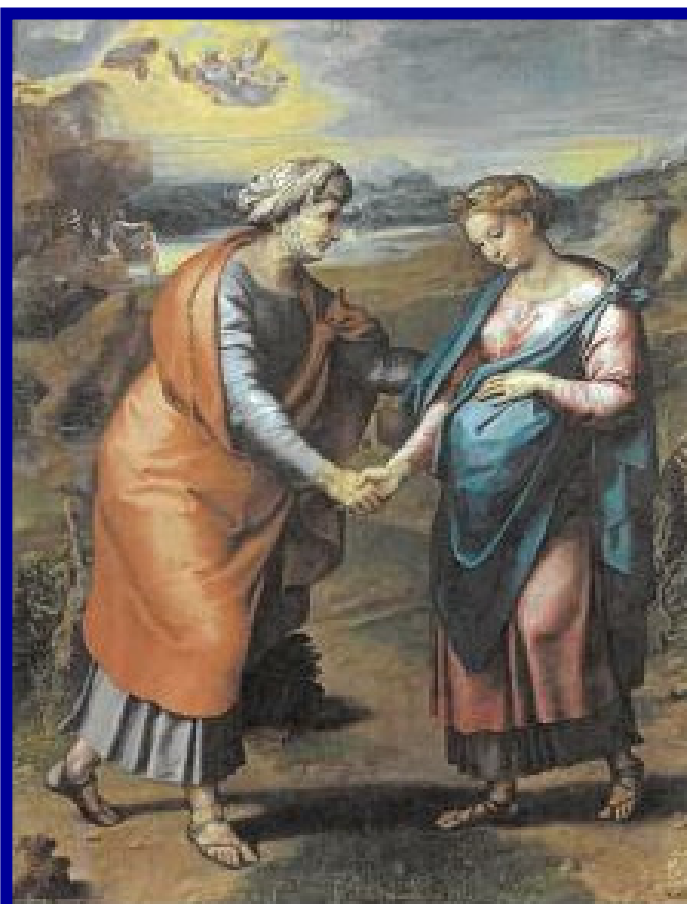
PRAYER FOR THE THIRD WORLD DAY FOR GRANDPARENTS AND THE ELDERLY 2023

Virgin Mary,
 Mother of faith and hope,
 an example for this humanity bent by indifference,
 make me as willing as You
 to accept the will of God,
 to magnify and praise His Mercy.

Mary, Mother of fortitude,
 you who knows my heart,
 do not allow me to become discouraged.
 I confidently surrender my life into your hands.
 Heal my wounds.
 May your tenderness accompany me on the way.

Your presence, Mother of love,
 brings us to experience the joy
 of seeing our families united.
 Help me to transmit the tenderness and Love of God
 to the grandchildren and youth
 so that, in addition to praying for them,
 we can pray with them.

Mary, may the gift of the Holy Spirit intercede for me:
 sustain my weakness,
 breathe into my heart the consolation
 that I may leave traces of faith among the young,
 bearing witness to the beauty of life,
 knowing that life has a limit
 and that beyond it lies before us our Father's embrace.
 Amen



Liturgy of the Word

First Reading Wis 12:13.16-19

A reading from the book of Wisdom

There is no god, other than you, who cares for everything,

to whom you might have to prove that you never judged unjustly.

Your justice has its source in strength,

your sovereignty over all makes you lenient to all.

You show your strength when your sovereign power is questioned

and you expose the insolence of those who know it;

but, disposing of such strength, you are mild in judgement,

you govern us with great lenience,

for you have only to will, and your power is there.

By acting thus you have taught a lesson to your people how the virtuous man must be kindly to his fellow men,

and you have given your sons the good hope

that after sin you will grant repentance.

The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm Ps 85:5-6. 9-10. 15-16. R. v.5

(R.) Lord, you are good and forgiving.

1. O Lord, you are good and forgiving, full of love to all who call.
Give heed, O Lord, to my prayer and attend to the sound of my voice. **(R.)**
2. All the nations shall come to adore you and glorify your name, O Lord:
for you are great and do marvellous deeds, you who alone are God. **(R.)**
3. But you, God of mercy and compassion, slow to anger, O Lord,
abounding in love and truth,
turn and take pity on me. **(R.)**

Second Reading Rom 8:26-27

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

The Spirit comes to help us in our weakness. For when we cannot choose words in order to pray properly, the Spirit himself expresses our plea in a way that could never be put into words, and God who knows everything in our hearts knows perfectly well what he means, and that the pleas of the saints expressed by the Spirit are according to the mind of God.

The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation See Mt 11:25

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.

Alleluia!

Gospel Mt 13:24-30

P: The Lord be with you

All: And with your spirit

P: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

All: Glory to you O Lord

Jesus put a parable before the crowds, ‘The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field. While everybody was asleep his enemy came, sowed darnel all among the wheat, and made off. When the new wheat sprouted and ripened, the darnel appeared as well. The owner’s servants went to him and said, “Sir, was it not good seed that you sowed in your field? If so, where does the darnel come from?” “Some enemy has done this” he answered. And the servants said, “Do you want us to go and weed it out?” But he said, “No, because when you weed out the darnel you might pull up the wheat with it. Let them both grow till the harvest; and at harvest time I shall say to the reapers: First collect the darnel and tie it in bundles to be burnt, then gather the wheat into my barn.”’

He put another parable before them, ‘The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed which a man took and sowed in his field. It is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the biggest shrub of all and becomes a tree so that the birds of the air come and shelter in its branches.’

He told them another parable, ‘The kingdom of heaven is like the yeast a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour till it was leavened all through.’

In all this Jesus spoke to the crowds in parables; indeed, he would never speak to them except in parables. This was to fulfill the prophecy:

I will speak to you in parables
and expound things hidden since the foundation of the world.

Then, leaving the crowds, he went to the house; and his disciples came to him and said, ‘Explain the parable about the darnel in the field to us.’ He said in reply, ‘The sower of the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world; the good seed is the subjects of the kingdom; the darnel, the subjects of the evil one; the enemy who sowed them, the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; the reapers are the angels. Well then, just as the darnel is gathered up and burnt in the fire, so it will be at the end of time. The Son of Man will send his angels and they will gather out of his kingdom all things that provoke offences and all who do evil, and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth. Then the virtuous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Listen, anyone who has ears!’

The Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

THE WORD AND LIFE this week ...

1) We need to practise patience: First of all, we need to be patient with ourselves. We may not get everything done perfectly this week, but so what? Then we must be patient with others—those who annoy us by the way they drive their cars, those whose opinions differ from ours, those who make too much noise and disturb us and those who make our spiritual progress more difficult for us by their bad example and counter-witnessing. Let us practise patience, remembering that, in the end, it is God who controls. Let us patiently and lovingly treat the “weeds” in our society as our brothers and sisters and do all in our power to put them back on the right road to heaven, especially by our good example and our fervent prayer for their conversion.

2) Let us ask these questions for self-examination: Would we, knowing what we know now, like to have been plucked up at those times? We need to accept the fact that good and bad coexist in the world. God is so merciful that he allows evil to exist in order that what is good may grow. He allows evil to exist because he can turn it into good. Through the power of the Spirit, God can change even the ugliest thorn into a blossom of faith. In God’s field we have two responsibilities: to grow in grace and to share His Word and love with others.

3) We need to grow up as healthy wheat in God’s field, leaving the weeds for Jesus to take care of: We live in a violent and impassioned culture. Christians often appear too self-righteous, suggesting that those who disagree with them are the weeds in the garden of life. Some are judged as being too radical and others as not being radical enough. Some are judged for embracing doctrinal errors, others for appearing not to have any doctrine at all. Some are condemned for not caring for the poor, others for caring too much for the poor. We often forget that appearances can be deceptive. The old saying “If it looks like a duck, walks like a duck, quacks like a duck, it’s a duck” may be true in the secular realm, but not in the Kingdom of God. If one talks like a Christian, sings like a Christian etc, it does not necessary mean he or she is a Christian. While we do our best to exercise right judgement as to what is or is not correct (John 13:35, 1 John 2:5, 3-10) the final determination will be made by God. Evil will coexist with good until the second coming of Jesus. The good news is that growth and maturity are probably the most effective forms of weed control. In the end, it is enough to know that we are “seeds” who have been planted by the ‘Son of Man’ and that we are part of a healthy harvest that will someday be reaped by the angels of God.

NOTICES FROM THE PARISH

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: We continue to pray and extend our support to those at Banksia Village, IRT Moruya, the sick members of our Parish and those in need of our prayers: Kathleen Ebbelaar, Gerry Ebbelaar, Dianne Ebbelaar, Kylie Leplaw, Andy McCosker, Bala Stankovich, Clare & Bert Broekhuysse, Pat Morris, Julie and John Kay, Lee Maat, Kirk Dowling, Rosemary Patyus, Kay Morton, Rod McDonald, Hans Brosch, Father Giles Setter OFM, Annette and John Nader, Ross Hay, Robyn Barkley, Mark Wales, Rick Christensen, Therese Masserot, Jenny Hopkins, Neil Mason, Pat Anderson, Tammy Whiteman, Clair Holmes, Patricia Murphy, Leo Kop and Barbara Kirk.