

NOTICES FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE

VOCATION AWARENESS WEEK: August 24

– 31 is our Archdiocesan Vocations Awareness Week. A special prayer vigil was held in Canberra on Thursday, 24 August at St Christopher's Cathedral. Vocation Awareness Week is about promoting the importance of vocations and discernment among our parishioners, allowing people to explore their calling, and encouraging their next step in following the call of God on their life.

How will you respond to God's call this week? How will you encourage others in their call? More Vocations information can be found at www.facebook.com/cgvocations

MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT WEEKEND:

Join other couples in an opportunity to learn to become the best version of yourselves together and live your best life in love at a **Marriage Encounter Weekend** in a Covid safe environment at a stunning & tranquil oasis on the edge of Sydney.

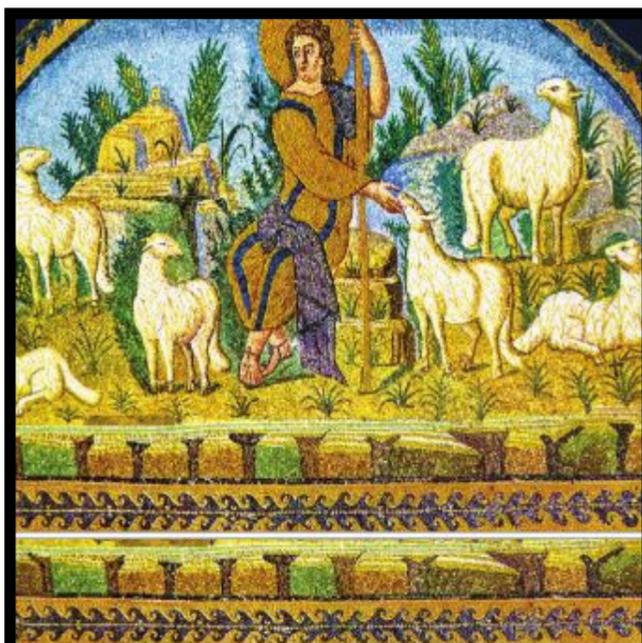
When: 27-29 October, **Location:** Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville, NSW

Enquiries: Christine & Terry Mahony on 0490 774 419 or nswbookings@wwme.org.au

Book online: at www.wwme.org.au



The **beheading of John the Baptist**, also known as the **decollation of Saint John the Baptist** or the **beheading of the Forerunner**, is a biblical event commemorated as a holy day (29 August this year) by various Christian churches. According to the New Testament, Herod Antipas, ruler of Galilee under the Roman Empire, had imprisoned John The Baptist because he had publicly reproved Herod for divorcing his first wife and unlawfully taking his sister-in-law (his brother's wife) as his second wife Herodias. He then ordered him to be killed by beheading.



PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Lord of the Harvest,
help men and women to hear the call
and to serve in the Archdiocese of
Canberra and Goulburn.

Our needs are great and our people thirst
for your presence.

Open the hearts of many,
raise up faithful servants of the Gospel,
dedicated, holy priests,
sisters, brothers and deacons,
who will spend themselves for your
people and their needs.

Bless those who are serving now
with courage and perseverance.
Grant that many will be inspired by their
example and faith.

We ask this through Christ, Our Lord.
Amen.

Our Lady, Help of Christians *Pray for us*

St. Joseph *Pray for us*

St John Vianney *Pray for us*

St Mary of the Cross *Pray for us*

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/2nd 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



21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

- YEAR A -

August 26 & 27 2023

“Who do you say I am?”

“You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God”

We might call this Sunday *“Power Sunday”* because the main theme is the handing over of the “keys” which open and shut, representing authority in the Church and in the Kingdom.

The **first reading** from Isaiah gives a detailed description of the investiture of a royal court official. The robe, the sash, and the keys are insignia of this office. Isaiah tells of how the keys of authority were taken away from the Shebna, the unfaithful and proud “master of the royal palace” and given to the humble and faithful Eliakim. In today's **psalm** David thanks God for having raised him from lowly origins and given him authority as King over the people of Israel.



In the **second reading** St Paul points out that God is the source of all authority on earth and in heaven.

In today's **gospel** Jesus reveals his plan to build his Church on the strong bedrock foundation of Peter, to whom He then gave the keys of teaching and governing authority in the Church.

Entrance Antiphon: Turn your ear, O Lord, and answer me; save the servant who trusts in you, my God. Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long.

Communion Antiphon: Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, says the Lord, and I will raise him up on the last day.

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.

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading Is 22:19-23

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Thus says the Lord of hosts to Shebna, the master of the palace:

I dismiss you from your office,
I remove you from your post,
and the same day I call on my servant
Eliakim son of Hilkiyah.
I invest him with your robe,
gird him with your sash,
entrust him with your authority;
and he shall be a father
to the inhabitants of Jerusalem
and to the House of Judah.
I place the key of the House of David
on his shoulder;
should he open, no one shall close,
should he close, no one shall open.
I drive him like a peg
into a firm place;
he will become a throne of glory
for his father's house.

The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm Ps 137:1-3. 6. 8. R. v.8

**(R.) Lord, your love is eternal;
do not forsake the work of your hands.**

1. I thank you, Lord, with all my heart,
you have heard the words of my mouth.
Before the angels I will bless you.
I will adore before your holy temple. **(R.)**
2. I thank you for your faithfulness and love
which excel all we ever knew of you.
On the day I called, you answered;
you increased the strength of my soul. **(R.)**
3. The Lord is high yet he looks on the lowly
and the haughty he knows from afar.
Your love, O Lord, is eternal,
discard not the work of your hands. **(R.)**

Second Reading Rom 11:33-36

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

How rich are the depths of God – how deep his
wisdom and knowledge – and how impossible to
penetrate his motives or understand his methods!
Who could ever know the mind of the Lord? Who
could ever be his counsellor? Who could ever give
him anything or lend him anything?

All that exists comes from him; all is by him and for
him. To him be glory for ever! Amen.

The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation Mt 16:18

Alleluia, alleluia!

You are Peter, the rock on which I will build my
Church;
the gates of hell will not hold out against it.
Alleluia!

Gospel Mt 16:13-20

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

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi
he put this question to his disciples, ‘Who do people
say the Son of Man is?’ And they said, ‘Some say
he is John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others
Jeremiah or one of the prophets.’ ‘But you,’ he said
‘who do you say I am?’ Then Simon Peter spoke up,
‘You are the Christ,’ he said, ‘the Son of the living
God.’ Jesus replied, ‘Simon son of Jonah, you are a
happy man! Because it was not flesh and blood that
revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. So I
now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I
will build my Church. And the gates of the
underworld can never hold out against it. I will give
you the keys of the kingdom of heaven: whatever
you bind on earth shall be considered bound in
heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be
considered loosed in heaven.’ Then he gave the
disciples strict orders not to tell anyone that he was
the Christ.

The Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

THE WORD AND LIFE this week ...

1) What does Jesus mean to me? Founder of a religion? Revolutionary Jewish reformer? One of the
great teachers? Son of God and personal Saviour? This can perhaps be broken down into other questions:
“How do I really see Jesus? Do I see Jesus as a Good Shepherd, Saviour, and Redeemer? Is he my
beloved friend, closer to me than my spouse or child, father or mother? Is Jesus a living experience for me,
walking with me, loving me, forgiving me, helping me and transforming my life and outlook? What
difference does Jesus make in my life? Have I really given my life to him? Are there areas where I have
excluded him, where my life is not noticeably different from the lives of those who see Jesus as irrelevant?
Who do I say that Jesus is in my daily life? Who do I say that he is when I am in the presence of those who
do not know him, those who are not interested in him? What does the way I live and behave say about who
Jesus is? Is the joy, the love, and peace that I find in Jesus reflected in the way I live my life?

2) We need to experience Jesus as our Lord and Saviour and surrender our lives to him. The
knowledge of Jesus as Lord and personal Saviour should become a living, personal experience for each
Christian. This is made possible by listening to him through the daily, meditative reading of the Bible, by
talking to him through daily, personal and family prayers, by offering to him our lives on the altar
whenever we attend Holy Mass and by leading a sacramental life. The next step is the surrender of our
lives to Jesus by rendering humble and loving service to others with the strong conviction that Jesus is
present in every person. The step after that is to praise and thank God in all the events in our lives, both
good and bad, realising that God’s loving hands are behind every event in our lives.

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,
Robyn Barkley, Mark Wales, Rick Christensen, Therese Masserot, Jenny Hopkins, Pat Anderson,
Tammy Whiteman, Clair Holmes, Patricia Murphy, Leo Kop, Barbara Kirk and John Richmond.

BODALLA MASS: Bodalla Mass this Sunday, 27 August at 3pm.

MASS TIME CHANGE: Bodalla Thursday Mass time has changed to **2nd Thursday of each month**
at 9:00am.

BIRTHDAYS: Very Happy Birthday to Mark Strahlendorf who celebrated his Birthday on 23 August and
Norma Beer whose Birthday was on 25 August. We hope you both had special days celebrating with
family and friends.

HISTORICAL FACTS BOX: John Munce was in possession of a historical facts box which was used to
compile the Sacred Heart Catholic Church brochure which is available in the Church foyer. John recalls
giving this box of historical facts to someone at one stage and cannot recall who it was. If a parishioner is
in possession of this very valuable box of Parish history, could you please advise the Parish office. Thank
you.

EVANGELISATION PROGRAM: Next **Tuesday, 29 August** following 5pm Mass Parishioners are
invited to Marg Croese’s home (19 Costin Street, Moruya) to watch and discuss the next episode of
The Chosen.