

SACRED HEART PARISH MORUYA



36 Queen Street (PO BOX 23) Moruya NSW 2537

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

Priest: Fr George Azhakath msfs

Secretary: Mrs Vickie Moore

Parish Office hours: Wed. and Fri. 9am—2pm

Mass Times:

Moruya: Sat: Vigil 6.00 pm Sun: 10.00 am

Tue: 5.30 pm. Wed, Thu & Fri: 9.15 am

Sat: Reconciliation: 10—10.30 am

Tuross Mass: Sun. 8am Bodalla: Mass: 2nd Thursday of the month 9.15am and Fourth Sunday of the month 3pm.

Schools: St Mary's Moruya: 4474 2817

Carroll College Broulee 4471 5600

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

Devotions: Daily Rosary before/after mass. Adoration & Benediction Fridays 9.45—10.45 am



22nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

-YEAR B -

August 28 & 29 2021

God's Commandments or Human Traditions?

“This people pays me lip-service but their hearts are far from me”

True religion does not consist in scrupulously performing certain rituals and saying empty words for prayers. The essence of true religion is loving God, recognising His presence in our neighbours and doing them loving service. True religion lies in loving our neighbours as ourselves and not simply in keeping the laws and traditions in the Bible and in the Church.

The **first reading** points out the characteristics of true religion as a) God's closeness to His people and the intimacy of people with their God and b) the pursuit of God's justice in society. The observance of the Law was considered a sign of commitment and obedience to God, enabling the Israelites to lead lives better than their *'pagan'* neighbours.

In the **second reading**, James defines true religion as translating the love of God into action by putting into practice the spiritual and corporal works of mercy, thus doing deeds of loving kindness for the vulnerable and needy members of the community. In other words, people of true religion glorify God by caring for those who are unable to care for themselves.

In **today's gospel** lesson our attention is drawn to a debate between Jesus and the Pharisees on the subject of “Tradition”. Jesus warns them against the tendency to equate traditional “human precepts” with God's will. He blames the scribes and the Pharisees for giving undue importance to external observances in the name of “tradition”, while ignoring the Law's real spirit. True religion should focus on the essentials. In particular, Jesus criticises Pharisaic observance of ritual washing and declares that it is our inner motivations and dispositions that reflect our purity or impurity.

Prayer for Australia: Lord you place deep in our hearts the love of Mary Help of Christians. Through her prayers grant wisdom to our leaders and integrity to our citizens. Under her protection may Australia be granted harmony, justice and peace. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever, Amen.



Liturgy of the word

First Reading Dt 4:1-2. 6-8

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy

Moses said to the people: 'Now, Israel, take notice of the laws and customs that I teach you today, and observe them, that you may have life and may enter and take possession of the land that the Lord the God of your fathers is giving you. You must add nothing to what I command you, and take nothing from it, but keep the commandments of the Lord your God just as I lay them down for you. Keep them, observe them, and they will demonstrate to the peoples your wisdom and understanding. When they come to know of all these laws they will exclaim, "No other people is as wise and prudent as this great nation." And indeed, what great nation is there that has its gods so near as the Lord our God is to us whenever we call to him? And what great nation is there that has laws and customs to match this whole Law that I put before you today?'

The Word of the Lord

R. Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm Ps 14:2-5. R. v.1

(R.) The just will live in the presence of the Lord.

1. Lord, who shall dwell on your holy mountain?

He who walks without fault;
he who acts with justice
and speaks the truth from his heart. **(R.)**

2. He who does no wrong to his brother,
who casts no slur on his neighbour,
who holds the godless in disdain,
but honours those who fear the Lord. **(R.)**

3. He who keeps his pledge, come what may;
who takes no interest on a loan
and accepts no bribes against the innocent.
Such a man will stand firm for ever. **(R.)**

Second Reading Jas 1:17-18, 21-22, 27

A reading from the letter of St James

It is all that is good, everything that is perfect, which is given us from above; it comes down from the Father of all light; with him there is no such thing as alteration, no shadow of a change. By his own choice he made us his children by the message of the truth so that we should be a sort of first-fruits of all that he had created.

Accept and submit to the word which has been planted in you and can save your souls. But you must do what the word tells you, and not just listen to it and deceive yourselves.

Pure, unspoilt religion, in the eyes of God our Father is this: coming to the help of orphans and wid-

ows when they need it, and keeping oneself uncontaminated by the world.

The Word of the Lord

R. Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation Jas 1:18

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Father gave us birth by his message of truth, that we might be as the first fruits of his creation.
Alleluia!

Gospel Mk 7:1-8. 14-15. 21-23

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

All: Glory to you O Lord

The Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered round Jesus, and they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with unclean hands, that is, without washing them. For the Pharisees, and the Jews in general, follow the tradition of the elders and never eat without washing their arms as far as the elbow; and on returning from the market place they never eat without first sprinkling themselves. There are also many other observances which have been handed down to them concerning the washing of cups and pots and bronze dishes. So these Pharisees and scribes asked him, 'Why do your disciples not respect the tradition of the elders but eat their food with unclean hands?' He answered, 'It was of you hypocrites that Isaiah so rightly prophesied in this passage of scripture:

This people honours me only with lip-service,
while their hearts are far from me.
The worship they offer me is worthless,
the doctrines they teach are only human regulations.

You put aside the commandment of God to cling to human traditions.'

He called the people to him again and said, 'Listen to me, all of you, and understand. Nothing that goes into a man from outside can make him unclean; it is the things that come out of a man that make him unclean. For it is from within, from men's hearts, that evil intentions emerge: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, malice, deceit, indecency, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within and make a man unclean.'

The Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

THE WORD AND LIFE ... this week

1) We need to keep the spirit of the Church's laws and practices. For example, our Sunday obligation is intended to encourage us to worship God in the parish community, to offer our lives to God, to ask his pardon for our sins, to thank God for His blessings, to present our needs before Him and to receive divine life and strength from Him by receiving Holy Communion. Our daily prayers are meant to thank God for his blessings, to present the family's needs before God, to ask pardon for all our sins, and to maintain the spirit of unity and love in the family.

2) Let us avoid the tendency to become cafeteria Christians: As the Pharisees did we too show the tendency to add to or subtract from God's laws given in the Bible and taught by the Church. Some of us pick and choose certain commandments to follow, ignoring the others as we do in a cafeteria. For example some actively do corporal and spiritual works of charity, but avoid Sunday Mass and remain unfaithful to their obligations attached to the gift of their sexuality or the sacrament of marriage. Others are interested in fulfilling only the "minimal obligations" of the faith. They come to Mass late and leave early. They make an effort to avoid serious sins, but do not go to confession even when they fall into mortal sins.

3) Let us accept the challenge to become listeners and doers of God's word as St James instructs us: Let us ask the question how the Sunday or daily readings are affecting or changing our lives to discover whether we are being attentive listeners to, and doers of God's word. We become more fully Jesus' family members, only when we consistently "hear the word of God and do it" (Lk 8:21). When we receive Jesus in Holy Communion today let us ask him for the grace to become the doers of his word as he was the doer of his Fathers' will.

BIRTHDAYS Happy Birthday to **Mark Strahlendorf** who celebrated his birthday on 23 August and **Norma Beer** turned 84 on 25 August!

IN SYMPATHY We are sad to report the death of Tuross Head local, Peter Morgan who passed away on Thursday 26th August in his family home. His wife Pauline said a funeral will be held in Canberra. A memorial service will be organised locally sometime after lockdown. Please include the Morgan family in your prayers. Our heartfelt condolences to Pauline and the Morgan family.

COLLECTIONS DURING LOCKDOWN: During Lockdown and whilst Churches are closed and collection income is not occurring there are some payment options available for parishioners who are wanting to do so: **1) Via CDF's facility:** The CDF's website address is: <https://www.bpoint.com.au/pay/CATHOLICDEVELOPMENTFUNDARCHDIOCESEOFCANBERRA> Payments can be made for both 1st (Clergy) and 2nd (Parish) Collections; **2) Direct credit to Parish account** Please contact the CDF to confirm the account details – Note the BSB/Account number combination must include our CBA CDF Canberra Goulburn unique BSB 062-786; **3) Please save your weekly Planned Giving envelopes with money in to take to the Church when lockdown is over.**

PRAVERS FOR THE SICK AND THE HOUSEBOUND: We continue to pray and extend our support to those who are in near lock down at Banksia Village, IRT Moruya; and the sick members of our Parish: John Gerber, Ben Pollock, Catherine Hulse, Kathleen Ebbelaar, Dale Moore, Gerry Ebbelaar, Kylie Leplaw, Monique Driver, Andy McCosker, Paul Croese, Clare Broekhuysse, Trish Tarlinton, Anthony Morris, Pat Morris, Julie and John Kay, Lee Maat, Paul Rummery Jnr, Lesley Cornish, Sandra Spellacy, Kirk Dowling, Rosemary Patyus, and Kay Morton.

WOMEN'S TASKFORCE FREE ONLINE SEMINAR -

3 SEPTEMBER FRIDAY 7.00-8.30pm: Dr Margaret Beirne RSC, a Sister of Charity and Senior Lecturer in Biblical Studies at St Andrew's Greek Orthodox Theological College in Sydney will speak on **Mary Magdalene, Fake News and the Gospel**. This free interactive Zoom Seminar is open to all and runs for 90 mins. Registrations essential as numbers limited.

Register at bit.ly/ZoomWorkshopMaryM or phone Beth Doherty on 0432 608 310 More info at bit.ly/FakeNewsSeminar



LETTER FROM ARCHBISHOP PROWSE: CARING FOR CREATION AND SOCIAL JUSTICE STATEMENT 2021 "CRY OF THE EARTH, CRY OF THE POOR"

Included in this Bulletin is a letter from Archbishop Prowse regarding local and national ecology initiatives. *Websites referred to his letter include:* Caring for Creation response group: <https://www.care4creation.org>. Australian Catholic Bishops' Social Justice Statement 2021 "Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor": <https://socialjustice.catholic.org.au/2021/06/24/social-justice-statement-2021-22/>



Never wait for a
Perfect Moment;
Just take a
Moment, and
Make it Perfect.



Archbishop's Office 24th August 2021

Dear Fathers, Deacons, Pastoral Leaders and Mr Ross Fox, I have mentioned to you before that a grass roots pastoral initiative in our parishes is growing re Caring for Creation.

Some of our parishioners have been enthused by the encyclical of Pope Francis: *Laudato Si* (2015). They are now seeking further engagement with our parishes in bringing forward some of the vision of the encyclical into practical reality. It has my support and prayers.

Recently, I led a liturgy on the grounds of St Peter Chanel's Yaralumba (21 May 2021) to celebrate the fifth anniversary of *Laudato Si*. The Aboriginal community joined us, along with a good variety of age groups from the Archdiocese. We planted a tree to symbolise the launch of this Caring for Creation initiative in the Archdiocese.

This pastoral initiative is part of our evangelisation vision in the Archdiocese and the universe Church. It is a focus, too, that features prominently in the agenda of the upcoming First Assembly of the Plenary Council of Australia (October 2021).

Fr Mick MacAndrew PP has shown great interest in this initiative. I have asked him to take on a pastoral chaplaincy role in the times ahead. He will offer great leadership, especially regarding the rural dimension of Caring for Creation.

I have asked this Caring for Creation response group to respond in three ways: to find ways that the teaching of *Laudato Si* be better known; to conduct a kind of audit of the many ways our parishes and schools are already responding; to suggest some practical suggestions on the way forward. You will find further information by visiting the response group's website (www.care4ourcreationhome.org) Finally, this coming Sunday, 29th August, is the launch of the Australian Catholic Bishops' Social Justice Statement for this year: "Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor". You can locate it by visiting <https://socialjustice.catholic.org.au/2021/06/24/social-justice-statement-2021-22/> It revisits a number of Pope Francis' reflections on our common home. I hope you have time to read and distribute it as appropriate. We pray that the Holy Spirit blesses us in these pastoral initiatives. - ARCHBISHOP CHRISTOPHER PROWSE

The Caring Groups are offering to help people be connected by pairing up those who are willing to contact others during lockdown.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE

A PEN PAL,

A EMAIL PAL OR

A TELEPHONE PAL?

Phone or email either Caring Group and we will link you up to someone in the same category.

Phone: Moruya: 0431 354 993

Tuross Head: 0497 315 534

Email: turossheadcaringgroup@gmail.com

'It's the little things that mean a lot'



Someday,

everything will make perfect sense.

So for now,

laugh at the confusion,

smile through the tears,

be strong and keep

reminding your self that everything happens for a reason.