

REGIONAL SENIORS TRAVEL CARD: On the 17th January 2022 the NSW Government will release another round of the Regional Seniors Travel Card (RSTC). A flyer is on the noticeboard in the Church foyer with more information. The RSTC provides eligible seniors living in regional, rural and remote areas of NSW with a **\$250 prepaid card** to help ease the cost of travel. The card can be used at certain retailers to pay for pre-booked NSW Trainlink Regional trains, coaches, fuel and taxis. **Applications for 2022 will open at 7am on 17 January 2022 and close on 30 November 2022.**

From 17 January 2022, seniors can apply for a card if they are of Age Pension age and receiving either a Disability Support Pension or Carer Payment from Services Australia. This is in addition to eligible seniors who have already been receiving the card. **With the latest COVID-19 health advice, we strongly advise persons to apply online or call **13 77 88**, rather than visit a service centre.**

For more information: <https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/transaction/apply-regional-seniors-travel-card>

The NSW Government is helping ease the cost of living through over 70 rebates and savings. They are providing free individual Cost of Living appointments over the phone to discuss eligibility and further information about over 70 rebates and savings on offer through the NSW Government. If you would like further information about programs or rebates on offer through the NSW Government or to book a Cost of Living phone appointment, please contact NSW Government: service.nsw.gov.au / **13 77 88**

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST MARY'S: Welcome back to staff and students. Classes commence on Tuesday, 1 February.

Term One 2022

January	Friday 28	Catholic Education System Day for Staff (Front office open)
	Monday 31	Staff Professional Learning Day (Front office open)
February	Tuesday 1	All students (Kinder to Year 6) return to school
April	Friday 8	Last day for students

SACRED HEART LEAGUE MORUYA: is a confraternity of like-minded (men and women of the Parish) coming together for a period of time with a common interest of achieving personal sanctification through their devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and thus inspiring the entire Parish.

We welcome you into a membership devoted to growing in your relationship with the Sacred Heart of Jesus and promoting this great devotion. Members of the Sacred Heart League make a commitment of weekly gatherings in an hour of Adoration and prayerfully promote the mission of the Parish. Our current members are: Susanne McDonald, Paddy Pollock, Norma O'Connor, Sue McCosker, Rhonda Zammit, Eugene Zammit, Pauline Parnell, Ron Parnell, Noeleen Norman, Jan Morris and Louise Strahlendorf. **We welcome all Parishioners to join our Friday devotion to Sacred Heart.**



WANT TO DRAW CLOSER
TO THE *Heart of Jesus?*
— JOIN THE —
SACRED HEART LEAGUE

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 msf
Secretary: Mrs Vickie Moore
Parish Office hours: Wed. and Fri. 9am—2pm
Mass Times:

Moruya: Sat: Vigil 6.00 pm Sun: 10.00am
Tue: 5.30pm, Wed, Thu & Fri: 9.15am
Sat: Reconciliation: 10—10.30am

Turoos 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: Turoos Head: 0497 315 534 Moruya: 0431 354 993
Devotions: Daily Rosary before/after Mass. Adoration & Benediction Fridays: 9.45—10.45am



FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME -YEAR C- January 29 & 30 2022

The Lord sent me to bring good news to the poor.
'No prophet is ever accepted in his own country'



The central theme of today's readings is that we should have and show courage of our Christian convictions in our day-to-day lives in our communities, when we face hatred and rejection because of our Christian faith. In both the **first reading** and the **gospel**, Jeremiah and Jesus are presented as prophets, chosen, consecrated and sent to their brothers and sisters as emissaries of the **Word of God**. The first reading tells us how God called Jeremiah as His prophet and equipped him to face opposition and rejection. In his prophetic vocation, which he lived out while encountering rejection and persecution, Jeremiah anticipated Jesus, the greatest of all prophets.

Today's **Psalm** (71) expresses the feelings of one who encounters opposition, but trusts deeply in God's protection, determined to continue his proclamations of God's justice and wondrous deeds in spite of the negative response. In the **second reading**, we hear Paul speaking with the courage of his convictions in correcting the Corinthian Christian community where the exercise of God's gifts has been causing competition, jealousy and divisiveness. He courageously presents to them a "way" which surpasses all others, namely, the *way of love*. He warns them that, if exercised without love, even the gifts of tongues, knowledge, faith and generosity are useless. Then Paul spells out for them and us the true nature of love.

Today's **Gospel** is a continuation of last Sunday's gospel presenting his own people's reaction to Jesus' "Inaugural Address". The reading shows us how Je-

sus faced scepticism and criticism with prophetic courage. Along with Jeremiah, Jesus and Paul believed that they were commissioned by God to proclaim a disturbing prophetic message (Jer 1:4-5, 17-19). No matter how strong the opposition, the three had the conviction that God was with them.

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 Jer 1:4-5. 17-19

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

In the days of Josiah, the word of the Lord was addressed to me, saying,

‘Before I formed you in the womb
I knew you;
before you came to birth I consecrated you;
I have appointed you as prophet
to the nations.
So now brace yourself for action.
Stand up and tell them
all I command you.
Do not be dismayed at their presence,
or in their presence
I will make you dismayed.
I, for my part, today will make you
into a fortified city,
a pillar of iron,
and a wall of bronze
to confront all this land:
the kings of Judah, its princes,
its priests and the country people.
They will fight against you
but shall not overcome you,
for I am with you to deliver you –
it is the Lord who speaks.’

The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm Ps 70:1-6. 15. 17. R. v.15

(R.) I will sing of your salvation.

1. In you, O Lord, I take refuge;
let me never be put to shame.
In your justice rescue me, free me:
pay heed to me and save me. **(R.)**
2. Be a rock where I can take refuge,
a mighty stronghold to save me;
for you are my rock, my stronghold.
Free me from the hand of the wicked. **(R.)**
3. It is you, O Lord, who are my hope,
my trust, O Lord, since my youth.
On you I have leaned from my birth,
from my mother’s womb
you have been my help. **(R.)**
4. My lips will tell of your justice
and day by day of your help.
O God, you have taught me from my youth
and I proclaim your wonders still. **(R.)**

Second Reading 1 Cor 13:4-13

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

Love is always patient and kind; it is never jealous; love is never boastful or conceited; it is never rude or selfish; it does not take offence, and is not resentful. Love takes no pleasure in other people’s sins but delights in the truth; it is al-

ways ready to excuse, to trust, to hope, and to endure whatever comes.

Love does not come to an end. But if there are gifts of prophecy, the time will come when they must fail; or the gift of languages, it will not continue for ever; and knowledge – for this, too, the time will come when it must fail. For our knowledge is imperfect and our prophesying is imperfect; but once perfection comes, all imperfect things will disappear. When I was a child, I used to talk like a child, and think like a child, and argue like a child, but now I am a man, all childish ways are put behind me. Now we are seeing a dim reflection in a mirror; but then we shall be seeing face to face. The knowledge that I have now is imperfect; but then I shall know as fully as I am known. In short, there are three things that last: faith, hope and love; and the greatest of these is love.

The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation Lk 4:18

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Lord sent me to bring Good News to the poor and freedom to prisoners.

Alleluia!

Gospel Lk 4:21-30

P: The Lord be with you

All: And with your spirit

P: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

All: Glory to you O Lord

Jesus began to speak in the synagogue, ‘This text is being fulfilled today even as you listen.’ And he won the approval of all, and they were astonished by the gracious words that came from his lips. They said, ‘This is Joseph’s son, surely?’ But he replied, ‘No doubt you will quote me the saying, “Physician, heal yourself” and tell me, “We have heard all that happened in Capernaum, do the same here in your own countryside.”’ And he went on, ‘I tell you solemnly, no prophet is ever accepted in his own country. ‘There were many widows in Israel, I can assure you, in Elijah’s day, when heaven remained shut for three years and six months and a great famine raged throughout the land, but Elijah was not sent to any one of these: he was sent to a widow at Zarephath, a Sidonian town. And in the prophet Elisha’s time there were many lepers in Israel, but none of these was cured, except the Syrian, Naaman.’ When they heard this everyone in the synagogue was enraged. They sprang to their feet and hustled him out of the town; and they took him up to the brow of the hill their town was built on, intending to throw him down the cliff, but he slipped through the crowd and walked away.

The Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

Entrance Antiphon: Save us, O Lord our God! And gather us from the nations, to give thanks to your holy name, and make it our glory to praise you.

Communion Antiphon: Let your face shine on your servant. Save me in your merciful love. O Lord, let me never be put to shame, for I call on you.

THE WORD AND LIFE this week ...

1) We need to face rejection with prophetic courage and optimism. The story of Jesus’ rejection in his own hometown is a story that we can identify with, because it is a story that has happened to most of us. Perhaps we have experienced the pain of rejection, betrayal, abandonment, violated trust, neglect or abuse. What about rejection by those closest to us? Often our friends, families or childhood companions fail to listen to us, refuse our advice, and reject the words of grace, love and encouragement that we offer to them because they are unable to see us as God’s appointed instruments, the agents of God’s healing and saving grace. Perhaps we ourselves are guilty of such rejection. How often have we discounted people through prejudice? We must realise that God’s power is always available to transform even the most unlikely people, and this His power may come to us through unlikely instruments.

2) Let us not reject God in our lives. The story of Jesus’ rejection by his townsfolk is also a story about how we often ignore and reject God. Are we willing to be helped by God, or by others? Does our pride or lack of trust stop us from seeing or recognising God’s purpose? Does it prevent us from recognising God’s direction, help and support in our lives through His words in the Bible and through the advice and examples of others? God calls us in many ways. Are we willing to listen to this calling and discover our role in carrying out God’s purpose?

3) We must have the prophetic courage of our convictions. By our baptism, God calls us to be prophets like Jesus, sharing his prophetic mission. The task of a prophet is to speak and to live out God’s truth. We must never be afraid of this call, for it is Jesus who will supply us with the courage, the words and the deeds we will need to oppose the many evils in our society. Our society tells adults and youngsters that promiscuous sex, drugs, gambling and alcohol are legitimate pleasures for modern, liberated people. Our country needs to hear God’s truth and Spirit-filled Christians with the prophetic courage of their convictions. Heroes like Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther-King consistently refused to retaliate violently while affirming the dignity of every person, including their enemies.

4) We need to follow Christ, not political correctness; speak the truth of Christ without being hypocritical or disrespectful. We must never remain silent in the face of evil for fear of being thought “politically incorrect”. Jesus was not against conflict if it promoted truth. He taught us to give respect and freedom without condoning or encouraging sinful behaviour. That was the example given by Martin Luther-King and his civil rights marchers singing “*We shall overcome*” as they were carted off to jail, were washed down with fire hoses and had savage Alsatian dogs let loose on them. Love does not tolerate destructive behaviour, but it sometimes causes pain—just as a surgeon must sometimes hurt in order to heal. We need to be kind, charitable, honest, forgiving and clear in speaking out our Christian convictions as Jesus was when He spoke in the synagogue.

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK AND THE HOUSEBOUND: We continue to pray and extend our support to those at Banksia Village, IRT Moruya; and the sick members of our Parish: Sylvia and Cletus Heffernan, John Gerber, Ben Pollock, Kathleen Ebbelaar, Gerry Ebbelaar, Kylie Leplaw, Monique Driver, Andy McCosker, Paul Croese, Clare Broekhuysse, Trish Tarlinton, Pat Morris, Julie and John Kay, Lee Maat, Paul Rummery Jnr, Sandra Spellacy, Kirk Dowling, Rosemary Patyus, Kay Morton, Rod McDonald, and Kaye Shephard.

CONDOLENCES: Parishioner Phil (Golly) Jasprizza sadly passed away on 15 January. Condolences to Phil’s family. Phil’s funeral was held on Friday, 21 January.

COVID PROTOCOLS: **All are welcome to our services at Sacred Heart.** If you are unwell please do not enter. Please remember to follow current covid rules which include the wearing of face masks, social distancing, hand sanitising, checking in using the QR code or manually registering in the Church foyer.

VINNIE’S CONFERENCE NEWS: The members of our Conference would like to wish all of our parishioners, school teachers and students a very happy New Year. Because of your generosity we collected \$920.60 for our Christmas appeal along with an abundance of non perishable food and we were able to use these donations to provide food hampers and toys to people in our Community who are struggling financially. Our office, located below the op-shop, continues to operate on Monday, Wednesday and Friday between the hours of 10am and 12midday. We are able to assist people with food support, clothing and household goods and in some instances Government grants for power bills. You do not need to make an appointment but if you wish to contact the Conference our number is 6234 7404. If the phone is not manned at the time of your call, please leave a message and we will get back to you.