

# SACRED HEART PARISH MORUYA



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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—10.45am



24th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

-YEAR B -

September 11 & 12 2021

## “WHO DO YOU SAY THAT I AM?”

### “You are the Christ”

This Sunday we begin a series of seven Sunday Gospel readings from Mark's account of the journey of Jesus and his disciples from northern Galilee to Jerusalem. Along the way Jesus gave instructions about his identity and what it meant to follow him (discipleship).

Today's **gospel** consists of two sections: 1) the messianic confession of Peter acknowledging Jesus as “*Christ (Messiah) the Son of the living God*”; and 2) Jesus' prediction of His passion, death and resurrection, followed by his clear teaching on the three conditions of Christian discipleship: *“Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross and follow me”*.



The **gospel** explains the basis of our faith as acceptance of Jesus as the Christ, our Lord and Saviour. It also tells us that Christ Jesus became our Saviour by his suffering, death and resurrection. Finally, it outlines the three conditions of Christian discipleship, namely, denying oneself, taking up one's cross and following Jesus. Jesus saw aspects of his own life and mission foreshadowed in the Isaiah's Servant Songs and hence a large portion of one of these is presented as the **first reading**, while in the **gospel** Jesus foretells his passion, death and resurrection for the first time, in response to Peter's profession of faith in him as the Messiah and Saviour. Like the servant described in today's first reading, Jesus' life was one of radical obedience and conformity to God's will. Thus the Servant passage provides background for the revelation of Jesus as the suffering Messiah.

The **second reading** from James chapter two, reminds us that suffering is not only something to be accepted but also something to be alleviated. James explains how our faith in Jesus the Messiah should help us to alleviate suffering by our works of mercy, both corporal and spiritual.

**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 Is 50:5-9

A reading from the prophet Isaiah  
The Lord has opened my ear.

For my part, I made no resistance,  
neither did I turn away.  
I offered my back to those who struck me,  
my cheeks to those who tore at my beard;  
I did not cover my face  
against insult and spittle.

The Lord comes to my help,  
so that I am untouched by the insults.  
So, too, I set my face like flint;  
I know I shall not be shamed.

My vindicator is here at hand.  
Does anyone start proceedings against me?  
Then let us go to court together.  
Who thinks he has a case against me?  
Let him approach me.  
The Lord is coming to my help,  
who dare condemn me?

The Word of the Lord

**All: Thanks be to God**

## Responsorial Psalm Ps 114:1-6. 8-9. R. v.9

**(R.) I will walk in the presence of the Lord,  
in the land of the living.**

1. I love the Lord for he has heard  
the cry of my appeal;  
for he turned his ear to me  
in the day when I called him. **(R.)**
2. They surrounded me, the snares of death,  
with anguish of the tomb;  
they caught me, sorrow and distress.  
I called on the Lord's name.  
O Lord my God, deliver me! **(R.)**
3. How gracious is the Lord, and just;  
our God has compassion.  
The Lord protects the simple hearts;  
I was helpless so he saved me. **(R.)**
4. He has kept my soul from death,  
my eyes from tears  
and my feet from stumbling.  
I will walk in the presence of the Lord  
in the land of the living. **(R.)**

## Second Reading Jas 2:14-18

A reading from the letter of St James

Take the case, my brothers, of someone who has never done a single good act but claims that he has faith. Will that faith save him? If one of the brothers or one of the sisters is in need of clothes and has not enough food to live on, and one of you says to them, 'I wish you well; keep yourself warm and eat

plenty,' without giving them these bare necessities of life, then what good is that? Faith is like that: if good works do not go with it, it is quite dead.

This is the way to talk to people of that kind: 'You say you have faith and I have good deeds; I will prove to you that I have faith by showing you my good deeds – now you prove to me that you have faith without any good deeds to show.'

The Word of the Lord

**All: Thanks be to God**

## Gospel Acclamation Gal 6:14

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

My only glory is the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
which crucifies the world to me and me to the world.

**Alleluia!**

## Gospel Mk 8:27-35

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

Jesus and his disciples left for the villages round Caesarea Philippi. On the way he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say I am?' And they told him. 'John the Baptist,' they said, 'others Elijah; others again, one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he asked, 'who do you say I am?' Peter spoke up and said to him, 'You are the Christ.' And he gave them strict orders not to tell anyone about him.

And he began to teach them that the Son of Man was destined to suffer grievously, to be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes, and to be put to death, and after three days to rise again; and he said all this quite openly. Then, taking him aside, Peter started to remonstrate with him. But, turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said to him, 'Get behind me, Satan! Because the way you think is not God's way but man's.'

He called the people and his disciples to him and said, 'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it.'

The Gospel of the Lord

**All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ**

# THE WORD AND LIFE ... this week

**We must become great through humble, self-giving service.** Greatness, in Jesus' view, is found in our willingness to accept, welcome and serve those who are considered unacceptable and undeserving by reason of class, colour, religion, wealth or culture. We must welcome people the way a child welcomes them before he is taught discrimination. *If we are to be truly great, we must be ready to accept four challenges: (1) to put ourselves last, (2) to be the servant of all, (3) to receive the most insignificant human beings with love, and (4) to expect nothing in return.* During the holy Mass let us pray for the true spirit of service and for an attitude of love for those around us. We need to ask the Holy Spirit to help us to become truly great through humble and selfless service. Mother Teresa puts it like this: *"Be the living expression of God's kindness through humble service. Show kindness in your face"*. The Missionaries of Charity, the order of nuns founded by Mother Teresa, live by this motto: *"The fruit of Silence is Prayer. The fruit of Prayer is Faith. The fruit of Faith is Love. The fruit of Love is Service. And the fruit of Service is Peace"*.

**BIRTHDAYS:** Pat Morris celebrates his birthday on 13th September, Annette Moore on the 15th.

**PRAYERS 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.

**Live Stream Mass St. Christopher's Cathedral Monday – Saturday 12.15pm, Sunday 11am <https://www.catholicvoice.org.au/mass-online/>**

**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 1<sup>st</sup> (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.**

## **FEAST DAYS IN THE COMING WEEK:**

**1) The Exaltation of the Holy Cross, 14 September, 2) Our Lady of Sorrows, 15 September:** The Gospels testify to the fulfillment of Simeon's prophecy to Mary that 'a sword will pierce your own heart' (Lk 2:35). With a mother's love, she accompanied her son through his passion, crucifixion and death.

## **A REFLECTION FROM FR GEORGE:**

Dear Parishioners

My heart goes out to all of you at this juncture of nearly one month in lockdown and restrictions. I hope all of you are doing well and in good health and cheers. It is worth taking the time and pain to keep our common enemy – Covid 19 – away. It will be rewarding even though painstaking.

Our Parish Secretary Vickie Moore from the Parish Office, myself, Pat Anderson from the Moruya Caring Group and PPC members are all trying to contact as many parishioners as possible on a daily and weekly basis through telephone conversations, emails, Bulletins, Liturgy reflections and news with a view to keep you updated in this lonely lockdown time in order to survive together as Sacred Heart parishioners.

From my part, as your Priest, I am offering daily masses for all your intentions that we may at the end of this peril come out victorious, like a butterfly emerging out of the cocoon. Let us exercise patience at this time, and not try to save the butterfly by releasing it prematurely from the cocoon which could be fatal. Let us exercise patience, remain positive in our outlook and attitudes to come out victorious.





I am reminded of the 5th Century Philosopher Confucius who said “the gem cannot be polished without friction, nor the person perfected without trials”. We are all, in fact the whole world, much more affected by the present Pandemic. Our freedom is restricted; we experience fear of life, loneliness, panic and undue anxiety. People of Faith have to endure these - believing and trusting in God who is in control. He who endures till the end will reap the fruit of their patient trust in joy.

We can relate this to the words of Jesus in this Sunday’s Gospel when he says “if anyone wants to come with me, he must forget himself, carry his cross and follow me”. In other words suffering and sorrow are like hurricanes, floods and pandemics. They are part of life, we face it. There is no way we can escape them. But then Jesus goes on to say something remarkable. He says “whoever wants to save his own life will lose it but

whoever loses his life for me and for the Gospel will save it”. In today’s context, it is like the authorities, health experts and the general public saying “vaccinations will save lives”.

In the Gospel, Jesus says the important thing in life is not the sorrow and the suffering that befalls us. The important thing is how we respond to them. The important thing is what we do about them.

Maybe we can’t avoid many negative things happening around us but we can do something with them. We can turn them into something constructive, not destructive. We can turn them into something that is life-giving not death-dealing. We can face them courageously and not fearfully. That is why I prefer the term “stay at home” rather than “lockdown”. We may make good use of this ‘stay at home’ time with family, taking care of oneself and our loved ones with proper food, medications in time, time for exercise, to talk to relatives and friends whom we have not talked to for a long time; rejuvenate our body by enough rest, by reading books, time to read and meditate scriptures, attending live-streamed Holy Mass, taking time for personal devotions etc and above all discovering oneself and thus discovering God in oneself and others. This will help us to answer constantly the questions Jesus asked his disciples in the Gospel “who do you say that I am”?

Dear friends, when we discover and confess that Jesus is God, our personal savior on a daily basis then we remain focused on Him alone and we have the inner spiritual strength to walk on any troubled waters of life, may it be a pandemic. We can turn them into something that makes us better, not bitter. Sooner or later we also discover that the present day perils are not necessarily death-dealing. Thanks to Jesus and the Gospel, they can be life-giving.

God often uses sorrow and suffering to fashion us into better people – warmer people, humble people, God-fearing people, more compassionate and understanding people. The present peril we face due to the global pandemic can open our eyes to a richer, and more beautiful life than we ever dreamed possible.

The Poet Robert Browning Hamilton sums up the spirit of this Sunday’s Gospel in these words:

I walked a mile to Pleasure,  
She chattered all the way  
But left me non the wiser  
For all she had to say.

I walked a mile with Sorrow  
And never a word said she;  
But, oh, the thing I learned from her,  
When sorrow walked with me”.

*“Along the Road”*

Let us remain vigilant and strong, courageous and more focused on spirituality at this time of peril. Let us remember, there is no holiday or lockdown in spiritual life, so let us remain faithful. Due to covid restrictions, we are in pain of not having a chance to come together in the church in common for mass and Liturgy at present but hope to be able to gather sooner, maybe in three to four weeks. We are again reminded of Ps 125:5 “Those who sow in tears will reap with shouts of joy”.

Finally, dear friends, I urge you to consider the saying “Let go, Let God”. Let us practice daily letting go of those pesky, troublesome and disturbing things that you cannot control, like the pandemic. Instead remain focussed on what is within your control - your thoughts, how you react and how you feel. I say this because humans tend to have a perception that we can control much more than we actually can and this can drive much of our worry and anxiety. If we can remind ourselves that we cannot control most things then we are left with a sense of peace. Focus on what is within your control. Do your part, do your best and leave the rest to God who is in control always. May our Lady of Sorrows, whose Feast we celebrate on 15<sup>th</sup> September, intercede for you to keep your spirit strong in suffering and give you peace. And the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all and give you Peace. God Bless — Fr George