

## NOTICES FROM THE PARISH

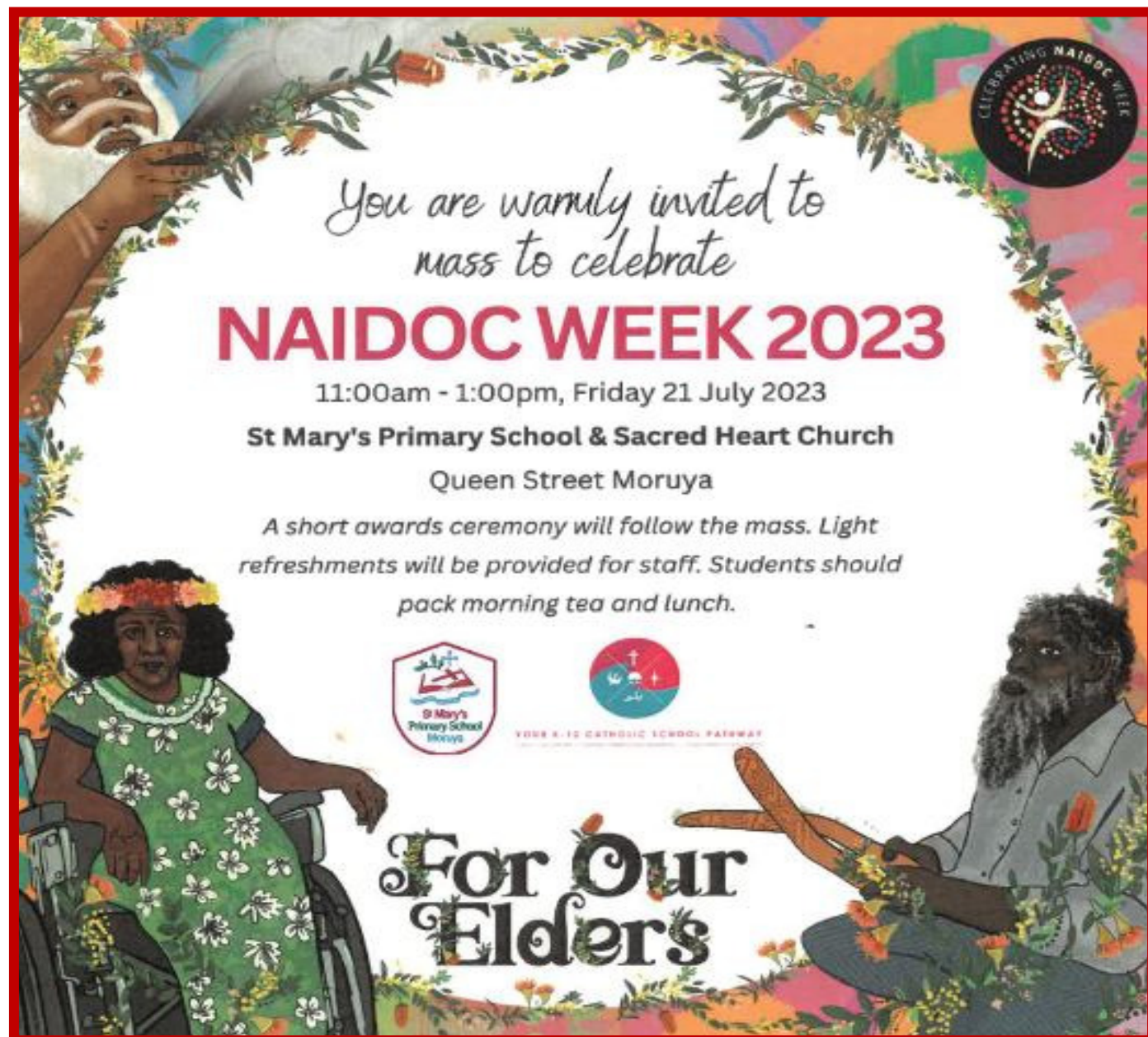
**PRAYERS FOR THE SICK:** We continue to pray and extend our support to those at Banksia Village, IRT Moruya, the sick members of our Parish and those in need of our prayers: Kathleen Ebbelaar, Gerry Ebbelaar, Dianne Ebbelaar, Kylie Leplaw, Andy McCosker, Bala Stankovich, Clare & Bert Broekhuyse, Pat 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.

**ANNIVERSARY:** Thinking of Noeline Norman who commemorates the passing of her son Michael 12 months ago on 12 July 2022. Please keep Noeline in your prayers this week; RIP Michael.

**WELCOME BACK:** A very warm welcome to Fr George who returns to the Parish after 14 months!

**BRIDGING ABORIGINAL AND CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY:** A gathering will be held on Tuesday, 22 August, 10am – 3pm in St Bernard's Church Meeting Room. **Guest Speaker:** Loretta Parsley, First Nation's Elder and facilitators Carolyn Evenden and Marie Weatherall. Cost is free. Morning Tea provided. **BYO Pot Luck Lunch** to share. Booking is Essential by Tuesday Aug 15 Phone Marie 0405 028 057.

**EVANGELISATION PROGRAM:** Next **Tuesday, 18 July** Parishioners are invited to Marg Croese's home (19 Costin Street, Moruya) to watch and discuss the next episode and series of **The Chosen** (the series about Jesus' life).



The poster is for NAIDOC WEEK 2023, held on Friday 21 July 2023 from 11:00am to 1:00pm at St Mary's Primary School & Sacred Heart Church, Queen Street Moruya. It features illustrations of an Aboriginal man in the top left, a woman in a green floral dress in the bottom left, and an Aboriginal man in the bottom right. The text includes: "You are warmly invited to mass to celebrate NAIDOC WEEK 2023", "11:00am - 1:00pm, Friday 21 July 2023", "St Mary's Primary School & Sacred Heart Church", "Queen Street Moruya", "A short awards ceremony will follow the mass. Light refreshments will be provided for staff. Students should pack morning tea and lunch.", and "For Our Elders". Logos for St Mary's Primary School Moruya and the Catholic Schools Pathway are also present.

## SACRED HEART PARISH MORUYA



36 Queen Street (PO Box 23) Moruya NSW 2537  
Phone: 4474 2024 Email: [moruya@cg.org.au](mailto:moruya@cg.org.au)  
Web: <http://cg.org.au/Moruya>  
Priest: Fr George Azhakath, mfs  
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

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

- YEAR A -

July 15 & 16 2023

### The Parable of the Sower



We all realise the sad truth that only a few professing Christians are really living productive spiritual lives. Hence, today's **readings** invite us to have a positive and optimistic view of the missionary efforts we make by bearing witness to Christ's **gospel** through our transparent Christian lives, instead of turning cynical and becoming depressed. In the **first reading**, Isaiah, in the midst of a desert, can feel sure of the approach of spring for his people. Like Isaiah, all religious reformers confidently depend on the power of God's word. In the **second reading** St Paul reminds us that suffering is part of creation (seeds must fall in the dirt and die in order to produce a fruitful life) and suffering and death produce

redemption. He is expectantly waiting for his eternal reward as he has sowed the word of God diligently and suffered for the Lord. Today's **gospel** assures us that, since God is in charge, he will bring the harvest, and it will be abundant. We need not despair if that harvest is not immediately visible. The Church in every century has seen people reject Christ, as illustrated in the *parable of the sower*. The parable tells us to do our part by preparing fertile soil in our hearts for the word of God to yield 60 and 100 fold. We are to imitate the farmer who loses no sleep over a few seeds eaten by birds or a few suffocated seedlings.

The **first reading** (Isaiah 55:10-11): The prophecies collected in Isaiah chapters 40-55, are known as the Book of Consolation. Written while the exiles were returning from Babylon to Judah, the chapters are meant to comfort the dispirited people. There are promises of fertile land and restoration, water for the thirsty, secure defence against enemies as the result of Yahweh's power and mercy. What Isaiah means is that, like rain and snow which water the earth so that seeds may sprout and grow. God's word will accomplish its purpose to return the exiles to their homes in peace. Their return will be an everlasting memorial to the power of Yahweh's word. Thus, today's **passage** promises spiritual fertility. It implies that God will make the peoples' religious lives fruitful, as He has done for their land. And it could bespeak a promise that God will make fruitful the work of the prophet, whose job it is to proclaim God's word. In this **reading** and in today's **gospel**, we are assured that God shares His abundance with us and that his plans will not be frustrated.

# Liturgy of the Word

## First Reading Is 55:10-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Thus says the Lord: ‘As the rain and the snow come down from the heavens and do not return without watering the earth, making it yield and giving growth to provide seed for the sower and bread for the eating, so the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do.’

The Word of the Lord

**All: Thanks be to God**

## Responsorial Psalm Ps 64:10-14. R. Lk 8:8

**(R.) The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.**

1. You care for the earth, give it water, you fill it with riches.  
Your river in heaven brims over to provide its grain. **(R.)**
2. And thus you provide for the earth; you drench its furrows, you level it, soften it with showers, you bless its growth. **(R.)**
3. You crown the year with your goodness. Abundance flows in your steps, in the pastures of the wilderness it flows. **(R.)**
4. The hills are girded with joy, the meadows covered with flocks, the valleys are decked with wheat. They shout for joy, yes, they sing. **(R.)**

## Second Reading Rom 8:18-23

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

I think that what we suffer in this life can never be compared to the glory, as yet unrevealed, which is waiting for us. The whole creation is eagerly waiting for God to reveal his sons. It was not for any fault on the part of creation that it was made unable to attain its purpose, it was made so by God; but creation still retains the hope of being freed, like us, from its slavery to decadence, to enjoy the same freedom and glory as the children of God. From the beginning till now the entire creation, as we know, has been groaning in one great act of giving birth; and not only creation, but all of us who possess the first-fruits of the Spirit, we too groan inwardly as we wait for our bodies to be set free.

The Word of the Lord

**All: Thanks be to God**

## Gospel Acclamation

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

The seed is the word of God, Christ is the sower; all who come to him will live for ever.

**Alleluia!**

## Gospel Mt 13:1-9

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 left the house and sat by the lakeside, but such crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat there. The people all stood on the beach, and he told them many things in parables.

He said, ‘Imagine a sower going out to sow. As he sowed, some seeds fell on the edge of the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Others fell on patches of rock where they found little soil and sprang up straight away, because there was no depth of earth; but as soon as the sun came up they were scorched and, not having any roots, they withered away. Others fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Others fell on rich soil and produced their crop, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Listen, anyone who has ears!’

The Gospel of the Lord

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



**Entrance Antiphon:** As for me, in justice I shall behold your face; I shall be filled with the vision of your glory.

**Communion Antiphon:** The sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for her young: by your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God. Blessed are they who dwell in your house, for ever singing your praise.

**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.



## THE WORD AND LIFE this week ...

1) **The soil along the path:** This soil is too hard to absorb the seed. Soon the birds eat it up or passers-by trample it under foot. Jesus explains that this soil is like the person who hears the word of God without letting it sink in. The seed/word is then replaced by worldly concerns. This type of soil represents people with hard hearts and closed minds due to laziness, prejudice, fear, pride or immoral living.

2) **The soil on flat circular pieces of limestone:** This soil-type represents emotional people who always look for novelties without taking permanent interest in anything. Jesus explains that this kind of person is at first impressed by the message but quickly loses interest because of the effort needed to keep the word alive. We have the example of a group of disciples who followed Jesus for a long time until the day he announced that he is the “*bread of life*”.

3) **The soil filled with weeds:** This soil represents people addicted to evil habits and evil tendencies and those whose hearts are filled with hatred, jealousy and greed. They are interested only in acquiring money by any means and in enjoying life in any way possible. Jesus explains that these people are filled with worldly interests that undermine them. The classic example is Judas who follows Jesus for a long time, but in the end cannot let go of his worldly interests and so exchanges his Lord for earthly silver.

4) **The good soil:** This soil-type represents the people who hear the word of God diligently and keep it. They have open hearts filled with holiness and humility. They are eager to hear the word and ready to put it in to practice. They are attentive to the Holy Spirit. Fortunately, the gospel is filled with people who have accepted the Lord’s message and whose lives have been changed. Jesus’ words in spite of obstacles and barriers, will produce the kingdom. Although the seed may seem scattered at random, it will produce amazing results; thirty-fold, sixty fold—even a hundred-fold, an enormous yield with modern farming methods.