

**BANKSIA VILLAGE MASS:** Mass will be celebrated at Banksia on Thursday, 20 June at 11am.

**BIRTHDAY:** A very Happy Birthday to Louise Strahlendorf who celebrates her special day on 17 June. We hope you have a lovely day with your family and friends Louise.

**CONDOLENCES:** Condolences to Deacon Paul Rummery and the Rummery family on the passing of Deacon Paul's brother (Robert) Bob on 2 June. Please keep their family in your prayers and may Bob rest in eternal peace dear Lord.



**PARISH OFFICE:** The Parish office will be closed for 2 weeks from **Wednesday, 19 June until Friday, 28 June**. The office phone will be monitored intermittently during this time.

**PLANNED GIVING:** Planned Giving boxes containing envelopes will be ready for collection this weekend. **Please be reminded not to use old envelopes from the first weekend in July.** The envelope boxes have been renumbered and if old numbers are used, it will not be recorded against the correct name. The Planned Giving boxes are available in the Church foyer.

**MASS TIME CHANGE:** Archbishop Christopher Prowse will be officiating at the **Confirmations** next **Sunday, 23 June** at the **special time of 10:30am** at Sacred Heart Church.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** Can you please spare an hour or so to visit and comfort our sick and housebound parishioners? If so, please contact the office for details. Alternatively, if you know of someone in your neighbourhood or in the parish, who is unwell or lonely, please make a concerted effort to provide comfort and support to them. *“Our faith can move mountains”* Matthew 17:20

## NOTICES FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE

**ARCHBISHOP'S ANNUAL MARY MACKILLOP PILGRIMAGE, EDEN:** A warm invitation is extended to all to join the Archbishop as he leads the annual Mary Mackillop pilgrimage in Eden on **Saturday, 3 August**. The day will include a pilgrim's walk at 11am, Mass at 12pm with lunch provided by the Parish of Pambula. If you wish to attend, please rsvp to Sue Heffernan (0405 251 947) or Bernadette Wood (0429 774 119). A flyer is displayed in the Church foyer with more details.

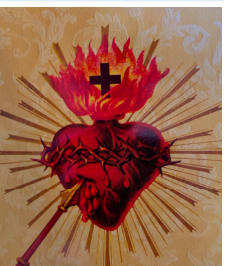
**FERTILITY AWARENESS CAMPAIGN:** Local health professionals and qualified instructors are available to help you understand and manage your fertility in an effective and non-invasive manner. Achieve or avoid pregnancy naturally. Address reproductive health issues holistically. See *Fertility Awareness Methods* at [www.marriagefamily.org.au](http://www.marriagefamily.org.au)

**CARITAS AUSTRALIA'S PAPUA NEW GUINEA LANDSLIDE APPEAL:** Following a massive landslide on the 24 May of 2024 in the Highlands of Papua New Guinea, an initial rapid assessment report from the UN has revealed extensive losses and damages to communities downhill, also destroying livelihoods and key infrastructure. 7,849 individuals from 1,427 households across two communities are affected with food security, clean and safe drinking water (as well as water tanks and purification tablets), and the provision of nonfood items such as utensils and clothes the top three priorities. Sister John Mary, Secretary and Project Manageress of the Catholic Diocese of Wabag explained, “We have visited communities to deliver food and medicine to people who are digging their loved ones out of the earth. The shock and grief in these communities is profound, and among it all many have no home to return to, no food to eat, no clean water to drink or no clothes to wear.” **Please act now. You can donate online at [www.caritas.org.au/png](http://www.caritas.org.au/png) or phone 1800 024 413**

# 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  
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:** Every Saturday @ Moruya 4:15pm-4:45pm before Vigil Mass  
1st Saturday of the month @ Moruya 8:15am-9:00am  
**Devotions:** Daily Rosary and Saturdays 9:30am **Adoration:** All Fridays after Mass  
**Schools:** St Mary's Moruya: 4474 2817 Carroll College Broulee: 4471 5600  
**Caring Groups:** Tuross Head: 0497 315 534 Moruya: 0431 354 993

11th Sunday in Ordinary Time

- YEAR B -

15 & 16 June 2024

## Kingdom of God

**“The mustard seed, the smallest of all the seeds, grows into the biggest shrub of all”**

Today's readings are about the birth and growth of the reign or rule of God (Kingdom of God), in human lives and about the gigantic growth of the Church from very humble beginnings. Both growths are slow and mysterious, guided by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The **first reading**, taken from Ez 17:22-24 is a messianic prophecy. The prophet tells us how the Lord God of Israel will allow a descendant of King David to become the Messiah and saviour of the world. In contrast with the parable of the tiny mustard seed in today's gospel, Ezekiel sees the Messiah originating in a royal family.

In the **second reading** St Paul teaches the Corinthian Christians that they are to please God by doing His will (thus advancing the growth of God's kingdom and His rule in their lives), so that they may be amply rewarded in the final judgement.

**In today's gospel, Jesus compares the growth of the kingdom of God to the germination of a wheat seed and that of a tiny mustard seed. Both have very small beginnings. The wheat seeds, by gradual but steady growth help the farmer to get a bumper crop. In the same way, the life principle in a tiny mustard seed enables it to grow into a large bush. The reign of God in human hearts and the growth of the Church in the world also have small beginnings. But the Source of all life, God the Holy Spirit, gives to both a steady, persistent and gigantic growth.**

**Entrance Antiphon:** O Lord, hear my voice, for I have called to you; be my help. Do not abandon or forsake me, O God, my Saviour!

**Communion Antiphon:** There is one thing I ask of the Lord, only this do I seek: to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.

**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 Ezekiel 17:22-24

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

The Lord says this:

‘From the top of the cedar,  
from the highest branch I will take a shoot  
and plant it myself on a very high mountain.  
I will plant it on the high mountain of Israel.  
It will sprout branches and bear fruit,  
and become a noble cedar.  
Every kind of bird will live beneath it,  
every winged creature rest in the shade of its  
branches.

And every tree of the field will learn that I, the  
Lord, am the one  
who stunts tall trees and makes the low ones  
grow,  
who withers green trees and makes the withered  
green.  
I, the Lord, have spoken, and I will do it.’

The Word of the Lord

**All: Thanks be to God**

### Responsorial Psalm Ps 91:2-3. 13-16. R. see v.2

**(R.) Lord, it is good to give thanks to you.**

1. It is good to give thanks to the Lord  
to make music to your name, O Most High,  
to proclaim your love in the morning  
and your truth in the watches of the night. **(R.)**
2. The just will flourish like the palm-tree  
and grow like a Lebanon cedar. **(R.)**
3. Planted in the house of the Lord  
they will flourish in the courts of our God,  
still bearing fruit when they are old,  
still full of sap, still green,  
to proclaim that the Lord is just.  
In him, my rock, there is no wrong. **(R.)**

### Second Reading 2 Corinthians 5:6-10

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

We are always full of confidence when we remember  
that to live in the body means to be exiled from the  
Lord, going as we do by faith and not by sight – we  
are full of confidence, I say, and actually want to be  
exiled from the body and make our home with the  
Lord. Whether we are living in the body or exiled  
from it, we are intent on pleasing him. For all the  
truth about us will be brought out in the law court of

Christ, and each of us will get what he deserves for  
the things he did in the body, good or bad.

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 Mark 4:26-34

P: The Lord be with you

**All: And with your spirit**

P: A reading from the holy Gospel according to  
Mark

**All: Glory to you O Lord**

Jesus said to the crowds, ‘This is what the kingdom  
of God is like. A man throws seed on the land. Night  
and day, while he sleeps, when he is awake, the seed  
is sprouting and growing; how, he does not know.  
Of its own accord the land produces first the shoot,  
then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. And when  
the crop is ready, he loses no time; he starts to reap  
because the harvest has come.’

He also said, ‘What can we say the kingdom of God  
is like? What parable can we find for it? It is like a  
mustard seed which at the time of its sowing in the  
soil is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet once  
it is sown it grows into the biggest shrub of them all  
and puts out big branches so that the birds of the air  
can shelter in its shade.’

Using many parables like these, he spoke the word  
to them, so far as they were capable of  
understanding it. He would not speak to them except  
in parables, but he explained everything to his  
disciples when they were alone.

The Gospel of the Lord

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



## THE WORD AND LIFE this week ...

**1) We need to cooperate in the growth of God’s kingdom:** The Kingdom of God is the growth of God’s rule in human hearts that occurs when man does the will of God and surrenders his life to God. The seed of faith lies dormant within each of us. When we permit the Holy Spirit to nurture it with tender loving care, it grows miraculously into gigantic proportions. The growth is slow and microscopic in the beginning. But this seed grows by using the power of the Holy Spirit, given to us through the word of God, the Mass, the sacraments and prayers. As we learn God’s will from HIS words and try to put these words into practice, we participate in the growth of God’s kingdom on earth which will be completed in our heavenly life. But since we need the special anointing of the Holy Spirit to be doers of the word of God, let us offer our lives before God every day, asking for this special anointing.

**2) We need not get discouraged:** Since the acceptance of God’s rule by human beings is a very slow process, there is a danger of discouragement and hopelessness among preachers, evangelisers and believers. The conviction that growth of the kingdom of God is the work of the Holy Spirit, with our humble cooperation, should make us optimistic in continuing our work of bearing witness to Him. We can all plant tiny seeds in the form of words, love, acts of encouragement, deeds of charity, mercy and forgiveness. Parents and teachers can plant a lot of seeds in the minds of their children and students. The Holy Spirit will touch the hearts of the recipients of these seeds sown by us and will effect growth of the kingdom in their souls and lives. As the apostle Paul once said of his ministry “Neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth” (1 Cor 3:7).

### NOTICES FROM THE PARISH

**SICK AND HOUSEBOUND:** We continue to extend our support to those at Banksia Village, IRT Moruya, the sick members of our Parish and all those in need of our prayers: Kathleen Ebbelaar, Gerry Ebbelaar, Dianne Ebelaar, Kylie Leplaw, Andy McCosker, Bala Stankovich, Clare Broekhuysen, Jan and Pat Morris, Barry Morris, Christopher Morris, John Kay, Lee Maat, Kirk Dowling, Rosemary Patyus, Kay Morton, Sue and Rod McDonald, Hans Brosch, Father Giles Setter OFM, John Nader, Mark Wales, Therese Masserot, Jenny Hopkins, Tammy Whiteman, Clair Holmes, Patricia Murphy, Barbara Kirk, Miriam Turnbull, Natasha Morton, Janice Setter, Pauline de Grave, David McWilliams, Paul Ryan, Rita Marion, Viola Collaran, Sandy Spellacy and John Munce.

**Parish Safeguarding Commitment:** Sacred Heart Parish is committed to safeguarding and upholding the dignity and rights of all our children and vulnerable people. We seek to empower children, their families and carers, and vulnerable people, to have a say, to be listened to, and to be protected. This approach is at the centre of all of our thinking.

**Communicating Concerns:** Parishioners are encouraged to raise any concerns they may have by emailing Fr George Azhakath or the Parish Office. Alternatively, please phone the Parish Office to arrange a time to talk with Fr George. Specific safeguarding issues can also be emailed to the **Parish Safeguarding Officers:** **Pauline Parnell** ronandpauline@yahoo.com; **Louise Strahlendorf** loumm214@gmail.com; or **Peter Hoban** peter.hoban@peters.com.au. Parishioners are also welcome to contact Maria Hicks, Manager for the Archdiocese’s Institute for Professional Standards and Safeguarding (IPSS) ipss@cg.org.au/6239 9806.

# LIVING THE GOSPEL

### Seed on the land

*The first parable in the gospel passage describes the unerring work of the kingdom. It is like the seed that almost magically transforms into a fully grown plant that may be harvested – apparently without any external forces. Of course, we know that plants need to be fed, watered, weeded and nurtured to ensure their proper growth. However, the kingdom of God works in our lives in a similar way – if we feed and nurture it, the kingdom will produce a great harvest. Even if we don’t pay it attention, the kingdom is present and acting in our world.*