

BAPTISM: Congratulations to the England family as their daughter Pia Claire is Baptised this Sunday. Welcome to the England family on this special day and please keep their family in your prayers as Pia begins her faith journey.

ANNIVERSARY: Pauline and Han De Grave celebrated their Wedding Anniversary on 23 January. Congratulations on 57 years of wedded bliss and we wish you both many more happy and healthy years together!

GATHERING INVITATION: GRIEF, LOSS AND LIVING WITH DEMENTIA ... A PASTORAL

RESPONSE: Date: Tuesday, 13 February 2024 at St Bernard's Church Meeting Room, 2 David Ave, Batehaven. **Time:** 9:15am for 9:30am start—12 noon. **Facilitator:** Nicole Gorzalka, Hammond Care.

Guest speakers: *Antoinette and Nancy will share their experiences of caring for their husbands living with Dementia*. This Gathering is open to: Pastoral Carers, Family Carers, Volunteers and Supporting Friends or those wanting to increase their awareness. There is no cost; BYO sharing morning tea. **NOTE: Bookings are essential by Monday, 5 February** by calling Marie 0405 028 057 or Carolyn 0400 021 119.

**HAPPY AUSTRALIA
DAY! HAPPY
AUSTRALIA DAY!
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On Friday, 26 January we celebrate Australia Day. Australia Day is the day to reflect on what it means to be Australian: to celebrate and to give thanks for our beautiful Country, as we acknowledge and respect our diverse history.

A Gift in Your Will

Have you considered a Bequeath to Sacred Heart Parish, Moruya to be included in your Will?

Making a gift for the upkeep and maintenance of your Parish is a meaningful gift and legacy to your faith community, a gift that will be remembered forever...

To make a **bequest**, you should consult your solicitor or trustee company. It may be sufficient to make an addition or amendment to an existing Will by adding a codicil. If you are considering a bequest, the Parish Office will be able to assist you with further details.

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
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

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time - YEAR B - 27 & 28 January 2024

Jesus casts out an unclean spirit

“This is a new kind of teaching that speaks with authority”

The common theme of today's readings is divine authority—reflected by the prophets of the Old Testament in their messages: by the Apostles, including St Paul, in the New Testament in the writings and teachings and by Jesus in his teaching and healing ministry. Today's **first reading** tells us that a true prophet speaks with authority because it is God who speaks through him. After the Babylonian exile, the Jewish priests began to interpret the words of Moses given in the **first reading**, namely “a prophet like me” as referring to one individual, the expected Messiah. According to Acts 3:22; 7:37, this is fulfilled in Jesus Christ. This passage is chosen for today's **first reading** because it refers to Jesus as the “preacher with authority” as mentioned in today's **gospel**.



In the **second reading**, St Paul exercises his God-given authority as the Apostle to the Gentiles to teach people that marriage is a holy state ordained by God and that it is a life-long partnership according to the teaching of the Lord. In today's **gospel**, Mark describes one simple Sabbath day of Jesus' public life. He joined in public worship in the synagogue as a practicing Jew, he healed the sick, he drove out evil spirits—and he prayed privately. People noticed that Jesus spoke with authority and healed with divine power. Jesus used his real, or authentic authority to teach, empower, liberate and heal others.

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 Deuteronomy 18:15-20

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy

Moses said to the people: ‘Your God will raise up for you a prophet like myself, from among yourselves, from your own brothers; to him you must listen. This is what you yourselves asked of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the Assembly. “Do not let me hear again” you said “the voice of the Lord my God, nor look any longer on this great fire, or I shall die”; and the Lord said to me, “All they have spoken is well said. I will raise up a prophet like yourself for them from their own brothers; I will put my words into his mouth and he shall tell them all I command him. The man who does not listen to my words that he speaks in my name, shall be held answerable to me for it. But the prophet who presumes to say in my name a thing I have not commanded him to say, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die.”’

The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm Ps 94:1-2. 6-9. R. v.9

**(R.) If today, you hear his voice,
harden not your hearts.**

1. Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;
hail the rock who saves us.
Let us come before him, giving thanks,
with songs let us hail the Lord. **(R.)**
2. Come in, let us kneel and bend low;
let us kneel before the God who made us
for he is our God and we
the people who belong to his pasture,
the flock that is led by his hand. **(R.)**
3. O that today you would listen to his voice!
‘Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as on that day at Massah in the desert
when your fathers put me to the test;
when they tried me, though they saw my
work.’ **(R.)**

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 7:32-35

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

I would like to see you free from all worry. An unmarried man can devote himself to the Lord’s affairs, all he need worry about is pleasing the Lord; but a married man has to bother about the world’s affairs and devote himself to pleasing his wife: he is torn two ways. In the same way an

unmarried woman, like a young girl, can devote herself to the Lord’s affairs; all she need worry about is being holy in body and spirit. The married woman, on the other hand, has to worry about the world’s affairs and devote herself to pleasing her husband. I say this only to help you, not to put a halter round your necks, but simply to make sure that everything is as it should be, and that you give your undivided attention to the Lord.

The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation Matthew 4:16

Alleluia, alleluia!

A people in darkness have seen a great light:
a radiant dawn shines on those lost in death.

Alleluia!

Gospel Mark 1:21-28

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 and his followers went as far as Capernaum, and as soon as the Sabbath came Jesus went to the synagogue and began to teach. And his teaching made a deep impression on them because, unlike the scribes, he taught them with authority.

In their synagogue just then there was a man possessed by an unclean spirit, and it shouted, ‘What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are: the Holy One of God.’ But Jesus said sharply, ‘Be quiet! Come out of him!’ And the unclean spirit threw the man into convulsions and with a loud cry went out of him. The people were so astonished that they started asking each other what it all meant. ‘Here is a teaching that is new’ they said ‘and with authority behind it: he gives orders even to unclean spirits and they obey him.’ And his reputation rapidly spread everywhere, through all the surrounding Galilean countryside.

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) Let us approach Jesus for liberation: Jesus did not use his authority and divine power to rule and control people. He came to set people free. Let us approach Jesus with trusting faith so that he may free us from the evil spirits that keep us from praying and prevent us from loving and sharing our blessings with others. He also frees us from all the ‘evil spirits’ of fear, compulsions, selfishness, anger, resentment and hostility. *“I have come that they may have life, life in abundance”.*

2) We need to use our God-given authority to build up lives. No doubt we can think back to people who have made lasting impressions on our lives—either for good or bad. Perhaps it was a grandparent, an uncle, or a parent who loved us and cared for us. Perhaps it was a Sunday school teacher who encourages us in our faith and exerted a positive impact on our lives. Perhaps we remember the kindness as well as the firm discipline that a schoolteacher gave us. On the other hand, there may be people from our past whom we remember with pain and discomfort. Are children learning something from us as parents that will stand them in good stead for the future? We want our children to grow into strong, wise, confident and capable, mature adults. But we want more than that. We want them to grow in their faith, to accept Jesus as their Lord and personal saviour. We want children to see in us the love of Jesus and how our Christian faith affects our lives. A good question for parents, teachers and all of us is: *“In what way am I helping the children I know grow in amazement at Jesus and his love for them?”* When God’s Word of God and God’s ways are taught and spoken about with authority—with conviction—our children (and others) will see with amazement God’s love for them in his Son Jesus.

3) We need teachers who know how to use their authority wisely: Teachers are powerful because they change lives. They have, within their hands, power to hurt or to heal young lives. Most of us are deeply, forever indebted to some caring teachers in our past. Some people never get over the damage done to them by some cruel or uncaring teacher. So today, when we hear that Jesus entered the synagogue at Capernaum and began to teach, we need to take note. Jesus was a teacher. They called him “Rabbi” which means “teacher”. Let us all become good teachers and use our authority to mould young lives in the right way.

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 Broekhuysen, 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, Robyn Barkley, Mark Wales, Therese Masserot, Jenny Hopkins, Tammy Whiteman, Clair Holmes, Patricia Murphy, Barbara Kirk, Miriam Turnbull, Natasha Morton, Janice Setter and Pauline de Grave.

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.