

SACRAMENT OF FIRST EUCHARIST: [Sacred Heart Church,](#)

[Sunday, 15 September at 10am](#)



GAMES AFTERNOON: [Wednesdays 4th, 11th, 18th & 25 September—1:00pm—2:30pm, Kennedy Meeting Room,](#) No charge. Bring your board game or cards, have a chat and some lighthearted fun. *[We do not stop playing because we grow old, we grow old because we stop playing]*

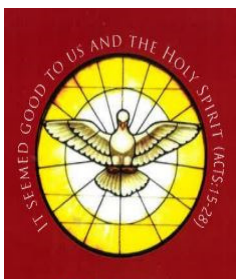


NOTICES FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE

FATHER'S DAY APPEAL – COLLECTION FOR OUR RETIRED PRIESTS: The 2024 Archdiocesan Father's Day Appeal will be conducted this weekend to support the Clergy Retirement Fund. There are 25 priests in our Archdiocese. We should remember our retired priests as we celebrate the theme for the *Second World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly* "In old age they will still bear fruit" (Psalm 92:15). Please give generously. You will be able to contribute to this appeal by: envelopes on the pews, by giving at: www.cgatholic.org.au/donate or by calling: (02) 6239 9876. Thank you for taking care of our priests in their retirement.

ENGAGED ENCOUNTER RETREAT: How prepared are you for marriage? Engaged Encounter provides you with deeper insights into each other and into married life. For further information visit: www.engagedencounter.org.au. Choose any of the Weekends: Nov 09-10, Feb 22-23.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSES: Upcoming Marriage Preparation courses for engaged couples: *FOCCUS* - Tues 8th October 5-9pm plus a private follow up session at Marymead Catholic Care. *SmartLoving* – online, 9 lessons, learn at your own pace when suits you. For more information or to register go to www.marriagefamily.org.au Enquiries: text Helena Zobec on 0405 440 463.



ARCHDIOCESAN ASSEMBLY— 'COME HOLY SPIRIT': All are invited to take part in the Archdiocesan Assembly that will explore the theme 'Come Holy Spirit.' This will focus on celebrating the Year of the Holy Spirit and explore new opportunities for evangelisation and synodality in the life and mission of our local Church going forward. **Where:** Canberra+Narooma+Cooma+Young+Goulburn. **When:** Friday, 18 October—Sunday, 20 October 2024. Information, registration and formation materials are available online at cgevangelisation.org.au/assembly.

Father's Day Prayer

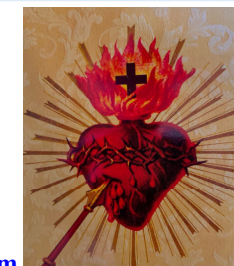
We pray that the Lord showers you with His blessings and fills your heart with love, joy and peace, today and always. Amen



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

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time - YEAR B - 31 August and 1 September 2024

God's Commandments or Human Traditions?

True religion does not consist of scrupulously performing certain rituals and saying empty words for prayers. The essence of true religion is loving God, recognising His presence in our neighbours and doing them loving service. True religion lies in loving our neighbours as ourselves and not simply in keeping the laws and traditions in the Bible and in the Church.

The first reading points out the characteristics of true religion as a) God's closeness to His people and the intimacy of people with their God; and b) the pursuit of God's justice in society. The observance of the Law was considered a sign of commitment and obedience to God, enabling the Israelites to lead lives better than their 'pagan' neighbours. In the second reading, James defines true religion as translating the love of God into action by putting into practice the spiritual and corporal works of mercy, thus doing deeds of loving kindness for the vulnerable and needy, and members of the community. In other words, people of true religion glorify God by caring for those who are unable to care for themselves.

In today's gospel lesson our attention is drawn to a debate between Jesus and the Pharisees on the subject of "tradition". Jesus warns them against the tendency to equate traditional "human precepts" with God's will. He blames the scribes and the Pharisees for giving undue importance to external observances in the name of "tradition", while ignoring the Law's real spirit. True religion should focus on the essentials. In particular, Jesus criticises Pharisaic observance of ritual washing and declares that it is our inner motivations and dispositions that reflect our purity or impurity.

Entrance Antiphon: Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long. O Lord, you are good and forgiving, full of mercy to all who call to you.

Communion Antiphon: Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God. Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.

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

Happy Father's Day to all the Fathers and Grandfathers in our Parish



Liturgy of the Word

First Reading Deuteronomy 4:1-2. 6-8

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy

Moses said to the people: 'Now, Israel, take notice of the laws and customs that I teach you today, and observe them, that you may have life and may enter and take possession of the land that the Lord the God of your fathers is giving you. You must add nothing to what I command you, and take nothing from it, but keep the commandments of the Lord your God just as I lay them down for you. Keep them, observe them, and they will demonstrate to the peoples your wisdom and understanding. When they come to know of all these laws they will exclaim, "No other people is as wise and prudent as this great nation." And indeed, what great nation is there that has its gods so near as the Lord our God is to us whenever we call to him? And what great nation is there that has laws and customs to match this whole Law that I put before you today?'

The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm Ps 14:2-5. R. v.1

(R.) The just will live in the presence of the Lord.

1. Lord, who shall dwell on your holy mountain?

He who walks without fault;
he who acts with justice
and speaks the truth from his heart. **(R.)**

2. He who does no wrong to his brother,
who casts no slur on his neighbour,
who holds the godless in disdain,
but honours those who fear the Lord. **(R.)**

3. He who keeps his pledge, come what may;
who takes no interest on a loan
and accepts no bribes against the innocent.
Such a man will stand firm for ever. **(R.)**

Second Reading James 1:17-18, 21-22, 27

A reading from the letter of St James

It is all that is good, everything that is perfect, which is given us from above; it comes down from the Father of all light; with him there is no such thing as alteration, no shadow of a change. By his own choice he made us his children by the message of the truth so that we should be a sort of first-fruits of all that he had created.

Accept and submit to the word which has been planted in you and can save your souls. But you must do what the word tells you, and not just listen to it and deceive yourselves.

Pure, unspoilt religion, in the eyes of God our Father is this: coming to the help of orphans and widows when they need it, and keeping oneself uncontaminated by the world.

The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation James 1:18

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Father gave us birth by his message of truth, that we might be as the first fruits of his creation.
Alleluia!

Gospel Mark 7:1-8. 14-15. 21-23

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

The Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered round Jesus, and they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with unclean hands, that is, without washing them. For the Pharisees, and the Jews in general, follow the tradition of the elders and never eat without washing their arms as far as the elbow; and on returning from the market place they never eat without first sprinkling themselves. There are also many other observances which have been handed down to them concerning the washing of cups and pots and bronze dishes. So these Pharisees and scribes asked him, 'Why do your disciples not respect the tradition of the elders but eat their food with unclean hands?' He answered, 'It was of you hypocrites that Isaiah so rightly prophesied in this passage of scripture:

This people honours me only with lip-service,
while their hearts are far from me.

The worship they offer me is worthless,
the doctrines they teach are only human regulations.

You put aside the commandment of God to cling to human traditions.'

He called the people to him again and said, 'Listen to me, all of you, and understand. Nothing that goes into a man from outside can make him unclean; it is the things that come out of a man that make him unclean. For it is from within, from men's hearts, that evil intentions emerge: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, malice, deceit, indecency, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within and make a man unclean.'

The Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

THE WORD AND LIFE this week ...

1) We need to keep the spirit of the Church's laws and practices: For example, our Sunday obligation is intended to encourage us to worship God in the Parish community, to offer our lives to God, to ask his pardon for our sins, to thank God for His blessings, to present our needs before Him and to receive divine life and strength from Him by receiving Holy Communion. Our daily prayers are meant to thank God for his blessings, to present the family's needs before God, to ask pardon for all our sins, and to maintain the spirit of unity and love in the family.

2) Let us avoid the tendency to become cafeteria Christians:

As the Pharisees did, we too have the tendency to add to or subtract from God's laws given in the Bible and taught by the Church. Some of us pick and choose certain commandments to follow, ignoring the others as we do in a cafeteria. For example, some actively do corporal and spiritual works for charity, but avoid Sunday Mass and remain unfaithful to their obligations attached to the gift of their sexuality or the sacrament of Marriage. Others are interested in fulfilling only the 'minimal obligations' of their faith. They come to Mass late and leave early; they make an effort to avoid serious sins, but do not go to confession even when they fall into mortal sins.

3) Let us accept the challenge to become listeners and doers of God's word as St James instructs us:

Let us ask the question—how the Sunday or daily readings are affecting or changing our lives to discover whether we are being attentive listeners to, and doers of God's word. We become more fully Jesus' family members, only when we consistently "*hear the word of God and do it*" (Luke 8:21). When we receive Jesus in Holy Communion today, let us ask him for the grace to become the doers of his word as he was the doer of his Father's will.

NOTICES FROM THE PARISH

PRAYERS FOR THE 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 Ebbelaar, Kylie Leplaw, Andy McCosker, Bala Stankovich, Clare Broekhuysse, 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, John Munce, Sylvia and Cletus Heffernan.

WELCOME: Fr Trenton Van Reesch will be celebrating Masses at Tuross and Sacred Heart again this weekend. A gentle reminder there are no 9:15am weekday Masses during August and also 3 and 4 September.

CONDOLENCES: Condolences to the Parsons family on the passing of Kathleene Parsons on 12 August. We pray dear Lord for the repose of Kathleene's soul.

FUNERAL: Kathleene's funeral will be held at Sacred Heart Church, on Friday 6 September at 12pm.

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.

GOSPEL FOCUS

The things within

We live in a culture that is very quick to lay blame on external factors; some people are very reluctant to accept responsibility for their own actions and look for opportunities to distance themselves from feelings of guilt or even regret. Jesus makes it very clear that evil intentions – the things that make a person 'unclean' – actually come from within. He presents a confronting list of the things that come from within and we may be able to add others relevant to our own time. In our culture of no personal responsibility, Jesus challenges us to rethink just where the buck does stop.