

CONFIRMATION 2024: The Year 6 Confirmation Enrolment meeting will be held on Thursday, 16 May, 5:30pm at St Mary's. The Confirmation Commitment Mass will be on Saturday, 25 May at 5pm Mass, Sacred Heart Church. This year, we are very pleased to announce that the Archbishop Christopher Prowse will be attending the Confirmations on **Sunday, 23 June** at the special time of 10:30am at Sacred Heart Church.



NOTICES FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE

GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY APPEAL: Thank you to everyone who gave so generously to this special Appeal. \$610 was raised which will be go towards training our seminarians.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSES - 18 MAY: Upcoming Marriage Preparation courses for engaged couples: *Engaged Encounter*- Sydney, Sat 18 & Sun 19 May. *FOCCUS* - Tues 11th June 5-9pm plus a private follow-up session at CatholicCare. *Evenings for the Engaged* - Sat 13 & 20 July. *SmartLoving* – online, 9 lessons, learn at your own pace when it suits you. For more information or to register go to www.marriagefamily.org.au Enquiries: Text Helena Zobec on 0405 440 463

FERTILITY AWARENESS WINTER CAMPAIGN: The Archdiocese of Canberra Goulburn is very blessed to now have a **Creighton** trained GP, a **Marquette** trained nurse and **Billings** and **Sympto-thermal** instructors operating in our Archdiocese. We meet regularly to support each other and to collaborate on promoting better general knowledge of Fertility Awareness Methods within our parishes and broader community. If you would like to better understand anything regarding current offerings in our Archdiocese, please feel free to ring, text or email Lara Kirk lara.kirk@cg.org.au (02) 6239 9835/0429 192 869.



A Gift to your Church in Your Will

Making a gift to the Sacred Heart Parish, Moruya 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 would like to assist your Parish for its upkeep and maintenance, by making a bequest, we recommend the following clause:

“I give, devise and bequeath [the sum of...] OR [my property known as...] OR [...% of my estate] free of all duties and taxes to the Trustees of the Roman Catholic Sacred Heart Church, Moruya (ABN 23357238651) to be applied as the trustees see fit at the time and I declare that a receipt for the same signed by the Trustees of Sacred Heart Parish, shall be sufficient to discharge from my Executor.” For

further information, please email or phone the Parish Office moruya@cg.org.au/4474 2024.

**SCRIPTURAL
CONTEXT**

In context

The imagery that Jesus used in his parables and in extended metaphors such as the one used in this week's gospel sometimes seems a little foreign to a 21st Century audience. However, the world in which Jesus lived and taught was dominated by small scale farmers and producers in an agrarian economy. His use of images such as 'shepherd', 'vine', 'tenants', 'farmers' and 'wineskins' would all have been immediately recognisable to his audience. They would also have appreciated much more than we do the subtlety of Jesus' use of such images when he twists them in an unexpected way.

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



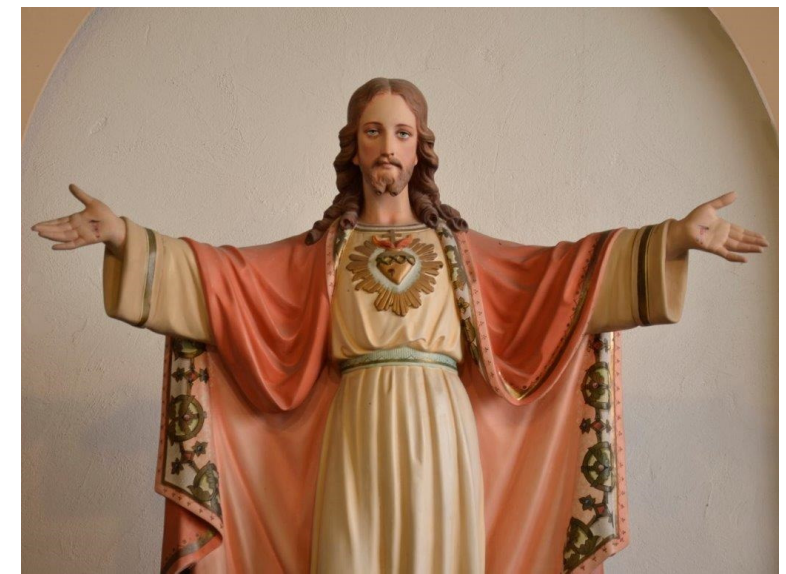
Mass Times:
Moruya: Sat: Vigil 5:00pm Sun: 10:00am
 Tue: 5:00pm, Wed, Thu & Fri: 9:15am/1st Saturday of the month 9:15am
Tuross: Sun: 8:00am **Bodalla:** 4th Sunday of the month 3:00pm/2nd Thursday of the month 9:00am
Reconciliation: Every Saturday @ Moruya 4:15pm-4:45pm before Vigil Mass
 1st Saturday 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

6th Sunday of Easter - YEAR B - 4 & 5 May 2024

**“As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you.
 Remain in my Love”**

Today's scripture passages declare the profound truth that those who believe in Christ and obey his commandment of love “remain in, abide, dwell in” God and God in them.

In the first reading, Peter teaches us that God shows no partiality in His love and that there are no boundaries to abiding in love. God loves everyone, both the Jews and the gentiles, and wants everyone to be saved through his son Jesus. The reading tells us how God also allowed the Gentiles who heard Peter's speech to receive the same Holy Spirit and His gifts that Peter's Jewish audience had received on the day of Pentecost. Today's psalm also directs our attention toward God's marvellous love and kindness in offering salvation to the whole world.



In the second reading John defines God as love and explains that He expressed His love for mankind by sending His son to die for us humans “as expiation for our sins.” This divine love gives us the command as well as duty to love one another as we have been loved by God. Since God has loved us first we can and should love God in return, love ourselves and love one another. After telling the parable of the vine and branches, Jesus, in today's gospel, explains precisely how the disciples are to remain bonded to him as branches fulfilling His commandments and remaining inseparably bonded with his Father. Jesus' unconditional, forgiving, selfless and sacrificial love for us must be the criterion of our love for others. The highest expression of this love is our willingness to lay down our lives as Jesus did, for people who don't deserve it. The goal and result of our abiding love, in God, will be perfect joy. Jesus calls us friends, he tells us that he has chosen us, and that, if we use his name, we can ask the Father for anything.

Entrance Antiphon: Proclaim a joyful sound and let it be heard; proclaim to the ends of the earth: The Lord has freed his people, alleluia.

Communion Antiphon: If you love me, keep my commandments, says the Lord, and I will ask the Father and he will send you another Paraclete, to abide with you for ever, alleluia.

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 Acts of the Apostles 10:25-26. 34-35. 44-48

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

As Peter reached the house Cornelius went out to meet him, knelt at his feet and prostrated himself. But Peter helped him up. 'Stand up,' he said, 'I am only a man after all!' Then Peter addressed them: 'The truth I have now come to realise' he said, 'is that God does not have favourites, but that anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him.'

While Peter was still speaking the Holy Spirit came down on all the listeners. Jewish believers who had accompanied Peter were all astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit should be poured out on the pagans too, since they could hear them speaking strange languages and proclaiming the greatness of God. Peter himself then said, 'Could anyone refuse the water of baptism to these people, now they have received the Holy Spirit just as much as we have?' He then gave orders for them to be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ. Afterwards they begged him to stay on for some days.

The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm Ps 97:1-4. R. see v.2

(R.) The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power.

1. Sing a new song to the Lord for he has worked wonders. His right hand and his holy arm have brought salvation. **(R.)**
2. The Lord has made known his salvation; has shown his justice to the nations. He has remembered his truth and love for the house of Israel. **(R.)**
3. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Shout to the Lord all the earth, ring out your joy. **(R.)**

Second Reading 1 John 4:7-10

A reading from the first letter of St John

My dear people,
let us love one another
since love comes from God
and everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows
God.

Anyone who fails to love can never have known God,
because God is love.
God's love for us was revealed
when God sent into the world his only Son
so that we could have life through him;
this is the love I mean:

not our love for God,
but God's love for us when he sent his Son
to be the sacrifice that takes our sins away.

The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation John 14:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

All who love me will keep my words,
and my Father will love them
and we will come to them.

Alleluia!

Gospel John 15:9-17

P: The Lord be with you

All: And with your spirit

P: A reading from the holy Gospel according to
John

All: Glory to you O Lord

Jesus said to his disciples:

'As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you.
Remain in my love.

If you keep my commandments
you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my
Father's commandments and remain in his love.
I have told you this so that my own joy may be in
you and your joy be complete.

This is my commandment:
love one another, as I have loved you.

A man can have no greater love
than to lay down his life for his friends. You are my
friends, if you do what I command you, I shall
not call you servants any more, because a
servant does not know his master's business; I
call you friends, because I have made known to
you everything I have learnt from my Father.
You did not choose me, no, I chose you; and I
commissioned you to go out and to bear fruit,
fruit that will last; and then the Father will give
you anything you ask him in my name. What I
command you is to love one another.'

The Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

THE WORD AND LIFE this week ...

1) **Let us cultivate an abiding and loving friendship with Jesus:** The qualities we normally expect from our friends are trust, faithfulness, equality, forgiveness, joy and sacrifice. Jesus offers us all these qualities in our friendship with him. **i) Trust:** Jesus has trusted us by sharing with us everything that he has heard from his Father. All we have to do is trust in him as a friend by listening to him through the Bible and talking to him by prayer. **ii) Faithfulness:** just like a friend, we know that Christ will always be faithful to us. Let us return this fidelity by being faithful to him in doing His will. **iii) Equality:** Christ has called us his friends, and therefore his equals. We are no longer his creatures, but his equals. Let us be proud of it and lead lives worthy of our unique status. **iv) Forgiveness:** As an understanding friend he is ready to forgive us time and time again. Let us forgive those who offend us. **v) Joy:** As a friend Christ has told us everything so that our joy might be complete in him. Let us enjoy Jesus' divine friendship. **vi) Sacrifice:** As he says in this passage: There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for a friend. He has done it for us. Let us also love others sacrificially.

2) **Let us be persons for others:** Jesus demonstrated God his Father's love for us by living for us and dying for us. Hence as his disciples we are to be there for others, sacrificing our time, talents and lives for others. This is what parents spontaneously do by sacrificing themselves, their time, talents, health and wealth for their children, or in other words, by giving and having time for their children. The most effective way of communicating God's love to others is by treating everyone as a friend, giving him or her the respect he or she deserves. In moments of trial and stress when people are hostile or ungrateful and we feel the pull of bitter resentment in our hearts, it is important for us to remember that Christ's own love was not limited to the people he liked and hence we should close our minds to thoughts of revenge.

NOTICES FROM THE PARISH

We continue to 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, Jan and Pat Morris, Barry Morris, Christopher Morris, John Kay, Lee Maat, Kirk Dowling, Rosemary Patyus, Kay Morton, 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 and Rita Marion.

BIRTHDAY: Happy Birthday to **Gerry Ebbelaar** whose Birthday is on 4 May. We hope you have a splendid day Gerry!

CONGRATULATIONS: Happy Birthday to **Pat Anderson** who celebrated her Birthday travelling on the Ghan on 29 April and congratulations to **Pat** and **Henry** who also celebrated their 57th Wedding Anniversary on board!

1ST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH HEALING MASS: This Saturday, 4 May commencing at 8:15am with Adoration and Confession followed by Mass 9:15am.

SYRO-MALABAR MASS: All are welcome to attend on Monday, 6 May at 6pm at Sacred Heart Church.

BODALLA AND IRT MORUYA MASS: Mass will be celebrated at Bodalla on Thursday, 9 May at 9am and at IRT Moruya at 11am.

COBARGO ROSARY PROCESSION: Everyone is most welcome to attend a Rosary Procession at Cobargo Church this Sunday 5 May at 2:30pm.

PPC: The next meeting of the PPC will be on **Wednesday, 8 May at 4:30pm** in the Presbytery.

LIVING THE GOSPEL

Love One Another

Have you ever thought what it really means when Jesus commands us to love one another? At first, it seems like a simple commandment: I can love my family; my friends; I can even feel love for some people I've never met. But there was a condition that Jesus placed on the command: love one another as I have loved you. How did Jesus love? Without restriction and without seeking something in return. He loved those that no one loved and he even loved those who hated him and sought his downfall. Can I love those who hate me? Those that others ridicule and despise? Can I love without counting the cost?