

FIRST READING**Ezekiel 37:12-14**

The Lord says this: I am now going to open your graves; I mean to raise you from your graves, my people, and lead you back to the soil of Israel. And you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you from your graves, my people. And I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live, and I shall resettle you on your own soil; and you will know that I, the Lord, have said and done this – it is the Lord who speaks.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM**Ps 129. R. v.7**

(R.) With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

1. Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord,
Lord, hear my voice! O let your ears be attentive
to the voice of my pleading. **(R.)**

2. If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt,
Lord, who would survive?
But with you is found forgiveness:
for this we revere you. **(R.)**

3. My soul is waiting for the Lord,
I count on his word.
My soul is longing for the Lord
more than watchman for daybreak.
(Let the watchman count on daybreak
and Israel on the Lord.) **(R.)**

4. Because with the Lord there is mercy
and fullness of redemption,
Israel indeed he will redeem
from all its iniquity. **(R.)**

SECOND READING**Romans 8:8-11**

People who are interested only in unspiritual things can never be pleasing to God. Your interests, however, are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him. Though your body may be dead it is because of sin, but if Christ is in you then your spirit is life itself because you have been justified; and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**John 11:25. 26**

**Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord;
whoever believes in me will not die for ever.
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**

GOSPEL**John 11:3-7. 17. 20-27. 33-45**

The sisters Martha and Mary sent this message to Jesus, 'Lord, the man you love is ill.' On receiving the message, Jesus said, 'This sickness will end not in death but in God's glory, and through it the Son of God will be glorified.'

Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, yet when he heard that Lazarus was ill he stayed where he was for two more days before saying to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judaea.'

On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. When Martha heard that Jesus had come she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house. Martha said to Jesus, 'If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you.' 'Your brother' said Jesus to her 'will rise again.' Martha said, 'I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said:

'I am the resurrection and the life.

If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live,
and whoever lives and believes in me
will never die.

Do you believe this?'

'Yes, Lord,' she said 'I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world.' Jesus said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight from the heart, 'Where have you put him?' They said, 'See how much he loved him!' But there were some who remarked, 'He opened the eyes of the blind man, could he not have prevented this man's death?' Still sighing, Jesus reached the tomb: it was a cave with a stone to close the opening. Jesus said, 'Take the stone away.' Martha said to him, 'Lord, by now he will smell; this is the fourth day.' Jesus replied, 'Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. Then Jesus lifted up his eyes and said: 'Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer.

I knew indeed that you always hear me,
but I speak

for the sake of all these who stand round me,
so that they may believe it was you who sent me.'

When he had said this, he cried in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, here! Come out!' The dead man came out, his feet and hands bound with bands of stuff and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, let him go free.'

Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and had seen what he did believed in him.

THE CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF CANBERRA AND GOULBURN

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC PARISH, MORUYA

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT
YEAR A | 22 MARCH 2026

WHEN LOVE WEEPS AND LIFE IS RESTORED

A WEEKLY LETTER FROM OUR PARISH PRIEST

Dear Parishioners,

The Gospel for the Fifth Sunday of Lent, the raising of Lazarus (John 11:1–45), leads us to the heart of Jesus as we near Holy Week. It is a powerful revelation not only of His divine power, but of His deep compassion and love.

When Jesus arrives in Bethany, He meets Martha and Mary in their grief. They are honest about their pain and confusion, and Jesus receives them with tenderness. Rather than avoiding their sorrow, He enters fully into it. The Gospel tells us simply and profoundly: “Jesus wept.” These tears show us that Jesus is not distant from human suffering. He feels it. He shares it. He allows Himself to be moved by love for His friends. Jesus’ compassion, however, does not end in tears. Standing before the tomb, He proclaims a truth that transforms fear into hope: “I am the resurrection and the life.” Life is not merely something promised for the future; it is found in Christ Himself. With authority and love, Jesus calls Lazarus by name, and the power of death is broken. This Gospel speaks to our own lives. We all experience moments of loss, despair, and situations that feel lifeless or beyond repair. There are “tombs” we carry within us—grief, sin, broken relationships, or buried hopes. Like Lazarus, we can feel trapped and unable to free ourselves. Yet Jesus approaches us with the same compassion He showed Lazarus. He stands before our tombs, weeps with us, and calls us by name. He does not come to condemn, but to restore. Lent invites us to trust that no darkness is too deep and no situation beyond His reach.

As we move closer to Easter, this Gospel renews our hope. The Jesus who shares our tears is the same Lord who calls us into life. Even now, He invites us to rise, to be unbound, and to walk in the freedom of His love.

Many blessings,

Father Josh



SUNDAY MASS TIMES

SACRED HEART, MORUYA
36 QUEEN STREET, MORUYA

SAT VIGIL 5.00 PM Mass
SUN 10.00 AM Mass

‘THE PINES’, TUROSS HEAD
36 CRADDOCK RD, TUROSS HEAD

SUN 8.00 AM Mass

‘ST. EDMUND’S, BODALLA
162 PRINCES HWY, BODALLA

4th SUN 12.00 PM Mass

WEEKDAY MASS TIMES

SACRED HEART, MORUYA

TUE-THURS 5.00 PM Mass
FRI 9:15 am

‘ST. EDMUND’S, BODALLA
162 PRINCES HWY, BODALLA

2ND FRI 9.00 AM Mass

SYRO MALABAR MASS

SACRED HEART, MORUYA

1ST MON 6.00 PM

CONFESSIONS

SACRED HEART, MORUYA

TUES - THURS After Mass
SAT 4.30 PM

ADORATION

SACRED HEART, MORUYA

TUES & THURS After Mass

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

SACRED HEART, MORUYA

FIRST SAT 9.00 AM Mass
OR BY APPOINTMENT

DEVOTIONS

SACRED HEART, MORUYA

ROSARY

DAILY Before Mass

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

FRI After Mass

PARISH SCHOOLS

**ST. MARY'S PRIMARY,
MORUYA**

**JOHANNA WAIN
PRINCIPAL**

Ph: (02) 4474 2817



*'In all things may
God be glorified'*

**CARROLL COLLEGE,
BROULEE**

**ANDREW KENNEALLY
PRINCIPAL**

Ph: (02) 4471 5600



'Learning for Life'

PARISH GROUPS

**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL,
MORUYA**

37 Queen Street, Moruya
Ph: 02 6234 7404

**CARING GROUPS
TUROSS HEAD**

Mob: 0497 315 534

MORUYA

Please contact
the Parish Office

**WEEKLY LITURGICAL
CALENDAR**

Mon 23rd—St. Turibius
of Montenegro

Tues 24th— 5th Week of Lent

Wed 25th— The Annunciation

Thurs 26th—5th Week of Lent

Fri 27th— 5th Week of Lent

Sat 28th — 5th Week of Lent



Second Rite of Reconciliation

Parishioners are warmly invited to the Second Rite of Reconciliation on **Wednesday 1 April at 6pm** at Sacred Heart, Moruya. This communal celebration is a wonderful way to complete our final preparations for Easter. Our First Reconciliation students will also complete their sacramental program during this celebration. Please join us.



Working Bee thanks!

Thank you to all our parishioners who generously gave their time and energy at the Parish Working Bee on Saturday to help prepare our church and grounds for Easter. Your willingness to serve, clean, and care for our parish is greatly appreciated. Thank you also to those who helped organise the BBQ lunch and foster the wonderful spirit of community on the day.

Aged Care Reform Forum

Please join the Ageing Australia and Eurobodalla Shire Council for a two-hour Community Engagement Forum, including Morning Tea. This Forum will provide an open and informative discussion on navigating home and community care services.
When: Tuesday, 31 March 2026
Time: 9:30am - 11:30am
Venue: Moruya Golf Club
To attend, please register by scanning the QR code which appears on the flyer in the Church foyer or by contacting Jodie Hodgetts 4474 1270 or emailing jodie.hodgetts@esc.nsw.gov



Bodalla Mass

Mass this Sunday, 22 March at St Edmund's, Bodalla at 12 o'clock and lunch afterwards at the Bodalla Pub. All welcome.

ANTIPHONS FOR MASS

Entrance Antiphon

Psalm 42:1-2

Give me justice, O God, and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless. From the deceitful and cunning rescue me, for you, O God, are my strength.

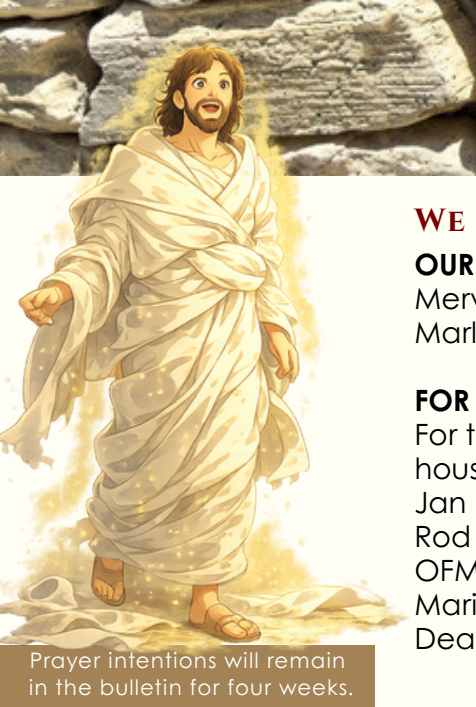
Communion Antiphon

John 11:26

Everyone who lives and believes in me will not die for ever, says the Lord.



In 2026, Archbishop Christopher Prowse has set **"Get Up! Listen! Go!"** as the Archdiocese's pastoral focus, calling the Church to Encounter, Discipleship, and Mission in evangelisation.



'Cor ad cor loquitur' - 'Heart speaks to heart'
~St. John Henry Newman



WE INCLUDE IN OUR PRAYERS...

OUR RECENTLY DECEASED

Mervyn Honan, Clare Broekhuysse, Mary Bolton, John Collins, Greg Thornton, Marlene Moore, Fr. Frank Fuchs, Ian Cheeseman, Barbara Kirk, Marykuty Joseph.

FOR OUR SICK

For those in Aged care facilities and in Moruya Hospital, for our sick and housebound parishioners, Fr. Michael Mullen, Gerry Ebbelaar, Bala Stankovich, Jan Morris, Christopher Morris, Lee Maat, Rosemary Patyus, Kay Morton, Sue and Rod McDonald, Han and Pauline de Grave, Hans Brosch, Father Giles Setter OFM, Jenny Hopkins, Patricia Murphy, Paul and Margaret Ryan, Rita and Doug Marion, Sylvia Heffernan, Rae and Peter Fishlock, Michael Irwin, Fr Greg Beath, Deacon Paul and Jo Rummery, Mark Chatto, Norma and Graham Beer.

Prayer intentions will remain in the bulletin for four weeks.

YOUR MONETARY CONTRIBUTIONS COUNT A LOT...

First Collection

(Supporting all the priests of the Archdiocese)

A/C Name: Central Presbytery Fund, BSB: 062-786 and Bank Account: 00029248

Reference: Your parish location, name and intention (e.g., Moruya Smith 1st collection)

Second Collection

(Maintenance/upkeep of the Churches, staff salaries, liturgical needs, insurance, etc.)

A/C Name: Sacred Heart, Moruya, BSB: 062-786 and Bank Account:000014984 Reference: Planned Giving # & Surname (current givers) or "Donation" (new givers).

MORUYA ROSTERS

MORUYA ROSTERS						
Readers			Ministers of Holy Communion		Counters	
Mass	21/22 March	28/29 March	21/22 March	28/29 March	23 March	30 Mar 2026
SAT 5pm	M. Joyce S. Heffernan	C. Cahill C. Palise	J. Wain	T. Cahill	D. Fee L. O'Connor	G.Campbell C. Gandy
SUN 10am	R. Zammit C. Mackin	B. Gillett J. Gillett	J. Gillett	J. Morris		

PARISH SAFEGUARDING COMMITMENT

Parish Safeguarding Commitment: At Sacred Heart Parish, we're deeply committed to creating a safe, respectful, and caring environment for all children and vulnerable people. We believe everyone deserves to be heard, valued, and protected—and we work together with families to make sure their voices are always part of the conversation.

Communicating Concerns: Parishioners are encouraged to raise any concerns by contacting Father Josh or the Parish Office. For matters specifically related to safeguarding, please reach out to our Parish Safeguarding Officers— Louise Strahlendorf or Peter Hoban—via email at moruya.safeguarding@cg.org.au. Additionally, you may contact Maria Hicks, Manager of the Archdiocesan Institute for Professional Standards and Safeguarding (IPSS), at ipss@cg.org.au or by phone on 02 6239 9806.

CONNECT WITH US...

Parish Priest: Fr. Joshua Scott VF
Phone: (02) 4474 0889
Email: joshua.scott@cg.org.au

Parish Secretary: Vickie Moore
Phone: (02) 4474 0889
Email: moruya@cg.org.au
Mail: PO Box 23, Moruya NSW, 2537

Parish Office Hours: Wednesday and Friday—9.00 am - 2.00 pm



For access to our website, online bulletins and other details please see the QR code:

Why do we veil statues during Lent?

In the Catholic Church, statues and images are traditionally veiled from the Fifth Sunday of Lent, marking the beginning of Passiontide. This practice serves as a kind of “fasting from sight,” removing visible beauty so that the faithful can enter more deeply into prayer, penance, and reflection on the mystery of Christ’s Passion.

In our community, however, this veiling has been introduced gradually throughout Lent. Rather than a single moment, the progressive covering of statues and images reflects the deepening of the Lenten journey—drawing us step by step into greater simplicity and focus. As more images are veiled, the church environment becomes more stripped back, helping us to turn inward and contemplate more fully the suffering and sacrifice of Christ.

This approach also heightens the sense of anticipation for Easter. When the veils are finally removed at the Easter Vigil, the return of sacred images mirrors the joy and glory of the Resurrection. In this way, the gradual veiling not only honours the Church’s tradition but also enriches our experience of Lent as a journey toward the hope of new life in Christ.



Kid's Bulletins

Families are warmly invited to pick up a Children’s Bulletin for their kids to use during Mass. These are a great way to help young people engage with the readings and prayers in a meaningful and age-appropriate way.

You’ll find them just behind the regular bulletins as you enter—please feel free to take one for your child and to bring pencils for them to use.

Children are welcome at Mass

We warmly thank our parents and caregivers for bringing their children to Mass and nurturing their faith—your presence is a gift to our parish.

Children will be children, and they are always welcome. Their energy is a sign of a living Church. When possible, families are encouraged to sit near the front and gently help their children engage in the prayers and hymns through their own example.

If you feel the need to step out, you are welcome to take your child to the foyer—recently arranged to better support families—where you can still participate in the Mass, and return when ready.

To our parish community, thank you for your support and encouragement of our families. Your witness helps form the next generation in faith.

