

*St Patrick's, Mackay*  
*St Francis Xavier, West Mackay*  
*St Mary's, South Mackay,*  
*St Michael's, Sarina*

*4th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B*

*Sunday 28th January, 2024*

*He gives orders to even  
unclean spirits and they  
obey him.*



*Gospel Reflection*

Although this week's gospel is a relatively short passage, there's a lot going on within it. Firstly, we are presented with Jesus going to the synagogue in Capernaum and teaching there. This immediately indicates that Jesus must have been quite well educated – he was obviously able to read from the Torah in Hebrew and then teach about it with an impressive level of authority. In fact at the end of the passage, the people seem more impressed with his teaching than with the act of casting out the unclean spirit! Secondly, in the interaction with the unclean spirit, it knows Jesus and identifies him as the 'Holy One of God'. Jesus sharply tells the spirit to 'Be quiet!' Jesus almost appears to want to silence the spirit before it says any more about who he really is. This is a feature of the gospel of Mark in which the identity of Jesus as the Messiah is kept under wraps but breaks out in unlikely places – known as the Messianic secret.

Whenever an exorcism miracle occurs in the gospels the emphasis is on the reaction to the miracle much more than the action itself. Here, the casting out of the unclean spirit appears to confirm for the people the authority that they sensed in the teaching of Jesus. Liberating the possessed man from the unclean spirit is an illustration of the way in which the people themselves were liberated by Jesus' teaching. It is the message, the teaching, of Jesus that frees people. It is in this way that his understanding of Messiah is revealed. Jesus wants people to come to that knowledge through understanding his message, rather than being impressed by miraculous actions.

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**Greg Sunter** has worked in Catholic Education (Brisbane) for many years, most recently as a member of the Religious Education team and Mission and Formation team. He has extensive experience of praying with young people and forming others to lead prayer with young people. He is the author of books on adolescent faith, is a regular speaker at youth and evangelisation conferences, and is a retreat and reflection facilitator and presenter. His areas of interest include religious education, theology, scripture, spirituality, Catholic ethos, prayer, and ministry with young people.

*With praise and thanksgiving to God*

*Most Reverend Michael McCarthy DD*

*Bishop of Rockhampton*

*invites the people of the Diocese of Rockhampton to the  
Presbyteral Ordination of*

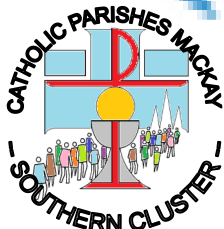
*Rev Peter Duncan Doherty*

*10.00am, Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2024*

*St Joseph's Cathedral*

For those unable to join in person, the event can be watched on the  
St Joseph's Cathedral YouTube channel -

<https://www.youtube.com/user/StJosephsCathRton>



## Parish Office Contact Information

### Office Hours

9.00am - 1.00pm  
Monday to Friday

3 Morley Street, South Mackay  
PO Box 5184, MMC, 4741

**Phone:** 4957 4807

**Email:** [cluster@smky.catholics.org.au](mailto:cluster@smky.catholics.org.au)

## Emergency Contact

for medical emergency ONLY  
0400 874 807

## Parish Team

### Parish Priest

Fr Matthias Ogwo

### Associate Pastor

Fr Gasper Peruvellil Eseekutty

### Parish Secretary

Lisa Vassallo

### Parish Finance Officer

Deborah Ludkin

## Parish Churches

St Patrick's  
12 River Street  
Mackay

St Francis Xavier  
403 Bridge Road  
West Mackay

St Mary's  
46 Juliet street  
South Mackay

St Michael's  
1 Range Road  
Sarina

St Therese's  
18 Grasstree Road  
Alligator Creek

## We Remember in Prayer

**Those who are sick:** Dan Vickers (Bris), Fr Peter Tonti, Giselle Andersen, Linda Matsen, Julie Sammut, Jim Doyle (Marian), Rosa Menzies, Clyde Hoffman, Freddy Ahwang, Sue Christensen, Debbie Jones, John Bugeja jnr, Kiana Bugeja, Alison Bugeja, Jim Scriha, Debbie Hagger, Gavin Carter.

**The faithful recently departed:** Julie Lake, Marie Foley, Joseph (Saucy) Abela, Donna Jones, Richard Sciberras, Luke O'Brien, Margaret Landers, Michael Caruana (Malta), Michael Doolan, Patrick Scriha (Bris), Gerard Masters, Gloria Collins (Toowoomba), Bill Zahnleiter (R'ton), Gloria Lomibao Patacsil (P'pines), Charles (Chookie) Deguara (Bris)

**Anniversaries of death:** Paul Gauci 10/1, Ryan Shields 16/2, Peter Fry 17/2, Enid Beck (G'Coast) 28/2, Tony Bugeja (G'Coast) 18/1, Ross Willis 25/1, Jim Breen 20/1, Ian Scott 31/1, John Caruana 9/1, Filippo Fazio 13/1, Rev Fr John Rasmussen 10/1, Jim Vella 20/1, Frank Vella 13/1, George Vella 13/1, Arthur Noonan 9/1

**We remember those for whom Mass has been requested:** Albert & Mary Deguara, Trevor Lamb, Mick Mifsud, Victor & Josephine Schembri, Alfredo, Dionisia, Josefina & Luisa Jao, Leonila & Lucio Carajay, Lydio & Pablo Egina, Trevor & Jennifer Naylen, Desiree Reynolds, Tom & Glenys McCrone, Malcolm Zillmann, Jamie Winn, Fr John Landy, Fr Wilie Moran, Andrew Moran, Sister Alice Foley, Margaret Connor, Sennio Masian, Betty Denehey, Angelo Ninni, Mrs Frances Droulers, Maureen Lummow, Terence McBride, Monica Ballinger, John van der Ouderaa, Kathleen von Leonardi, George Vella, Rita Steindl, Michael Patroni, Eric Eastment, Mary Vella, Margaret Hackett, Michael Hackett, Bernard McGuire, Cesare Del Dot, Fr Patrick Mooney, Grace Mifsud, Lois & Stan Clark, Raymond Gunning, Jim, Anna & Joseph Rostirolla, Antonio, Maria & Vincenza Rostirolla, Francesco, Anna & Joseph Rostirolla, Phillip Sanfilippo, Pietro & Prassede Raiteri, Kathleen Carroll, Marlene Comin, Doris McSherry, Francis & Peter Corby, Brian Hill, Gerard Hill, Ben Faa, Tony & Vera Galea, Louis & Grace Bezzina, deceased members of the Borg, Bartolo, Sorbello, Mirabella, Muscat, Galea, Hackett, De Brincat, Willis and Camilleri families

**\*\*\*Please Note:** Permission must be sought from the person for their name to be added to the sick list. Names of recently deceased family members and names for anniversaries will only remain in the bulletin for 30 days. There is no correlation between offering Mass Stipends and names of the sick or deceased being added to the bulletin\*\*\*

**Safeguarding:** The Catholic Diocese of Rockhampton abides by the principles of the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards (2022) and is committed to safeguarding, with a specific focus on protecting children and adults at risk. For further information or support please contact the Diocesan Professional Standards and Safeguarding office: Response line: 1800 830 113 (free call) or Email: [pssomanager@rok.catholic.net.au](mailto:pssomanager@rok.catholic.net.au) For more information see the Diocesan website: <http://rok.catholic.net.au/our-diocese/safeguarding/> Queensland Professional Standards Office: [www.psoqld.catholic.net.au/](http://www.psoqld.catholic.net.au/)

## Parish Schools

St Patrick's College  
Senior Campus & Mercy Campus



P 4994 8700

E [spcm\\_enquiries@rok.catholic.edu.au](mailto:spcm_enquiries@rok.catholic.edu.au)  
W [www.stpats.qld.edu.au](http://www.stpats.qld.edu.au)

Catherine McAuley College



P 4994 9200

E [cmc@rok.catholic.edu.au](mailto:cmc@rok.catholic.edu.au)  
W <https://cmcmrok.catholic.edu.au>

St Francis Xavier Catholic  
Primary School



P 4951 1861

E [sfxm@rok.catholic.edu.au](mailto:sfxm@rok.catholic.edu.au)  
W <https://www.sfxmrok.catholic.edu.au>

St Mary's Catholic  
Primary School



**ST MARY'S**  
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

P 4951 1743

E [smm@rok.catholic.edu.au](mailto:smm@rok.catholic.edu.au)  
W <https://www.smmrok.catholic.edu.au/>

St Anne's Catholic  
Primary School



P 4994 8285

E [sas@rok.catholic.edu.au](mailto:sas@rok.catholic.edu.au)  
W <https://www.sasrok.catholic.edu.au/>



**Atreus Brown, Corbyn Sim & Heidi Fitzsimon** will be Baptised at St Mary's Church this weekend.

Please pray for **Atreus, Corbyn, Heidi and their families** as we welcome them into our Faith Community.

**St Mary's Mass Time Change:** As of February 13th, the Mass each Tuesday at St Mary's Church will be celebrated at 8.00am. This will be a permanent change as this will be a school Mass. Parishioners are more than welcome to attend.

#### PRAYER MEETING

The Association of the Stars  
of the Heart of Jesus  
Francis of Assisi Home  
Chapel Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February  
2024 at 9:30am  
Come and join us for some  
time of prayer, adoration and  
reflection. **ALL WELCOME**

**Anointing Mass - St Francis Xavier**  
6.30am, Friday 2nd February

Francis of Assisi Home  
Adoration in the Chapel  
**First Friday of the month,**  
**2nd February**  
**7.00am – 1.00 pm**  
All welcome

**Helpers needed** – to set up before and clear after St Francis Xavier Sunday 9.00am Mass.  
If you are able to help, please contact the Cluster Office on 4957 4807.

**The Maltese Rosary Group:** meet at the Cluster Parish Office, Morley Street,  
South Mackay on the last Thursday of the month.  
The next gathering will be on February 22nd. **All welcome.**

The Catholic Men's Dinner Club will meet on Monday 29th January, 6.30 pm for a 7 pm start at the Boomerang Hotel, Nebo Rd. The guest Speaker is **Vanessa Ramswarup**, Diocesan Community Engagement Manager. **Ladies are invited.** Visitors / new members are always welcome, **RSVP to Peter Sheedy, by text or mobile at 0418 186 691.**

#### Sacramental Program St Patrick's 2024 for children currently in Year 4

St Patrick's sacramental program of preparation and reception of the Sacraments of Penance (1st Reconciliation) Confirmation and Eucharist (First Communion) will begin with **preparation for the Sacrament of Reconciliation** on 21<sup>st</sup> February. It is for children currently in Year 4 or older but still in primary school.

**Confirmation** with our Bishop, for St Patrick's parish will be celebrated at either the end of July or early August (date to be confirmed). The children will also receive their **First Communion** at this mass. **To enrol your child or for further information please contact Mary Anne Baillie** [mabaille.mab@gmail.com](mailto:mabaille.mab@gmail.com)

	When	Where
<b>Enrolment Mass</b>	<b>6pm Mass Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>St Patrick's Church</b>
<b>Session 1</b>	<b>Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February 4pm – 5pm</b>	<b>St Mary's Parish Office Morley St South Mackay This office is near the entrance to the car park at St Mary's Church</b>
<b>Session 2</b>	<b>Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February 4pm – 5pm</b>	
<b>Session 3</b>	<b>Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March 4pm – 5pm</b>	

#### DATE CLAIMER

**Safeguarding Training** will be delivered in our Parishes on the dates listed below. All Clergy, Religious, Parish Staff and Church Volunteers are required to **attend this training every year**. The Professional Standards and Safeguarding Office team look forward to seeing you at the training.

**Walkerston:** Tuesday 30th April, 5.30pm in St John's School Hall

#### Mackay North:

Wednesday 1st May, 10.30am & 5.30pm in St Joseph's Parish Centre

#### Southern Cluster:

Thursday 2nd May, 10.30am & 5.30pm in the Southern Cluster Parish Centre

**To register please contact the Parish Office**

A new presentation is available to watch for those who are not able to attend the sessions listed. The new presentation can be viewed at the Cluster Parish Office. Please phone 4957 4807 to organise a time to view the presentation.

**Liturgies**  
(week commencing 29th January)

#### Monday

12.10pm St Patrick's

#### Tuesday

6.30am Francis of Assisi Chapel  
5.30pm St Mary's

#### Wednesday

*St John Bosco, priest*  
6.30am St Francis Xavier  
4.00pm Francis of Assisi Chapel

#### Thursday

*St Brigid*  
9.00am St Michael's  
5.30pm St Mary's

#### Friday

*The Presentation of the Lord*  
6.30am St Francis Xavier  
*Anointing Mass*

12.10pm St Patrick's

#### Saturday

7.00am Francis of Assisi Chapel

#### Devotions - St Patrick's

##### Tuesday

6.30pm Rosary  
7.00pm Novena & Benediction

##### Friday

11.00am Exposition of the Holy Eucharist  
12 noon Angelus

#### Sunday Mass

**5th Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**Year B**

#### Saturday 3rd February:

5.00pm St Mary's  
6.00pm St Francis Xavier

#### Sunday 4th February:

7.00am St Patrick's  
7.30am St Therese's  
9.00am St Francis Xavier  
9.00am St Michael's  
10.45am Francis of Assisi Chapel  
6.00pm St Patrick's  
(only Sunday night Mass in Mackay)

#### Sacrament of Reconciliation

##### St Patrick's Church

Friday & Saturday  
11.30am - 12.00 noon

##### St Francis Xavier Church

Saturday 9.30am - 10.00am



## This Week's Scripture

### First Reading:

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy (18:15-20)

*I will put my words into the prophet's mouth, and he will tell them all I command.*

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.'"

**Responsorial Psalm:** *If today, you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.*

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.)

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.)

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:

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians (1 Corinthians 7:32-35)

*The unmarried woman dedicates herself to the things of the Lord, that she might be holy.*

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.

**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:

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark (1:21-28)

*This is a new kind of teaching that speaks with authority.*

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.

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