

# CATHOLIC PARISH OF ST MARY'S MACLEAN



ST JOHN'S CHURCH



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ST JAMES CHURCH

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## ELEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A: 14 JUNE 2026

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, we resume this Sunday celebrating Sunday Eucharist in Ordinary Time. During “ordinary time” of the liturgical year, we read from one of the three Synoptic Gospels, Matthew, Mark and Luke. This year, being Year A, we have been reading mainly from the Gospel according to St Matthew.

During ordinary time, we read passages from that section of the gospel that relates the public ministry of our Lord Jesus. We started reading from this section after the feast of the Baptism of the Lord. It was interrupted by Lent, Easter and the solemnities of the Blessed Trinity and Corpus Christi. The gospel today is about the selection of the twelve apostles. The Lord appointed the Twelve from the larger group of his disciples that they may belong to him in a special way and be made living instruments of his saving mission.

Since the gospel passage is about being set apart and being sent, the first reading prepares us by inviting us to reflect on a passage from the book of Exodus, 19:2-6, in which the Lord proposed to the people of Israel an offer to be made God’s very own, a consecrated people, or set apart from all the nations, to be a kingdom of priests. The Lord says: “if you obey my voice and hold fast to my covenant, you of all the nations shall be my very own ... I will count you kingdom of priests, a consecrated nation.”

The Lord wants the people of Israel to be “God’s very own”, that is, belonging to Him in a special way, or a “consecrated nation”, a people made holy by their covenant-relationship with him. At the same time, the Lord wants them to be leaders in true worship of God – a kingdom of priests – that is, by offering divine worship given and regulated by God, and living according to his commandments, they act on behalf of other nations in worshipping God, drawing them to this true and acceptable worship, and they mediate God’s blessing to other nations. In other words, the Lord wants them to be his own, a consecrated nation, so that they can be his instruments for drawing other peoples to himself and giving them his blessings.

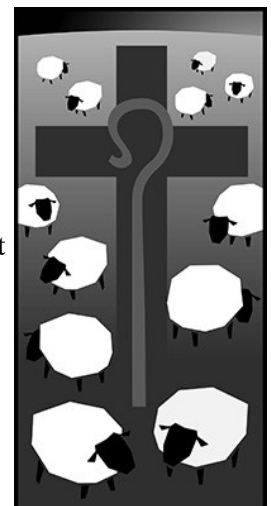
In his First Letter, St Peter applies this calling and

mission to Christians. He tells Christian disciples that they are “the holy priesthood that offers the spiritual sacrifices that Jesus Christ has made acceptable to God” and they are “chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, as people set apart to sing the praises of God...” (1 Peter 2:5,9). St Paul, in the second reading, Romans 5:6-11, says that it was Christ, by his saving death on the cross, that made us a royal priesthood. He died to make sinners righteous. Reconciled with God, we belong to him again, and share in his life and holiness and so are enabled to participate in the saving mission of Christ.

In the gospel, Matthew 9:36-10:8, the Lord Jesus begins to reproduce his consecration and mission in his disciples. When the eternal Son of God became man, Jesus’ humanity belonged entirely to God, that is consecrated to God, filled with the Holy Spirit, and at the same time, existed to make present in the world, God’s Kingdom, that is, God and his saving action. By words and deeds, Jesus began establishing the Kingdom of God on earth. By summoning the twelve, he consecrates them, making them his very own. By giving them authority, he enables them to participate in his saving work. In other words, he sets the Twelve apart so that they can become living instruments of his mission of bringing God and his saving work to people in different situations.

Every disciple is a missionary disciple. Every baptised person is consecrated and is called to participate in the mission of Christ and his Church. Let us ask the Lord in this Mass to increase his grace, and his gifts of faith, hope and love in us that we may collaborate with him in realising the Reign of God in our communities.

Fr Roland



**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON** (*Iluka*)

O Lord, hear my voice, for I have called to you; be my help. Do not abandon or forsake me, O God, my Saviour!

**COLLECT**

O God, strength of those who hope in you, graciously hear our pleas, and, since without you mortal frailty can do nothing, grant us always the help of your grace, that in following your commands we may please you by our resolve and our deeds. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

**FIRST READING***Exodus 19:2-6*

A reading from the book of Exodus

From Rephidim the Israelites set out again; and when they reached the wilderness of Sinai, there in the wilderness they pitched their camp; there facing the mountain Israel pitched camp.

Moses then went up to God, and the Lord called to him from the mountain, saying, ‘Say this to the House of Jacob, declare this to the sons of Israel, “You yourselves have seen what I did with the Egyptians, how I carried you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself. From this you know that now, if you obey my voice and hold fast to my covenant, you of all the nations shall be my very own, for all the earth is mine. I will count you a kingdom of priests, a consecrated nation.”

The word of the Lord.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM***Ps 99:2-3. 5. R. v.3*

**(R.)** *We are his people: the sheep of his flock.*

1. Cry with joy to the Lord, all the earth.  
Serve the Lord with gladness.  
Come before him, singing for joy. (R.)
2. Know that he, the Lord, is God.  
He made us, we belong to him,  
we are his people, the sheep of his flock. (R.)
3. Indeed, how good is the Lord,  
eternal his merciful love.  
He is faithful from age to age. (R.)

**SECOND READING***Romans 5:6-11*

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

We were still helpless when at his appointed moment Christ died for sinful men. It is not easy to die even for

a good man – though of course for someone really worthy, a man might be prepared to die – but what proves that God loves us is that Christ died for us while we were still sinners. Having died to make us righteous, is it likely that he would now fail to save us from God’s anger? When we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, we were still enemies; now that we have been reconciled surely we may count on being saved by the life of his Son? Not merely because we have been reconciled but because we are filled with joyful trust in God, through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have already gained our reconciliation.

The word of the Lord.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION***Alleluia, alleluia!*

*The kingdom of God is near; repent and believe the Good News!*

*Alleluia!***GOSPEL***Matthew 9:36 – 10:8*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

When Jesus saw the crowds he felt sorry for them because they were harassed and dejected, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, ‘The harvest is rich but the labourers are few, so ask the Lord of the harvest to send labourers to his harvest.’

He summoned his twelve disciples, and gave them authority over unclean spirits with power to cast them out and to cure all kinds of diseases and sickness.

These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon who is called Peter, and his brother Andrew; James the son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas, and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, the one who was to betray him. These twelve Jesus sent out, instructing them as follows:

‘Do not turn your steps to pagan territory, and do not enter any Samaritan town; go rather to the lost sheep of the House of Israel. And as you go, proclaim that the kingdom of heaven is close at hand. Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out devils. You received without charge, give without charge.’

The Gospel of the Lord.

**PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

O God, who in the offerings presented here provide for the twofold needs of human nature, nourishing us with food and renewing us with your Sacrament, grant, we pray, that the sustenance they provide may not fail us in body or in spirit. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## PREFACE

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Christ our Lord.

For through his Paschal Mystery, he accomplished the marvellous deed, by which he has freed us from the yoke of sin and death, summoning us to the glory of being now called a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for your own possession, to proclaim everywhere your mighty works, for you have called us out of darkness into your own wonderful light. And so, with Angels and Archangels, with Thrones and Dominions, and with all the hosts and Powers of heaven, we sing the hymn of your glory, as without end we acclaim:

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER III

### COMMUNION ANTIPHON (*Iluka*)

There is one thing I ask of the Lord, only this do I seek: to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

As this reception of your Holy Communion, O Lord, foreshadows the union of the faithful in you, so may it bring about unity in your Church. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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### SCRIPTURE COMMENTARY

A strong sense of ‘identity’ – knowing who we are and to whom we belong – is crucial to the wellbeing of any group or individual. The Scripture readings today, at least the First Reading and the Gospel, offer texts fundamental to the sense of identity of the People of God.

The First Reading, Ex 19:2-6, takes us to the moment when God is about to forge a covenant with the people of Israel through the mediation of Moses. The background to the covenant relationship is God’s action in bringing Israel out from the situation of slavery in Egypt. Israel thus became God’s special people, ‘carried on eagle’s wings’ – an image taken from a popular belief that eagles carried their young for a time on their wings.

But there is more: being the covenant people meant for Israel becoming a consecrated nation, a ‘kingdom of priests’. The high privilege of each and every Israelite is to function as the order of priests functions: to be those who are ‘set apart’ to offer worship to God on behalf of the rest, to be mediators between God and human beings. The sense of being a ‘holy people’, set aside for worship, remained central to Israelite and later to Jewish identity. In one sense it

sets Israel ‘apart’ from other nations. But that ‘apartness’ is not exclusive. Attaching to ‘priesthood’ is the sense of being something - mediator- for others, a channel of communication of the riches of God.

Central to the Gospel for today, Matt 9:36–10:8, is Jesus’ choice of the Twelve. The number immediately suggests that what he is about in this choice is nothing less than a renewal or reconstitution of Israel, traditionally based upon the twelve tribes deriving from the twelve sons of Jacob. He is, in a sense, ‘re-founding’ the People of God (though in preaching in this area we have to be careful not to convey the impression of the Christian Church as being a ‘replacement’ of Israel in the ‘supersessionist’ sense that prevailed for so long in Christian understanding).

Very significant is the context in which Jesus takes this action. At the beginning we read: ‘When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.’ This is the way in which humanity appears to Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew: harassed, dejected, burdened. His entire ministry is focused upon addressing and remedying this situation. This is the ‘harvest’ for which ‘labourers’ are required.

What he is doing, according to this Gospel, is preparing a people who will share and carry out in his name the same ministry of healing and service to burdened humanity. The Twelve are not mere symbolic figures in a static kind of way. They are named ‘apostles’ in the sense that they are to be people ‘sent out’ on this healing and liberating mission. Just as Israel was to be a ‘nation of priests’, not in the sense of having this privileged status simply for itself but in the sense of performing a function on behalf of the rest of the world, so the reconstituted People of God is to be a people similarly oriented to the good of others beyond itself. Only, now the function is not so much that of priesthood as of a ministry of service and healing. Something central to the identity of the Christian Church and its ministry is being established here.

The last few sentences of the passage, where Jesus warns the apostles not to take their mission into Gentile territory, may seem to contradict this. But the injunction has a temporary reference only. In the closing words of the Gospel (28:19-20), the risen Lord sends his Church to ‘make disciples of all nations’.

The Second Reading, Rom 5:6-11, plunges us rather suddenly into one of Paul’s most magnificent reflections upon God’s love. What Paul is trying to communicate is a sense of hope – hope in the midst of all the trials and suffering that attend Christian life. In a kind of a fortiori logic that he often deploys, Paul reasons: if, when we were sinners (‘enemies’), God showed so much love and generosity as actually to send the Son to suffer and die for us, how much more certain is it, now that we are ‘friends’ (justified) that God’s love will see us safely through to the end...

*Fr Brendan Byrne SJ*

## ONLINE GIVING

Internet donations to assist our parish are always welcome. Details for donating online via Electronic Funds Transfer BSB: 032582 Account Number: 810033 [Surname, parish envelope no]

## PRAYER REQUESTS

**Prayers for the Sick:** Maureen Robertson, Clive McLachlan, Audrey Hancock, Ben & Nadine Shaw, Patrick Wheeler, Denise & Bob, Tim Scherger, Jan Taylor, Miriam Scherger, Kathy Leseberg, Ava Blay, Mark Thurbon, Alma Bailey, Mary Wiseman, Sue Gravolin, Ron Weekes, Pam Lewis, Matthew & Paul Gallagher, Chris Naismith, Trevor Nicolola, Peter Burns, Matthew Tierney, Sharon Grayson, Dennis Catheral, Allan Dick. **Recently Deceased:** Jennifer Nicholson, Judith Want, Sally Towns. **Anniversary:** Bill Wolff, Kathleen Sullivan, John McMahon. **Pray for:** All the suffering souls in Purgatory especially the dec'd members of F.O.S.S.

## MASS TIMES:

**Sunday Masses:** Yamba: 5:30pm (SAT); Maclean: 8:30am (SUN); Iluka: 10:30am (SUN).

**Weekday Masses:** Tuesday, 9:00am: Iluka; Wednesday, 9:30am: Yamba; Friday, 12:00am, Maclean; First Saturday: 11:30am, Maclean.

## RECONCILIATION TIMES

Saturday, 11:00am, Maclean; 5:00pm, Yamba

Sunday, 8:00am, Maclean

Tuesday, 9:30am, Iluka

Wednesday, 10:00am, Yamba

## EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION:

First Wednesday: 10:00am, Yamba

First Saturday: 12:00pm, Maclean

## MINISTRY ROSTER: 20/21 JUNE 2026

**Readers:** Yamba: R Tory/G Drummond; Maclean: A Smith/J Moloney; Iluka: D Speirs. **Commentators:** Yamba: F Robertson; Maclean: S Winter, Iluka: H Naug. **E Communion:** Maclean: J de Roos. **Count team:** Neander/Stephenson.

## READINGS: 20/21 JUNE 2026

**First:** Jeremiah 20:10-13; **Second:** Romans 5:12-15;

**Gospel:** Matthew 10:26-33.

## NEWS & EVENTS

**Emergency contact:** In case of emergency outside of parish office hours, contact Fr Roland 0401 508 812.

**New office days/times:** Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 9:00am-2:30pm.

**Parish bulletin online:** Our bulletin is now uploaded weekly to our website <http://stmarysparish.org.au>

**Thinking of Becoming a Catholic?** Contact Fr Roland 0401508 812

**Mission Today Autumn/Winter 2026 issue:** please find copies at the church entrance.

**Ignite Conference 2026:** This youth conference will be held in Darwin on 19-21 June, Sydney 9-12 July, and Brisbane 24-27 September. This national youth conference is a real world formation with something for everyone. For more information see [hello@igniteyouth.com](mailto:hello@igniteyouth.com) or the poster on the notice board.

**Diocesan Investment Fund Interest rate 3.90% effective 1/6/26:** For further information and our current interest rate, please visit our website [www.dif.org.au](http://www.dif.org.au) or contact us on 1800 802 516.

**ASPIRE Young Adults Spiritual Formation invitation:** Please see the noticeboard for the dates on the poster.

**Subscribe to our Diocesan newsletters:** Join our online community and receive news, inspiration and updates across the diocese. Catholic Life Magazine, The Light, Youth Newsletter and Renewal Journey Newsletter. Subscribe to our newsletters to stay connected via the QR code on the noticeboard.

**Aid to the Church in Need:** An estimated one in seven Christians worldwide experiences persecution or discrimination because of their faith. Through Aid to the Church in Need (ACN), discover their stories and be inspired by the courage of Mathieu and Pauline, catechists from Burkina Faso who were kidnapped for their faith. Read their remarkable story on [aidtochurch.org/bulletin](http://aidtochurch.org/bulletin)

**The diocese are recruiting a Casual Person/Relief Coordinator** for the St Joseph's Out of School Hours (OSHC) Service (Maclean). Applications can be made through Seek and close on 20 June. See poster on the noticeboard.

**Eucharist28 Update—Hearts Set Ablaze!:** The international Eucharistic Congress in Sydney 2028 ('Eucharist28') will be a global gathering of the Church centred on the Eucharist, the source and summit of our Christian lives, culminating in a Papal Mass with Pope Leo XIV. It will be a festival of faith, rich and worship, prayer, testimonies, art, music—a truly 'once in a lifetime' experience, and a transformative moment for our nation. For more information and regular updates, please register on the website: [eucharist28.org](http://eucharist28.org)

**Morning tea in Yamba:** Please join us for morning tea in the Ted Howe Room on Wednesday 17 June after morning Mass—approx. 10.15am. Everyone most welcome!

**Planned giving envelopes:** the planned giving envelopes for the upcoming financial year are now available for collection.

**The office will be closed:** Friday 19 June, apologies for any inconvenience.