



Bridgeside Bulletin



The weekly Bulletin of the Catholic Parish of Forster Tuncurry

“Unity in Christ”

Holy Name of Jesus Church, 33 Lake Street, Forster 2428 NSW

Ph: 6554 6401 E: forster-tuncurry.parish@mn.catholic.org.au W:www.forstertuncurrycatholic.org.au

We acknowledge the Worimi people - the traditional custodians of this place

Sunday 26 April 2020,

Third Sunday of Easter- Year A

Dear Parish Family,



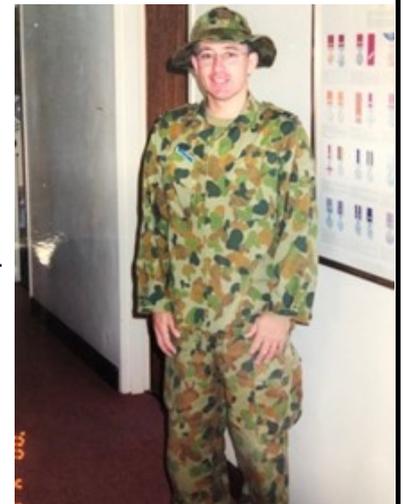
I get a bit nostalgic on days like ANZAC day. Going through photos this week I found some from my days in the Defence Force, I've attached some here.

There was a bit of a lull out of Williamtown with the jets the last few weeks, maybe self-isolation hit them too, but the last few days I've noticed them back again in the sky over us. What a wonderful sound. Awesome for an ex RAAFie to watch. I had a wonderful couple of years based on RAAF Williamtown. I was part of an ecumenical team of Chaplains looking after the pastoral needs of the personnel and families working there. I occasionally got a run to the base in Tamworth and occasionally did notifications at the Army barracks in Singleton.

The Catholic Chapel and my office sat overlooking the runway. As each jet took off the office would literally vibrate and the windows flex against the vibration and air. **The power in those hornets.** It doesn't take long to get used to the noise to the point where conversations can go on regardless. The air force has changed its camouflage gear to a sort of steel blue colour but when I was in we wore the Army's fatigues. Like wearing pyjamas really only with a lot more useful pockets!

One of the parts I loved most was going out bush on exercise. The photo of me with my *mate* was taken on the second last Exercise (May 2000) before graduating from the Officer training School in Point Cook, Victoria: the top photo is the graduation parade (June 2000). You may not be able to see clearly but the graduating class behind me are wearing ceremonial swords: I always chose not to carry a weapon of any kind except in training. Spent my time flying across the Middle East happily unarmed.

Chaplains on course do all the things that are part of military training, including marching, drills, sand bagging and trench digging. I did a few extra things like learning how to drive the various trucks and fire engines whilst I was in. In the photo we've just completed our defences in readiness for the last exercise which will see me and the course graduate. In the photo I am wearing a mixture of camouflage paint and mud! It was a great experience. Lots of mud! And the rifle wasn't a prop!



The last photo is an *awards and medals* parade on RAAF Base Tindal, Northern Territory 2004. While I was there I was attached to a support squadron that deployed to the Middle East and at the parade I am being granted my *active service medal*.



During my months in the Middle East I was entrusted with leading the ANZAC day service for our troops deployed there. What a remarkable experience to stand on desert sand on what is such an auspicious occasion for Australia and New Zealand. The ceremony was well supported by not only our military members but the serving members of the coalition forces working there. The Americans particularly supportive and very interested in some of our other ANZAC day traditions like *two up!*

I've never thought of ANZAC day as a day we commemorate war or the atrocities of war. It's a bigger day than just Gallipoli now. I've always marked it as a day to remember all of those who have served our country in a time of war and who have paid the ultimate sacrifice for their service; some died, some were wounded, some carried emotional and often unseen scars, and all have seen what cannot be unseen. It certainly is sadness that there will be no marching and no celebrating in RSLs this year.

There is nothing in war of itself that is glorious. What we do remember are the good people, men and women, who stand up when called.

I believe today as well we should remember those current serving members of our Defence Force. We continue to live in uncertain times as the current world experience is showing us. That said I have also noted that we are praying for their families as well who paid and pay an often *unheralded* sacrifice. What we can glorify are those who give without counting the cost, who serve without wanting in return, who lay their lives down in defence of others.

This ANZAC day we are being invited to mark the day very differently. You might go on to our live stream Mass, you might watch the ceremonies from the Cenotaph in Canberra, you might get up at dawn and stand in your drive way or on your front verandah or patio. Whichever way you mark this day we mark it together. We are as a Church used to standing together even when we can't all be literally in one place; there is something so comforting from knowing ourselves as a universal church.

What is most important though is that we continue to pray for peace, a peace the world doesn't seem to know how to bring but which is found at the heart of who we are as people of faith.

Yours in Christ,

Greg

Parish Priest



PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Recently Deceased: Paul Stewart
Anniversary:

We remember and pray for those who are ill at home and in hospital at this time, may they know the healing presence of Christ:

Roseanne Telfer, Michael O'Hara, Marion Prescott, Roger Curry, Dulcie Goldsmith, Barry Bolton, Elizabeth Thomas, Ray Vidler, Rachal, Robert Greig, John McCaig, Kerry Pickering, Lawson Rankin, Josephine Camilleri, Zac Gogerly, Junior Soliano, Ann Moreira, Dawn Gander, Judy Shand, Win Preston, Ken Vote, Anna Lee, Robyn Thomas, Alan Winston, Adam Knixon, Alex Guider, Angela McNamara

Please ring the parish office if you wish to add your loved ones to the sick list and also to be taken off the list once they are well. Thank you.

Worship & Prayer Suggestions

Sunday Worship: Can I suggest the following times that you might stop and pray the liturgies of Sunday;

7.00am, 8.00am, 9.00am, 10.00am or 11.00am. Just choose one. Could you email us the time you would choose and I will let others in that time slot know your first name so we have a sense of gathering together in prayer. With the news letter you will receive Sunday's readings and the Prayers of Intercession.

Daily Prayer one or more of the following options:

Rosary: Can I suggest a rosary chain each day at the following times: 9.00am, 1.00pm, or 5.00pm.

If you would like to join this chain can you let me know and I will connect by first name to those also choosing that time.

Sunday in Easter: The Sorrowful Mysteries In Easter and Time After Pentecost: The Glorious Mysteries

Monday: The Joyful Mysteries

Tuesday: The Sorrowful Mysteries

Wednesday: The Glorious Mysteries

Thursday: The joyful Mysteries

Friday: The Sorrowful Mysteries

Saturday: The Glorious Mysteries

Angelus: Can I suggest that we pause at 6.00am if you are up, at Noon and 6.00 pm to say the Angelus. Prayer included.

Angelus Prayer

V. The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary,

R. And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.

Hail Mary, etc...

V. Behold the handmaid of the Lord.

R. Be it done unto me according to Your Word.

Hail Mary, etc...

V. And the Word was made flesh,

R. And dwelt among us.

Hail Mary, etc...

V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.

R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray:

Pour forth, we beseech You, O Lord, Your Grace into our hearts;

that as we have known the incarnation of Christ,

your Son by the message of an angel, so by His passion and cross

we may be brought to the glory of His Resurrection.

Through the same Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

JOIN US IN PRAYER

Saturday

9am ANZAC Mass

Sunday Worship

7am Mary, Marie

8am Mass Live Stream

9am Monique, Carmel, Gene, Danira

10am Ruth

Daily Rosary

1pm Monique

5pm Mary, Danira

O Mary, you always shine on our path as a sign of salvation and of hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who at the cross took part in Jesus' pain, keeping your faith firm. You, Salvation of the Roman People, know what we need,

and we are sure you will provide so that, as in Cana of Galilee, we may return to joy and to feasting after this time of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform to the will of the Father and to do as we are told by Jesus, who has taken upon himself our sufferings and carried our sorrows to lead us, through the cross, to the joy of the resurrection. Amen.

Under your protection, we seek refuge, Holy Mother of God. Do not disdain the entreaties of we who are in trial, but deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin. *By Pope Francis*

LIVE STREAMING MASS FROM THE CATHEDRAL

Due to COVID-19 restrictions closing all churches and restricting gatherings, the diocese has been working to create a way to still allow our parishioners to stay connected to our church. Bishop Bill will be celebrating Mass alone in the cathedral, and he invites you to join with him in prayer from home on Sunday or watch at a later time here. The celebration will be live-streamed on the Diocesan YouTube channel which is accessible via the Diocesan website:

www.mn.catholic.org.au/places/live-stream/

A Prayer to Combat the Coronavirus Pandemic

Most merciful and Triune God,
We come to you in our weakness.
We come to you in our fear.
We come to you with trust.

For you alone are our hope.
We place before you the disease present in our world.

We turn to you in our time of need.

Bring wisdom to doctors.
Give understanding to scientists.
Endow caregivers with compassion and generosity.

Bring healing to those who are ill.
Protect those who are most at risk.
Give comfort to those who have lost a loved one.

Welcome those who have died into your eternal home.

Stabilize our communities.
Unite us in our compassion.
Remove all fear from our hearts.
Fill us with confidence in your care.

Jesus, I trust in you.
Jesus, I trust in you.
Jesus, I trust in you.

Amen.

Acknowledging the Maronite Youth website.

Prayer Resources for Individuals and Families

During this time of social isolation it is important that we pray and stay connected to our community. A range of online resources is available to support personal and family prayer at:

<https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/liturgy/covid-19-supplementary-prayer-resources/>.

Additionally, LiturgyHelp is offering free access to its range of prayer resources at <https://liturgyhelp.com/aus/mn/pray>.

Electronic Planned Giving

We have simplified the direct debit or credit card planned giving process for those who are isolating and unable to print or drop forms in but who still want to give. We are now able to take the payment details over the phone and complete the form for you. We will record your phone number so that a CDF staff member can contact you and verify the request. You will also be able to indicate how much you would like allocated to the parish and how much to presbytery. If you would like to sign up for electronic planned giving please contact Danielle on 0459 342 981. Another way you can donate to the parish is through the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle website:

<https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/about/parish-payments/>

To claim a tax deduction on your donation you will need to provide your planned giving number, if you do not have a planned giving number please contact us and we will provide you with one.

Project Compassion: If you were unable to donate to Project Compassion using envelopes due to self isolation you can still donate online: <https://lent.caritas.org.au/donate/>



HOW TO WATCH ANZAC DAY SERVICES

For those who would usually attend a service throughout the day, the Australian War Memorial said their annual service will proceed, involving a revised ceremony with no veterans' march and no members of the public present.

"We encourage you to #StandAtDawn and watch the live telecast of the dawn service at the Australian War Memorial," the Department of Defence wrote on Twitter.

The service in Canberra will be broadcast on the ABC – on television, the ABC Australia Facebook page and also on the ABC Australia YouTube channel – from 5am on Saturday morning.

RSL NSW have also embraced the idea of a "Driveway Dawn Service", urging all Australians to stand at the end of their driveways, balconies or living rooms to commemorate April 25.

ODE OF REMEMBRANCE

They went with songs to the battle
They were young, straight of limb,
True of eye, steady and aglow,
They were staunch to the end
against odds uncouth,
They fell with their faces to the foe.
They shall not grow old, as we that
are left grow old,
Age shall not weary them, nor the
years condemn,
At the going down of the sun, and
in the morning,
We will remember them.

Laurence Binyon (1869–1943)



Dear Parish Family,

I am praying the Rosary every day and would like to invite you to join me via Zoom.

If you install the App on your mobile phone we will be able to link up, see each other and pray the Rosary together. If you want to contact me : Monique: 0419 212 350 I would love to hear from you.

The Rosary above is almost 100 years old - it is a silver one that my dear Mum would have been given probably for her 1st Holy Communion. I polished it up and it is so beautiful and reminds me so much of the many times we as a family prayed the Rosary at difficult times - helped us through.

I must admit I have not prayed the Rosary very much of late, in fact not for quite a long time but am drawn to do so at this time of difficulty for so many of us. Technology today will allow us to still be together even though we are practising self-isolation.

Much love to you all and hope to hear from some of you.

Monique xxxx

A Book Review: I started reading a novel by Jim Crace. 'Quarantine', on Jesus in the Desert and the temptations. The setting was the desert and, in the novel, Jesus is alone in a cave but not alone in the desert. All types of weird characters are to be found, each with their own story. The nickname for Jesus was the 'Gally', a reference to Galilee. The reality of a 40 day fast was grimly portrayed in very bodily and earthly images of human deterioration. This served as an entrée, it seems, for my second read of 'Damascus', by Christos Tsiolkas whose previous books I read, 'The Slap' and 'Barracuda'.

Now it must be said that this is not a book for children or for those whose faith is at all either fragile or firm. It requires an openness to engaging with deep humanity, admittedly in the novelistic genre, of Paul and Timothy and the cohort named in the Pauline literature, especially Lydia in Antioch. Tsiolkas' language is very terse and his images tactile and visceral, perhaps too much so, but they are images from a cruel, decadent and pluralistic colonial power, Rome.

It does capture the missionary journeys and the book's understanding of the message, but with little fidelity to traditional orthodoxy or the divisions of the Pauline corpus. However, it's a novel not a work of theology in the classical sense.

Most interesting is the development of the relationship between Paul (Saul) and Timothy (Timos). One wonders what it was like in the first small hybrid communities that they created and fostered; the place of baptism and preaching; the role of women; the influence of Roman occupation (their sacking and rape of Jerusalem, including the temple); and the tendentious relationship between Jewish and Gentile Christians.

This is a great read as a novel. It is a humanly raw and psychological insight into how Christianity might have survived prior to its historical emergence into a shrinking roman empire under Constantine. ("Damascus" by Christos Tsiolkas)

Review by Fr. Dennis Rochford MSC, PhD.

A letter which I have just received from my youngest brother of the nine of us, with whom I exchange occasional letters or long distant chats about anything.

"Dear Tony, I meant to reply yesterday with a phone call to say how grateful I was to receive your e-mail of a couple of days ago - which meant a lot to me - but I'm sure this will suffice for now.

Reading what you had to say, it would be difficult to express the shakiness of my patchy faith in anything nowadays. I just try to keep going on doggedly through that proverbial desert and hope for the best. It's just a case of the following quotation for me, even if written by men:

"66 After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him. 67 So Jesus said to the twelve, "Do you want to go away as well?" 68 Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, 69 and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God."

When I consider my amazing good fortune: my wife and family, my parents and siblings, my holidays, my comfortable home and financial stability (which, though unsubstantial, has been very flukey in one way and another!), my digital camera, my music, (e.g. with the Newlyn Reelers Country Dance Band for 30 years!), I feel as though I shall have had a wonderful life whatever death brings. As my headmistress where I taught, Sr Columcille, said with a smile, having received a letter from me after one summer holiday, "I reckon you've had your heaven on earth, Philip!"

Mind you, I reckon you have too, Tony, when I read over items (amusing and the more serious) you have sent, such as that about your life's wonders (which I have stored carefully among others !) about your life's experiences and all the wonderful places you have been to and the 'dynasty' you have created around the world.

Fond best wishes, Phil"

I replied in the only way I could !!!

AS PUNCH SAYS TO JUDY....THAT'S THE WAY TO DO IT !!!

From Tony Knight

My Lenten Journey

by Lyn Mills

Each year, among my Lenten practices, I endeavour to forego three things – not all dietary or tangible. Being a vegetarian who often fasts on vegetables, fruit and water, I felt that following dietary abstinence rules wasn't really much of a sacrifice. This in itself reminds me of a scene from the film *Seven Years in Tibet* depicting a Buddhist on pilgrimage making his journey physically gruelling because it is said, "the harder the journey, the deeper the cleansing". This year I committed to abstain from Procrastination. I had in mind to attach this specifically to the culling and sorting of way too much paperwork that had been accumulated over decades and haunted me for years – too much to scan and store digitally. Having to put all this into boxes to move house recently was a good start, and being retired meant there should have been no more distractions. You would think. But enjoying the pleasures of the mid north coast and motorhoming around our beautiful country left this job in the background for way too long.

Using Lent as a time frame to complete this tedious task might sound disrespectful to the meaning of Lent, but I surprised myself at how diligently I was finally able to focus on this work because I had attached it Lent. So, in sacrificing my comfortable lifestyle of simple distractions to finally address this project, I was compelled by this self-imposed mode of penance, because it was an active, measurable exercise that made Lent a living experience.

To validate this exercise as worthy of a Lenten practice, I began by connecting the two by virtue of the seasonal meaning of Lent and the implication of Spring and rebirth, with the physical attribute of spring cleaning. How very shallow! This will never cut it. What a selfish idea thinking I could get away with doing this as a Lenten sacrifice – something that has to be done anyway. No, I am determined the only way I will complete this onerous task (which had become my cross to bear) is by giving it up for the Lord and toughing it out – it has to be now.

By going deeper with that thought and recalling the events leading to Jesus's crucifixion and the joy of the risen Christ, I realised this short journey might not be fun, but that by surrendering this particular Procrastination at this time, I would be overjoyed with the outcome and without this burden, I would have space in my life for more meaningful work. No, this was not shallow, I would walk this Lent with Jesus; or rather, he would walk with me! Although I was in exile in the wilderness of the Bedroom 3 office (surrounded outside by the Covid-19 fog), I was not devoid of any prayer life, as I required the inspiration obtained from this daily to support my faith in this quest, and to strengthen my self-discipline for this challenge. The room I used is also used for meditation which embraces the silence and stillness of the desert fathers. I'm sure some of this prayer intention remains in my work space creating the perfect environment to connect this task to Lent (with the stillness perhaps increased by pandemic lockdown measures).

The collection of paperwork which represented my life (hence my reluctance to part with it), while mostly business, work and study-related, also included notes from various retreats and religious teachings. As much of the documents had to be gone through page by page to determine exactly what should be kept and filed, or let go of in order to move on, the sorting project did indeed become a spiritual exercise; a preparation for the joy of Easter, when I would emerge renewed. I was able to put my time into little else. During the process it was necessary to reflect on periods and areas of my life – to decide to finally shred some of it, and also to revisit others.

I am grateful to have had the opportunity of Lent to consider how being distracted from this task had created a burden; and how the reflection required created a conversion of heart. It has been a most memorable Lenten journey.

We Will Remember Them...

Norm & Pat Chapman : A couple of pictures taken when my late Father in Law was serving in the 6th Divi
Egypt during the 2nd World War-



"Church of Nativity" Bethlehem. My F in L Harry is the tall one up front



"Mosque of Omah" Jerusalem Harry says this is where Joseph was to be offered to Christ as a sacrifice.

We Will Remember Them...



This picture has meaning and Richard the artist describes it this way, 'Starting with a twisted steel peg originally used by the troops on the beaches to fix the barbwire to. Barb was also used in the trench warfare. The horse shoes represent the Light-horse brigade. Finally, the railway split pins represent the POWs who built the railway lines' .

Sculpture by Richard Nagel image used with his permission



**They fought they won they lost their lives,
Our country still lives free.
Our mates we never new have died,
So we can live their dreams.
ANZAC soldiers sacrificed,
To beat unbeatable odds.
Our way of life has been preserved,
So let us mourn their loss.
Let us remember the men and women,
Who fought for our way of life.
They lived they loved they died for us,
To keep us all from strife.
Lest we forget.
By L.Jenkinson**

Faith & Prayer in Isolation



Michael Siddle: Celebrating Divine Mercy Sunday at home 2020



READINGS 25/26 APRIL

First Reading

Acts 2:14, 22-33

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

It was impossible for him to be held by the power of Hades.

On the day of Pentecost, Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd in a loud voice: 'Men of Israel, listen to what I am going to say: Jesus the Nazarene was a man commended to you by God by the miracles and portents and signs that God worked through him when he was among you, as you all know. This man, who was put into your power by the deliberate intention and foreknowledge of God, you took and had crucified by men outside the Law. You killed him, but God raised him to life, freeing him from the pangs of Hades; for it was impossible for him to be held in its power since, as David says of him:

I saw the Lord before me always,
for with him at my right hand nothing can shake me.

So my heart was glad
and my tongue cried out with joy:
my body, too, will rest in the hope
that you will not abandon my soul to Hades
nor allow your holy one to experience corruption.

You have made known the way of life to me,
you will fill me with gladness through your presence.

'Brothers, no one can deny that the patriarch David himself is dead and buried: his tomb is still with us. But since he was a prophet, and knew that God had sworn him an oath to make one of his descendants succeed him on the throne, what he foresaw and spoke about was the resurrection of the Christ: he is the one who was not abandoned to Hades, and whose body did not experience corruption. God raised this man Jesus to life, and all of us are witnesses to that. Now raised to the heights by God's right hand, he has received from the Father the Holy Spirit, who was promised, and what you see and hear is the outpouring of that Spirit.'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 15:1-2. 5. 7-11. R. v. 11

(R.) Lord, you will show us the path of life.

1. Preserve me, God, I take refuge in you.

I say to the Lord: 'You are my God.

O Lord, it is you who are my portion and cup;
it is you yourself who are my prize.' (R.)

2. I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel,
who even at night directs my heart.

I keep the Lord ever in my sight:

since he is at my right hand, I shall stand firm. (R.)

3. And so my heart rejoices, my soul is glad;
even my body shall rest in safety.

For you will not leave my soul among the dead,
nor let your beloved know decay. (R.)

4. You will show me the path of life,
the fullness of joy in your presence,
at your right hand happiness for ever. (R.)

Second Reading

1 Pt 1:17-21

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

The ransom that was paid to free you was the blood of the Lamb, Jesus Christ.

If you are acknowledging as your Father one who has no favourites and judges everyone according to what he has done, you must be scrupulously careful as long as you are living away from your home. Remember, the ransom that was paid to free you from the useless way of life your ancestors handed down was not paid in anything corruptible, neither in silver nor gold, but in the precious blood of a lamb without spot or stain, namely Christ; who, though known since before the world was made, has been revealed only in our time, the end of the ages, for your sake. Through him you now have faith in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory for that very reason – so that you would have faith and hope in God.

Gospel

Lk 24:13-35

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

They recognised him at the breaking of the bread.

Two of the disciples of Jesus were on their way to a village called Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking together about all that had happened. Now as they talked this over, Jesus himself came up and walked by their side; but something prevented them from recognising him. He said to them, 'What matters are you discussing as you walk along?' They stopped short, their faces downcast.

Then one of them, called Cleopas, answered him, 'You must be the only person staying in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have been happening there these last few days.' 'What things?' he asked. 'All about Jesus of Nazareth' they answered 'who proved he was a great prophet by the things he said and did in the sight of God and of the whole people; and how our chief priests and our leaders handed him over to be sentenced to death, and had him crucified. Our own hope had been that he would be the one to set Israel free. And this is not all: two whole days have gone by since it all happened; and some women from our group have astounded us: they went to the tomb in the early morning, and when they did not find the body, they came back to tell us they had seen a vision of

(continued) angels who declared he was alive. Some of our friends went to the tomb and found everything exactly as the women had reported, but of him they saw nothing.'

Then he said to them, 'You foolish men! So slow to believe the full message of the prophets! Was it not ordained that the Christ should suffer and so enter into his glory?' Then, starting with Moses and going through all the prophets, he explained to them the passages throughout the scriptures that were about himself.

When they drew near to the village to which they were going, he made as if to go on; but they pressed him to stay with them. 'It is nearly evening' they said 'and the day is almost over.' So he went in to stay with them. Now while he was with them at table, he took the bread and said the blessing; then he broke it and handed it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognised him; but he had vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, 'Did not our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road and explained the scriptures to us?'

They set out that instant and returned to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven assembled together with their companions, who said to them, 'Yes, it is true. The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.' Then they told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised him at the breaking of bread.

© The scriptural quotations are taken from the Jerusalem Bible, published and copyright 1966, 1967 and 1968 by Darton Longman and Todd Ltd and Doubleday & Co Inc, and used by permission of the publishers. The English translation of the Psalm Responses, the Alleluia and Gospel Verses, and the Lenten Gospel Acclamations, and the Titles, Summaries, and Conclusion of the Readings, from the Lectionary for Mass © 1997, 1981, 1968, International Committee on English in the Liturgy, Inc. All rights reserved.

Gospel Reflection by Greg Sunter

One of the remarkable things about the Risen Jesus is that his friends and followers almost always fail to recognise him at first. In the instance on the road to Emmaus, two of the disciples are walking the road feeling sorry for themselves when Jesus joins them. It is, perhaps, an experience that is not unfamiliar in our own lives: so absorbed by what is happening to us that we fail to recognise the presence of Christ walking the journey with us – in spirit or in the guise of someone around us. Jesus allows the disciples to share their woes and their grief and then he slowly but surely relates all of what had happened to the scriptures and demonstrates to the disciples that the events of the previous few days were all part of God's plan. The disciples felt that their hopes and beliefs had been misplaced in Jesus; he hadn't delivered all that they had dreamed. But the Risen Jesus makes them realise that their hopes were not misplaced; they were right to trust and hope in Jesus and that belief will still bear fruit.

It is not until Jesus re-enacts the Last Supper breaking of bread that the disciples suddenly recognise him, but at that moment of recognition, Jesus vanishes from their midst. It must have been tantalising and frustrating for the two disciples – when they finally realised who they had been talking with and they could celebrate his presence Jesus disappeared. But the truth of what they had realised didn't abandon them. They reminded one another of the passion they had felt: 'Didn't our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road?' They are saying to each other, how stupid must we have been not to recognise Jesus? Only he could make us feel like that!

Living the Gospel – Living the journey

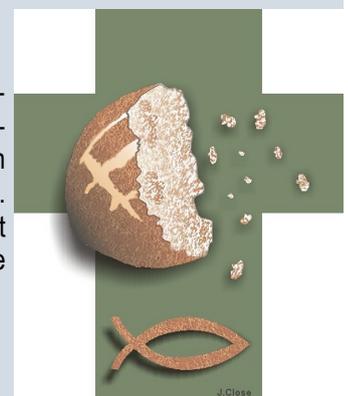
The story of the road to Emmaus is a perfect model for our Christian life. It reminds us first of all that none of us walk the journey alone. Even when we don't recognise his presence, Jesus joins us in the everyday realities of life. The breaking open and interpretation of scripture is essential to making sense of our life experiences and through the celebration of Eucharist and table fellowship we are nourished to not only continue the journey but to share the good news with others. Where do you find yourself in the events of this story?

Gospel Focus – Hearts on Fire

The disciples recognised Jesus in the breaking of the bread and at that moment he disappeared. The immediate reaction of the disciples might have been to dismiss the notion that Jesus had been with them as wishful thinking. However, they remind each other that their hearts had been set on fire by Jesus as he spoke to them along the road. It is an extraordinarily powerful image; to set hearts on fire. Yet, that experience is not locked in the pages of the gospel; Jesus continues to set hearts of fire, inspiring everyday people to do extraordinary things.

Have you thought? – Recognising Jesus

These two disciples, although not any of the Twelve, would have considered themselves close followers of Jesus. They are devastated by his death and so must have known Jesus quite well. However, they fail to recognise him when he joins them on the road. Whether they were prevented from recognising him or whether he was somehow transformed through the resurrection we don't know. But two close followers were unable to recognise him walking beside them. Perhaps we shouldn't feel too bad, two millennia later, when we fail to recognise Jesus as he continues to walk beside us.



Third Sunday of Easter Year A
Sunday 26 Apr 2020

Priest: Brothers and sisters, in the presence of the Lord, we bring our prayers before God.

Reader: That the Holy Church will be sustained by God's word through the scriptures.
(pause) In your glory:

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: That Catholics around the world will experience the strength of their faith community when gathered worship is not possible.
(pause) In your glory:

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: That people who are isolated will be filled with the comfort of Christ the risen saviour. We pray especially for those experiencing isolation during the coronavirus restrictions.
(pause) In your glory:

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: That those living with the fear of disease will find a sense of calm and shelter in Christ. We especially pray for people who are sick from the coronavirus.
(pause) In your glory:

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: That exhausted healthcare workers will be given patience and determination to mirror Christ's compassion in their ministry of healing. We pray especially for those at the forefront of the coronavirus outbreak.
(pause) In your glory:

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: That those who work on the front line of safety and security for our community will be protected, respected and supported including the members of our Police Force; we pray especially for those who have lost their lives and for the families that grieve their passing.
(pause) In your glory:

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: That countries where health infrastructure is limited will be granted equipment and resources. We pray especially for generous sharing between nations during the coronavirus pandemic.
(pause) In your glory:

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: That the sick will be sustained by the Bread of Life, especially all those in our parish bulletin.
(pause) In your glory:

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: That those who have died will share in the glory of Christ's Resurrection, especially Paul Stewart.
(pause) In your glory:

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Priest: God our Father, the disciples recognised Jesus at the breaking of bread. Hear our prayers and help us to always cherish your presence as we gather at the Eucharistic table. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen.**

APPENDIX: Keeping Sunday Holy – What Can We Do?

To assist individuals and families during this time, the Diocesan Liturgy Council has offered the following options, particularly in keeping Sunday holy:

Praying with the Sunday readings: Such prayer may take many forms including *Lectio Divina* and Liturgies of the Word in families or small groups. Parishes may like to download the 'Weekly Prayer Sheet' with the Sunday readings from [LiturgyHelp](#) and email it to parishioners.

The Prayer of the Church: We recommend morning and evening prayer to individuals and families. We suggest downloading the [Universalis App](#) which contains not only the Prayer of the Church but also the Mass of the day and many other things. See also: <https://liturgy.life/2020/03/keeping-sunday-holy-when-we-cannot-gather-for-mass-liturgy-of-the-hours/>

Recorded Homilies: The homilies of Bishop Bill or Fr Andrew from the Cathedral Mass on Sundays will be recorded and made available online by lunch time on Sundays. These may help in individual or small group reflections on the readings of the day. These homilies can be accessed via [Spotify](#) or [iTunes](#).

Mass Streamed from Sacred Heart Cathedral: As already mentioned, the Diocese and Cathedral is currently investigating the possibility of livestreaming the Sunday Mass from Sacred Heart Cathedral celebrated by the Bishop or the Vicar General. Further information will be made available via the Diocesan website, which will also host the livestream if it becomes available.

The resources from [LiturgyHelp](#) can be of great assistance at this time in two significant ways:

This is the time to use LiturgyHelp to its fullest capacity. Make sure you are using your fifty part-username and logins for all your liturgical and pastoral ministers. Those who have access are encouraged to continue to reach out to members of the community during this time. For example, parish secretaries or Children's Liturgy ministers could download the resources under 'children' on the Sunday menu, and then send them to the families of children who would normally participate in Children's Liturgy, or to those who were enrolled in the sacramental journey.

Everyone in the diocese – individuals and families – can access a range of resources being made available through a special login. Parishioners should go to liturgyhelp.com/aus/mn/generalaccess, and enter their name and email address. This is for all people in communities connected to the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle and will be available from Midday on Friday 20 March.

The resources available on the special login access version of LiturgyHelp will grow over time and initially include:

Access to the daily readings

Access to the daily Missal texts

Sunday Prayer Services (Liturgy of the Word and weekly prayer sheets)

Sunday and Special Feasts Scripture Commentary

Sunday and Special Feasts Homily and Reflection

Sunday Universal Prayer

General prayer – traditional, prayers to our Lady and litanies.

Sunday Prayer of the Church (Divine Office) from 29 March (morning and evening prayer)

There will be the possibility for us to augment this section over time if that were needed.

A Moment To Reflect

This moment of crisis is for all people, especially people of faith, an opportunity. What is God revealing to us in this unusual moment of hunger for Eucharist? We believe in the centrality of the word of God to our lives as disciples and as a community of the faithful. This is an opportunity to immerse ourselves in the word and to deepen the way we abide in the Word. Who might we become over this time if we do turn to the Word of God as the primary source of our sustenance? We have largely ignored the treasure of the Prayer of the Church – primarily Morning and Evening Prayer. Who might we become if we prayed this prayer and became more familiar with the Psalms and the human cries we hear there?

Let us seize this opportunity so that when this moment is over we might return to our celebration of eucharist with a deeper love for it and a renewed sense of what it means to participate fully and consciously and actively in the Paschal Mystery and life of our Triune God

For reflection

[Article by Massimo Faggioli: Mass Myopia and Coronavirus](#)



BAPTISMS

Celebrated most Sundays.
Bookings via the Parish website

MARRIAGE

Celebrated by arrangement with at least 3 months notice. Bookings via the parish website

SACRAMENTAL PROCESS

Enrolment via the Parish Website

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

(RCIA) Parish Office 6554 6304

CATHOLIC CARE

Phone: 6539 5900 for services provided in Forster

PARISH GROUPS

Christian Meditation

Forster Tues 9.30am
Monica 6555 7038
Hallidays Point Wed 10am
John 0417 249 466

Social Justice Group

Last Wed 5.30pm Meeting Room
Tim Prescott 6555 8517

Maintenance and Gardening Group

3rd Thursday of the month, 8am
Church grounds. Howard 6557 6826

Family and Friends Group

Meets monthly, contact Carol and Terry Pearson on 0408768729.

Singing Practice

Ken Heffernan 6554 6304
(see parish timetable)

Holy Hour

Tues 3.30pm in the Church

Finance Council

3rd Wednesday of the month, 5pm
Meeting Room

Pastoral Council

2nd Wednesday of the month,
5.30pm Meeting Room

Novena to our Lady of Perpetual Help and Rosary

Wed 11.00am in the Church
Shiony 0411 493 086

Secular Franciscan

Fraternity

4th Sunday of the month after the
9.00am Mass

menALIVE Group

4th Wed after 9am Mass in the
meeting room. Michael Amato 6554 5284



SUNDAY MASS TIMES

Sat. 6.00pm
Sun. 7.00am, 9.00am & 5.30pm

RECONCILIATION

Saturday 8.30am & 4.45pm

YOUTH MASS

3rd Sunday of the month at 5.30pm.

AGED CARE MASSES

(Subject to change)

Glaica House:

2nd Thurs 10.30am

Estia Forster: **3rd Tues**

10.30am

PARISH TEAM

Fr Greg Barker - Parish Priest

gregory.barker@mn.catholic.org.au

Emergency Contact 0417 321 209

Danielle Kingdom

Admin Assistant

danielle.kingdom@mn.catholic.org.au

Office Hours:

Mon-Thurs 9.00am- 3.00pm

Fri- 9.00am- 5.30pm

Phone: 6554 6401

Website:

www.forstertuncurrycatholic.org.au



Follow us on facebook:

@catholicparishofforstertuncurry



CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Holy Name Catholic School K-6

41 Lake Street, Forster

Ph: 6554 6504

E: admin@forster.catholic.edu.au

W: www.forster.catholic.edu.au

Principal: Brooke Stephens

St Clare's High School 7-12

Davis Street, Taree

P: 6552 3300

E: Admin@tareesc.catholic.edu.au

W: www.tareesc.catholic.edu.au

Principal: Peter Nicholls

Unless otherwise stated, the advertisements placed in the Bridgeside Bulletin are placed by independent third parties who have no legal relationship with the Diocese. The activities or services of the advertisers are not supervised or controlled in any way by the Diocese. The Diocese is not in a position to endorse the advertisers or the services provided and makes no representation about those matters. Accordingly, the Diocese cannot accept any responsibility for the advertisers or the activities or services that are the subject of these advertisements.