



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

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

Sunday 2 August 2020,

Eighteenth Sunday In Ordinary Time - Year A

Dear Parish Family,

I suspect many of us have watched with interest, amusement and maybe outrage the Karen of Bunnings fame who challenged both the duty manager and the Police when they arrived on her right not to wear a Mask. There is also Eve who posted videos of herself getting past border controls without any sense of the risks of the COVID virus. Now we watch the three young women, who shop lifted and partied their way across Melbourne before carrying the virus to Queensland where they have now shut schools and businesses face the ramifications of their actions. Maybe we have rejoiced that all of them have now faced a not so pleasant personal backlash for their actions with four at least facing court on criminal charges. I did smile at one news report that had Karen of Bunnings needing to call the Police after being harassed by news reporters on her front lawn; the ironic twist in the whole saga of her civil rights at work.

I've sat and wondered what was going through their heads at the time? Why is it so hard to be respectful? What makes people such as these young women push back so hard for their own self centred needs? If anyone has an insight it would be worth sharing with everyone.

We are a Church that is fundamentally on every level Pro-life, we support the rights of all for a good life, civil liberty and the freedoms of our land, to speak, to be fed, to be housed but it's in that movement that we realise just how politically important we are and just how much of a responsibility we have for speaking out against injustice, immorality and a system that values money over life.

So what is the Pro-life movement for our Church?

In Australia we are looking at probably 65-80,000 a year and world-wide up to 40 million terminations or abortions: 19.7 per 1000 women.

It is hard to find accurate numbers and data on refugee numbers but most agencies place the number at something like 71 Million world-wide. The estimate is that between 26 Million to 40 million of them have fled to another country. Places like Syria have about 50% of their displaced population still living within their own borders. Half of the world's refugees are children under that age of 18. Many are displaced due to war, economic crisis and genocide.

Again it is hard to get a definitive sense on homelessness in Australia but agencies think that there are at least 105,200 people homeless in Australia on any given day or more importantly night. Homelessness has many faces many of whom are hidden: people couch surf, sleep in their

cars, hide in parks and public gardens, sleep through the day and stay alert at night. Homelessness too has many causes from needing to escape domestic violence, the loss of jobs, mental health issues and the break-down of relationships. And if you are homeless it is almost impossible to find employment or be housed. To register for anything in this country currently you need an address!

Slavery is a modern day reality. Again numbers on how many people live as slaves world-wide is hard to find. It too has a hidden presence: child brides, child labour, indenture, human trafficking and the sex trade, underpaid workers in impoverished countries that are part of our food and clothing supply, underpaid workers. This Diocese has joined with other Diocese around Australia and Companies to work to end modern slavery and to buy and work ethically. It is a big step in the Pro-Life movement.

The point I guess too is that Pro-life and that movement for our Church has many faces and it's important to be abreast of them and to be open to make a stand against those things that take away or devalue our humanity and our image as creations of God. I am really pleased that our community kitchen is up and running and that we have so many volunteers supporting this endeavor. It is also exciting to be partners with other members of our Church family: Catholiccare, our primary school and St Vincent de Paul.

Some of the things we are being asked to do during this time of COVID-19 have implications for all of these faces for Pro-life. Many who are in dire need will continue to go unseen and unhelped. I love that our community kitchen has begun now. It is one arm of supporting some of those whose lives are affected a lack of life to the full. It is also about keeping each other and our community safe; a small price to pay for popping on a mask or standing back when we are asked.

The community kitchen is not just about feeding the hungry and caring for the homeless in the physical sense: it has a purpose in feeding the souls of the lonely, the isolated, disconnected, of giving a home to those who need a community and family to shelter them. We all have a part in that.

We have to be mindful in this time of our own family and friends who are more vulnerable and this is a real step in supporting them and each other.

Now what of the holiday snaps and pics, and the commentary? It is about being hopeful and positive and sharing that attitude with others. Don't forget we will get through this together and see a return to some sort of normality. Those memorable places will be visited again!!

Kind regards,

Greg

Parish Priest



PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Recently Deceased: Paul Francis Knight & William Boys

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, Lawson Rankin, Josephine Camilleri, Zac Gogerly, Junior Soliano, Ann Moreira, Dawn Gander, Win Preston, Ken Vote, Anna Lee, Robyn Thomas, Angela McNamara, Lucilla Bacalla, Betty Clarke, Denis Wilson, Pietrina Ruspandini, Terry Anderson

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.

Process For Attending Sunday Mass

Please note that online live streaming of the 8.00am Mass will continue for the foreseeable future.

As you know there are some restrictions included with the re-establishment of public Masses: communion on the hand and under only the species of Bread, no shaking hands, no holy water, designated seating, collection baskets available but not passed, social distancing for the communion line, sign in and sign out sheets available and mandatory, no singing, hand sanitiser and the cleaning of the church after each service: to facilitate a speedy and efficient cleaning process I am asking that you avoid kneeling.

If you are unwell, have flu like symptoms or have anything that would put your health at risk or the health of others at risk you are asked to stay home.

The current Mass times are: 8.00am, 10.00am and Noon.

If you would like to attend Mass at one of the times mentioned you are asked to register, preferably by email however you are able to contact us by phone: forster-tuncurry.parish@mn.catholic.org.au or 6554 6401.

To Register:

1. Submit your name and the names of each person who will attend with you, your physical address and their address should that be different to yours, and contact phone number for each household.

2. Nominate the Mass you wish to attend: either 8, 10, noon or don't mind.

3. You can register on behalf of someone else providing that you have asked them. I know many don't have emails or access to the internet. Please feel free to pass the word around and talk with your friends about the process

4. If you have registered once you don't need to re-register each week, you will automatically be transferred over to the next weekends register list. Let us know when you will be away so that we can take you off the register for that weekend and also if you would like to change Mass times

Then we will:

On the Friday before, we will endeavour to make sure every person who has registered to attend will know that they have a spot or not by email or mobile message. If there is only a landline available we will only call if you **are not able to attend.**

If you are sick could you let us know as soon as possible so that we can take your name off the list and include someone else. If you turn up on the day with flu like symptoms you can't come in.

If you change your mind, please let us know so that we may include someone else in the Mass. When

you are ready we will still be here and Masses will still be celebrated. If you just don't show it will mean someone who could have gone will miss out.

If the Church is full should you just turn up, sadly for me I can't let you in under the current restrictions.

Arrival:

1. Arrival at the Church for Mass. In registering and receiving confirmation will ensure your name on a list so that you can enter the Church for Mass. You simply need to add your arrival and departure time to the sign in list.

2. Sanitise your hands as you enter. You will of course be used now to doing this as it doesn't matter where you go it is the norm.

3. Look for the crosses and indicators on the seats where places have been allocated for seating. If you live in the same house you are allowed to sit together, if you travel with some one but don't live with them you are required like all of us to maintain our 1.5 metre distancing. I know it sounds bizarre but it is one way if we can respect the rule to keep the church open.

Departure from the Church:

1. Please sign out.

2. You are asked not to linger after Mass but make your way home or out as your plan. The carpark and surrounds need to be cleared for the next Mass.

3. Remember social distancing is still in place and we are asked to maintain the 1.5 metre distancing..

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to ask. I want to make it as easy as possible for you to come.

Weekday Masses have resumed:

Tues 4.30pm, Wed 9.00am & Fri at 9.30am.

Notice for the Feast of Mary MacKillop: On the Feast Day of Mary MacKillop Saturday August 8th 2020, Mary MacKillop Place will be closed. Mass in the Mary MacKillop Memorial Chapel will be livestreamed at 10:00am on August 8th, followed by a time of prayer at the tomb. <http://mnnews.today/your-dioocese/2020/52017-notice-for-the-feast-of-mary-mackillop>

PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES

Planned giving envelopes for the 2020/21 financial year have been placed in the church for collection.

The next collection count will be held Monday 3rd Aug at 9am with Team 4

Caritas Australia

In Australia, COVID-19 lockdowns have made many women's lives harder. Domestic abuse rates are skyrocketing, and women are often unable to access the support that they need.

This is also the case for our sisters around the world. And, for women already struggling with poverty and injustice, the added threat of domestic abuse could make their lives unbearable

By donating to Women for the World, you can raise funds to empower women living under such precarious and vulnerable circumstances.

Your kind donation will go towards Caritas Australia's International Programs, helping vulnerable women access vital support services and skills training. The aim is to lift our sisters out of poverty, and empower them to create better lives for themselves.

Let's stand with our sisters around the world, and do what we can to bring them a ray of hope.

Donate at: <https://www.womenfortheworld.org.au/>

Forster Tuncurry Community Kitchen: in consultation with Catholiccare we need to come up with a better name for our Kitchen that operates on a Wednesday and Thursday. Apart from the obvious problem with putting the letters together (FTCK) it should speak more of who we are as a Catholic Church and Parish Community. Have a think and submit your thoughts to the Parish Office. I'll buy dinner for the winning suggestion!!!

Fr Greg

Special Religious Education (SRE) is an important ministry within our Diocese which supports parents, students, clergy and parishes in the religious education of approximately 2500 students attending government schools. The Parish Children in our Government schools need your help! Do you have a calling to spread the good news and joy of the Gospels to children in 2020/2021? Can you assist with Special Religious Education in the short and/or long term? Contact Danielle in the parish office for more information or to volunteer.

The Feast of the Assumption

The Feast of the Assumption on the 15th August is a holy day of obligation like all Sundays are: exemptions are in place for attending. There will be 3 opportunities for attending: 8.00 am, 10.00 am and Noon. Would you please register your intention to attend by the 13 August. Due to COVID restrictions currently in place there will be a need to monitor numbers. To register please email forster-tuncurry.parish@mn.catholic.org.au or phone 65546401.

Hello Hunter

Hello Hunter helps people who are feeling isolated, lonely or anxious. Volunteers are available to make a friendly call, deliver essentials, assist in finding specialised help or on request pray with the person.

Hello Hunter has a call centre, which takes requests for assistance, then neighbourhood hubs mobilise their volunteers. Hubs are formed according to suburb and postcode. The goal is to have the person in need assisted by their nearest neighbour.

Hello Hunter are now looking for hub leaders and volunteers. Volunteers need to submit a form, validated by their local parish priest or parish leader. Go to hellohunter.org.au for more information.



LITURGY NEWS WINTER 2020 IS NOW AVAILABLE.

<https://www.liturgybrisbane.net.au/liturgybrisbane/LiturgyNews/LiturgyNews-Winter-2020-A0px1ju7h8s/>

Sacred Heart Cathedral Live stream Mass every Sunday at 9.30am at <https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/places/live-stream/>

*Don't miss out on anything in your Diocese! Go to **mnnews.today** to view the events calendar, see photos and read stories about what is happening locally.*

Holiday Snaps



One of our favourite holiday destinations is Rarotonga in the Cook Islands. We have been fortunate to have many family holidays there and all the families love the simple beauty of the Island. The island is only 32 kms round very uncommercial but lovely swimming snorkling and sailing activities for young and old. A very simple holiday destination. We have family connections with our daughter in law being cook island descent. We enjoy the island hospitality and are treated as part of the island family each time we go. We love the very Christian ethos of the island people and Sunday is celebrated with church and family gatherings. It's quite a step back in time. The music and singing in the churches is truly wonderful . Whenever the question of a family holiday is raised Rarotonga is the reponse of one and all. This photo was taken 5 years ago and the last time all our grandchildren were together as they are global families and the tyranny of distance keeps us apart . Hopefully the opportunity will present itself and we will all once more enjoy the blessings of a Cook island holiday. Carolyn and David Olliffe

I was thinking about all those places that touch your heart and I couldn't go past my time in Israel. Some of it to be truthful was about the people I went with but a significant part for me was standing those sacred places where I had previously only read about. Significant to be in the place where the historical Jesus physically stood, or sat or was laid to rest. Mind blowing. So once COVID is over my hope would be to revisit some of those places again. The pics here are of 'a Stable similar to the one Jesus was born in' 'Caesarea Philippi where the Gates of Hades stands' 'Come up from the road to Emmaus' 'And the tomb of Jesus'



Holiday Snaps



Ian and I would like to return to Hawaii at some stage as for the past 4 years, we have visited there twice a year on our way to the States to visit family! Lovely people, environment, climate, sights, experiences. and memories. A bit like, 'coming home!'.
Annie and Ian Evans



Danira McNamara- The Garden of Gethsemane. I just think it was a place of great importance to Jesus a place he prayed and wrestled in great sorrow with the torture and humiliation he knew was before Him. hearing how he cried out to his Father God just shows me his human side and then resolutely, He does what he needs to do to save humankind. its a place i would love to just sit alone in and pray! (he knowledges his sadness) i just feel normal i guess!

Send us your photos:

Please send us your holiday snaps with a little story attached of those places you want to visit again post COVID, places that are important or memorable to you.

Thankful Sunday



Robert and I feel very blessed and thankful for the safe arrival of our 18th grandchild (now 9 boys and 9 girls). Attached some photos of this once again perfect creation and we pray that Chester Atticus, his Mum Clem, his Dad Steve and big brother Winston may be richly blessed as he grows up with the love of family around him. Monique & Robert Johnson



We have received so many knitted baby items. It is wonderful to see the talent and generosity of so many of our parishioners. Thank you.



READINGS & REFLECTION 2 AUG

First Reading

Is 55:1-3

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Hasten and eat.

Thus says the Lord:

Oh, come to the water all you who are thirsty;

though you have no money, come!

Buy corn without money, and eat,

and, at no cost, wine and milk.

Why spend money on what is not bread,

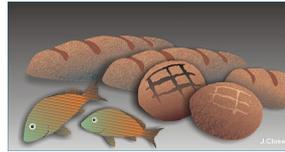
your wages on what fails to satisfy?

Listen, listen to me and you will have good things to eat
and rich food to enjoy.

Pay attention, come to me;

listen, and your soul will live.

With you I will make an everlasting covenant
out of the favours promised to David.



Responsorial Psalm

Ps 144:8-9. 15-18. R. v.16

*(R.) The hand of the Lord feeds us:
he answers all our needs.*

1. The Lord is kind and full of compassion,
slow to anger, abounding in love.

How good is the Lord to all,
compassionate to all his creatures. (R.)

2. The eyes of all creatures look to you
and you give them their food in due time.

You open wide your hand,
grant the desires of all who live. (R.)

3. The Lord is just in all his ways
and loving in all his deeds.

He is close to all who call him,
call on him from their hearts. (R.)

Second Reading

Rom 8:35. 37-39

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

*No creature can separate us from the love of God, which is in
Christ.*

Nothing can come between us and the love of Christ, even if we
are troubled or worried, or being persecuted, or lacking food or
clothes, or being threatened or even attacked. These are the
trials through which we triumph, by the power of him who loved
us.

For I am certain of this: neither death nor life, no angel, no
prince, nothing that exists, nothing still to come, not any power,
or height or depth, nor any created thing, can ever come be-
tween us and the love of God made visible in Christ Jesus our
Lord.

Gospel

Mt 14:13-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

They all ate and were satisfied.

When Jesus received the news of John the Baptist's death he
withdrew by boat to a lonely place where they could be by
themselves. But the people heard of this and, leaving the
towns, went after him on foot. So as he stepped ashore he saw
a large crowd; and he took pity on them and healed their sick.

When evening came, the disciples went to him and said, 'This is
a lonely place, and the time has slipped by; so send the people
away, and they can go to the villages to buy themselves some
food.' Jesus replied, 'There is no need for them to go: give them
something to eat yourselves.' But they answered, 'All we have
with us is five loaves and two fish.' 'Bring them here to me,' he
said. He gave orders that the people were to sit down on the
grass; then he took the five loaves and the two fish, raised his
eyes to heaven and said the blessing. And breaking the loaves
he handed them to his disciples who gave them to the crowds.
They all ate as much as they wanted, and they collected the
scraps remaining, twelve baskets full. Those who ate numbered
about five thousand men, to say nothing of women and chil-
dren.

Gospel Reflection by Greg Sunter

The response of today's psalm is an excellent summary of the
theme that runs throughout today's readings: The hand of the
Lord feeds us: he answers all our needs. The compassion of
God is foremost in these readings – recognising need within the
people and responding with an overflowing abundance. In the
gospel, the abundant response of God is the miraculous feed-
ing of more than five thousand people with twelve baskets full of
leftovers.

As it became late in the day, the disciples wanted Jesus to send
the people away to the nearby villages so that they could buy
food for themselves. But Jesus is moved with compassion for
the people. He knows that as it is now evening they probably
won't be allowed to enter any of the local villages and, even if
they were, they probably didn't have money with which to buy
food. So it is compassionate care that moves Jesus to act. Re-
member, he had tried to get away from the crowds to spend
some private time mourning the death of John the Baptist. He
was entitled to be frustrated and angry with them for intruding
on his grief. Instead, when they tracked him down, he went
ashore and healed them and taught them. When it came to the
evening he went one step further in his compassion and made
sure that all were fed.

At the time of writing, the gospel writer knew that his audience
would be familiar with the Eucharistic meal. The words and ac-
tions of Jesus in this miraculous feeding event foreshadow the
events of the Last Supper: he took the bread and fish, gave
thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to the disciples to distrib-
ute. This event is a Eucharistic one just as much as the Last
Supper.

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

Sunday 02 Aug 2020

Priest: Dear friends, with faith in the love of Christ, we bring our prayers before the Lord

Reader: That the holy Church will make God's love visible to all through the Body and Blood of Christ.

(pause) In your mercy:

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

Reader: That bishops and priests who minister the Eucharist will sustain all in their flock.

(pause) In your mercy:

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

Reader: That organisations and agencies who provide relief will be supported in feeding and clothing the poor.

(pause) In your mercy:

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

Reader: That the ministers and sacristans of our parish who prepare for the Eucharist will be blessed by God's abundant love.

(pause) In your mercy:

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

Reader: That the sick and housebound will find healing in the bread of life, especially all those in our parish bulletin.

(pause) In your mercy:

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

Reader: That those who have died will live in the love of God forever, especially Paul Francis Knight & William Boys

(pause) In your mercy:

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

Priest: Loving God, you provide for all your people. Hear our prayers and strengthen our faith as we are nourished by you through your word and the Eucharist. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen.**



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

Sun. 8.00am, 10.00am & 12.00pm

RECONCILIATION

By appointment only

YOUTH MASS

3rd Sunday of the month, will resume once restrictions have eased.

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-Fri 9.00am- 3.30pm

Phone: 6554 6401

Website:

www.forstertuncurrycatholic.org.au



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@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

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