



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 9 August 2020,

Nineteenth Sunday In Ordinary Time - Year A

Dear Parish Family,

What a tragedy unfolding in Beirut, the effects of which will be felt for decades. The photos are horrendous. Buildings shattered, the coastline has been reshaped, people injured and killed with thousands left homeless. All we can do for them right now is pray for them. A powerful tool that sometimes might feel as though we are unable to do anything at all: we place our prayers and their needs in God's powerful and tender hands.

For us it will be a matter for others to find ways to more physically help. I feel at some point some donating process might be available. Till then we pray.

I feel for the Maronite communities of Sydney and Melbourne right now. How hard for them witnessing from afar family and friends being affected so badly. They too will feel powerless in the sight of such hardship and on the back of their own personal challenges and difficulties here. More recently their Cathedral was closed due to a Corona Virus outbreak and not so long ago they suffered the loss of four children killed as they cycled for ice-cream.

We here in Forster Tuncurry regularly have visitors from the Maronite community in Sydney. Lovely people who come as families to our church and who sit as family with us. The Maronite Rite traces its history to the 4th Century, cut off from Rome for 500 years due to the rise of the Muslim world the Crusades reunited them with Rome, and a union was sought with Rome again more formally sometime around 1100. Although the Maronite Church has always seen itself in full communion with the Latin Church.

The Muslim Caliphates starting in the 600s tried to suppress and absorb them, but they are a hardy and strong religious group and have remained independent. They are more than survivors but survive against conflict and hardship they do. It is that strength and capability that will see them through these difficult times.

The native tongue of the Maronites is Arabic but their liturgy more often is delivered in Syriac and they follow the West Syrian Liturgy. They are the only Eastern Catholic Church not to have a counterpart amongst the Orthodox Churches.

Watching the parents of the children who were killed in Sydney in the documentary 'In the Blink of an Eye' you can see what faith, family and belonging can do. You can see the strength of their religion and their culture. Amazing to hear the words of forgiveness.

And so today we pray for the Peoples of Lebanon, Muslim, Druze and Maronite alike. We pray for them during these days of tragedy and for them as they seek to rebuild their decimated town and lives.

We pray for those who have lost their lives; may their souls rest in peace.

We stand in sympathy with those who have lost loved ones, for those that are injured, and with those who will lose heart and despair in the face of overwhelming hardship.

We pray for those who work in the front line, in particular the firemen and women who were fighting the fires at the heart of what would become the epicentre of the blast and we remember all of our own first responders here who also put their lives on the line for all of us, some paying the ultimate sacrifice for their service.

And we pray for our own brothers and sisters in the Maronite communities of Australia as we share in their grief and sadness at the loss of friends and family in their homeland.

Yours in Christ,

Greg
Parish Priest



PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Recently Deceased: Terry Anderson

Anniversary: Daphne Mary Chaffen, Theresa Dorothy Gomes

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,

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.pariah@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.

A special thank you to the Golden Ponds Craft Group for all the wonderful knitted items you have donated to the parish so far to be sent to the babies in Kenya.

The next collection count will be held Monday 10th Aug at 9am with Team 5

No Tues 4.30pm Mass on 11 Aug

Funerals

Funeral for Terry Anderson will be held on Tue 11 Aug at 1pm.

Funeral for Mary Therese Micua will be held Fri 14 Aug at 11am.

You are welcome to attend the funeral also by registering your interest with the parish office forster-tuncurry@mn.catholic.org.au 6554 6401

Hand made face masks for sale \$6 ea. Contact Lorna 0432 402 260

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.

ARRCC

Australian Religious Response to Climate Change invites you to join them in a couple of online webinars happening next week.

Stepping Stones to a Plant-based Diet, Weds 12 Aug, 6.30 – 8 pm. It's one thing to know a plant-based diet is a good idea, it's another thing actually making it happen. ARRCC Committee members, Fahimah Badrulhisham and Peta Cox, will offer some excellent ways to motivate ourselves, and will respond to questions around people's everyday difficulties with this area of sustainable living.

Advocacy with Korean banks, Friday 14 Aug, 1.30 – 2.45 pm. Want to help Stop Adani, but tired of working alone? Come along to our "Zoom party" and add your voice to those urging the Korea Investment and Securities and the Industrial Bank of Korea to walk away from Adani. During next week's Stop the Money Week of Action, ARRCC is supporting people of faith to do our bit. We will brief you and encourage you to write e-mails and, for those who are game, post messages on Facebook along with the appropriate tagging. KIS and IBK are very concerned about their reputation. With Hanwha and Samsung recently ruling out further finance for Adani, this kind of work has proven to be very effective **Register through the ARRCC website:**

<https://www.arrcc.org.au/events>

Course 2: Safeguarding training in parishes

Friday, 23/10/2020 at 10am-2pm, St Mary's Church Hall, Taree

Who is this for: If you are a paid or unpaid worker of the parish and have never attended any Safeguarding training (formerly Child Protec-

tion training) or last attended more than 6 years ago, this is for you. If you have attended child protection training a few years ago and want a refresher, you are also welcome to attend.

How do I register: Registrations are made via Rebecca Mahony, Learning & Development Officer, Human Resources on 4979 1322 or email HR-Training@mn.catholic.org.au.

If I have a question: For any further information about the course or questions in relation to your participation, or to check on your attendance history, please call the Office of Safeguarding directly on 4979 1390 or email at oosgtraining@mn.catholic.org.au.

This training will be delivered in a COVID-safe way, attendance is restricted to 10 people per session, social distancing will be maintained and people will be asked normal screening questions to check their wellbeing and potential exposure to the virus. For more information on what precautions will be in place, please go to Office of Safeguarding COVID-19 web page.

National Emergency Appeal for Lebanon

In response to the horrific explosion in Beirut on the 4th of August, the Australian office of the international Catholic Charity, Aid to the Church in Need, has launched a national emergency appeal to raise funds to support the people of Lebanon. To read more about the appeal, and to make a donation, please visit: www.aidtochurch.org/lebanon or call 1800 101 201 during business hours: 8am-5pm, AEST.

Holiday Snaps



"Where the path of the wind crosses that of the stars"

We'd love to return to Spain, France or Italy, but especially to Spain to walk the Camino Frances again to Santiago de Compostela. Greg walked this in 2013 and we both walked it together in 2016. The experience and memories from this pilgrimage will never leave us. This photo of sculptures dedicated to and depicting pilgrims over the years is at Alto de Perdon, about 10kms from Pamplona and was taken on Day 4 for us. At almost 800m above sea level it is far from the highest point on the Camino but it is a steep climb, and it was exhilarating to reach this point. The sculpture is named "Where the path of the wind crosses that of the stars". Lyn Mills



Sue, Kay & Cheryl serving food at the Community Kitchen



READINGS 9 AUGUST

First Reading

1 Kgs 19:9.11-13

A reading from the first book of the Kings

Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord God.

When Elijah reached Horeb, the mountain of God, he went into the cave and spent the night in it. Then he was told, 'Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord.' Then the Lord himself went by. There came a mighty wind, so strong it tore the mountains and shattered the rocks before the Lord. But the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind came an earthquake. But the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire. But the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire there came the sound of a gentle breeze. And when Elijah heard this, he covered his face with his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 84:9-14. R. v.8

(R.) *Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation.*

1. I will hear what the Lord God has to say,
a voice that speaks of peace.

His help is near for those who fear him
and his glory will dwell in our land. (R.)

2. Mercy and faithfulness have met;
justice and peace have embraced.

Faithfulness shall spring from the earth
and justice look down from heaven. (R.)

3. The Lord will make us prosper
and our earth shall yield its fruit.

Justice shall march before him

and peace shall follow his steps. (R.)

Second Reading

Rom 9:1-5

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

I would willingly be condemned if it could help my people.

What I want to say is no pretence; I say it in union with Christ – it is the truth – my conscience in union with the Holy Spirit assures me of it too. What I want to say is this: my sorrow is so great, my mental anguish so endless, I would willingly be condemned and be cut off from Christ if it could help my brothers of Israel, my own flesh and blood. They were adopted as sons, they were given the glory and the covenants; the Law and the ritual were drawn up for them, and the promises were made to them.

They are descended from the patriarchs and from their flesh and blood came Christ who is above all, God for ever blessed! Amen.

Gospel

Mt 14:22-33

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Command me to come to you over the water.

Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side while he would send the crowds away. After sending the crowds away he went up into the hills by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, while the boat, by now far out on the lake, was battling with a heavy sea, for there was a head-wind. In the fourth watch of the night he went towards them, walking on the lake, and when the disciples saw him walking on the lake they were terrified. 'It is a ghost' they said, and cried out in fear. But at once Jesus called out to them, saying, 'Courage! It is I! Do not be afraid.' It was Peter who answered. 'Lord,' he said 'if it is you, tell me to come to you across the water.' 'Come' said Jesus. Then Peter got out of the boat and started walking towards Jesus across the water, but as soon as he felt the force of the wind, he took fright and began to sink. 'Lord! Save me!' he cried. Jesus put out his hand at once and held him. 'Man of little faith,' he said 'why did you doubt?' And as they got into the boat the wind dropped. The men in the boat bowed down before him and said, 'Truly, you are the Son of God.'



Gospel Reflection by Greg Sunter

I don't know that we've ever properly understood the significance of the disciples in the gospels; our attention is always focused on Jesus. The disciples certainly got the inside running on all of Jesus' teachings; they witnessed the miracles; and were themselves empowered to carry on the work of Jesus. They can be seen as the prototypes for all the followers of Jesus that have come since. When we read the gospel stories we can perhaps place ourselves in the position of James or John or Peter or Andrew.

To be a disciple to a rabbi was not just to be a supporter or an interested bystander. To be a disciple was to hungrily learn from your rabbi. The fact that all of Jesus' disciples were called from other walks of life means that no other rabbi had already chosen them. They had been passed over as not good enough to study with a rabbi. When they were called by Jesus it was an opportunity they would never have dreamed possible; of course they left everything and followed him.

To be a disciple was effectively an apprenticeship to becoming a rabbi. To be discipled to a rabbi was to believe that you could do what your rabbi did. It is this belief that makes Peter get out of the boat. His rabbi is walking on the water and Peter believes that he can do what his rabbi does. And extraordinarily, Peter begins to walk on the water just like Jesus. It is only when he starts to think about what he's doing that he sinks. When Jesus asks Peter, 'Why did you doubt?' he is asking Peter why he doubted himself. It wasn't that Peter doubted Jesus; he doubted his own ability to be the equal of his rabbi!

Historical Context – Separation

The image of Jesus still ashore while the disciples battled against strong winds and rising seas must have been an evocative one for the Matthean community. Like the disciples, they were acutely aware of their separation from Jesus. Unlike the disciples, they were separated by time and the raging storm that beset them was a tide of suspicion and persecution. At times they felt the strength and courage of Peter to step out of the boat and be Jesus in their world, but at other times they doubted their own abilities. It is a message for the Church of the day and the Church of today.

Living the Gospel – Christian

What does it mean to describe oneself as a Christian today? A common understanding might be 'one who follows the teachings of Jesus Christ'. Perhaps, based on the understanding of what it meant to be a disciple, we might better describe a Christian as one who learns from the teachings of Jesus and seeks to emulate the work of Jesus. That is, a Christian is someone who models their life on the example of Jesus and is the face of Jesus to others. That's a tougher job description than just turning up to church once a week or putting a bumper sticker on your car.

Gospel Focus – 'Lord! Save me!'

The cry of Peter is one that each of us feels the need to cry out at some stage in our life. Jesus trusted Peter's ability to walk to him on the water; otherwise he would not have called Peter to do so. It is Peter who doubts himself. In this moment of realising that he can't do it alone, he calls out to Jesus. One of the enduring images of Jesus is as the one who saves – the Saviour. When the realisation eventually comes to each of us that we can't do it all alone, we need only call on the one who saves.

Learning moments

The walking on water event occurs in between the two accounts of feeding the multitudes – the first of which was last week's gospel passage. Read Mt 14:13 – 15:39 and suggest how the events sandwiched between the two feeding stories help give meaning to the feeding accounts or how the feeding accounts help give meaning to the events that they surround.

Create a film storyboard for this gospel passage – or a portion of it. Indicate additional elements like camera angles, sound effects and music that would help convey the dramatic atmosphere of the scene and the message that the author was trying to convey to his original audience.

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

Sunday 09 Aug 2020

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

Reader: That as the successor of St Peter, our Holy Father Pope Francis will lead God's house on earth in truth.

(pause) In your mercy:

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

Reader: That all who suffer from phobia or terror will be rewarded with courage from Christ.

(pause) In your mercy:

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

Reader: That nations and races will no longer be divided by war and violence.

(pause) In your mercy:

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

Reader: That our parish community will have the courage to live in Christ when we are victims of injustice.

(pause) In your mercy:

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

Reader: That the sick and housebound will be shown mercy and love, especially all those in our parish bulletin.

(pause) In your mercy:

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

Reader: That those who have died will dwell forever in the Kingdom of God, especially Terry Anderson, Daphne Mary Chaffen & Theresa Dorothy Gomes

(pause) In your mercy:

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

Priest: Loving God, you give us courage through the words of Jesus. Hear our prayers and help us to not be afraid, but to live out our lives in faith. 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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