



# 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 25 October 2020,

Thirtieth Sunday In Ordinary Time - Year A

Dear Parish Family,

A very wise lady in the parish, sometimes in jest, but often with a serious overtone of support when hearing of someone struggling or indeed when she struggles herself reflects 'but you (or I) have other strengths'. I do often reflect on some of the wiser things I hear, and in times of prayer allow them to resonate in my mind. They pop up when I need to hear them, in my days of grace or importantly in days of difficulty.

'You have other strengths'! When I was first in the Seminary, I struggled a lot with the Diocesan Priests' motto of 'all things to all people.' How could this even work I would wonder? How can one man, me, possibly be 'all things to all people?' It could have been quite easy to fall into the trap of trying to be what the motto suggested and then lose sight of the Priestly call or Vocation. It took me a long time to work out that in actual fact if you take time to listen and hear the voices around you it doesn't take much to see that in reality being 'all things to all people' is not a physical doing but a spiritual being.

To listen, to hear and to be present allows the Holy Spirit to do what the Holy Spirit does best – be God's voice and an agent for change. It's heart not head. We would say 'transformative agent'. The moment we forgive or are forgiven we are transformed, changed. So many things in faith call us to be transformed. I believe the key for me was recognising that spiritually I needed to step back or get out of the way, so that the Spirit could step forward. I don't save souls, 'I have other strengths', and once I worked that out, I think 'all things to all people' becomes somehow doable. After all it is not my work at all but God's.

'You have other strengths'! Have you wondered why some people seem holier than others, or more holy than you feel some days? I used to be amazed, again in the Seminary, when men who seemed to pray better, be more spiritual or religious, smarter even would one day simply leave. Choose a different path than the one I seemed to be still on. I would second guess my capability or suitability. Maybe others did as well. There is something so personal in our relationship with Christ, we can only imagine sometimes what that looks like, really looks like in others.

We each have our own unique way of talking with God, of walking the journey with Christ and being motivated in life by the Spirit. I know that we often pray the same prayers, worship in the same way, but our relationship can feel sometimes close and personal, distance and abandoned. I wonder whether half the struggle to pray, to connect with the God who loves us, is as much a gift as the days we succeed. Some people are gifted with an enormous ability to reflect their spirituality. Some an enormous ability to struggle in faith, to be resilient, to hang in there, to celebrate the simple miracles or almost unnoticed successes; to have other strengths.

'You have other strengths!' Everything is geared in the Gospels to the two new commandments that Jesus gives us; 'love God, love the neighbour, love yourself! Part of the call then surely as we reflected during Mass last weekend is an ability to recognise that each one of us has been gifted with a unique set of gifts and talents in service of the Kingdom. We are created equal but not the same and for good purpose in the kingdom. The CV and application you were asked to think about putting in writing has at its heart what is that I or you or we bring to serve God's work. Good to recognise that I 'have other strengths' but to name them even better; it is then that I love

my neighbour and I love myself.

Some people are better at compassion, some mercy, some are better at feeding, some better at welcoming, some better at being: 'you have other strengths' to me, or them, or others.

Remember it is St Paul who says that the Body of Christ is a reflective analogy of our own human body that works in unison with the sum of the other parts. The hand doesn't do what the foot does; it has 'other strengths'! The head doesn't do what the heart does but together they become the Body. The head responds and the heart reacts! Somehow it works! Unique but together; each with their own needs and wants, weaknesses and other strengths.

I have other strengths that work in harmony with your other strengths and together we work for the kingdom of God! We are the Body of Christ. St Paul also reminds us that sometimes I have to be weak to recognise what calls me to be strong and what helps me to recognise my need of you and Him.

If you didn't get a chance this week take some time to write what your strengths are as though you were applying for the position of Christian in our Community. It is worth taking the time. You will if you are honest see what you bring to our faith. It will also allow some space for others to bring what they have.

Remember 'You Have Other Strengths!'

Have a great week,

*Greg*

Parish Priest

**Need a new home:** Religious items free to a good home.  
Come to parish office to collect.





## **PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:**

**Recently Deceased:** Ellis Wheeler, Remy Muscat & Anthony Camilleri

**Anniversary:** Rose Muscat

***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, Lawson Rankin, Josephine Camilleri, Zac Gogerly, Junior Soliano, Ann Moreira, Dawn Gander, Win Preston, Ken Vote, Anna Lee, Robyn Thomas, Angela McNamara, Lucilla Bacalla, Denis Wilson, Barry Morrow, Clare McKay, Kath Copas, Bill McElroy, Monica Alkaili, David Ball, Michael Siddle, Ellen Stewart, Rod Milligan, Camille Betar

***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: Sat 5.00pm & Sun 8.00am, 10.00am and 12 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 others who will attend with you, address and contact phone number.
  2. Nominate the Mass you wish to attend.
  3. You can register on behalf of someone else providing that you have asked them.
  4. Your booking can be re-occurring so that you only need to register once.
  5. For re-occurring bookings 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.
  6. You will receive an email or text message on the Friday before the booking to confirm your attendance.
- If there is only a landline available we will only call if you are not able to attend.**

#### **Arrival:**

1. Sanitise your hands as you enter the church.
2. One person needs to sign in on the registration sheet for yourself and those attending with you.
3. Look for the crosses and indicators on the seats where places have been allocated for seating. If you live in the same house or have travelled together you are allowed to sit together.
4. Avoid unnecessary movement around the church.
5. Remember social distancing is still in place and we are asked to maintain the 1.5 metre distancing.

#### **Departure:**

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.

**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.

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

**If you are coming from an area of high COVID-19 transmission** we ask that you consider viewing Mass through our live stream option instead of attending.

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

### **Parish Timetable**

**WEEKDAY MASS**  
26 Oct—31 Oct  
TUE: 4.30pm  
WED: 9.00am  
FRI: 9.30am

<b>Sun 25 Oct</b>	<b>9.30am</b> Franciscan Meeting
<b>Mon 26 Oct</b>	<b>9am</b> Counters— team 3
<b>Tues 27 Oct</b>	<b>9.30am</b> Christian Meditation
<b>Wed 28 Oct</b>	<b>12pm</b> Community Kitchen
<b>Thurs 29 Oct</b>	<b>12pm</b> Community Kitchen

**Diocese of Maitland Newcastle live stream Mass every Sunday at 9.30am** <https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/places/live>

## FACE MASKS FOR SALE

\$10 ea or 3 for \$25.

## Columban Art Calendars on sale for \$8

### What's happening locally...

#### Holy Souls Month

If you would like your loved one's remembered as part of the All Souls' Day Masses you can submit their names either by using the envelopes supplied in the Planned Giving Envelops or by submitting your loved one's name in writing to the Parish Office. Those who have died in the last twelve months, where we celebrated a funeral liturgy in this parish, will be included by the office automatically. Starting on November 1st we invite you to bring in photos of your loved ones who have departed, to place on the windows in the Holy Name Church.

#### 2020 ANNUAL CHURCH APPEAL

Donations can be made by either of the following methods:

Church: place Appeal envelope in 2nd collection box, on Appeal weekend or following weekend. Free Post: complete your donation details & return in reply paid Appeal envelope. Mobile phone: texting GIVE to 0488 854 436 (include your parish name in the notes)



#### New Date for Holy Land Collection

Because the proposed date for the 2020 Holy Lands Collection conflicted with the newly proclaimed Perpetual Day of Remembrance Sunday, the decision was taken to find a new date for this year's collection. The new date proposed is **Sunday 25 October 2020** which is the 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time. Most of the previously distributed resources will still be usable, though there may be a need to change any that contain a reference to the readings of the day. Your support of the collection is appreciated.



## BAPTISMS

This weekend we witness the baptism  
of *Joseph Green*

*May the gift of baptism he receives  
strengthen him for his journey of life  
and faith he will share with us. Please  
remember the Green family in your  
prayers.*

## MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT WEEKEND

Learn to become the best version of  
yourselves together and live your best  
life in love!

**November 20 - 22, 2020 at Mt Carmel  
Retreat Centre, Varroville, NSW**

Book online at [www.wwme.org.au](http://www.wwme.org.au)

Alternatively contact Christine & Terry  
Mahony on 0490 774 419 or [nswbookings@wwme.org.au](mailto:nswbookings@wwme.org.au)

Worldwide Marriage Encounter

If you would like Worldwide Marriage  
Encounter brochures please see  
WWME website at [www.wwme.org.au](http://www.wwme.org.au)

Thank you for your support of the  
Worldwide Marriage Encounter move-  
ment.

In the love of Our Lord, our sincere  
thanks, Fr Mick Court, Tracey and  
Richard Kaldasoun- Unit Coordinators  
and Ecclesial team  
Worldwide Marriage Encounter Austral-  
ia - Eastern Unit  
[www.wwme.org.au](http://www.wwme.org.au)

#### Red Wednesday

On 25 November the Pontifical Founda-  
tion Aid to the Church in Need is asking  
Catholics around the world to commem-  
orate Red Wednesday and pray in soli-  
darity with those who are persecuted  
and suffer unjustly for their faith. Find  
out more: [www.redwednesday.org](http://www.redwednesday.org).

**Tap & Go Machine:** We hope you  
have found the new tap & go machines  
easy and comfortable to use. We cur-  
rently have one set at \$5 and the other  
set at \$10.

## What's happening in the Diocese...

### aMeN caMiNo

You are invited to be a pilgrim on the  
aMeN caMiNo!

Using intervals of the Great North Walk,  
this five-day pilgrimage is a journey  
through the Watagans, around the lake  
and the beautiful Hunter beaches. A  
bush, mountain, beach, city and pub ex-  
perience.

This is a 'M' (Maitland) 'N' (Newcastle)  
Camino for 'e' everyone.! Yes! aMeN!

On the aMeN caMiNo you will encounter  
relationship, story, the grace of God in  
the beautiful landscape of our own back-  
yard. The aMeN caMiNo will stretch your  
body, mind and spirit and provides an  
opportunity of transformation.

If you are interested in joining the aMeN  
caMiNo in 2021, please fill an expression  
of interest form by November 30.

[https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/  
media/4437/31816-dio\\_amen-  
camino\\_flyer-proof01.pdf](https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/media/4437/31816-dio_amen-camino_flyer-proof01.pdf)

**The Diocese of Maitland- Newcastle  
presents a range of free presentations  
and courses this November.**

- Nicholas King SJ presents: Bring-  
ing The Gospel to Life- Wed., 4  
Nov. 6.30pm-8pm
- Communion of Saints: presented  
by the Formation and Education  
team over 4 weeks. Commencing  
Nov 5 to 19. 6.30pm-8pm
- Relationships Matter: presented  
by the Formation and Education  
team. Wed., 11 Nov. 7-8.30pm
- Nicholas King presents: Mark-  
The Strangest Gospel Wed., 18  
Nov. 6.30pm-8pm
- Q & A with Father Anthony Co-  
loma. Wed., 25 Nov. 6.30pm-8pm

To register either scan the QR code or go  
to Adult Faith Formation page on the  
Diocesan website.

[https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-  
mission/catholic-life/  
adult-faith-formation/](https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/adult-faith-formation/)





# Baptisms

Gianne Alvarez-Abalos was baptised on Sun 18 Oct at the Holy Name Church



Abigail Jaison was baptised on Sun 18 Oct at the Holy Name Church





### First Reading

Ex 22:20-26

*A reading from the book of Exodus*

If you are harsh with the widow or the orphan, my anger will rage against you.

The Lord said to Moses, 'Tell the sons of Israel this, "You must not molest the stranger or oppress him, for you lived as strangers in the land of Egypt. You must not be harsh with the widow, or with the orphan; if you are harsh with them, they will surely cry out to me, and be sure I shall hear their cry; my anger will flare and I shall kill you with the sword, your own wives will be widows, your own children orphans.

"If you lend money to any of my people, to any poor man among you, you must not play the usurer with him: you must not demand interest from him.

"If you take another's cloak as a pledge, you must give it back to him before sunset. It is all the covering he has; it is the cloak he wraps his body in; what else would he sleep in? If he cries to me, I will listen, for I am full of pity."

### Responsorial Psalm

Ps 17:2-4. 47. 51. R. v.2

*(R.) I love you, Lord, my strength.*

1. I love you, Lord, my strength,  
my rock, my fortress, my saviour.

My God is the rock where I take refuge;  
my shield, my mighty help, my stronghold.

The Lord is worthy of all praise:

when I call I am saved from my foes. (R.)

2. Long life to the Lord, my rock!

Praised be the God who saves me.

He has given great victories to his king  
and shown his love for his anointed. (R.)

### Second Reading

1 Thes 1:5-10

*A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians*

You turned away from idols to serve God and await his Son.

You observed the sort of life we lived when we were with you, which was for your instruction, and you were led to become imitators of us, and of the Lord; and it was with the joy of the Holy Spirit that you took to the gospel, in spite of the great opposition all round you. This has made you the great example to all believers in Macedonia and Achaia since it was from you that the word of the Lord started to spread – and not only throughout Macedonia and Achaia, for the news of your faith in God has spread everywhere. We do not need to tell other people about it: other people tell us how we started the work among you, how you broke with idolatry when you were converted to God and became servants of the real, living God; and how you are now waiting for Jesus, his Son, whom he raised from the dead, to come from heaven to save us from the retribution which is coming.

### Gospel

Mt 22:34-40

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew*

You shall love the Lord your God and your neighbour as yourself.

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees they got together and, to disconcert him, one of them put a question, 'Master, which is the greatest commandment of the law?' Jesus said, 'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second resembles it: you must love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments hang the whole Law, and the Prophets also.'

### Gospel Reflection by Greg Sunter

Like last week's gospel, we again have an example of the Pharisees seeking to 'catch Jesus out' in his interpretation of scripture. The Pharisees were regarded as the great interpreters of the Torah – the Law. To them, ALL the commandments were vitally important, not just the Ten Commandments given to Moses with which we are perhaps most familiar, but the 613 mitzvot (commandments) contained within the Torah – the first five books of the Bible. These 613 mitzvot governed all aspects of Jewish life. For the Pharisees to ask Jesus about the 'greatest' commandment was a blatant challenge to him. Perhaps they expected Jesus to name one commandment and then they could challenge him with a whole series of 'What about ...?' questions.

Jesus' answer to the Pharisees highlights their preoccupation with the particulars of the Law contained within scripture. In their over-emphasis on the details of religious observance, they have forgotten about the most basic element of faith: to love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and mind. Jesus reminds them that being faithful to God isn't about following precise rules but rather it is simply about loving God. With this one sentence, Jesus undermines the power position of the Pharisees. If the Law is as simple as 'Love God', what need is there of Pharisees to interpret the details of the Law? Having pulled the rug out from under them, Jesus follows up with his reminder that the second most important commandment is to love your neighbour as yourself. This is a call to compassion and justice that Jesus practised freely but was sadly lacking in the religious authorities of his time.



**Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A**  
**Sunday 25 Oct 2020**

**Priest:** Brothers and sisters, the Lord is our fortress and our strength. Let us bring our needs before the God who saves us.

**Reader:** That the Church's life and mission will be built on God's law of love.  
*(pause) In your mercy:*

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

**Reader:** That nations will show compassion for strangers and refugees.  
*(pause) In your mercy:*

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

**Reader:** That those who counsel and care for others will be richly blessed for their work.  
*(pause) In your mercy:*

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

**Reader:** That the community will be attentive to the needs of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged.

*(pause) In your mercy:*

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

**Reader:** That we will show our love of God in the way we deal with others.

*(pause) In your mercy:*

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

**Reader:** That the sick will hold fast to the Lord who is their strength, especially all those in our parish bulletin.

*(pause) In your mercy:*

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

**Reader:** That those who have died will be raised to eternal life, especially Ellis Wheeler, Anthony Camilleri, Rose Muscat & Reny Muscat

*(pause) In your mercy:*

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

**Priest:** Compassionate God, you are a refuge for the poor and helpless. Hear our prayers and place in our hearts the desire to live your commandment of love. We make this prayer 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 TEAM**

**Fr Greg Barker** - Parish Priest  
[gregory.barker@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:gregory.barker@mn.catholic.org.au)  
Emergency Contact 0417 321 209

**Danielle Kingdom**  
Admin Assistant  
[danielle.kingdom@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:danielle.kingdom@mn.catholic.org.au)

### **Office Hours:**

Mon-Fri 9.00am- 3.30pm  
Phone: 6554 6401

### **Website:**

[www.forstertuncurrycatholic.org.au](http://www.forstertuncurrycatholic.org.au)

### **Follow us on facebook:**

[@catholicparishofforstertuncurry](https://www.facebook.com/catholicparishofforstertuncurry)

### **COMMUNITY KITCHEN**

Serving meals to the community from the parish hall  
**Wed & Thurs 12pm-1pm**

### **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

#### **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**

1st Thursday 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



### **SUNDAY MASS TIMES**

Sat 5.00pm  
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**



### **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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