



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 20 December 2020,

Fourth Sunday of Advent-Year B

Dear Parish Family,

My Facebook and other media platforms have been flooded with school end of year celebrations from schools and families I have been associated with over the years. I get quite teary looking at the joy of kids transitioning from one part of the journey to another. It is so nice reading messages of pride and love from parents to or about their kids. I hope what they write for all of us they share with the kids. Many do I am sure, but it is so wonderful to read of the hope they have for their kids.



I love it when you get the starting in Kindergarten photo side by side with the end of year 10 or 12 photo. They look so innocent and naïve in both! I pray every day that nothing tarnishes that innocence or naivety. You can always see the adult they are fully becoming and that is awesome too!



It is interesting that some places have chosen Masses, still others liturgies, and others simply Award ceremonies. I guess it is about meeting a need on the day. One school Zoomed their school band into their awards ceremony. I am glad that most of our Catholic Schools still choose to have the Mass and celebrate fundamentally what keeps us in Communion together. For me anyway it is a sign that we are living with COVID and making choices about what we can do rather than being afraid to do anything.

The schools across Australia have been generally quite creative as they have worked around or through COVID restrictions. I laughed at one staff who prepared their usual end of year song and video highlighting the good and the bad of the year: Holy Rosary Claremont. I suppose having the Cadbury Chocolate factory as a neighbour would add creative inspiration to any team! It would work for me anyway.

It has been nice too to see and hear friends, some who are part of school staffs and others who are clergy, expressing their pride in the young people they have had the privilege to share wisdom, education, good times and challenging times, and most importantly their faith with the kids as they take their next steps. I have had great pleasure in listening to homilies and speeches that have been inspiring, insightful and encouraging. I am blessed with some good, faith filled and wise friends. I am grateful to all of them that we are able to stay in contact even if it is sometimes through Facebook.



I feel like there is a lot more optimism about lately. Certainly, the things I am being sent or see posted have some real joy in them. I think we are doing better living with the challenges that 2020 has been for us and there are real signs that 2021 is being looked to with great hope and expectation.

Faith keeps us hopeful doesn't it. I wonder how those without faith cope with adversity, see good in the challenge and joy in the struggle. What I have loved about all of the celebrations for the end of the education year and the expressions of pride from parents is the real sense that we can face anything, do anything, be anything if we are supported, encouraged, loved and together!

Make sure you tell your children, grandchildren or great grandchildren how proud you are of them and how much you love them! Even when they test or shake your pride and love, even when!

Last Sunday of Advent: make it count!

PS loved the cartoons but couldn't find where they came from.

Kind regards,

Greg

Parish Priest

In the words of Dr Seuss...

**Oh the places you'll go,
Today is your day!
Your mountain is waiting.
So ...get on your way!**

--Dr. Seuss

**You have BRAINS in your HEAD.
You have FEET in your SHOES.
You can STEER yourself in
any DIRECTION you CHOOSE.
-Dr. Seuss**



PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Recently Deceased:

Anniversary: Gavin Surridge & Christine Anne Stimpson

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, Ray Vidler, Rachal, Robert Greig, Lawson Rankin, Josephine Camilleri, Zac Gogeryly, Junior Soliano, Ann Moreira, Dawn Gander, Win Preston, Ken Vote, Anna Lee, Robyn Thomas, Angela McNamara, Lucilla Bacalla, Denis Wilson, Clare McKay, Kath Copas, Bill McElroy, David Ball, Michael Siddle, Ellen Stewart, Rod Milligan, Camille Betar, Joseph Barnett, Mark Campbell, Veronica Bucki, Michelle Perera Byrne

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 week-end and also if you would like to change Mass times.
6. You will then receive an email to confirm your attendance.

We strongly encourage everyone to use the QR code linked to the Service NSW app to check in and out of the church. If you require assistance with this check in process please contact the office and we will help.

Arrival:

1. Sanitise your hands as you enter the church.
2. **Scan the QR code and check in or sign in using the registration sheet.**
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:

1. **Check out in the Service NSW app.**
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.

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.

Important: attendance at any of the Christmas Masses is strictly by registration only. The Christmas Mass times are subject to change depending on COVID-19 restrictions. If you are registered you will be notified of any changes.



Christmas Masses

Vigil 24 Dec	6pm
	8pm
	10pm
Christmas Day 25 Dec	8am
	10am
	12pm

Parish Timetable

WEEKDAY MASS 21 Dec—26 Dec TUE: 4.30pm WED: 9.00am FRI: 9.30am	
Mon 21 Dec	9am Counters— Team 5
Tues 22 Dec	9.30am Christian Meditation 3.30pm Holy Hour
Wed 23 Dec	12pm Community Kitchen
Fri 25 Dec	11.30pm Community Christmas Lunch in hall
Note: Novena group will resume Jan 13th 2021	



BAPTISMS

This weekend we witness the baptism of *Jye Buckley-Stewart*

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

What's happening locally...

CHRISTMAS HAMPERS FOR THE COMMUNITY KITCHEN

Help us help those in need this Christmas. The little you give will go a long way to spread Hope and Joy to those who need it most.

We are hoping to provide the following items which we will pack in Coles or Woolies Christmas bags: You can help by donating \$50 which is the cost of a complete hamper seen in the picture below, or simply donate any of the items listed.

Cereal; long life milk ✓ Tins of ham (Plumrose) ✓ Fruit mince pies; small puddings (Aunt Betty's) ✓ Fruit juice; tins of stewed fruit ✓ Crackers; Jatz; Shapes ✓ Tins of baby potatoes; beetroot ✓ Tins of corn; four bean mix; peas; tomatoes ✓ Tea bags; small jars coffee; hot chocolate ✓ Sugar ✓ Jam; jars of cranberry or apple sauce ✓ Coles or Woolies Christmas bags.

For more information, please contact Sue Abdoo at the Taree Community Kitchen on 6539 5900 or sabdoo@catholiccare.org.au

There will be a community **Christmas lunch** in the parish hall on **Friday 25 Dec.** Doors open at 11.30am. Everyone is welcome. Contact the parish office if you would like to volunteer.



St Vincent de Paul appeal and Giving Tree

We would like to say a heartfelt thank you for your generous donations to our Christmas appeal. The latest tally is \$4600.60 which will be used to provide assistance to those in need in our community.

In addition the toys from the 'Giving Tree' has overwhelmed us enabling us to provide gifts to many more children this Christmas.

On behalf of those many children thank you very much.

Marlene (President) and the local SVDP team

The latest edition of Mission Today, Catholic Mission's biannual newsletter, is available now, and shows the amazing impact of your generosity toward those in need around the world. Go to:

<https://www.catholicmission.org.au/mt2-2020>

In the latest edition Mission Today read about how Australia took the lead in developing a video resource #wearestillhere, facilitating the translation of the subtitles in the video into numerous languages including Japanese, Zulu, Slovenian, Maltese, Arabic as well as the common European languages. Thank you for being here for us as we seek to be there for our mission partners.

I am urgently seeking someone to stay overnight with my elderly father who is in a wheelchair on the 23 - 26 December. They won't need to do any personal support as I have someone coming in to do this. They will only need to sleep over. I will pay them a generous allowance per night. If you know anyone in your church community who may be interested please contact me in 0414928641. Thank you so much for your help with this. I look forward to hearing from you. Best wishes Jennifer



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 or call 4948 6837

What's happening in the Diocese...

Christmas Mass times are up on the Diocese website: <https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/2020-christmas-mass-times/>

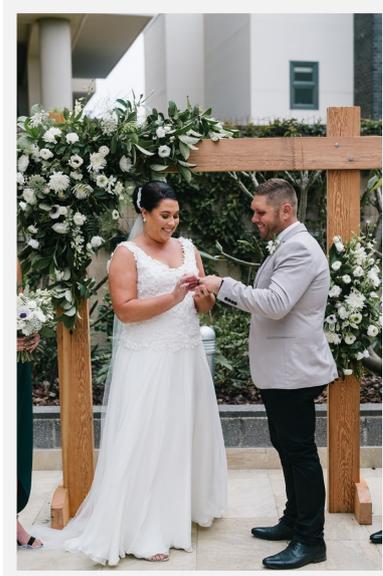
Christmas Mass will also be livestreamed from the Sacred Heart Cathedral at the following times:

- 5:00pm Christmas Eve Vigil Mass**
- Midnight Mass (Christmas Day)**
- 9:30am Christmas Day Mass**

Art Competition:

Artists are invited to create a work based on the themes found in the Social Justice Statement "Live Life to the Full: Mental Health in Australia Today". Works can be 2 or 3 dimensional no larger than 1x1m. Name, title of work, school, parish and phone number clearly labelled on the back. This information plus a 150 word artist statement must accompany the work and be emailed through to rose.mcallister@mn.catholic.org.au before June 19. Exhibition date is Sat 17 Jul at San Clemente High School, Mayfield 2-5pm.

Congratulations to Courtney and Aaron Maloney





First Reading

2 Sm 7:1-5. 8-12. 14. 16

A reading from the second book of Samuel

The kingdom of David will be established for ever in the sight of the Lord.

Once David had settled into his house and the Lord had given him rest from all the enemies surrounding him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'Look, I am living in a house of cedar while the ark of God dwells in a tent'. Nathan said to the king, 'Go and do all that is in your mind, for the Lord is with you.'

But that very night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: 'Go and tell my servant David, "Thus the Lord speaks: Are you the man to build me a house to dwell in? I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be leader of my people Israel; I have been with you on all your expeditions; I have cut off all your enemies before you. I will give you fame as great as the fame of the greatest on earth. I will provide a place for my people Israel; I will plant them there and they shall dwell in that place and never be disturbed again; nor shall the wicked continue to oppress them as they did, in the days when I appointed judges over my people Israel; I will give them rest from all their enemies. The Lord will make you great; the Lord will make you a House. And when your days are ended and you are laid to rest with your ancestors, I will preserve the offspring of your body after you and make his sovereignty secure. I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me and your throne be established for ever."'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 88:2-5. 27. 29. R. see v.2

(R.) For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

1. I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord; through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth.

Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever, that your truth is firmly established as the heavens. (R.)

2. 'I have made a covenant with my chosen one; I have sworn to David my servant:

I will establish your dynasty for ever and set up your throne through all ages.' (R.)

3. He will say to me: 'You are my father, my God, the rock who saves me.'

I will keep my love for him always; for him my covenant shall endure. (R.)

Second Reading

Rom 16:25-27

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

The mystery kept secret for endless ages is now revealed. Glory to him who is able to give you the strength to live according to the Good News I preach, and in which I proclaim Jesus Christ, the revelation of a mystery kept secret for endless ages, but now so clear that it must be broadcast to pagans everywhere to bring them to the obedience of faith. This is only what scripture has predicted, and it is all part of the way the eternal God wants things to be. He alone is wisdom; give glory therefore to him through Jesus Christ for ever and ever. Amen.

Gospel

Lk 1:26-38

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

You will conceive and bear a son.

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. He went in and said to her, 'Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.' She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, 'Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?' 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you' the angel answered 'and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God.' 'I am the handmaid of the Lord,' said Mary 'let what you have said be done to me.' And the angel left her.



Fourth Sunday of Advent Year B
Sunday 20 Dec 2020

Priest: Dear friends, like Mary ever-virgin let us open our hearts to the Lord in prayer.

Reader: That the Holy Church may be obedient to the Father by trusting in God's promise of salvation.

(pause) In your mercy:

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

Reader: That like the Virgin Mary, we may have the grace of certain trust in the Lord.

(pause) In your mercy:

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

Reader: That conflict and war will be silenced and people of all nations may live securely in God.

(pause) In your mercy:

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

Reader: That our parish community will honour Mary as the most blessed Mother of Christ.

(pause) In your mercy:

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

Reader: That the sick who call upon your name may be given life and healing, especially all those in our parish bulletin.

(pause) In your mercy:

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

Reader: That those who have died may share in the eternal life fulfilled by Christ Jesus, especially Gavin Surridge & Christine Anne Stimpson

(pause) In your mercy:

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

Priest: Loving God, through the Virgin Mary we know that nothing is impossible to you. Hear our prayers, and help us to be more like Christ's blessed mother as we serve you with confidence and 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 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

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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