



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 6 December 2020,

Second Sunday of Advent-Year B

Dear Parish Family,

I acknowledge for your prayerful support **Dr Tharshanan Peiris** and **Dr Ashivini Thanabalassingham** who will be in our Church this Saturday (5th December) to be blessed in their life as husband and wife. They were hoping that the COVID restrictions would end sooner rather than later so that they could make the journey back to Sri Lanka to share this event with their family there. Fortunately for us that could not happen. We get as a result to celebrate with them here. And like many events over the last few months the ceremony will be live streamed back to their home country.

My Facebook page at the moment is full of posts from friends whose children are graduating from year 6. Many of these kids I have had the pleasure and privilege of baptising. It is a real joy in some way to be able to share with them this transitional time in their lives and to touch somehow with them the rituals that go with it. Many of my mates have their kids in Catholic schools and I think with some acknowledged prejudice that when we add prayer to the rituals, we add a quality that changes everything. It is transformative even when the kids may not necessarily have the maturity or experience to fully appreciate it. They will I hope, look back and see those times and those days as blessed.

This is well worth sharing over and over.....



"A lie doesn't become truth,
wrong doesn't become right
and evil doesn't become good
just because it's accepted by a
majority."

BOOKER T. WASHINGTON

I was reflecting to our Holy Name year 6s this week at their graduation Mass my personal anxiety over whether we had done enough to prepare them for the next stage of their educational journey: did we give them enough learning, enough challenge and opportunity, enough time to be creative and to use their initiative, enough role modelling, enough space to push boundaries, *enough faith building*. Parents I know ask the same question when their kids finally fly the nest; maybe with that heightened anxiety that is full of 'I hope so'. Have I done enough to get them ready? Do they know enough to come back when they need to? I suppose there is always more to be done. More to be shared. What we do I think is our best and offer it with a great deal of goodwill and good faith.

I ended by asking our year 6s had they done enough to get ready? Had they bought into the opportunities on offer from many good people around them? And really do they feel ready, as scary and unknown as the next stage might be? Thankfully I guess, they humoured me and said yes!

I am often drawn back to a song recorded by Lee Ann Womack and also by Ronan Keating, written by Mark Sanders and Tia Sillers called 'I Hope You Dance.' The words sound so much like a prayer that I can't help sometimes to use it, quietly for our year 6s each year that we say farewell to a group:

*I hope you never lose your sense of wonder,
You get your fill to eat but always keep that hunger,*

*May you never take one single breath for granted,
God forbid love ever leave you empty handed,
I hope you still feel small when you stand beside the ocean,
Whenever one door closes I hope one more opens,
Promise me that you'll give faith a fighting chance,
And when you get the choice to sit it out or dance.
I hope you dance... I hope you dance...*

If you get a chance to look it up do. It is a beautiful song if nothing else.

I am greatly inspired by Dolly Parton. I love her music. I have had the pleasure of seeing her live in concert and hearing from her the fullness of her Christian faith. Can I indulge your patience and share this story with you: 'In 1990, the high school dropout rate for Dolly Parton's hometown of Sevierville Tennessee was at 34% (Research shows that most kids make up their minds in fifth/sixth grade not to graduate). That year, all fifth and sixth graders from Sevier-ville were invited by Parton to attend an assembly at Dollywood. They were asked to pick a buddy, and if both students completed high school, Dolly Parton would personally hand them each a \$500 cheque on their graduation day. As a result, the dropout rate for those classes fell to 6%, and has generally retained that average to this day.

Shortly after the success of The Buddy Program, Parton learned in dealing with teachers from the school district that problems in education often begin during first grade when kids are at different developmental levels. That year The Dollywood Foundation paid the salaries for additional teachers assistants in every first grade class for the next 2 years, under the agreement that if the program worked, the school system would effectively adopt and fund the program after the trial period.

During the same period, Parton founded the Imagination Library in 1995: The idea being that children from her rural hometown and low-income families often start school at a disadvantage and as a result, will be unfairly compared to their peers for the rest of their lives, effectively encouraging them not to pursue higher education. The objective of the Imagination library was that every child in Sevier County would receive one book, every month, mailed and addressed to the child, from the day they were born until the day they started kindergarten, 100% free of charge. What began as a hometown initiative now serves children in all 50 states, Australia, Canada, and the United Kingdom, mailing thousands of free books to children around the world monthly.

On March 1, 2018 Parton donated her 100 millionth book at the Library of Congress: a copy of "Coat of Many Colors" dedicated to her father, who never learned to read or write'.

How important is a kid's ability to engage the written word.



I saw a little a far side joke once which said something like: 'may the blue bird of happiness sit on your shoulder rather than the chicken of sadness'. Keep smiling as you battle the Stockland crowds and the traffic on the bridge!

Kind regards,

Greg

Parish Priest

"I realize that some people are hesitant and fearful with regard to migrants. I consider this part of our natural instinct of self-defence. Yet it is also true that an individual and a people are only fruitful and productive if they are able to develop a creative openness to others." **(Fratelli Tutti: No. 41 Pope Francis)**



PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Recently Deceased: Hans Bom, Arthur Tidyman, Wally Baker & Colin John Scard

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, 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, Monica Alkaili, David Ball, Michael Siddle, Ellen Stewart, Rod Milligan, Camille Betar, Joseph Barnett, Mark Campbell, Veronica Bucki, Michelle Perera Byrne, Gavin McCabe

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: f o r s t e r - 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 then receive an email to confirm your attendance.

Arrival:

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.

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 7 Dec—12 Dec TUE: NO MASS WED: 9.00am FRI: NO MASS	
Mon 7 Dec	9am Counters— Team 3
Tues 8 Dec	9.30am Christian Meditation 3.30pm Holy Hour
Wed 9 Dec	12pm Community Kitchen
Thurs 10 Dec	12pm Community Kitchen

FACE MASKS FOR SALE

\$10 ea or 3 for \$25.

Columban Art Calendars on sale for \$8

Adore Advent & Christmas Daily Reflections 2020 books from the Catholic Diocese of Woollongong are now on sale for \$3.50 each

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

Christmas Luncheon

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.



Christmas Window Spruce Up

If you have some spare time and can provide your own window cleaning gear, please join in the Christmas Window Cleaning Campaign at Holy Name Church between 9am and 10:30am on Saturday, 12th December. Even if you can join in for just half an hour, every little bit of time will go a long way. Morning tea will be provided.

COVID rules such as social distancing will be in place.

If you can assist, please ring the Parish Office on 6554 6401, and leave your name. Thank you.

Do you have 'tried and true' family recipes that you might like to share with the community as we get ready for Christmas and the New Year? If we get enough, I will put together a Parish Recipe Book. One of my favourites is lemonade scones!!! What are yours? Any tips on basting a turkey? Glazing a ham? Roasting potatoes? I cook silver-side with white vinegar and fruit flavoured cordial with ground and whole cloves across the meat!

Fr Greg



Young Adult Ministry: Pints with a Purpose- The Amazing Race

Pints with a Purpose returns on Monday night with Therese Mills & Judy Bowe from the Missionaries of God's Love. Join us as they speak about their passion for sharing the love of Jesus with young people and their experiences on reality TV in their time on The Amazing Race.

Date: Monday December 7

Start: 7.00pm

Zoom Meeting ID: 927 9639 8878

Password: 555777

Free events this December

This Advent we invite you to two different experiences which we hope to connect individuals, groups, parishes from all corners within the Diocese from the comfort of your own home.

Praying the Gospels this Advent

You are invited to join the Advent online Praying the Gospels group. This group was established at the beginning of Church closures and is still going strong and growing in number. The group reflects on the Gospel using Lectio and Visio Divina.

The group meet each Wednesday at 5pm until 5.45pm.

<https://mncatholic.zoom.us/j/92777151360>

Password: Prayer

Adventus: Joining a hope that has come

The second opportunity is viewing the 35 minute film Adventus and reflecting on the messages from theologians and practitioners who have offered their thoughts on Advent, a season of being remade in the dark. Film voices include: Walter Brueggemann, Kelly Brown Douglas, Stanley Hauerwas, Rudy Rasmus, Parker Palmer, Fleming Rutledge, Nadia Bolz-Weber, Ilija Delio, Emilie Townes, James Alison, Richard Rohr, Marlon Hall, Wm Paul Young, Brené Brown, and Jürgen Moltmann.

D a t e s :

- Wednesday 2nd Dec- 3pm- 4pm

- Wednesday 9th Dec- 9.30am-10.30am

- Wednesday 16th Dec-6.30pm- 7.30pm

- Wednesday 23rd Dec- 1.30pm- 2.30pm

To register for this free event go to:

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/adventus-tickets-130157742311> or go to

Adult Faith Formation page on the Diocesan website:

<https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/adult-faith-formation/>

A reflection guide and Zoom link will be emailed to you before the viewing.

Photos that were displayed in the church throughout November can be collected from a table at the side of the church



My favourite Christmas Cake - easy to make

Margaret Guider

NEW TRADITION FRUIT CAKE

125g sultanas, raisins, dates, glace pineapple, glace apricots, red cherries.

60g glace ginger

3 eggs

3/4 cup loose brown sugar

1tspn vanilla

1 tblspn rum or brandy

125g butter

1/3 cup plain & SR flour

90g pecans

Grease 20cm ring tin. Line with greaseproof. Chop dates/fruit roughly

Beat eggs until fluffy, Add sugar, vanilla & rum. Add butter (room temperature)

Stir in sifted flours & fruit.

Spread into tin and decorate with pecans.

Bake in slow oven 1 1/2 to 1 3/4 hrs



My First Christmas in Heaven

I see the countless Christmas trees around the world below
with thy lights like heavens stars reflecting on the snow
the sight is so spectacular please wipe away the tears
For I am spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year
I hear the many Christmas songs that people hold so dear
But the sounds of music can't compare with the Christmas choir here
I have no words to tell you the joy their voices bring
For it is beyond description to hear the angels sing
I know how much you miss me I see the pain inside your heart,
but I am not so far away we really aren't apart
so be happy for me dear ones you know I hold you dear and I am
glad I'm spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year
I sent you each a special gift from my heavenly home above
I sent you each a memory of my undying love
After all love is a gift more precious than pure gold
It was always more important in the stories Jesus told
please love and keep each other as father said to do
For I can't count the blessing or love he has for each of you
so have a merry Christmas and wipe away the tears
Remember I am spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year



First Reading

Is 40:1-5. 9-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Prepare the way for the Lord.

'Console my people, console them'
says your God.

'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem
and call to her

that her time of service is ended,
that her sin is atoned for,
that she has received from the hand of the Lord
double punishment for all her crimes.'

A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness
a way for the Lord.

Make a straight highway for our God
across the desert.

Let every valley be filled in,
every mountain and hill be laid low,
let every cliff become a plain,
and the ridges a valley;
then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed
and all mankind shall see it;
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

Go up on a high mountain,
joyful messenger to Zion.

Shout with a loud voice,
joyful messenger to Jerusalem.

Shout without fear,
say to the towns of Judah,
'Here is your God.'

Here is the Lord coming with power,
his arm subduing all things to him.

The prize of his victory is with him,
his trophies all go before him.

He is like a shepherd feeding his flock,
gathering lambs in his arms,
holding them against his breast
and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

Responsorial Psalm

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

(R.) Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

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

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

2 Pt 3:8-14

A reading from the second letter of St Peter

We wait for new heavens and a new earth.

There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget: that with the Lord, 'a day' can mean a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow to carry out his promises, as anybody else might be called slow; but he is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to be brought to change his ways. The Day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then with a roar the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart, the earth and all that it contains will be burnt up.

Since everything is coming to an end like this, you should be living holy and saintly lives while you wait and long for the Day of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in flames and the elements melt in the heat. What we are waiting for is what he promised: the new heavens and new earth, the place where righteousness will be at home. So then, my friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace.

Gospel

Mk 1:1-8

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

Make straight the paths of the Lord.

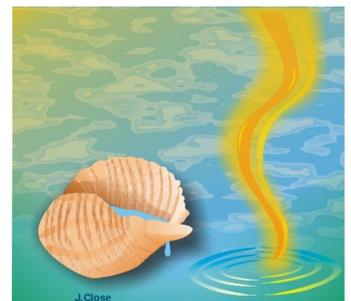
The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah:

Look, I am going to send my messenger before you;
he will prepare your way.

A voice cries in the wilderness:

Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight,

and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'



Second Sunday of Advent B
Sunday 06 Dec 2020

Priest: Dear friends, let us bring our prayers before the Lord, who is our hope and our salvation.

Reader: That our Holy Father Pope Francis will be a sign for all the world of Christ's presence in our midst .

(pause) In your mercy:

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

Reader: That through Christ's coming, priests and bishops will be renewed in their dedication of service to the people of God.

(pause) In your mercy:

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

Reader: That the poor and lowly may discover God's great deeds and be filled with the joy of his love.

(pause) In your mercy:

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

Reader: That like John the Baptist, our parish community may share the Salvation of God with all people in our lives.

(pause) In your mercy:

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

Reader: That those who are sick will find deliverance from their suffering, especially all those in our parish bulletin.

(pause) In your mercy:

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

Reader: That those who have died will share in the eternal salvation of God, especially Hans Bom, Arthur Tidyman, Wally Baker & Colin John Scard

(pause) In your mercy:

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

Priest: Lord God, the coming of our Saviour was foretold by the prophets. Hear our prayers, and help us to build a straight path for our Lord by embracing your will for our world through Jesus. 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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