



Bridgeside Bulletin



The weekly Bulletin of the Catholic Parish of Forster Tuncurry

"Unity in Christ"

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

SUNDAY 29 AUGUST 2021,

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR B

Dear Brothers and Sisters.

As I sit down to write this I am struck by how sad I am about the continuation of the lock down. It is difficult to be in lock down. It is hard that because of restrictions I was not able to see my Grandmother on her 90th birthday a few weeks back. It is hard that next weekend I will not be able to be with my family as my parents mark their 50th wedding anniversary. It is hard not seeing my friends in Newcastle and Sydney. It is hard not being able to visit my brother and his family in the ACT. It is hard waiting for 11am each day to hear what the number of sick is and it is hard waiting to see how many have died. Yet, I am struck at how lucky we are to live in this beautiful part of the world. As I sat saying my morning prayers this morning I could hear the birds outside, it was quite delightful. I looked out the window and saw people walking their dogs and others jogging, people out in the fresh air exercising, families enjoying the company of their loved ones. Lock down seemed slightly less difficult. As hard as it is here in Forster to have lock down extended until the 10th of September, please remember those in other parts of the state who have been in lockdown since June. Please pray for those who have not been able to receive the Sacraments for so long. It is a hard thing to not be able to receive Jesus in Holy Communion. Please know that Mass is still being said each day, we are still all able to pray for each other. We are all able to reach out to those who are lonely, a phone call, a text message, or even an old fashioned letter can be enough to brighten some ones lock down. Public Masses will resume as soon as we are able to do so. So too, will the Sacrament of Confession.

This morning came the news of the terrorist attack in Kabul airport in Afghanistan. It is quite simply horrendous. Please pray for the people affected. Please pray for Afghanistan. Last week Fr. Greg Barker came up with the idea of lighting a candle on 3 consecutive nights, the first one was for the women and children of Afghanistan, the second for the Veterans of the war in Afghanistan and the third was for the Christians and people of any faith in Afghanistan. Fr. Greg, suggested lighting these candles at 6pm. I did this each of the 3 nights. I did this as an act of prayer, I did it in solidarity with Fr. Greg and others who had taken up the idea. As I did it I realized that my candle, small as it was, lessened the darkness as the evening fell. The small things matter! What can I do for the people of Afghanistan? I can lovingly offer my prayers for a start. What can I do for the people in lock down? I can lovingly offer my prayers for a start. My prayers are small and meager, but if a candle I light can lessen the darkness, then just imagine what the prayers we offer to God can do. It is not for us to know their effect.

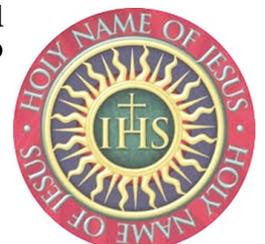
Please continue to pray for Bishop Bill, he remains in hospital and is still unwell. He is however, heartened by our love and prayers.

From Monday the 6th of September, the community kitchen will operate 4 days a week. If anybody is able to volunteer their time to assist that would be of immense help to this important ministry of both our Parish and Catholic Care. Donations are still being accepted for the kitchen and also for the Parish food bank. It is worth noting that on average there are 25-30 people who receive meals each day that the kitchen runs. Catholic Care have also asked if people could start donating non-perishable food items for their Christmas hampers. Please keep an ear out for further information regarding this and also the St Vincent De Paul Christmas appeal.

On the 12th of September the diocese will mark the Perpetual Day of Remembrance. As we draw nearer to this date please continue to pray for those people who have been hurt in such a dreadful way by the criminal, evil and sinful actions by some in the Church. As a community let us work together to ensure that this can never ever happen again. As a community let us surround with our prayers those who have been hurt, and commit ourselves do what we can to help those affected.

With love.

Fr. Peter.



Parish Timetable

WEEKDAY MASS

30 AUG—4 SEP

All Masses have been cancelled for the duration of lockdown

Tue 31 AUG	12pm Community Kitchen
Wed 1 SEP	12pm Community Kitchen
Thu 2 SEP	12pm Community Kitchen

Parish Notices

A lockbox has been placed outside the parish office for letters, offerings and planned giving envelopes to be slipped into while the parish office remains closed. Fr Peter will check the box regularly.

Fr Peter's mobile number has been updated on the back of the bulletin. You are now able to contact him in emergencies with this number.

Lectio Divina, praying with the Scriptures, which was meant to commence on the first Wednesday in September has been postponed.

Vinnies Winter Appeal: The total amount banked from the Winter Appeal is \$2,681.70. We at the Holy Name conference would like to extend our deep gratitude to all who gave so generously to our appeal. That money will go towards helping our local people who are struggling during these difficult times. *Marlene- President, Holy Name conference.*

How You Can Contribute To Your Parish

Thank you to those parishioners who have setup regular contributions to our parish. This is a great support to our clergy and church. Please consider if your household can afford to contribute – any amount would be greatly appreciated. Those who are envelope planned givers can easily transfer to electronic payments. If you would like to set up an electronic payment which will cover both your first and second collection donations please email forster-tuncurry.parish@mn.catholic.org.au and Danielle will assist you.

Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor

The Bishops' Social Justice Statement 2021-22: Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor, affirms that "we human beings need a change of heart, mind, and behaviour". It draws from Scripture, from the theological tradition, from Catholic Social Teaching, and from the wisdom of the world, including the insights of the First Nations. The Social Justice Statement 2021-22 provides theological foundations to ground and inspire efforts to care for creation while responding to the needs of the disadvantaged and excluded. The Statement reflects on creation in and through the Trinity; the sacramentality of all created things; the wonder and beauty available to the contemplative eye; and the need for conversion and change of life. In the Statement, the Bishops invite the whole Catholic community to join them in taking up Pope Francis' invitation to a seven-year journey towards total ecological sustainability, guided by seven Laudato Si' Goals. These Goals are: response to the cry of the earth; response to the cry of the poor; ecological economics; sustainable lifestyles; ecological spirituality; ecological education; and community engagement and participatory action. The Statement especially encourages Catholic families, communities and organisations to: listen to the First Nations; reflect on the theological foundations offered in Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor; and plan their next steps towards the Laudato Si' Goals. Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor will be a useful resource throughout our seven-year journey to total sustainability. <https://socialjustice.catholic.org.au/2021/06/24/social-justice-statement-2021-22/>

Virtual Conference by Catholic Mission

Catholic Mission will helping present an online gathering on mission and evangelisation. **Called Mission: One Heart, Many Voices** (MOH MV), it will be offered from **Wednesday, September 1 to Friday, September 3.**

For those struggling to feel spiritually nourished by the lack of worship and Eucharist, at this time, MOH MV, may be a wonderful opportunity to come together, albeit online, and explores matters of faith and spirituality.

<https://2021.mohmv.com.au/>

THE LATEST NEWS FROM OUR SAFEGUARDING PROMOTERS

The **Promoters of Safeguarding** continue to endorse a culture of safeguarding within the Parish. So, in preparation for **National Child Protection Week** (5th-11th September 2021), we are raising awareness about protecting the rights of children and preventing child abuse. This is a job for everyone in our community through educating ourselves about how to have a child-safe environment by monitoring them, listening to them, believing them, speaking up if you believe something is unsafe.

To this end, we are sharing with parents, grandparents and community members, the following top 10 internet safety rules:

- **Do not** communicate your address nor personal information online.
- Maintain **privacy settings** when accessing major websites such as Facebook.
- Practice **safe browsing** – avoid dubious websites as these could share your personal information or infect your device with malware.
- Ensure your internet **connection is secure** (not a public WiFi connection) before you provide details of your bank accounts.
- Be mindful that downloads can try to **steal information** or contain **malware** (software intentionally designed to cause damage to a computer or client) which can be disguised in innocent-looking apps such as games, traffic reports or weather.
- Choose a **strong password** that is unique and complex – at least 15 characters with a mix of letters, numbers and special characters (eg. !@#\$%^&*).
- Make online purchases from **secure websites** – those with addresses which commence with a **padlock symbol** next to the address bar or commence with **https:** (the 's' stands for 'secure') rather than those that commence with **http:**
- Be careful what you **post online** – any comment or image posted may remain online forever because removing what you posted does not remove whatever someone else has already copied.
- Be careful of who you **meet online** – they may not always be who the claim to be.
- Keep your **antivirus program** up to date – internet security software can prevent and remove most malware.

Saints and Feasts



29TH AUGUST, THE PASSION OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, most scholars agree that John baptised Jesus. Scholars generally believe Jesus was a follower or disciple of John and several New Testament accounts report that some of Jesus' early followers had previously been followers of John. John the Baptist is also mentioned by Jewish historian Josephus. Some scholars maintain that John was influenced by the semi-ascetic Essenes, who expected an apocalypse and practiced rituals corresponding strongly with baptism, although no direct evidence substantiates this. According to the New Testament, John anticipated a messianic figure greater than himself, and Jesus was the one whose coming John foretold. Christians commonly refer to John as the precursor or forerunner of Jesus, since John announces Jesus' coming. John is also identified with the prophet Elijah. In the gospel account of John's death, Herod has John imprisoned for denouncing his incestuous marriage, and later executes John by beheading. John condemned Herod for marrying Herodias (who was not only his brother Philip's former wife but also Herod's niece) in violation of Old Testament law. Later Herodias's daughter (traditionally thought to be Salome, who was Herod's grand-

niece and stepdaughter) dances before Herod, who offers her a favour in return. Herodias tells her to ask for the head of John the Baptist, which is delivered to her on a plate (Mark 6:14-29).

3RD SEPTEMBER Gregory the Great was born in Rome in 540 AD. He used his own money to establish monasteries in Rome and Sicily, and eventually became a monk himself at the age of 35. In 590 AD, he became the first monk to be elected pope and the first pope to take the name Gregory. He was known as a great statesman and is accounted the fourth of the great Latin doctors of the church. His influence on church music gave rise to plainsong becoming known as Gregorian chant. Gregory the Great was the father of the medieval papacy, and he was instrumental in helping Western Europe rise from the ashes of the fallen Roman Empire. He referred to himself as "the servant of the servants of God", a term which the popes have used ever since.



Ordinary Time

Ordinary Time is the period in which God reveals to us the face of Christ through the eyes of Matthew, Mark and Luke. In the 33 (sometimes 34) Sundays of Ordinary Time, some of which occur between Christmas and Lent (depending on the date set for Easter) and the remainder after Pentecost, we get on with the day-to-day faithful living of the Gospel. The difference is that whereas the other Seasons of the Liturgy are focussed on one major faith event, Ordinary Time simply follows the Gospels. During this period, we hear a semi-continuous proclamation of the Scriptures over the 3- year cycle. It's as if the evangelists are our guides. Each year, one of them will lead us deeper into the mystery of the mission of Christ in the world.

In Year A: We meet Jesus the great teacher as introduced by Matthew. In Matthew's gospel, we find Christ actively present through the Church and the Sacraments.

In Year B: Mark shows us the mystery of Christ as truly divine and truly human – Son of God and Son of Man. Mark calls us into a response of faith by which we radically choose to leave all to follow Christ and become willing to share our conviction with others.

In Year C: The 'social' gospel of Luke lays before us the practical meaning of following Christ. Luke outlines the role of the disciple and the cost of discipleship in our loving response to the needy and the outcast of society. Luke assures us that the Holy Spirit is always with us as we try to become Good News for our world.

Where, then, is the gospel of John? While there is no 'year' of John, the Church reflects each year on John's gospel during the Christmas and Easter cycles. John's gospel gives us a deeper appreciation of the meaning of the birth, death and resurrection of Jesus. He teaches us that Christ is the very source of our life in God.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:



Recently Deceased: Br. John May sj & Geoffrey Croft

Anniversary: Garry Harnish & Francina Sullivan

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, Barry Bolton, Rachal, Lawson Rankin, Ann Moreira, Dawn Gander, Win Preston, Ken Vote, Anna Lee, Robyn Thomas, Angela McNamara, Lucilla Bacalla, Denis Wilson, Kath Copas, Bill McElroy, David Ball, Michael Siddle, Camille Betar, Michelle Perera Byrne, Ruth Morrow, Michelle Roet, Patricia Winston, Bill Hartmann, Joe Barnett, David Stewart, Pip West, Charmaine Brown, Terry McBride, Connie Cachia, Helen Lawler, Mary Gleeson

*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.*

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR B

- Fr:** Brothers and sisters, with confidence in God's love and mercy let us intercede for the world.
- Reader:** That with a pure heart, the Church will observe the commandments of the Lord. In your mercy:
- All:** **Lord hear our prayer.**
- Reader:** That governments will be guided by God's law and promote justice and fairness. In your mercy:
- All:** **Lord hear our prayer.**
- Reader:** That the people of Afghanistan may be helped by the international community. In your mercy:
- All:** **Lord hear our prayer.**
- Reader:** That those who live by deceit and dishonesty will change their ways and live in the truth. In your mercy:
- All:** **Lord hear our prayer.**
- Reader:** That victims of evil and abuse will be shown kindness and compassion. In your mercy:
- All:** **Lord hear our prayer.**
- Reader:** That the sick will find healing and comfort, including Bishop William Wright and those listed in our bulletin. In your mercy:
- All:** **Lord hear our prayer.**
- Reader:** That the homeless in our community may be helped by our generosity. In your mercy:
- All:** **Lord hear our prayer.**
- Reader:** That those around the world affected by the pandemic may know the healing love of Christ. In your mercy:
- All:** **Lord hear our prayer.**
- Reader:** That we will remove obstacles that prevent us from conforming our lives to Jesus Christ. In your mercy:
- All:** **Lord hear our prayer.**
- Reader:** That the faithful departed will reach their eternal reward, including Br. John May sj, Geoffrey Croft, Garry Harnish & Francina Sullivan. In your mercy:
- All:** **Lord hear our prayer.**
- Fr:** Father of justice and mercy, your law guides our hearts in the path of holiness. Hear our prayers and may our words be matched by our loving deeds. We make this prayer in Jesus' name . **All: Amen.**

Sunday 29 Aug 2021 Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

Entrance Antiphon

Cf. Ps 85:3,5

Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long.

O Lord, you are good and forgiving, full of mercy to all who call to you.

First Reading

Dt 4:1-2. 6-8

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy
Moses said to the people: 'Now, Israel, take notice of the laws and customs that I teach you today, and observe them, that you may have life and may enter and take possession of the land that the Lord the God of your fathers is giving you. You must add nothing to what I command you, and take nothing from it, but keep the commandments of the Lord your God just as I lay them down for you. Keep them, observe them, and they will demonstrate to the peoples your wisdom and understanding. When they come to know of all these laws they will exclaim, "No other people is as wise and prudent as this great nation." And indeed, what great nation is there that has its gods so near as the Lord our God is to us whenever we call to him? And what great nation is there that has laws and customs to match this whole Law that I put before you today?'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 14:2-5. R. v.1

(R.) The just will live in the presence of the Lord.

1. Lord, who shall dwell on your holy mountain? He who walks without fault; he who acts with justice and speaks the truth from his heart. (R.)

2. He who does no wrong to his brother, who casts no slur on his neighbour, who holds the godless in disdain, but honours those who fear the Lord. (R.)

3. He who keeps his pledge, come what may; who takes no interest on a loan and accepts no bribes against the innocent. Such a man will stand firm for ever. (R.)

Second Reading

Jas 1:17-18, 21-22, 27

A reading from the letter of St James
It is all that is good, everything that is perfect, which is given us from above; it

comes down from the Father of all light; with him there is no such thing as alteration, no shadow of a change. By his own choice he made us his children by the message of the truth so that we should be a sort of first-fruits of all that he had created.

Accept and submit to the word which has been planted in you and can save your souls. But you must do what the word tells you, and not just listen to it and deceive yourselves.

Pure, unspoilt religion, in the eyes of God our Father is this: coming to the help of orphans and widows when they need it, and keeping oneself uncontaminated by the world.

Gospel Acclamation

Jas 1:18

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Father gave us birth by his message of truth, that we might be as the first fruits of his creation.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Mk 7:1-8. 14-15. 21-23

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

The Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered round Jesus, and they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with unclean hands, that is, without washing them. For the Pharisees, and the Jews in general, follow the tradition of the elders and never eat without washing their arms as far as the elbow; and on returning from the market place they never eat without first sprinkling themselves. There are also many other observances which have been handed down to them concerning the washing of cups and pots and bronze dishes. So these Pharisees and scribes asked him, 'Why do your disciples not respect the tradition of the elders but eat their food with unclean hands?' He answered, 'It was of you hypocrites that Isaiah so rightly prophesied in this passage of scripture:

This people honours me only with lip-service, while their hearts are far from me. The worship they offer me is worthless, the doctrines they teach are only human regulations.

You put aside the commandment of God to cling to human traditions.'

He called the people to him again and said, 'Listen to me, all of you, and under-

stand. Nothing that goes into a man from outside can make him unclean; it is the things that come out of a man that make him unclean. For it is from within, from men's hearts, that evil intentions emerge: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, malice, deceit, indecency, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within and make a man unclean.'

Communion Antiphon

Mt 5:9-10

Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they shall be called children of God.
Blessed are they who are persecuted for
the sake of righteousness,
for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.

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Readings for Next Week 4/5 Sep

First Reading

Is 35:4-7 God comes with vindication.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 145:7-10. R. v.1 (R.) Praise the Lord, my soul!

Second Reading

Jas 2:1-5 Do not judge by appearance.

Gospel Acclamation

cf. Mt 4:23 Alleluia, alleluia! Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom and healed all who were sick. Alleluia!

Gospel

Mk 7:31-37 Jesus heals the deaf man.

THE ORDER OF MASS

THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen. either:

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And with your spirit.** or:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. **And with your spirit.** or:

The Lord be with you. **And with your spirit.**

PENITENTIAL ACT

Brethren (brothers and sisters), let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries. either:

I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, through my fault, through my fault, (striking the breast) through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life. **Amen.** or:

Have mercy on us, O Lord.

For we have sinned against you.

Show us, O Lord, your mercy.

And grant us your salvation.

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life. **Amen.** or:

You were sent to heal the contrite of heart:

P: Lord, have mercy or: **P:** Kyrie, eleison.

R: Lord, have mercy or: **R:** Kyrie, eleison.

You came to call sinners:

P: Christ have mercy or: **P:** Christe, eleison.

R: Christ have mercy or: **R:** Christe, eleison.

You are seated at the right hand of the Father to intercede for us:

P: Lord, have mercy or: **P:** Kyrie, eleison.

R: Lord, have mercy or: **R:** Kyrie, eleison.

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life. **Amen.**

The Kyrie follows, unless it has occurred in the Penitential Act. either:

P: Lord, have mercy. **R:** Lord, have mercy.

P: Christ, have mercy. **R:** Christ, have mercy.

P: Lord, have mercy. **R:** Lord, have mercy.

or:

P: Kyrie, eleison.

R: Kyrie, eleison.

P: Christe, eleison.

R: Christe, eleison.

P: Kyrie, eleison.

R: Kyrie, eleison.

Gloria (when said)

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Let us pray. At the end of the Collect, the people acclaim: **Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

At the end of the reading:

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

At the Gospel:

The Lord be with you. **And with your spirit.**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to N.

Glorify to you, O Lord.

At the end of the Gospel:

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

THE NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, (all bow) and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come

again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, (all bow) born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Pray, brethren ... the almighty Father.

May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of His name, for our good and the good of all His holy Church.

At the end of the prayer, the people acclaim:
Amen.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord be with you. **And with your spirit.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right and just.**

After the Preface

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

The mystery of faith. either:

We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again. or:

When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again. or:

**Save us, Saviour of the world,
for by your Cross and Resurrection
you have set us free.**

Through him, and with him, ... for ever and ever.
Amen.

THE COMMUNION RITE

At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

Our Father, who art in heaven...

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil...

For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and forever.

Lord Jesus Christ, who said to your Apostles...

Who live and reign for ever and ever.

Amen.

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And with your spirit.

Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. (X2)

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

The Body of Christ. **Amen.**

The Blood of Christ. **Amen.**

Let us pray. At the end of the prayer, the people acclaim:
Amen.

THE CONCLUDING RITES

The Lord be with you. **And with your spirit.**

May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the † Son, and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

either:

Go forth, the Mass is ended. or:

Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord. or:

Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your Life. or:

Go in peace.

Thanks be to God.

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SCRIPTURE COMMENTARY

by Brendan Byrne SJ

Today's Gospel takes us straight into the rather sensitive issue of Jesus' attitude to the Jewish law. I say 'sensitive' because it is so easy for Christians to separate Jesus from his Jewish heritage and portray him as "one of us" and not one of 'them'.

Jesus would have read with pride and appreciation the praise of the Law set out in the First Reading, Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-8, and understood it to be what the Hebrew word 'Torah', which we inadequately translate 'law', really means: not primarily a legal code but 'a light that shows the way'. Like a torch that lights up a path on a dark night, for Jewish people the Torah is a body of wisdom and enlightenment showing how to live as the covenant people of God.

It is important then to understand that Jesus is not critical of the Jewish law as such. What he challenges is the addition to it of further prescriptions and customs that were not part of the original revelation and which in his view could sometimes work against its true purpose.

These traditions were particularly preserved and guarded by the Pharisees. Again, let us not be too hard on this group. They were historically a lay group who sought to help the Jewish people live out their vocation to be the 'holy people of God' (Lev 20:26) in the mixed society which was the Palestine of Jesus' day. This sense of 'holiness' was reinforced through a host of washings and other rituals of cleanliness which were obligatory after contact with outsiders in the market and other public spheres. In due course the rituals of holiness originally intended only for the priests and levites came to be extended to the people as a whole. Observing them they could live out their high vocation to be a 'nation of priests' in the world (cf. Exod 19:6).

The intention, then, was good but, as so often happens with religious tradition, attention can be focused on the external rituals to the neglect of the inner conversion of heart central to all relationship with God. When Jesus criticises the Pharisees on this score he is not really bringing something radically new but standing within a firm prophetic tradition, shown by his quotation of Isa 29:13: 'This people honours me with their lips but their hearts are far from me' (v. 6). For him everything goes back to the heart. No amount of external ritual is of any use if it obscures or distorts the primary truth that holiness is ultimately about conversion of heart.

The body of traditions which the Pharisees had erected around the basic Torah suggested that 'uncleanness' was something that came from outside and threatened to defile the basic holiness of the people of God. Therefore, it had to be warded off by washings and other rituals.

Jesus clearly had a different view of the way holiness 'worked'. Holiness belongs essentially to God. Human holiness came from being in contact with God – something that begins in the heart. Jesus, who was supremely in contact with God, went about touching 'unclean' persons like lepers and associating with 'tax collectors and sinners'. He did not 'catch' uncleanness from them, as though it were a contagious disease. Rather, the 'flow' was the other way round: they 'caught' holiness and healing from him. Drawn into the sphere of holiness constituted by his person, they were restored to full citizenship in the holy people of God.

The Pharisees could do nothing with people considered 'unholy' like this, save try to keep them at a distance. Jesus understood true holiness to be essentially inclusive rather than exclusive. It had to do with God's reaching out rather than withdrawing to a sacred inner space.

So, Jesus insists, since holiness is primarily a matter of the heart, if you want to know whether a person is holy or not, see what comes out of their heart. The list of vices towards the end of the reading is a kind of check-list – to which we could probably add a few more examples relevant for our time. By the same token, on the positive side, we could think of virtues that would demonstrate true holiness of heart.

In a sense James does this in the Second Reading (James 1:17-18, 21-22, 27) when he virtually gives a definition of 'pure, undefiled religion' as 'coming to the aid of orphans and widows in their distress, and to keeping oneself unstained by the world'. The final phrase may seem a bit at odds with what I have been suggesting about Jesus. But what James means I think is preserving oneself not from contact with people but from an undiscerning acceptance of the values of the world.

POPE FRANCIS
ANGELUS
Saint Peter's Square
Sunday, 22 August 2021

Dear brothers and sisters, buongiorno!

The Gospel of today's liturgy (Jn 6:60-69) shows us the reaction of the crowd and the disciples to Jesus' discourse following the multiplication of the loaves. Jesus invited them to interpret that sign and believe in Him, who is the true bread come down from heaven, the bread of life; and He revealed that the bread He will give is His body and blood. These words sound harsh and incomprehensible to the ears of the people, so much so that, from that moment, the Gospel says, many of His disciples turn back; that is, they stop following the Master (vv. 60, 66). Then Jesus asks the Twelve: "Do you also wish to go away?" (v. 67), and Peter, on behalf of the whole group, confirms their decision to stay with Him: "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life; and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God" (Jn 6:68-69). And it is a beautiful confession of faith.

Let us look briefly at the attitude of those who withdrew and did not follow Jesus any more. Where does this disbelief come from? What is the reason for this rejection?

Jesus' words enkindled great scandal: He was saying that God decided to manifest Himself and accomplish salvation in the weakness of human flesh. It is the mystery of incarnation. The incarnation of God is what provoked scandal and presented an obstacle for those people - but often for us too. Indeed, Jesus affirms that the true bread of salvation, which transmits eternal life, is His very flesh; that to enter into communion with God, before observing the laws or satisfying religious precepts, it is necessary to live out a real and concrete relationship with Him. Because salvation came from Him, in His incarnation. This means that one must not pursue God in dreams and in images of grandeur and power, but He must be recognised in the humanity of Jesus and, as a consequence, in that of the brothers and sisters we meet on the path of life. God made Himself flesh. And when we say this, in the Creed, on Christmas Day, on the day of the Annunciation, we kneel to worship this mystery of incarnation. God made Himself flesh and blood; He lowered himself to the point of becoming a man like us. He humbled Himself to the extent of burdening Himself with our sufferings and sin, and therefore He asks us to not seek Him outside life and history, but in relationship with Christ and with our brothers and sisters. Seeking Him in life, in history, in our daily life. And this, brothers and sisters, is the road to the encounter with God: the relationship with Christ and our brothers and sisters.

Even today, God's revelation in Jesus' humanity can cause scandal and is not easy to accept. This is what Saint Paul calls the "folly" of the Gospel in the face of those who seek miracles or worldly wisdom (cf. 1 Cor 1:18-25). And this "scandalousness" is well represented by the sacrament of the Eucharist: what sense can there be, in the eyes of the world, in kneeling before a piece of bread? Why on earth should someone be nourished assiduously with this bread? The world is scandalised.

Faced with this prodigious deed of Jesus, who with five loaves and two fish fed thousands of people, everyone acclaimed Him and wanted to lift Him up in triumph, to make Him king. But

when He Himself explained that the gesture was a sign of His sacrifice, that is, of the gift of His life, His flesh and blood, and that those who want to follow Him must resemble Him, His humanity given for God and for others, then no, this Jesus no longer was no longer liked, this Jesus throws us into crisis. Rather, we should be worried if He does not throw us into crisis, because we might have watered down His message! And let us ask for the grace to let ourselves be provoked and converted by His "words of eternal life". And may Mary Most Holy, who bore her Son Jesus in the flesh and joined herself to His sacrifice, help us to always bear witness to our faith in our real lives.

After the Angelus

Dear brothers and sisters,

I greet you all, faithful of Rome and pilgrims from various countries. There are many countries represented here, I see from the flags...

In particular, I greet the priests and seminarians of the Pontifical North American College - they are over there - as well as families from Abbiategrasso and motorcyclists from Polesine.

Again this Sunday I am pleased to greet several groups of young people: from Cornuda, Covolo di Piave and Nogaré, in the diocese of Treviso, Rogoredo in Milan, Dalmine, Cagliari, Pescantina near Verona, and the scout group from Mantova. Dear boys and girls, many of you have had the experience of a long journey together: may this help you to walk through life on the path of the Gospel. And I also greet the young people of the Immacolata.

I wish you all a blessed Sunday. Please, do not forget to pray for me. Enjoy your meal, and arrivederci!

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The Angelus

V. The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary:

R. And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.

Hail Mary...

V. Behold the handmaid of the Lord:

R. Be it done unto me according to thy word.

Hail Mary...

V. And the word was made flesh:

R. And dwelt among us.

Hail Mary...

V. Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God.

R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray:

Pour forth, we beseech Thee, O Lord, Thy grace into our hearts; that we, to whom the incarnation of Christ, Thy Son, was made known by the message of an angel, may by His Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of His Resurrection, through the same Christ Our Lord.

R. Amen.



August Appeal



August Appeal 2021

CatholicCare Social Services Hunter-Manning is the official charitable agency of the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle. At CatholicCare Hunter-Manning, everybody is welcome. Our Community Programs receive no government funding, so we're calling on the Catholic and broader community to help. After a difficult eighteen months, we expect to be welcoming even more people through our doors.

You can help. Help us feed more people in our community kitchens.

Help us support more refugees in our programs. Help us deliver more meals to people in need.

Please give a gift to our 2021 August Appeal today. Every dollar counts.

Your generosity will support those who have nowhere else to turn, ensuring no one goes without and that all are welcomed with food, support, and a smile.

Donate today

Send your cheque to PO Box 775 Newcastle 2300 or give a gift online:

www.catholiccare.org.au/augustappeal

Praying the Gospels

You are invited to connect and pray with each other across the Diocese from your own home.

God speaks to us through the words of the Gospel and then through artist's images of the Gospel message.

Join us each Wednesday 5.00-5.45pm.

Zoom link: <https://mncatholic.zoom.us/j/96144217758>

Password: pray

For more information contact: rose.mcallister@mn.catholic.org.au

Season of Creation 2021 Launch | 10:00AM Wednesday, 1 September

<https://mncatholic.zoom.us/j/65971747861>

Password: 533823

Pints with a Purpose | Explore Season of Creation with Rose McAllister

The Season of Creation is a time to renew our relationship with our Creator and all creation through celebration, conversation, and commitment.

MN Catholic Youth welcome Rose McAllister (Manager- Formation and Education) who will explore this year's theme; inviting us to consider how we can celebrate this season so we are caring for our common home.

Time: 7:00 P M
Date: Monday, 6 September 2021
More information: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/pints-with-a-purpose-season-of-creation-tickets-168044011161>

Seasons of Creation Celebration

This year the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle, is partnering with Seasons of Creation to help raise awareness of the urgent need to care for the earth and for one another.

Join us to hear guest speakers break open this year's Season of Creation theme, "A Home for All? Renewing the Oikos of God".

Finalists from the film competition will be viewed and the winner will be announced.

For more information on the film competition go to: www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/adult-faith-formation/upcoming-events/

Time: 2:00 P M
Date: Saturday, 25 September 2021
More information: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/season-of-creation-tickets-167271083313>

Plenary Council Conversations

In preparation for the upcoming First Assembly of the Fifth Plenary Council our Diocesan Plenary Council members Bernadette Gibson, Fr Andrew Doohan VG, and Helen Belcher are seeking input from our diocesan community.

You are invited to join them for a series of conversations around the Plenary Council agenda and its associated questions, and guided by the Holy Spirit, so they can hear from as many people as possible. Plenary Conversations will be over a number of weeks each Thursday from 26/8 to 30/9 - 7.00pm to 8.30pm via Zoom.

Program for Plenary Council Conversations:

Online Registration is now open to register for all or one of the conversations: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/plenary-council-lead-up-conversations-tickets-168063956819>

Thursday 26/8 – Conversion

Thursday 2/9 – Formation

Thursday 9/9 – Prayer

Thursday 16/9 – Structures

Thursday 23/9 – Governance

Thursday 30/9 – Institutions

Major earthquake hits Haiti

Caritas Australia's thoughts and prayers are with the people of the Haiti who have been devastated by a **7.2 magnitude earthquake**.

Over 1,400 people have died, and thousands more left injured. Homes, churches and schools have been damaged in the quake, and reports indicate that **more than 30,000 families have been left homeless**.

The country also continues to grapple with COVID-19, poverty, and ongoing political instability and violence.

There is immediate and urgent need for food, water, shelter, hygiene kits and first aid on the ground.

To provide support, you can donate to **Caritas Australia's Emergency Response Appeal**.

Donate today at www.caritas.org.au or by calling 1800 024 413 toll free.



CANDLES FOR AFGHANISTAN

Fr Greg Barker, Parish Priest of Boolaroo-Warners Bay, invited everyone to join him in lighting a candle for Afghanistan. Thursday 19th Aug candles were lit for the women and young girls in Afghanistan, Friday 20th Aug candles were lit for the soldiers and veterans and Saturday 21st candles were lit for the Christians and those of other faiths.



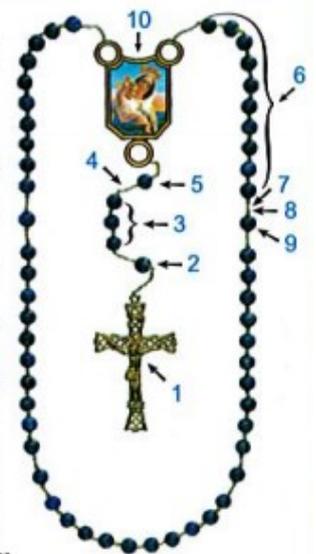
This is a prayer for those unable to be at Mass or unable to receive Holy Communion

Spiritual communion

My Jesus,
I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.
I love You above all things,
and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as if You were already there
and unite myself wholly to You.
Never permit me to be separated from You.
Amen.

How to Pray the Rosary

1. Make the "Sign of the Cross" and pray the "Apostles' Creed."
2. Pray the "Our Father."
3. Pray three "Hail Marys."
4. Pray the "Glory be to the Father."
5. Announce the First Mystery, then pray the "Our Father."
6. Pray ten "Hail Marys," while meditating on the Mystery.
7. Pray the "Glory be to the Father."
8. After each decade pray the "Fatima Prayer" on the last page, requested by the Blessed Virgin Mary at Fatima.
9. Announce the Second Mystery, then pray the "Our Father." Repeat 6, 7 and 8 and continue with the Third, Fourth and Fifth Mysteries in the same manner.
10. Pray the "Hail, Holy Queen" after the five decades are completed and conclude with the "Sign of the Cross."





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 02 6554 6401

CATHOLIC CARE

Phone: 02 6539 5900 for services provided in Forster



PARISH TEAM

Fr Peter Street - Parish Priest
Peter.street@mn.catholic.org.au
Emergency Contact: 0458 327 219

Danielle Kingdom

Admin Assistant
danielle.kingdom@mn.catholic.org.au

Office Hours:

Mon-Fri 9.00am- 3.30pm
Phone: 02 6554 6401

Website:

www.forstertuncurrycatholic.org.au

Follow us on facebook:

@catholicparishofforstertuncurry

Feedback, complaints or concerns can be communicated directly to the Parish Office, through our website (Contact Us) or if the concern is relating to the safety of a child, contact the Office of Safeguarding: 02 4979 1390 childprotection@mn.catholic.org.au

COMMUNITY KITCHEN

Serving meals to the community from the Parish Hall
Tue, Wed & Thurs 12pm-1pm

PARISH GROUPS

Christian Meditation

Forster Tues 9.30am
Monica 02 6555 7038
Hallidays Point Wed 10am
John 0417 249 466

Social Justice Group

Tim Prescott 6555 8517

Gardening Group

3rd Thursday of the month, 8am
Church grounds.
David Olliffe 0424 369 485

Family and Friends Group

Meets monthly, contact Carol and Terry Pearson on 0408768729.

Singing Practice

Ken Heffernan 02 6554 6401
(see parish timetable)

Holy Hour

Tues 3.30pm & Thurs 4.30pm in the Church

Finance Council

3rd Wednesday of the month, 5pm
Meeting Room

Pastoral Council

1st Thursday of the month, 6.00pm
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 9.30am

The above groups are all subject to Covid-19 restrictions, please enquire before attending.



SUNDAY MASS TIMES

Sat 5.00pm, Sun. 8.00am, 10.00am & 12.00pm

Registration through the parish website is required

RECONCILIATION

9.00am Saturday and during Holy Hour

YOUTH MASS

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

AGED CARE MASSES (Subject to change)

GLAICA: **2nd Tues 10.30am**
Estia Forster: **3rd Tues 10.00am**



CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Holy Name Catholic School K-6

41 Lake Street, Forster

Ph: 02 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: 02 6552 3300

E: Admin@tareesc.catholic.edu.au

W: www.tareesc.catholic.edu.au

Principal: Peter Nicholls

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