



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 5 SEPTEMBER 2021,

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR B

Dear Brothers and Sisters.

It would seem that the slow tide of the pandemic marches on and on. We are still in lockdown, there are restrictions on our lives and freedoms. We are not able to gather as a community for the celebration of Mass, the Sacraments are denied us. Life is difficult and hard as a result. This is not the first time in the 2000 year history of the Church where this has happened, nor will it be the last. Despite the difficulties that we face here, let us as a community of faith and a community showing the love of Jesus Crucified and Risen to the world, unite our sufferings, as difficult or not as they may personally be with those who are sick as a result of the pandemic. Let us pray for the Doctors and Nurses, the Ambulance officers, the Police and emergency workers, the members of the ADF wearing the Queens uniform called in to help. Let us pray for those whose mental health is suffering. Let us pray for those children and parents facing online/home learning. Let us pray for our teachers who are teaching online as well as providing a place for the children of essential workers. Let us pray for those in government who try to do the best they can at this difficult and strange time. Let us pray for those around the world who are affected. Let us also pray for each other, look out for each other, and act in a way that keeps us all safe. If anyone is in need, physically, mentally, spiritually let us pray that we all have the strength to reach out.

Writing this on the morning of the 3rd of September, I am cognizant of the fact that today is the 82 anniversary of the start of the second World War. Let us pray for all those affected by that conflict. We pray for all who have served in our nations uniform. We pray for those who do so today. Please in a particular way hold before God those veterans of our nation who served in Afghanistan. Let us as a result of this anniversary pray for the people of Afghanistan who are at the mercy and the whim of a totalitarian regime. Let us pray for humanity which never seems to learn the lessons of history. This week is also Legacy Week. Let us give thanks to God for the work of this wonderful organization. Please, can we all this week and, indeed always pray for peace.

Bishop Bill remains in hospital. He is still unwell. Please pray for him. He is, as I said last week heartened by our prayers.

In the next few weeks the financial report for the parish will be released. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Finance Committee for their hard work, and indeed their support to me since my arrival in this parish.

When the situation with the pandemic allows, the Parish Pastoral Council and the Finance Committee will gather to begin the process of strategic planning for the parish. It is my hope that the results of this gathering will form the basis of a Parish Assembly to bring about a new Pastoral Plan for the Parish. I have asked previously for input from people towards this and indeed have had some responses, not many, but some! I would like each to consider writing or emailing their suggestion about where they would like to see the parish in 2026 and 2031, and indeed how we will get there. To help the process I have enrolled the Parish in the National Church Life Survey. This will happen in late October early November, depending on Covid restrictions. It will give a snap shot of the parish. More on this as we draw nearer.

From Monday the 6th of September the Community Kitchen will run 4 days a week. If anybody is interested in volunteering for this ministry please contact Catholic Care or myself.

This Sunday is Father's Day. Let us hold our fathers living or dead before the Lord.

With love.

Fr. Peter.



Parish Timetable

WEEKDAY MASS

6 SEP—11 SEP

All Masses have been cancelled for the duration of lockdown

Mon 6 SEP	12pm Community Kitchen
Tue 7 SEP	12pm Community Kitchen
Wed 8 SEP	12pm Community Kitchen
Thu 9 SEP	12pm Community Kitchen

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



Planned Giving Amidst A Global Pandemic

The Coronavirus has changed many things about the way we live and work. We have all had to adapt and find new ways of doing things so that we are still able to move forward although being locked down. The government restrictions that have been constantly changing since early 2020 will undoubtedly have an impact on our churches financial situation. We thank all of those who have given so generously to planned giving and our renovation projects. Your contributions have helped us get through these difficult times. If you are in a position to donate to our church, there has been no better time than the present.

There are many ways that you can contribute financially to our parish during lockdown.

1. You can drop your **planned giving envelope** in the lock box at the front door of the office.

2. You can sign up for **direct debit/ credit card planned giving**. This is a simple process where you complete a form to let us know how much you would like to give on a monthly basis and we set this up for you through the CDF.
3. You can request our bank details and set up **online payments** through your online banking portal.
4. You can make an online payment through the **Maitland–Newcastle Diocese website**. This is a really simple options if you are used to making payments online. You just need to go to the Diocese website and fill in your details as well as our parish details and submit the payment. Website: <https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/about/parishdiocesan-payments/>

If you would like more information or to be set up for electronic planned giving by direct debit or credit card you can contact forster-tuncurry.pariah@mn.catholic.org.au or download and complete the form on our website: <https://forstertuncurrycatholic.org.au/planned-giving/>

We thank you for your consideration in supporting the Catholic Parish of Forster Tuncurry through planned giving.

Haiti Emergency Aid 2021

Aid to the Church in Need is sending emergency aid to our brothers and sisters in Haiti following the devastating earthquake that hit the country on 14 August.

ACN is asking that you remember our brothers and sisters in Faith in your prayers and to help financially ease their burdens during this very hard time. To donate go to: <https://aidtochurch.org>

St Joseph Rosary Beads

In commemorating the 150th anniversary of the declaration of Saint Joseph as the Patron of the Universal Church Pope Francis has proclaimed a Year of Saint Joseph from 8 December 2020 to 8 December 2021. In marking this Year of St Joseph, Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) Australia has commissioned a commemorative set of Rosary Beads.

To purchase go to: https://thatcatholicshop.com/shop/all/st-joseph-rosary-beads?mc_cid=fdb94d8dd5&mc_eid=d44f0c3d0d



THE LATEST NEWS FROM OUR SAFEGUARDING PROMOTERS

The **Promoters of Safeguarding** continue to endorse a culture of safeguarding within the Parish. To this end, your attention is drawn to **National Child Protection Week** commencing this weekend on Sunday, 5th September, coinciding with **Father's Day**, and concludes on Saturday, 12th September. The 2021 theme is 'Every child, in every community, needs a fair go. To treat all of Australia's children fairly, we need to make sure every family and community has what kids need to thrive and be healthy'.

How can we work together to create great lives for Australia's children? Ask yourself, "What can I do to support the children of our schools and parish community?"

We can all play a part: by simply being supportive of parents rather than being judgmental; by getting involved in your parish community through taking time to engage with children; by advocating for policies that give families the support they need.

The following is a list of activities for families, including 'on-duty' grandparents and carers, to provide entertainment during lockdown. How many could you achieve? How many more could you suggest?

- Gardening – pull weeds, trim bushes, sow new plants, collect flowers for a vase
- Find 10 different shaped leaves
- Record family member's height on a door frame
- Research the family tree back to grandparents...or further
- Write a letter on paper to a friend, relative or teacher and post it
- Start a personal journal such as a monthly record of individual events
- Interview the members of your family to produce a 2021 film record
- Jump rope – can you get to 100 without stopping?
- Make a 'workout' program – 25 star jumps, 20 squats, 15 crunches
- Give a back, foot or head massage
- Make a paper plane and have a distance and accuracy contest
- Learn to braid hair
- Write love notes to family members and hide them
- Make a paper chain
- Paint a family portrait
- Press flowers within a few heavy books
- Have a backyard picnic – take food and toys with you
- Lie on a picnic rug or towel in the backyard and spot cloud shapes

Want more? Try '115 fun activities to do at home with kids' <https://www.northshoremums.com.au/home-activities-with-kids/>

Saints and Feasts



8/9/17 NATIVITY of the BLESSED VIRGIN MARY is a feast that commemorates the birthday of Jesus' mother. Even though Mary's birth is not recorded in the scriptures, it is mentioned in the apocryphal writings from the second century, the Protoevangelium of James and mentioned in Islamic scripture. Her parents are named as Saint Anne and Saint Joachim and tradition places Mary's birthplace in Jerusalem. The feast has been celebrated since the fifth century - on 8th September in the Roman calendar.

9/9/17 ST PETER CLAVER was born in Spain in 1581AD. After studying at the University of Barcelona, he became a Jesuit at the age of 20. St Peter was influenced by St Alphonsus Rodriguez to become a missionary in the Americas, where he ministered both physically and spiritually to the African slaves. He spent the next 40 years working for the humane treatment of slaves on plantations, and he reportedly converted some 300,000 African slaves to Christianity. Within the Spanish community living in America, St Peter organised charitable societies, similar to those organised by St Vincent de Paul across Europe. He said of the slaves, "We must speak to them with our hands by giving, before we try to speak to them with our lips."



Why We Do The Things We Do

bite-size explanations of Catholic practices

Why Sunday? On Sundays we celebrate Christ's resurrection from the dead. According to the biblical story, on the seventh day God rested having completed the creation of the world. Appropriately, on the first day of the week Christians commemorate the 'new creation': the renewal of the world through Christ's loving sacrifice. Traditionally Christians approach this day as a day of worship and celebration, focusing on their faith community and their family. This Sunday, take time out to give extra emphasis to this celebration. (E.g., Spend time with your children, take a walk with a friend, prayerfully review the Sunday readings.)

Why go to church when I can pray alone? 'Why go to Mass when I can pray to God by myself?' some people ask. To understand the Mass we need to understand the Church as a community, as a family. A simple analogy: Family members come together for meals, not just for physical nourishment, but as a way of sharing life together. The Sunday Eucharist is a bit like that for Catholics. It is the sacred meal, our 'family meal', whereby we come together to worship God, not just for our private spiritual nourishment, but to acknowledge that we belong to one another as God's family, that we are a people who share in the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection.

What's that word mean? The word 'liturgy' comes from two Greek words meaning the 'work of the people.' We are reminded that when we gather to worship it is the whole community that participates. It is not simply the work of the priest and altar servers with the rest of the congregation looking on. The term 'eucharist' comes from the Greek word 'eucharistia' ('thanksgiving'). It was used in the early Church to refer to the entire celebration as well as to the consecrated bread and wine. The Mass is the greatest act of worship by which Christians give thanks for the salvation God has offered us through Jesus Christ.

First things first. The initial part of the Mass (the Introductory Rites) is an important time of gathering and preparation. The entrance song helps to open the celebration, unite us as a body and lead our thoughts towards the mystery of God's love which we have come to celebrate. The priest's greeting ('The Lord be with you') and the congregation's response ('And also with you') affirms that Christ is present in our midst. This is a time for focusing on the importance of the opportunity for worship that lies before us.

Why do we make the sign of the cross? Do you rush through the sign of the cross as if swatting a fly? Don't! This gesture contains powerful symbolism connected with the Trinity and with your baptism. Indeed, it can be viewed as a prayer in itself. By making this sign you are declaring: I am completely under the power of the risen Christ, our Redeemer. You are identifying yourself with generations of Christians, for the common usage of the familiar formula - In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen - can be traced back to the second century.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:



Recently Deceased: Trevor Elliott & Sr Bernadette Mills rsm

Anniversary: Theresa Dorothy Gomes

We remember and pray for those who are ill at home and in hospital at this time, may they know the healing presence of Christ:

Roseanne Telfer, Michael O'Hara, Marion Prescott, 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-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR B

- Fr:** Brothers and sisters, the Lord raises up those who are bowed down. Let us bring our needs before the Father of mercy.
- Reader:** That the Pope and all leaders of the Church who minister to God's people will persevere in times of difficulty. In your kindness:
- All:** **Lord hear our prayer.**
- Reader:** That nations will promote fairness and justice for all, regardless of difference or class. In your kindness:
- All:** **Lord hear our prayer.**
- Reader:** That families struggling under the weight of poverty and despair will be given new hope. In your kindness:
- All:** **Lord hear our prayer.**
- Reader:** That those who are blinded by prejudice and hatred will treat people with respect and dignity. In your kindness:
- All:** **Lord hear our prayer.**
- Reader:** That those affected by the pandemic and by lock downs and other restrictions will know the presence of Christ at these difficult times. In your kindness:
- All:** **Lord hear our prayer.**
- Reader:** That the peace that only Christ can give will reign in the hearts of all humanity. In your kindness:
- All:** **Lord hear our prayer.**
- Reader:** That fathers will receive rich blessings from God for their example of faith and steadfast love for their children. In your kindness:
- All:** **Lord hear our prayer.**
- Reader:** That the sick, including Bishop William Wright & all those listed on our bulletin, will be touched by Christ's healing power. In your kindness:
- All:** **Lord hear our prayer.**
- Reader:** That we who live and worship in Holy Name Parish will reach out to those in our community who feel rejected or abandoned. In your kindness:
- All:** **Lord hear our prayer.**
- Reader:** That the dead who were baptised in Christ will inherit the kingdom promised to them, including Trevor Elliott & Sr Bernadette Mills rsm who have died recently and for Theresa Dorothy Gomes whose anniversary occurs at this time. In your kindness:
- All:** **Lord hear our prayer.**
- Fr:** Faithful God, you have chosen the poor and the lowly to be heirs of your kingdom. Hear our prayers and open our eyes to your presence that we may be instruments of your kindness and mercy to all people. We ask this through Christ our Lord.
- All:** **Amen.**

Sunday 05 Sep 2021
Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

Entrance Antiphon

Ps 118:137, 124

You are just, O Lord, and your judgment is right; treat your servant in accord with your merciful love.

First Reading

Is 35:4-7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Say to all faint hearts, 'Courage! Do not afraid. 'Look, your God is coming, vengeance is coming, the retribution of God; he is coming to save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed, then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy; for water gushes in the desert, streams in the wasteland, the scorched earth becomes a lake, the parched land springs of water.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 145:7-10. R. v.1

(R.) Praise the Lord, my soul!

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever, who is just to those who are oppressed. It is he who gives bread to the hungry, the Lord, who sets prisoners free. (R.)

2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind, who raises up those who are bound down, the Lord who loves the just, the Lord, who protects the stranger. (R.)

3. The Lord upholds the widow and orphan, but thwarts the path of the wicked. The Lord will reign for ever, Zion's God, from age to age. (R.)

Second Reading

Jas 2:1-5

A reading from the letter of St James
My brothers, do not try to combine faith in Jesus Christ, our glorified Lord, with the making of distinctions between classes of people. Now suppose a man comes into your syna-

gogue, beautifully dressed and with a gold ring on, and at the same time a poor man comes in, in shabby clothes, and you take notice of the well-dressed man, and say, 'Come this way to the best seats'; then you tell the poor man, 'Stand over there' or 'You can sit on the floor by my footrest.' Can't you see that you have used two different standards in your mind, and turned yourselves into judges, and corrupt judges at that?

Listen, my dear brothers: it was those who are poor according to the world that God chose, to be rich in faith and to be the heirs to the kingdom which he promised to those who love him.

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

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

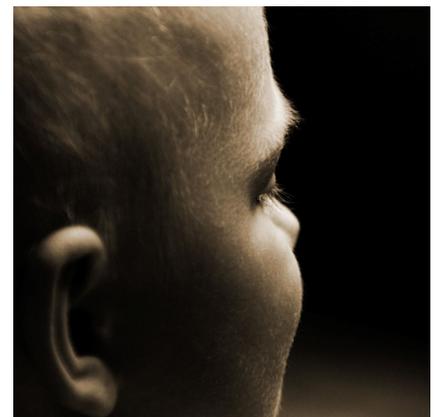
Returning from the district of Tyre, Jesus went by way of Sidon towards the sea of Galilee, right through the Decapolis region. And they brought him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they asked him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, put his fingers into the man's ears and touched his tongue with spittle. Then looking up to heaven he sighed; and he said to him, 'Ephphatha,' that is, 'Be opened.' And his ears were opened, and the ligament of his tongue was loosened and he spoke clearly. And Jesus ordered them to tell no one about it, but the more he insisted, the more widely they published it. Their admiration was unbounded. 'He has done all things well,' they said 'he makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.'

Communion Antiphon

Cf. Ps 41:2-3

Like the deer that yearns for running streams, so my soul is yearning for you, my God; my soul is thirsting for God, the living God.

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Readings for Next Week 11/12 Sep

First Reading

Is 50:5-9 The Lord stands with his prophet during opposition.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 114:1-6. 8-9. R. v.9 (R.) I will walk in the presence of the Lord, in the land of the living.

Second Reading

Jas 2:14-18 Faith without action is useless.

Gospel Acclamation

Gal 6:14 Alleluia, alleluia! My only glory is the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, which crucifies the world to me and me to the world. Alleluia!

Gospel

Mk 8:27-35 A follower of Christ must take up the cross.

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

The healing miracle – of a deaf person who also has an impediment in his speech – which forms today's **Gospel**, Mark 6:31-37, alludes explicitly to a passage from Isaiah 35:4-7, describing the blessings of the messianic age. It is appropriate then that the same passage should also form the **First Reading**. The healing miracle performed by Jesus shows him fulfilling the promise that it announces. The passage from Isaiah 35 is actually an addition to the oracles of the pre-Exilic 'First' Isaiah and anticipates the tone and content of the great prophet of the Exile who speaks in Isaiah 40-66. It should be noted that the coming 'vengeance' and 'retribution of God' which it speaks is to be directed not against Israel but against Israel's enemies (here Edom); it is therefore part of Israel's liberation, not punishment.

In a way that is typical of Mark's Gospel, Jesus attempts to perform this act of compassion in as secluded a way as possible. He takes the man away from the crowd and performs the healing gestures in private. After the healing, he strictly tells all those around to say nothing of it. But, in vain – the more he enjoins silence upon them, the more they spread the news abroad. Out of compassion for wounded humanity Jesus performs the acts of healing expected of the Messiah. But he does not want the crowds to conclude that he is the Messiah from acts such as these. His messianic identity must be kept a secret for the time being. It is only to be revealed in conjunction with his destiny to suffer and die upon the cross. Otherwise, the people will see him entirely in terms of conventional messianic expectation, which had a large element of political leadership bound up with it. As in John 6:15, they will want to take him away and make him their king. Such a messianic role would be totally at odds with the path set out for him by the Father, which is to be the Son of Man who has come 'not to be served but to serve and give his life as a ransom for many' (10:45).

The healing is one of the most 'physical' of all Jesus' miracles described in the gospels. In this predominantly Gentile region through which he is passing Jesus acts like a pagan wonder-worker, with special gestures and words (Ephthatha). The man is deaf and has an impediment in his speech. His condition places him at a great disadvantage as regards communication: he can neither receive verbal communication nor freely communicate his own thoughts, feelings and reflections to others. His condition is lonely and isolated. What Jesus does for this marginalised person is to bring him into the hearing and speaking community where interpersonal communication can truly flow through him.

Despite this physical aspect, the healing is probably best interpreted symbolically. This is, of course, the case when the Ephphatha ritual is included in the liturgy of Christian Baptism. The celebrant touches the ears and mouth of the person being baptised and prays, 'May (the Lord Jesus) soon touch your ears to receive his word, and your mouth to proclaim his faith, to the praise and glory of God the Father.'

In a symbolic sense, then, the man healed by Jesus represents all believers. Apart from the grace of God we are 'deaf' to the Word of life spoken to us by the Creator. In the sacrament Jesus gives us the capacity to hear the life-giving Word, which he then speaks to us in the Scriptures as proclaimed by the Church. Having heard that Word in the context of our own life-experience, we then can turn to praise God and share what we have discovered with our fellow believers. Our ears are opened and our tongues are 'loosened' for full participation in the community of faith.

The readings from the Letter of James that provide the **Second Readings** these Sundays can seem very moralising. In line with the prophetic tradition of Israel, however, the primary stress of James is upon social justice. The reading today, from James 2:1-5, brings this out in a most effective way with its evocation of a Christian assembly where distinctions between rich and poor are all too obvious. The final reminder echoes the Beatitudes of Jesus found in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke (Matt 5:3-11; Luke 6:20-26). The poor should have a particularly privileged place in the Christian gathering because they are the objects of God's predilection – rich in faith and especially set in line to inherit the future kingdom. To despise or belittle them is to go directly against the choice and intention of God. Despite nearly two millennia of hearing the Gospel, most Christian churches and parishes will still find a chastening message here.

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POPE FRANCIS
ANGELUS
Saint Peter's Square
Sunday, 29 August 2021

Dear Brothers and Sisters, Buongiorno!

The Gospel for today's liturgy shows a few scribes and Pharisees amazed by Jesus' attitude. They are scandalized because his disciples pick up food without first performing the traditional ritual ablutions. They think among themselves "This way of doing things is contrary to the religious practice" (cf. Mk 7:2-5).

We too can ask ourselves: why do Jesus and his disciples disregard these traditions? After all, they are not bad things, but good ritual habits, simple washings before eating. Why doesn't Jesus attend to it? Because for Him it is important to bring faith back to its centre. In the Gospel we see it repeatedly: this bringing faith back to the centre. And to avoid a risk, which applies to those scribes as well as to us: to observe outward formalities, putting the heart and the faith in the background. Many times we too "put makeup" on our soul. Outward formality and not the heart of faith: this is a risk. It is the risk of a religiosity of appearances: looking good on the outside, while failing to purify the heart. There is always the temptation to "organize God" with some outward devotion, but Jesus does not settle for this worship. Jesus does not want outward appearances, he wants a faith that touches the heart.

In fact, immediately afterwards, he calls the people back to speak a great truth: "there is nothing outside a man which by going into him can defile him; but the things which come out of a man are what defile him" (v. 15). Rather, it is "from within, out of the heart" (v. 21) that evil things are born. These words are revolutionary, because in the mindset of the time it was thought that certain foods or external contacts would render one impure. Jesus reverses the perspective: what comes from the outside does not do harm, but rather, what is born from within.

Dear brothers and sisters, this also pertains to us. We often think that evil comes mainly from the outside: from other people's conduct, from those who think badly of us, from society. How often we blame others, society, the world, for everything that happens to us! It is always the fault of "others": it is the fault of people, of those who govern, of misfortune, and so on. It seems that problems always come from the outside. And we spend time assigning blame; but spending time blaming others is wasting time. We become angry, bitter and keep God away from our heart. Like those people in the Gospel, who complain, who are scandalized, who cause controversy and do not accept Jesus. One cannot be truly religious in complaining: complaining poisons, it leads you to anger, to resentment and to sadness, that of the heart, which closes the door to God.

Today let us ask the Lord to free us from blaming others – like children: "No, it wasn't me! It's the other one, the other one...". Let us ask in prayer for the grace not to waste time polluting the world with complaints, because this is not Christian. Jesus instead invites us to look at life and the world starting from our heart. If we look inside, we will find almost all that we despise outside. And if, sincerely, we ask God to purify our heart, that is when we will start making the world cleaner. Because there is an infallible way to defeat evil: by starting to conquer it within yourself. The first Fathers of the Church, the monks, when they were asked: "What is the path of holiness?", the first step, they used to say, was to blame yourself: blame yourself. Blaming ourselves. How many of us, during the day, in a moment during the day or a moment during the week, are able to blame ourselves within? "Yes, this one did this to me, the other one ... that is barbarity...". But me? I do the same thing, or I do it this way.... It is wisdom: learning to blame yourself. Try to do it, it will do you good. It does me good, when I manage to do so, but it is good for us, it everyone good. May the Virgin Mary, who changed history through the purity of

her heart, help us to purify our own, by overcoming first and foremost the vice of blaming others and complaining about everything.

After the Angelus the Holy Father continued:

Dear brothers and sisters, with great concern I am following the situation in Afghanistan, and I take part in the suffering of those who are grieving for the persons who lost their lives in the suicide attacks that happened last Thursday, and of those who are seeking help and protection. I entrust the deceased to the mercy of Almighty God and I thank those who are striving to help that population so tried, in particular the women and children. I ask everyone to continue to help the needy and to pray that dialogue and solidarity may lead to the establishment of a peaceful and fraternal coexistence and offer hope for the country's future. In historic moments like this one we cannot remain indifferent; the history of the Church teaches us this. As Christians this situation obligates us. For this reason I address an appeal, to everyone, to intensify your prayer and practice fasting. Prayer and fasting, prayer and penance. This is the moment to do so. I am speaking seriously: intensify your prayer and practice fasting, asking the Lord for mercy and forgiveness.

I am close to the population of the Venezuelan state of Mérida, hit in recent days by flooding and landslides. I pray for the deceased and their family members and for those who are suffering due to this catastrophe.

I address a cordial greeting to the members of the Laudato Si' Movement. Thank you for your commitment to our common home, particularly on the World Day of Prayer for Creation and of the subsequent Time of Creation. The cry of the Earth and the cry of the poor are becoming ever more serious and alarming, and they call for a decisive and urgent action to transform this crisis into an opportunity.

I greet you all, Romans and pilgrims from various countries. In particular, I greet the group of Salesian novitiates and the community of the Episcopal Seminary in Caltanissetta. I greet the faithful from Zagabria and those from Veneto; the group of students, parents and teachers from Lithuania; the youth Confirmation candidates from Osio Sotto; the young people from Malta who are undertaking a vocational journey, those who have done a Franciscan hike from Gubbio to Rome and those who are beginning a Via lucis with the poor in railroad stations.

I address a special greeting to the faithful gathered at the Sanctuary of Oropa for the celebration of the coronation and of the effigy of the Black Madonna. May the Blessed Virgin accompany the journey of the People of God on the path of holiness.

I wish everyone a happy Sunday. Please, do not forget to pray for me. Enjoy your lunch! 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.

What's happening in the Diocese and Surrounds...

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

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.

T i m e : 7 : 0 0 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/

T i m e : 2 : 0 0 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

Sacred Stories – Sacred Spaces: A Journey into Discovery, Truth and Right Relations

Kamilaroi woman and member of the Aboriginal Catholic Ministry, Jennifer Rumbel, extends an invitation to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholics to participate in an empowering research project that seeks to address the lack of Indigenous voices in our Diocese history.

The survey is part of a University of Newcastle post graduate student research project which is exploring the shared histories and stories of Aboriginal Catholics and the Maitland-Newcastle Diocese.

This research seeks to provide a platform for the previously unheard voices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in relation to their experiences both past and present with the Catholic Diocese.

This study aims to provide culturally appropriate, Sacred Spaces in which to share our Sacred Stories.

This survey will allow you to register your contact details for a one-to-one interview and will only take a couple of minutes to complete.

You can access the survey here: <https://redcap.hmri.org.au/surveys/?s=RWN7FMCXXH>

Australian Catholic Men's Gathering

On Saturday, 31st July, the Australian Catholic Men's Gathering was launched online. Hundreds of men and men's groups have already signed up to be a part this inspirational event. The gathering aims to encourage all men with a vision for personal discipleship, service and mission in the family, church and the world.

The Australian Catholic Men's Gathering is a free event and all the pre-recorded events can be downloaded and watched individually, or as part of a small group.

The opportunities to gather at this time are complicated by the need to act safely during the pandemic. And yet, it is important to gather and connect.

Our Diocese will be hosting four online meetings to watch and discuss the four sessions of the Men's Gathering. These sessions will be an opportunity to engage with the material and with other men, while also being an opportunity to explore men's ministry in our diocese and our local communities.

These online meetings will kick off on the Wednesday after Fathers' Day and run for four weeks during September. Each session will run for an hour. (7.30-8.30pm – 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th September).

If you would like to be a part of our Diocesan online gatherings, or if you would like to explore how you could run the sessions in your own local community, please email brendon.mannyx@mn.catholic.org.au to register your interest.

For more information, visit www.catholicmensgathering.com.au.

Live stream Mass every Sunday at 9.30am at <https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/places/live-stream/>

COMMUNITY KITCHEN



Fr Peter helped out in the Community Kitchen on Tues 31 Aug.



Michelle gathered supplies for a herb garden



The kitchen's new herb garden



Produce is kindly donated to the kitchen from Woollies

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

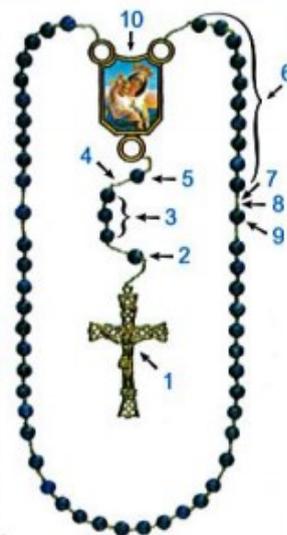
Spiritual communion

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."



Lockdown can be isolating for many people so if you have something that you would like to share with others, whether it be a recipe, poem, skill, photo or anything that will put a smile on some ones face, please send through to forster-tuncurry.parish@mn.catholic.org.au and we will share it with the community ☺



NATIONAL CHILD PROTECTION WEEK

5 - 11 September 2021



National Child Protection Week (5-11 September) is an annual event starting on the first Sunday of September. This year's theme 'Every child, in every community, needs a fair go' aims to spread the message that to treat all of Australia's children fairly, we need to make sure every family and community has what kids need to thrive and be healthy.

Visit <https://www.napcan.org.au/get-involved-2021/> to find out more about the campaign and how you can get involved.

A feature of this year's campaign will be the week-long webinar series which has been carefully designed to explore the theme: 'Every child, in every community, needs a fair go'. The webinars will feature more than 20 expert presenters from a range of organisations across Australia including ARACY, B4 Early Years Coalition, Brigidine Asylum Seekers Project, Children and Young People with Disability Australia (CYDA), Children's Commissioners, Connected Beginnings, Everybody's Home Campaign, Flinders University, FrameWorks Institute US, NAPCAN, Top End Dreaming, SNAICC – National Voice for Our Children, St Aidan's Anglican Girls' School, Talk Revolution, Women's and Girls' Emergency Centre (WAGEC) and Yerin Eleanor Duncan Aboriginal Health Services. For the full program and to register go to: <https://www.napcan.org.au/ncpw-webinars-2021/>

Activity Sheets for Children

Let's start some conversations with parents, carers and children about the importance of community in improving the outcomes for all Australia's children.

Download here: <https://www.napcan.org.au/get-involved-2021/>

Check the Events Calendar

While physical distancing requirements mean that face-to-face community events are not an option in many parts of Australia, we are excited to see communities rising to this challenge and finding creative online ways to connect. Let's work together to organise a range of activities that will create fun opportunities to learn, connect and share.

To see list of upcoming activities please follow link: <https://www.napcan.org.au/events/>

Find us, like us, follow us!

Facebook (@napcan.playyourpart)

Twitter (NAPCAN_AU)

Instagram (@playyourpart_napcan)



**EVERY CHILD
IN EVERY
COMMUNITY
NEEDS
A FAIR GO**



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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