



# 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 DECEMBER 2021,

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR C

Dear Brothers and Sisters.

Last Saturday the process began for a new Parish Pastoral Plan to be created. This is an exciting venture in the parish. There will be information presented about this over the next few weeks. I encourage all parishioners who care about their parish and wish to see it thrive and grow, thereby fulfilling the commission of Jesus to "go make disciples of all the nations" (see Matthew :28. 19), to get involved with the process. This process will involve change. Change can be difficult, but, it is also an opportunity.

Last weekend I launched the appeal for fund raising of money to go towards the purchase of new floor coverings for Holy Name Church. Once there is a build-up of money I can go and get quotes, I also need to have an idea what type and colour floor coverings people would like to see. Please forward me any suggestions. Please note that we will need, by law, to take into consideration any WHS issues and standards when choosing the floor coverings, we will also take into consideration the aesthetic aspect as well. Our Church should be as beautiful as we are able to make it and as safe as we are able to make it.

Please note the Christmas Mass times. If you have not already done so could you please take some of the Parish Christmas Cards to give to family and friends and neighbours? These cards are a gentle invitation for people to join us at our Christmas Masses. Please take as many as you can give away.

I draw every ones attention to the Parish Christmas Party. I hope to see as many people as possible there. It will be nice to mark the big things with each other, it will be nice to build up the community aspect of our Parish. A few weeks ago there was a wonderful spirit at the farewell for Fr. Greg. It would be good to recapture that spirit as we mark the festive season with each other.

Over the next 2 weeks the St Vincent De Paul Society will be holding there Christmas appeal. I commend this appeal to you and ask that you be as generous as you are able at this time. You will note the Christmas tree for the toy appeal and the envelopes.

Please continue to pray for the young people of our community who are receiving First Holy Communion at this time. When I arrived here in the Parish one of the first things I had to do was to commence the formation for the Sacrament of Confirmation. Then we were to run headlong into First Holy Communion and then Confession. Given the fact that last year there was a fallow year due to the pandemic and this year has been disrupted due to further lock downs. I have made the decision to commence the formation for the Sacrament of Confession in Lent 2022. Confirmation will be in the middle of the year, (depending on the availability of the Diocesan Administrator), First Holy Communion will be towards the end of the year. This year it has not been possible to have all the children make their First Holy Communion at the same time. One hopes that this will be possible next year. More details about this to follow later.

Please do stay for a cup of tea after Mass. It would be good if people could please bring a plate to share. I look forward to this ministry continuing to grow. I look forward to a welcoming ministry beginning to thrive in the parish. I feel that this would be good for those of us who live here and indeed for those who are visitors. I look forward to hearing from people who wish to be involved in this ministry.

With love.

Fr. Peter.



## MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS

ON THE PASSING OF  
THE MOST REVEREND WILLIAM J. WRIGHT,  
BISHOP OF MAITLAND-NEWCASTLE

HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS WAS SADDENED TO LEARN OF THE UNTIMELY DEATH OF THE MOST REVEREND WILLIAM J. WRIGHT, BISHOP OF MAITLAND-NEWCASTLE, AND HE SENDS HEARTFELT CONDOLENCES TO THE CLERGY, RELIGIOUS AND LAY FAITHFUL OF THE DIOCESE. WITH PRAYERFUL THANKSGIVING FOR BISHOP WRIGHT'S YEARS OF DEDICATED PRIESTLY AND EPISCOPAL MINISTRY, HIS HOLINESS JOINS THOSE GATHERED FOR THE SOLEMN FUNERAL RITES IN COMMENDING HIS SOUL TO THE MERCIFUL LOVE OF JESUS OUR SAVIOUR. TO ALL WHO MOURN THE LATE BISHOP'S PASSING IN THE SURE HOPE OF THE RESURRECTION, THE HOLY FATHER CORDIALLY IMPARTS HIS APOSTOLIC BLESSING AS A PLEDGE OF PEACE AND CONSOLATION IN THE LORD.

CARDINAL PIETRO PAROLIN  
SECRETARY OF STATE

## New Christmas Tradition

Beginning December 1st read one chapter of the book of Luke in the Bible each evening.

There are 24 chapters.

On Christmas Eve you will have read an entire account of Jesus's Life and wake up Christmas morning knowing WHO and WHY we celebrate!!



## WHAT ARE YOU CARRYING?



## Parish Timetable

**WEEKDAY MASS**  
**6 DEC—11 DEC**  
 TUE: 4.30pm  
 WED: **5.30pm**  
 THU: 4.30pm  
 FRI: 9.30am  
 SAT: 9.30am

<b>Mon</b> 6 DEC	<b>9am</b> Counters– Team 4 <b>12pm</b> Community Kitchen
<b>Tue</b> 7 DEC	<b>9.30am</b> Christian Meditation <b>12pm</b> Community Kitchen
<b>Wed</b> 8 DEC	<b>11am</b> Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help <b>12pm</b> Community Kitchen
<b>Thu</b> 9 DEC	<b>12pm</b> Community Kitchen

### Church Floor Covering Donations

If you feel that you are able to donate to the church carpet project, please place a labelled envelope in the collection plate at Mass or make a bank transfer using the details below:

**BSB- 062 815**  
**Acc#- 0032 8161**  
**Reference- CDF 5575 + last name.**

**We invite the parish community to join us for tea/coffee after Masses on Sunday. Please bring a plate to share.**

## What's happening locally...



**Christmas Eve:** 5.30pm (Holy Name School) & 7.30pm

**Christmas Day:** 12 midnight, 8am & 10am

~If you would like to be a reader at any of the Christmas Mass please contact the parish office~

We would like to say **BIG THANK YOU** to the garden club members for their work in the gardens and in painting the church.

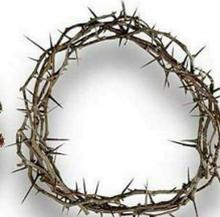
Thank you ❤️



**Please give generously to the St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal.**

'TIS THE SEASON

'TIS THE REASON



## THE LATEST NEWS FROM OUR SAFEGUARDING PROMOTERS

The **Promoters of Safeguarding** continue to endorse a culture of safeguarding within the Parish. To this end, we mention that last Wednesday, 1st December, was **National Water Safety Day**. In 2020, Surf Life Saving Australia encouraged the Australian Government to dedicate 1st December, the first day of Summer, to raising awareness of water safety. Australians love the water and each year there are over 500 million visitations to beaches.

Despite Covid-19, between June 2020 and June 2021, there was an increase in coastal drowning with 136 deaths of which most were preventable. With borders opening and families now planning their next beach holiday, there has never been a more important time for awareness and vigilance around water.

**National Water Safety Day** provides the opportunity to promote safety. Here are 12 key safety tips for Summer 2021-2022:

1. Swim at patrolled beaches between the red and yellow flags – surf lifesavers (Sat-Sun) and lifeguards (Mon-Fri during school holidays) are there to help.
2. Make sure that lifesavers/guards can see you when you're in the water.
3. In trouble, raise your arm to attract the lifesavers/guards' attention.
4. If you see someone in trouble in the sea, alert the lifesavers/guards or find help. Don't put your own life in danger as well.
5. Surfers and body-boarders shouldn't enter water where bait fish or diving birds are present.
6. Wear a lifejacket if you are going boating, rock fishing or on any watercraft.
7. Avoid alcohol and drugs while undertaking water activities.
8. Closely supervise children at all times while near, on or in water.
9. Know your physical limit – if you were a strong swimmer 5 to 50 years ago, do not over-estimate your present ability.
10. Protect your skin from too much exposure to the sun which can cause sun/heat stroke. Keep hydrated by drinking non-alcoholic fluids.
11. Stay indoors during the hottest time of the day (11 am to 3 pm).
12. **Know how to do cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) – 90% of CPR by members of the public is performed on family members or close friends.**

Stay safe and have a great Summer.



The Catholic Parish of Forster-Tuncurry

## Christmas Party

**Date:** 16th December

**Time:** Mass at 5.30pm,

followed by a Christmas Party in the hall.

**Bring:** Please BYO meat for BBQ.

The Parish will provide a few salads and drinks for a gold coin donation.

**RSVP:** Please contact the office to register your attendance at this event.

We look forward to sharing a meal with you this Christmas season 😊

## Saints and Feasts



**6/12/21 ST NICHOLAS** was a 4th century bishop of Myra in Turkey and little is known about his life other than myths and legends. One such story tells of St Nicholas giving three young women a bag of gold each for their marriage dowries, in order to save them from prostitution. And in another, he is said to have brought back to life three boys who had been murdered. In the low countries of Europe, his popularity as a patron of children led to the custom of giving children presents on his feast day. Then later, Dutch Protestants living in North America combined this custom with the Nordic legend of a magician who rewarded good children with presents and punished those who were naughty. This

new super-legend gave rise to the much beloved Santa Clause.

**7/12/21 ST AMBROSE** was born at Trier in 334 AD. While practising law he was appointed governor of the province of Aemilia and Liguria. Four years later when the see of Milan became vacant, St Ambrose was chosen as the new bishop, despite the fact that he was not even baptised. He reluctantly accepted the position, was baptised, ordained a priest and then installed as bishop. In 390 AD, after Emperor Theodosius ordered the savage massacre of many people, St Ambrose impressed upon the Emperor to perform a public penance for this act of cruelty. St Ambrose is listed as one of the four great Latin doctors of the church. He was a great orator who gave sermons that offered practical teachings for his people. He was also the first teacher in the West to make significant use of hymns as a popular means of praise.

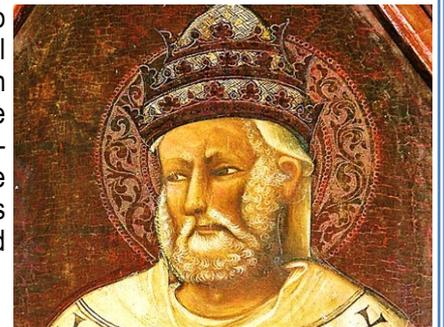


**8/12/21 IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY.** Immaculate Conception, according to the teaching of the Catholic Church, was the conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary in her mother's womb free from original

sin. The Immaculate Conception is commonly confused with the doctrine of the Incarnation and the virgin birth of Jesus, though the two deal with separate subjects. The Catholic Church teaches Mary was conceived by normal biological means, but her soul was acted upon by God (kept "immaculate") at the time of her conception. Although the belief that Mary was sinless and conceived immaculate has been widely held since Late Antiquity, the doctrine was not dogmatically defined until 1854, by Pope Pius IX in his papal bull *Ineffabilis Deus*. The Catholic Church celebrates the Feast of the Immaculate Conception on December 8; in many Catholic countries, it is a holy day of obligation or patronal feast, and in some a national public holiday.



**11/12/21 POPE ST DAMASUS I** 306-384. All lovers of Scripture have reason to celebrate this day. Damasus was the pope who commissioned Saint Jerome to translate the Scriptures into Latin, the Vulgate version of the Bible. Damasus was a sixty-year-old deacon when he was elected bishop of Rome in 366. His reign was marked by violence from the start when another group decided to elect a different pope. Both sides tried to enforce their selections through violence. Though the physical fighting stopped, Damasus had to struggle with these opponents throughout his years as pope. Damasus may not have won this battle directly, but he won the war by initiating works that outlasted all his opponents. Not only did he commission the Vulgate translation but he also changed the liturgical language of the Church from Greek to Latin. He worked hard to preserve and restore the catacombs, the graves of the martyrs, and relics.



### Jayden, First Holy Communion

"Communion means you receive Jesus. You eat the Eucharist as a sign of respect and remembering that Jesus died on the cross for us. We have the body of Christ to also spread the meaning of Jesus and leave mass to act like Jesus"



**PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:**

Recently deceased:

Anniversaries:

*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:*

Max Dunn, Michael Dolahenty, Ken Vote, Connie Cachia, Joe Barnett, Monica Hunt

*People will remain on the prayers for the sick for 4 weeks. You can resubmit names as needed.*



**UNIVERSAL PRAYER**  
**Second Sunday of Advent C**

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

**1. Reader:** That the Holy Church will be a sign for all the world of Christ's presence in our midst. In your mercy:

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

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

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

**3. Reader:** That the poor and marginalised may discover God's great deeds and be filled with the joy of his love. In your mercy:

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

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

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

**5. Reader:** That the Holy Father may soon be able to appoint a new shepherd for the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle. In your mercy:

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

**6. Reader:** That those affected by the pandemic will be healed and comforted by your Holy Spirit. In your mercy:

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

**7. Reader:** That Fr. Greg Barker will be sustained by our prayers for him while he fulfils the role of Diocesan Administrator. In your mercy:

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

**8. Reader:** That the young people of our parish who are receiving first Holy Communion at this time will always know the presence of Jesus in their lives. In your mercy:

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

**9. Reader:** That those who are sick will find relief from their suffering, especially Monica Hunt and all those in our parish bulletin. In your mercy:

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

**10. Reader:** That those who have died will share in the eternal salvation of God. In your mercy:

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

**Father:** Lord God, your promise of salvation is close at hand. Hear our prayers, and help us to be like John the Baptist, by eagerly embracing your will for our world in Jesus Christ. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen.**

**Sunday 05 Dec 2021**  
**Second Sunday of Advent C**

**Entrance Antiphon**

*Cf. Is 30:19,30*

O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.

**First Reading**

*Bar 5:1-9*

A reading from the prophet Baruch  
Jerusalem, take off your dress of sorrow and distress, put on the beauty of the glory of God for ever, wrap the cloak of the integrity of God around you, put the diadem of the glory of the Eternal on your head: since God means to show your splendour to every nation under heaven, since the name God gives you for ever will be, 'Peace through integrity, and honour through devotedness'. Arise, Jerusalem, stand on the heights and turn your eyes to the east: see your sons reassembled from west and east at the command of the Holy One, jubilant that God has remembered them. Though they left you on foot, with enemies for an escort, now God brings them back to you like royal princes carried back in glory. For God has decreed the flattening of each high mountain, of the everlasting hills, the filling of the valleys to make the ground level so that Israel can walk in safety under the glory of God. And the forests and every fragrant tree will provide shade for Israel at the command of God; for God will guide Israel in joy by the light of his glory with his mercy and integrity for escort.

The Word of the Lord

**Responsorial Psalm**

*Ps 125. R. v.3*

(R.) The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

1. When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage, it seemed like a dream.

Then was our mouth filled with laughter, on our lips there were songs. (R.)

2. The heathens themselves said:

'What marvels the Lord worked for them!' What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad. (R.)

3. Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage as streams in dry land. Those who are sowing in tears will sing when they reap. (R.)

4. They go out, they go out, full of tears, carrying seed for the sowing: they come back, they come back, full of song, carrying their sheaves. (R.)

**Second Reading**

*Phil 1:3-6. 8-11*

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

Every time I pray for all of you, I pray with joy, remembering how you have helped to spread the Good News from the day you first heard it right up to the present. I am quite certain that the One who began this good work in you will see that it is finished when the Day of Christ Jesus comes. God knows how much I miss you all, loving you as Christ Jesus loves you. My prayer is that your love for each other may increase more and more and never stop improving your knowledge and deepening your perception so that you can always recognise what is best. This will help you to become pure and blameless, and prepare you for the Day of Christ, when you will reach the perfect goodness which Jesus Christ produces in us for the glory and praise of God.

The Word of the Lord

**Gospel Acclamation**

*Lk 3:4. 6*

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:

all people shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia!

**Gospel**

*Lk 3:1-6*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

In the fifteenth year of Tiberius

Caesar's reign, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judaea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of the lands of Ituraea and Trachonitis, Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the pontificate of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. He went through the whole Jordan district proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the sayings of the prophet Isaiah:

A voice cries in the wilderness;

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

Every valley will be filled in,  
every mountain and hill be laid low,  
winding ways will be straightened  
and rough roads made smooth.

And all mankind shall see the salvation of God.

The Gospel of the Lord

**Communion Antiphon**

*Bar 5:5; 4:36*

Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.

**Readings for Next Week 11/12 Dec**

**First Reading**

*Zep 3:14-18* Shout for joy, sing joyfully.

**Responsorial Psalm**

*Is 12:2-6 R. v.6 (R.)* Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.

**Second Reading**

*Phil 4:4-7* Rejoice, the Lord is near.

**Gospel Acclamation**

*Is 61:1 (Lk 4:18)* Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor. Alleluia!

**Gospel**

*Lk 3:10-18* John announces the coming of the Messiah.

# 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

John the Baptist dominates the central weeks of Advent. His summons, 'Prepare the way of the Lord', has long been understood as summing up the message of the Advent season.

But it is not as if we have to mentally project ourselves 'back there' before the original coming of Jesus to hear the message of John. The hope that we as Christians cherish for the second coming of the Lord means that we can rightly identify with those in Israel who were the first to hear John's announcement of salvation and his summons to a change of heart.

The trajectory that runs through the Scripture for today is clear in the way the Gospel, containing the beginning of John's summons, picks up and positions the assurance proclaimed in the **First Reading**, Baruch 5:1-9. The prophecy of Baruch echoes in a post-exilic context much of the message of consolation contained in Second Isaiah (Isaiah 40-66). Foreseeing the return to Jerusalem of Israelites who had been exiled and scattered in foreign cities, the prophet tells the city to get ready to witness this wonderful homecoming. The exiles will return like princes, carried on litters by their former enemies. The way will be smoothed by the flattening of hills and other obstacles, the desert will be transformed into a paradise to make the journey a delight.

Detached from its original reference to Israel's return from exile, the prophecy later functioned as a vision of the 'home-coming' expected in the messianic age. The **Gospel** for today, Luke 3:1-6, has John the Baptist announce its imminent fulfilment. He is 'the voice' foretold by Isaiah (40:3), the one who cries in the wilderness, 'Prepare the way for the Lord.'

What is particularly striking, I think, about Luke's presentation of John's message is the care with which he pins it down historically by mentioning all those rulers at the start: from the emperor in Rome to the high priests in Jerusalem. To relate 'sacred history' to what was going on in the world at large is a distinctive feature of Luke's contribution to Christianity, both in his Gospel and also in his second work, the Acts of the Apostles. Luke in this way pointed the early Church to the world as much as to say, 'It's not all bad out there!' Aspects of the world order at the time, especially the peace and legal structure of the Roman empire could be of assistance to the spread of the Gospel. So the salvation that John heralds and that Jesus will bring is not something confined to a purely spiritual realm detached from everyday life and history. It comes at a particular time, into a particular place and culture. As it works itself out – beyond the time of Jesus into that of the Church – it will interact with all the cultures that it meets, challenging them and transforming them as it seeks to bring the human race back to its true home in the Kingdom of God.

Beyond the vision of Baruch, what John sees is not just the return of the dispersed Israelites, but the 'way of the Lord'. At the head of the new humanity, restoring it to freedom, will be the figure of Jesus. Those whom he gathers and leads will be 'returned ones,' not now in the physical sense of returnees from exile, but in the biblical sense of 'return' which also denotes conversion of heart. Once again, this Advent, John summons us to the change of heart whereby the Church becomes ever more deeply the vanguard of a human race making its homecoming to God and its own true humanity. The vocation of the Church, as a whole and its local communities, is to be the 'light of the nations', so 'all humankind may see the salvation of God.'

The **Second Reading**, Philippians 1:3-6, 8-11, again catches up Paul's sense of Christian life as a time of preparation for the (second) coming of the Lord ('the Day of Christ'). Noteworthy is the sense of the Christian community as a 'work' that God, like a good craftsman, is bringing to completion. This is God's work – hence Paul's prayer. But we should not fail to notice his stress upon 'improving knowledge' and 'deepening perception' so that the community will always be able to 'recognise what is best'. Believers are not handed a perfect blueprint for salvation. In the ever-changing circumstances of human life and knowledge, we are summoned to a life of constant discernment: to ask what leads us to God, what leads us away; what gives us joy, what leaves us in sadness. Advent is a time of sharpening our sensitivity to the summons and calls of the Spirit.

**POPE FRANCIS**  
**ANGELUS**  
**Saint Peter's Square**  
**Sunday, 28 November 2021**

Dear brothers and sisters, buongiorno!

The Gospel of today's liturgy, the First Sunday of Advent, speaks to us about the Lord's coming at the end of time. Jesus announces bleak and distressing events, but precisely at this point He invites us not to be afraid. Why? Because everything will be okay? No, but because He will come. Jesus will return as He promised. This is what he says: "Stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand" (Lk 21:28). It is nice to hear this encouraging Word: stand up straight and raise our heads because right during those moments when everything seems to be coming to an end, the Lord comes to save us. We await Him with joy, even in the midst of tribulations, during life's crises and the dramatic events of history. We await Him.

But how do we raise our heads and not become absorbed with difficulties, suffering and defeat? Jesus points the way with a strong reminder: "Beware that your hearts do not become drowsy... Be vigilant at all times and pray" (Lk 21:34, 36).

"Be vigilant": vigilance. Let us focus on this important aspect of the Christian life. From the words of Christ, we see that vigilance is tied to alertness: be alert, do not get distracted, that is, stay awake! Vigilance means this: not to allow our hearts to become lazy or our spiritual life to soften into mediocrity. Be careful because we can become "sleepy Christians" – and we know there are many Christians who are asleep, who are anesthetized by spiritual worldliness - Christians without spiritual fervor, without intensity in prayer, without enthusiasm for mission, without passion for the Gospel; Christians who always look inwards, incapable of looking to the horizon. And this leads to "dozing off": to move things along by inertia, to fall into apathy, indifferent to everything except what is comfortable for us. This is a sad life going forward this way since there is no happiness.

We need to be vigilant so that our daily life does not become routine, and, as Jesus says, so we are not burdened by life's anxieties (cf. v. 34). So today is a good moment to ask ourselves: what weighs on my heart? What weighs on my spirit? What makes me go to sit in the lazy chair? It is sad to see Christians "in the armchair"! What are the mediocrities that paralyze me, the vices that crush me to the ground and prevent me from raising my head? And regarding the burdens that weigh on the shoulders of our brothers and sisters, am I aware of them or indifferent to them? These are good questions to ask ourselves, because they help guard our hearts against apathy. What then is apathy? It is a great enemy of the spiritual life and also of Christian life. Apathy is a type of laziness that makes us slide into sadness, it takes away zest for life and the will to do things. It is a negative spirit that traps the soul in apathy, robbing it of its joy. It starts with sadness sliding downwards so that there is no joy. The Book of Proverbs says: "With all vigilance guard your heart, for in it are the sources of life" (Prov 4:23). Guard your heart: that means to be vigilant! Stay awake and guard your heart.

And let us add an essential ingredient: the secret to being vigilant is prayer. In fact, Jesus says: "Be vigilant at all times and pray" (Lk 21:36). Prayer is what keeps the lamp of the heart lit. This is especially true when we feel that our enthusiasm has

cooled down. Prayer re-lights it, because it brings us back to God, to the center of things. Prayer reawakens the soul from sleep and focuses it on what matters, on the purpose of existence. Even during our busiest days, we must not neglect prayer. The prayer of the heart can be helpful for us, repeating often brief invocations. For example, during Advent, we could make a habit of saying, "Come, Lord Jesus." Only these words, but repeating them: "Come, Lord Jesus". This time of preparation leading to Christmas is beautiful: we think of the nativity scene and Christmas, so let us say from the heart: "Come, Lord Jesus". Let us repeat this prayer all throughout the day: the soul will remain vigilant! "Come, Lord Jesus", is a prayer we can all say together three times. "Come, Lord Jesus", "Come, Lord Jesus", "Come, Lord Jesus".

And now we pray to the Madonna: may she who awaited the Lord with a vigilant heart accompany us during our Advent journey.

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**After the Angelus, the Holy Father continued:**

Dear Brothers and Sisters

Yesterday I met members of associations, groups of migrants, and people who share their journey with a spirit of fraternity. They are here in the Square with that large banner! Welcome! But how very many migrants are exposed, even during these days, to great dangers, and how many lose their lives at our borders! I feel sorrow hearing the news about the situation in which so many of them find themselves. I think of those who died crossing the English Channel, those on the borders of Belarus, many of whom are children, and those who drown in the Mediterranean. There is so much sorrow when thinking about them. Of those who are repatriated to North Africa, they are captured by traffickers who turn them into slaves: they sell the women and torture the men... I think of those who, also this week, have tried to cross the Mediterranean seeking a better land and find instead their grave there; and so many others. I assure my prayers to the migrants who find themselves in these crisis situations. Know also that from my heart I am always close to you, in prayer and action. I thank all the institutions both of the Catholic Church and elsewhere, especially the national Caritas agencies and all those who are committed to alleviating their suffering. I renew my heartfelt appeal to those who can contribute to the resolution of these problems, especially civil and military authorities, so that understanding and dialogue may finally prevail over any kind of instrumentalization and guide the will and efforts towards solutions that respect the humanity of these people. Let us remember migrants, their suffering, and let us pray together in silence... (moment of silence).

I greet all of you pilgrims who have come from Italy and various countries; I see the many flags of various nations. I greet the families, parish groups, and associations. In particular, I greet the faithful from East Timor - I see the flag there - from Poland and from Lisbon; as well as those from Tivoli.

I wish everyone a good Sunday, a good Advent journey, and a good journey towards Christmas, towards the Lord. Please do not forget to pray for me. Have a nice lunch and arrivederci!

## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE DIOCESE AND SURROUNDS...

### Pastoral Placement Program Presentation Day

You're invited to the Pastoral Placement Program Presentation Day!

The Pastoral Placement Program is a faith formation experience like no other. The program provides an opportunity for people to experience working in the various ministries and services in the Diocese. It also provides participants with the relevant faith formation and education which launches them into a full life with Christ.

Each year the participants complete a variety of placements within the Diocese's agencies and parishes. They also undertake project work. The project work is centred around the development of a new idea, resource, or event for an organisation/ministry that the participants have found particularly inspiring.

Presentation Day is an annual event that provides a platform for each participant to share their idea or proposal with Parish and Diocesan leaders and to reflect on what they have learnt throughout the year.

We hope you can join us on this very special day where we can come together via Zoom to celebrate the participants' achievements.

**Time:** 10.30 AM - 12.30 PM  
**Date:** Tuesday, 7 December 2021

Register: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/o/diocese-of-maitland-newcastle-18080128129>

### Christian Formation Course (CFC) 2022

Are you wanting to know more about Christianity?

Expressions of Interest are now open for the Christian Formation Course 2022

The Christian Formation Course (CFC) is a face-to-face learning experience that allows participants to explore their life's journey and their faith within the Catholic Tradition. This one-year course introduces participants to scripture, theology, church history, sacramental life, and liturgy. The course runs across twelve months and comprises of eight units.

Commencing on Tuesday February 1 2022, no prerequisite formation or qualification is required to enrol. All who complete the Course are awarded a Diocesan Certificate in Christian Formation.

Expression of Interest close December 10. For more information go to: [www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/adult-faith-formation/christian-formation-course/](http://www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/adult-faith-formation/christian-formation-course/)

### Faith Matters | Share your story

Each fortnight Faith Matters aims to explore individuals and communities rich experience of their faith.

We invite you to share your faith story.

Everyone has a story.

No matter how ordinary yours may seem, we all have a story to tell and you never know what it can mean to someone until you share it.

You could use the following questions as a guide.

Who are the people who guided your faith journey? How did they do that?

Describe some defining moments of your faith journey? What made them significant?

How has your faith been reflected in your work, your hobbies, your values, your choices, and your priorities at various times in your life?

In what ways has your faith guided and supported you over your lifetime? How has your church/faith community guided and supported you?

We hope to use the stories as part of a Faith Matters.

For more information or if you would like to be interviewed, please contact [rose.mcallister@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:rose.mcallister@mn.catholic.org.au) or send your story to [shareourstory@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:shareourstory@mn.catholic.org.au).

## Where is The Apostles Creed Found in the Bible? Answer:

*Share this*

I believe in God, the Father almighty, (Mt 5 :45)

Creator of heaven and earth, (Gen 1: 1ff; Rom 1: 20)

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, (Mt 3: 17; Phil 2: 12)

Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, (Lk 1: 35)

born of the Virgin Mary, (Lk 2: 7)

suffered under Pontius Pilate, (Jn 19: 16)

was crucified, died, and was buried. (Jn 19: 29 – 42)

He descended into hell; (1 Pet 3: 19 – 20)

on the third day He rose again from the dead, (Mt 28:1-10; Jn 20:11-18)

He ascended in heaven, (Lk 24: 51) **To God be the Glory**

and sits at the right hand of God, (Heb 1: 3)

the Father almighty; (Mk 14: 36)

from thence He shall come again (Mt 16: 27; Acts 10: 39ff;)

to judge the living and the dead. (1 Cor 15: 51ff)

I believe in the Holy Spirit, (Jn 14: 15 – 20; Acts 1: 7 – 8)

the Holy Catholic Church, (Mt 16: 18 – 19; Eph 5: 26-27; Col 1: 24)

the communion of Saints, (Mt 28: 19 – 20; 2 Cor 11: 13; 1 Cor 15: 33)

the forgiveness of sins, (Jn 20: 22 – 23)

the resurrection of the body, (1Cor 15: 51 – 54; 1 Thes 4: 13 – 18)

and life everlasting. (1 Jn 5: 20)

Catholic Dawn Spirit

## PROCLAMATION OF THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

The Twenty-fifth Day of December, when ages beyond number had run their course from the creation of the world, when God in the beginning created heaven and earth, and formed man in his own likeness; when century upon century had passed since the Almighty set his bow in the clouds after the Great Flood, as a sign of covenant and peace; in the twenty-first century since Abraham, our father in faith, came out of Ur of the Chaldees; in the thirteenth century since the People of Israel were led by Moses in the Exodus from Egypt; around the thousandth year since David was anointed King; in the sixty-fifth week of the prophecy of Daniel; in the one hundred and ninety-fourth Olympiad; in the year seven hundred and fifty-two since the foundation of the City of Rome; in the forty-second year of the reign of Caesar Octavian Augustus, the whole world being at peace, Jesus Christ, eternal God and Son of the eternal Father, desiring to consecrate the world by his most loving presence, was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and when nine months had passed since his conception, was born of the Virgin Mary in Bethlehem of Judah, and was made man: The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to the flesh.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Proclamation\\_of\\_the\\_Birth\\_of\\_Christ](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Proclamation_of_the_Birth_of_Christ)



### 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](mailto:Peter.street@mn.catholic.org.au)

Emergency Contact: 0458 327 219

(Please only calls to this phone no texts)

**Danielle Kingdom**

Admin Assistant

[danielle.kingdom@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:danielle.kingdom@mn.catholic.org.au)

### Office Hours:

Mon-Fri 9.00am- 3.30pm

Phone: 02 6554 6401

### Website:

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

### Follow us on facebook:

[@catholicparishofforstertuncurry](https://www.facebook.com/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](mailto:childprotection@mn.catholic.org.au)

### COMMUNITY KITCHEN

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

### PARISH GROUPS

#### Christian Meditation

Forster Tues 9.30am

Greg 0427 918 568

Hallidays Point Wed 10am

John 0417 249 466

#### Gardening Group

3rd Monday 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 3.30pm

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

Novena Benediction on the 1st

Wednesday of the month.

#### Secular Franciscan

#### Fraternity

4th Sunday of the month 9.30am

Barbara Dolahenty 0408 248 018

**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: **1st 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](mailto:admin@forster.catholic.edu.au)

W: [www.forster.catholic.edu.au](http://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](mailto:Admin@tareesc.catholic.edu.au)

W: [www.tareesc.catholic.edu.au](http://www.tareesc.catholic.edu.au)

Principal: Peter Nicholls

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