



Bridgeside Bulletin



The weekly Bulletin of the Catholic Parish of Forster Tuncurry

"Unity in Christ"

Holy Name of Jesus Church, 31 Lake Street, Forster 2428 NSW

Ph: 6554 6401 E: forster-tuncurry.parish@mn.catholic.org.au W: www.forstertuncurrycatholic.org.au

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

SUNDAY 1 MAY 2022,

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER YEAR C



Mary and Our Spiritual Life

In our observance of the Marian month we should take into account the season of the Liturgical Year which largely corresponds with the fifty days of Easter. Our pious exercises could emphasize Our Lady's participation in the Paschal mystery and in Pentecost with which the Church begins. The pious exercises connected with the month of May can easily highlight the earthly role played by the glorified Queen of Heaven, here and now, in the celebration of the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist.

The Rosary

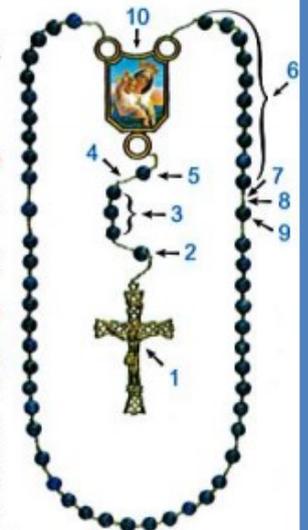
Also called the Psalter of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Rosary is one of the most excellent prayers to the Mother of God. Thus, "the Roman Pontiffs have repeatedly exhorted the faithful to the frequent recitation of this biblically inspired prayer which is centered on contemplation of the salvific events of Christ's life, and their close association with the Virgin Mother."

The purpose of the Rosary is to help keep in memory certain principal events in the history of our salvation. There are twenty mysteries reflected upon in the Rosary, and these are divided into the five Joyful Mysteries (said on Monday and Saturday), the five Luminous Mysteries (said on Thursday), the five Sorrowful Mysteries (said on Tuesday and Friday), and the five Glorious Mysteries (said on Wednesday and Sunday). As an exception, the Joyful Mysteries may be said on Sundays during Advent and Christmas, while the Sorrowful Mysteries may be said on the Sundays of Lent.

The question is sometimes asked, why, of all the incidents in our Lord's life, the Rosary only considers these particular twenty. The mysteries of the Rosary are based on the incidents in the life of Our Lord and His Mother that are celebrated in the Liturgy. There is a parallel between the main feasts honoring our Lord and his Mother in the liturgical year, and the twenty mysteries of the Rosary. Consequently, one who recites the twenty mysteries of the Rosary in one day reflects on the whole liturgical cycle that the Church commemorates during the course of each year. That is why some of the Popes have referred to the Rosary as a compendium of the Gospel. One cannot change the mysteries of the Rosary without losing the indulgences that the Church grants for the recitation of the Rosary.

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."



<https://rosarycenter.org/how-to-pray-the-rosary>

https://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/overviews/months/05_1.cfm

Parish Timetable

Mon 2 MAY	9am Counters– Team 7 12pm Community Kitchen
Tue 3 MAY	9.30am Christian Meditation 12pm Community Kitchen 3.30pm Holy Hour, followed by Benediction 4.30pm Mass
Wed 4 MAY	9.30am Mass 11am Novena of Our Lady of Perpetual Help 12pm Community Kitchen
Thu 5 MAY	12pm Community Kitchen 2.30pm Bible study 4.30pm Mass
Fri 6 MAY	9.30am Mass
Sat 7 MAY	9.00am Confession 9.30am Mass 5.00pm Vigil Mass
Sun 8 MAY	8.00am Mass 10.00am Mass

Parish Notices

- **Thursday Mass will be held at 4.30pm** due to Fr Peter returning from Newcastle on Thursday.
- Thank you to all who contributed towards the Holy Land–Good Friday collection. **\$1,802** was raised by our parish.
- Kularoo residents will be joining us for Mass on Thu 12th May. Mass that day will be moved to 10am.

What's happening locally...

Please come & enjoy a presentation by Dr Ray Hodgson on his book and work in remote Nepal.

Date: Saturday 28th May 2022

Time: 2pm

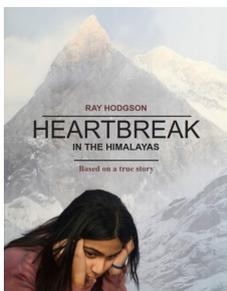
Venue: Forster Catholic Parish Hall, 33 Lake St , Forster

Cost: By donation- please be generous

Dr Hodgson's book will be available for sale & signing. All funds raised will go to the construction of Mothers and Babies Hospital in remote Nepal.

Event arranged by FOGLLS- Friends of Great Lakes Library Service

Bookings: Helen Bryan 0448261095 or Helen Duggan 6554 7781



A message from Aid to the Church in Need Australia: For 75 years, the support of Christian refugees has been a major pillar of the work of Aid to the Church in Need (ACN). Today ACN is supporting displaced Catholic families by attending to basic needs such as food and medicine, but these families also hunger for the healing power of the sacraments and the pastoral support of the Church. As such, the help we provide is not only material. Our support of priests, sisters, and catechists all work to build up the faith and to offer help and consolation to those in desperate need. Can you give hope to Christian refugees today? Visit www.aidtochurch.org/refugees

Prayer for the appointment of our new Bishop

Shepherding God
you reveal your way of unfailing love
in the image of the Good Shepherd
who seeks the lost,
shows compassion
knows and is known by the sheep
and lays down his life for them.
We your people of Maitland-Newcastle
are without a bishop to shepherd us.
We ask that your Holy Spirit
who moves through this great south land,
inspire the choice of our new Bishop,
empower his 'yes'
and open our hearts in hospitality and love.

We make this prayer through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help **pray for us**
Mary MacKillop of the Cross **pray for us.**

NATIONAL 16-22 MAY 2022
VOLUNTEER
Better Together **WEEK**

National Volunteer Week is Australia's largest annual celebration of volunteering. Volunteering brings people together; it builds communities and creates a better society for everyone. The theme for Volunteer Week 2022 is Better Together. The Diocese and its agencies have more than 6000 volunteers who contribute their time each and every day, without our volunteers some of our programs and services would not operate.

National Volunteer Week is a chance for all of us to celebrate and recognise the vital work of volunteers and to say thank you. This year we will be hosting two events during National Volunteer Week.

RSVP to volunteers@mn.catholic.org.au by 9 May

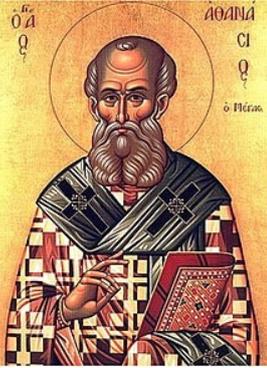
**To say thanks to our incredible people,
we are hosting two free events:**

WEDNESDAY 18 MAY
6PM VOLUNTEER DINNER
AT CLUB TAREE

THURSDAY 19 MAY
6PM AT EVENT CINEMAS KOTARA

Saints and Feasts

1st May 2022. St Joseph the Worker. This feast was instituted in 1955 by Pope Pius XII on a day when labour was celebrated in many countries. Jesus was the son of a carpenter and St Joseph presents a wonderful example of how even the most seemingly menial work can be sanctified. In doing this Pope Pius XII had thus imparted a special religious significance to May Day which had been completely secular, and one that had been used by various enemies of the Church to further their own designs. Now St Joseph who was the support and protector of Jesus and His Mother on earth is now honoured above all others as the personification of the dignity of human labour and the provident guardian of the workers families.



2nd May 2022. St Athanasius, Bishop, Doctor of the Church (c.296-373), Patriarch of Alexandria. Born of Christian parents and educated in Alexandria, he became deacon and secretary to his bishop Alexander, whom he accompanied to the council of Nicaea in 325ad. This first General Council of the Church condemned those who denied the divinity of Christ (these people were known as Arians), the Creed which was formulated there remains part of the Liturgy of the Church to this day. Athanasius vigorously defended Christian orthodoxy and refused all compromise with the Arians or semi-Arians. He became Bishop of his native city in 328 on the death of Alexander; Athanasius spent 17 of the 43 years of his episcopate in exile, misunderstanding, lawsuits and persecutions where his fate even though the papacy strongly supported him. He was a prolific author and is a doctor of the Church. He died peacefully in 373.

3rd May 2022. Sts Philip and James. St Philip was an apostle; nearly everything that we know about him is in the New Testament. He came from Bethsaida and was an early follower of Jesus. Philip was present at the feeding of the five thousand; it was he whom the Greeks spoke with when they wanted to meet Jesus. It was Philip's request of Jesus to "show us the Father" which elucidated from Jesus the response "He that sees me, sees the Father". He was present in the Upper room the night of Jesus' arrest, at the institution of the Eucharist; he was present again at the descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. St James was also an apostle. He was a witness to the Risen Lord and is often called the first bishop of Jerusalem. He was stoned to death for his practice of the faith. He is the author of the epistle which bears his name.



THE LATEST NEWS FROM OUR SAFEGUARDING PROMOTERS – 1 May 22

The Promoters of Safeguarding continue to endorse a culture of safeguarding within the Parish. To this end, your attention is drawn to the expectation that **we're set for a potentially nasty influenza (flu) season**; however, your annual vaccination can help reduce your chances of contracting flu viruses.

Infectious diseases expert, Professor Robert Booy, has explained that an influenza vaccination is very effective in preventing becoming infected and, even if you're unlucky enough to contract the flu after being jabbed, you are more likely to have milder symptoms than the unvaccinated will experience.

For the past 2 years, comparatively few Australians contracted the flu, even though many failed to have the annual jab. This can be put down to two factors. Firstly, interventions we took to avoid Covid-19 (wearing masks, social distancing) also protected us from the flu. Secondly, our international border was closed, which meant that travelers were not able to bring northern hemisphere infections as they normally do.

While reduced flu infections have been a relief, they also have a downside. Prof Booy explains that, as a population, we have reduced immunity to the flu as we haven't built up antibodies against it. With the international border now open, Prof Booy said, "...that means we're expecting to have a big flu season in 2022."

Flu is a highly contagious virus that is easily spread when an infected person coughs or sneezes and you breathe in the droplets. You can also get it if you touch a contaminated surface and then touch your mouth, eyes or nose. Flu can be mild but also cause very serious illness in an otherwise healthy person. In comparison, the current Covid-19 pandemic has led to the deaths of 6 million people world-wide whereas the 1918 'Spanish' flu killed 50 million. There are many strains of flu and they can change yearly. Vaccines are updated annually to protect against the most common variants.

The Covid-19 vaccine does NOT protect against the flu, so a flu shot is still needed and, according to the Australian Technical Advisory Group (ATAGI) can be safely given on the same day as a Covid-19 booster. Prof Booy describes the flu vaccination as "...the best way to protect yourself, your family and your community."

Protecting the most vulnerable in our community, such as those in a residential aged care facility (RACF), is paramount. Depending on which Australian state you are in, and the time of year, proof of flu vaccination may be required before entering a RACF.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Recently deceased: Roydon Avard & Barry Dunn

Anniversaries: Raymund Lyndon,

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:

Michael Meyer, Imogen Ralph, Joe Camilleri & Barrie Coady

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



Third Sunday of Easter Year C

Fr. Peter: Brothers and sisters, fulfilled by the love of our risen Lord, we turn to God with our intentions.

1. Reader: That the Pope, bishops and priests will guide the flock of the Lord in humble service.

(pause)

In your glory:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

2. Reader: That all creation will praise the living God, and give glory to Christ his risen Son.

(pause)

In your glory:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

3. Reader: That the needy who hunger and thirst will be fed, through Jesus, in body and spirit.

(pause)

In your glory:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

4. Reader: That our parish community will serve others through good works and practical deeds.

(pause)

In your glory:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

5. Reader: That the sick will be rescued from their distress.

(pause)

In your glory:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

6. Reader: That those who have died will rise to life with the Lord of all creation especially Roydon Avard & Barry Dunn who have died recently and Raymund Lyndon whose anniversary occurs at this time.

(pause)

In your glory:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Fr. Peter: God our Father, your Son showed himself as risen from the dead. Hear our prayers and help us to be ever present to those in need, with faith in your great power. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Sunday 01 May 2022
Third Sunday of Easter Year C

Entrance Antiphon

Cf. Ps 65:1-2

Cry out with joy to God, all the earth; O sing to the glory of his name. O render him glorious praise, alleluia.

First Reading

Acts 5:27-32. 40-41

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

The high priest demanded an explanation of the apostles. 'We gave you a formal warning,' he said 'not to preach in this name, and what have you done? You have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and seem determined to fix the guilt of this man's death on us.' In reply Peter and the apostles said, 'Obedience to God comes before obedience to men; it was the God of our ancestors who raised up Jesus, but it was you who had him executed by hanging on a tree. By his own right hand God has now raised him up to be leader and saviour, to give repentance and forgiveness of sins through him to Israel. We are witnesses to all this, we and the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him.' They warned the apostles not to speak in the name of Jesus and released them. And so they left the presence of the Sanhedrin glad to have had the honour of suffering humiliation for the sake of the name.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 29:2. 4-6. 11-13. R. v. 2

(R.) I will praise you, Lord, for you have rescued me.

1. I will praise you, Lord, you have rescued me and have not let my enemies rejoice over me. O Lord, you have raised my soul from the dead, restored me to life from those who sink into the grave. (R.)

2. Sing psalms to the Lord, you who love him, give thanks to his holy name. His anger lasts but a moment; his favour through life. At night there are tears, but joy comes with dawn. (R.)

3. The Lord listened and had pity. The Lord came to my help. For me you have changed my mourning into dancing; O Lord my God, I will thank you for ever. (R.)

Second Reading

Rv 5:11-14

A reading from the book of the Apocalypse

In my vision, I, John, heard the sound of an immense number of angels gathered round the throne and the animals and the elders; there were ten thousand times ten thousand of them and thousands upon thousands, shouting, 'The Lamb that was sacrificed is worthy to be given power, riches, wisdom, strength, honour, glory and blessing.' Then I heard all the living things in creation – everything that lives in the air, and on the ground, and under the ground, and in the sea, crying, 'To the One who is sitting on the throne and to the Lamb, be all praise, honour, glory and power, for ever and ever.' And the four animals said, 'Amen'; and the elders prostrated themselves to worship.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Christ is risen, the Lord of all creation; he has shown pity on all people.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Jn 21:1-19

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus showed himself again to the disciples. It was by the Sea of Tiberias, and it happened like this: Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee and two more of his disciples were together. Simon Peter said, 'I'm going fishing.' They replied, 'We'll come with you.' They went out and got into the boat but caught nothing that night. It was light by now and there stood Jesus on the shore, though the disciples did not realise that it was Jesus. Jesus called out, 'Have you caught anything, friends?' And when they answered, 'No', he said, 'Throw the net out to starboard and you'll find something.' So they dropped the net, and there were so many fish that they could not haul it in. The disciple Jesus loved said to Peter, 'It is the Lord.' At these words 'It is the Lord', Simon Peter, who had practically nothing on, wrapped his cloak round him and jumped into the water. The other disciples came on in the boat, towing the net and the fish; they were only about a hundred yards from land. As soon as they came ashore they saw that there was some bread there, and a charcoal fire with fish cooking on it. Jesus said, 'Bring some of the fish you have just caught.' Simon Peter went aboard and dragged the net to the shore, full of big fish, one hundred and fifty-three of them; and in spite of there being so many the net was not broken. Jesus said to them, 'Come and have breakfast.' None of the disciples was bold enough to ask, 'Who are you?'; they knew quite well it was the Lord. Jesus then stepped forward, took the bread and gave it to them, and the same with the fish. This was the third time that Jesus showed himself to the disciples after rising from the dead. After the meal Jesus said to Simon Peter, 'Simon son of John, do you love me more than these others do?' He answered, 'Yes Lord, you know I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Feed my lambs.' A second time he said to him, 'Simon son of John, do you love me?' He replied, 'Yes, Lord, you know I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Look after my sheep.' Then he said to him a third time, 'Simon son of John, do you love me?' Peter was upset that he asked him the third time, 'Do you love me?' and said, 'Lord, you know everything; you know I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Feed my sheep. I tell you most solemnly, when you were young you put on your own belt and walked where you liked; but when you grow old you will stretch out your hands, and somebody else will put a belt round you and take you where you would rather not go.' In these words he indicated the kind of death by which Peter would give glory to God. After this he said, 'Follow me.'

Communion Antiphon

Lk 24:35

The disciples recognized the Lord Jesus in the breaking of the bread, alleluia.

Readings for Next Week 7/8 May

First Reading

Acts 13:14, 43-52 Paul and Barnabas are expelled from Antioch.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 99:1-3. 5. R. v.3

(R.) We are his people, the sheep of his flock.

Second Reading

Rv 7:9, 14-17 John sees people of every race before the throne.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! I am the good shepherd, says the Lord; I know my sheep, and mine know me. Alleluia!

Gospel

Jn 10:27-30 The gift of eternal life.

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 Gospel for this third Sunday of Easter describes at length an appearance of the risen Lord to seven of the male disciples in a scene by the Lake of Galilee, John 21:1-19. Apart from Jesus himself, Peter is the leading figure – and indeed there are several echoes in this account of St Luke's version of the call of Simon Peter early in his gospel (Luke 5:1-11): the fruitless fishing all night, the miraculously abundant catch when they follow the instructions of Jesus, a subsequent moment of deep conversion for Peter, followed by a specific commissioning of him for a new pastoral role.

The scene starts with a reversion on the part of the disciples, led by Peter, to their old trade of fishing. In the wider sequence of the Fourth Gospel, following on from their solemn commissioning and empowerment with the Spirit (20:19-23), this seems to be something of a falling-away from their high calling. Perhaps we are meant to take it as such. But in the gospel tradition generally fishing for fish (i.e., ordinary fishing) is a symbol of the mission of the Church. Fishers of fish are transformed into fishers of people. The present narrative describes how an encounter with the risen Lord works this transformation and so 're-founds' the core community of the Church around the pastoral role of Peter.

The arrangement of the graveclothes in the empty tomb of Jesus had served as a sign for the 'disciple whom Jesus loved' (13:23; 19:26-27), sparking off his faith in the resurrection (20:6-8). Now the superabundant catch of fish, where previously there had been none, functions again as a sign for his attuned faith. In the distant figure on the shore he recognises the presence of the risen Lord.

Simon Peter's spontaneous and extravagant response – jumping into the sea to swim to shore – shows the ardour of love and devotion. But this is a love that is soon to be probed and tested.

On the shore, Jesus has already prepared breakfast: bread and a charcoal fire with fish cooking on it. The meal to which he invites the disciples takes on eucharistic overtones in the phrases 'he took the bread and gave it to them, and the same with the fish'. What we have in this scene is a nucleus of the Church, which, in the coming time of the physical absence of her Lord, will celebrate and experience in the Eucharist the ongoing hospitality of God that the disciples have received from Jesus.

The number of fish caught – one hundred and fifty-three – has long puzzled commentators. The best explanation is probably that which sees it as a reflection of an ancient belief that the sum total of separate nations in the world amounted to 153. The number, then, foreshadows the worldwide mission of the Church.

With Jesus soon to depart in a physical sense, someone else is going to have to take the role of the Good Shepherd, who laid down his life for the sheep entrusted to him by the Father (John 10:11, 14-16). The role will fall to Simon Peter but first his qualifications must be probed and tested. By an earlier charcoal fire (18:18) he had denied Jesus three times. Hence the triple interrogation in which his love is gently probed: 'Simon, son of John, do you love me?' (21:15-19). Only if Simon loves Jesus 'more than these others' will he be suitable to take up the pastoral role which Jesus has exercised to the point of death. The interrogation goes on until Simon is moved at the depths of his being. There is no explicit censure of his denial, no demand for apology – just a sense conveyed that the triple protestation of love will more than adequately compensate for the past failure and show that Peter is ready and equipped to feed and tend the sheep, as Jesus had done. In fact, as Jesus goes on to foretell, Peter too will end his pastoral office by laying down his life in imitation of his Lord.

The **First Reading**, from Acts 5:27-32 40-41, describes the leadership of the Church getting under way in its task of giving witness to the saving events associated with Jesus' death and resurrection, and courageously confronting the opposition that is beginning to arise. Warnings and threats cannot shut down this enterprise begun with the power of the Spirit. Peter's statement, 'Obedience to God comes before obedience to men', has set the policy that heroic Christians have followed down the ages.

The **Second Reading**, from Revelation 5:11-14, lifts the eyes of the persecuted, suffering Church to the heavenly triumph of Christ (the Lamb), the impulse and guarantee of its mission. The triumph is not restricted to heaven. Fulfilling the vision of Phil 2:9-11, all living creatures on earth join in the worship and praise.

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POPE FRANCIS

REGINA CAELI

Saint Peter's Square

**Second Sunday of Easter, liturgical feast of Divine Mercy, 24
April 2022**

Dear brothers and sisters, Buongiorno!

Today, the last day of the Octave of Easter, the Gospel recounts the first and second apparition of the Risen One to the disciples. Jesus comes at Passover, while the Apostles are shut in the Upper Room, out of fear, but since Thomas, one of the Twelve, is not present, Jesus returns eight days later (cf. Jn 20:19-29). Let's focus on the two main characters, Thomas and Jesus, looking first at the disciple, and then at the Master. There is a good dialogue between these two. The Apostle Thomas, first of all. He represents all of us, who were not present in the Upper Room when the Lord appeared, and did not have other physical signs or apparitions from him. We too struggle at times like that disciple: how can we believe that Jesus is risen, that he accompanies us and is the Lord of our life without having seen him, without having touched him? How can one believe in this? Why does the Lord not give us some clearer sign of his presence and love? Some sign that I can see better... Here, we too are like Thomas, with the same doubts, the same reasoning. But we do not need to be ashamed of this. By telling us the story of Thomas, in fact, the Gospel tells us that the Lord is not looking for perfect Christians. The Lord is not looking for perfect Christians. I tell you: I am afraid when I see a Christian, some associations of Christians who believe themselves to be perfect. The Lord is not looking for perfect Christians; the Lord is not looking for Christians who never doubt and always flaunt a steadfast faith. When a Christian is like that, something isn't right. No, the adventure of faith, as for Thomas, consists of lights and shadows. Otherwise, what kind of faith would that be? It knows times of comfort, zeal and enthusiasm, but also of weariness, confusion, doubt and darkness. The Gospel shows us Thomas' "crisis" to tell us that we should not fear the crises of life and faith. Crises are not sins, they are part of the journey, we should not fear them. Many times, they make us humble because they strip us of the idea that we are fine, that we are better than others. Crises help us to recognize that we are needy: they rekindle the need for God and thus enable us to return to the Lord, to touch his wounds, to experience his love anew as if it were the first time. Dear brothers and sisters, is better to have an imperfect but humble faith that always returns to Jesus, than a strong but presumptuous faith that makes us proud and arrogant. Woe to those, woe to them!

And, faced with Thomas' absence and his journey, which is often also our own, what does Jesus do? The Gospel says twice that he "came" (vv. 19, 26). First once, then a second time, eight days later. Jesus does not give up, he does not get tired of us, he is not afraid of our crises, our weaknesses. He always comes back: when the doors are closed, he comes back; when we are in doubt, he comes back; when, like Thomas, we need to encounter him and to touch him up close, he comes back. Jesus always comes back, he always knocks on the door, and he does not come back with powerful signs that would make us feel small and inadequate, even ashamed, but with his wounds; he comes back showing us his wounds, signs of his love that has espoused our frailties. Brothers and sisters, especially when we experience moments of weariness and crisis, the Risen Jesus wishes to return to stay with us. He only waits for us to seek him, to call on him, or even, like Thomas, to protest, bringing him our needs and our unbelief. He always comes back. Why? Because he is patient and merciful. He comes to open the upper rooms of our fears and unbelief because he always wants to give us another chance. Jesus is the Lord of "other chances": he always gives us another one, always. So let us think about the last time – let's try to re-

member a little – that, during a difficult moment or a period of crisis, we closed in on ourselves, barricading ourselves in our problems and shutting Jesus out of the house. And let us promise ourselves, the next time, in our fatigue, to seek Jesus, to return to him, to his forgiveness – he always forgives, always! – to return to those wounds that have healed us. In this way, we will also become capable of compassion, of approaching the wounds of others without inflexibility and without prejudice.

May Our Lady, Mother of Mercy – I like to think of her as the Mother of Mercy on the Monday after Mercy Sunday – accompany us on the journey of faith and love.

After the Regina Caeli

Dear brothers and sisters,

Today various Eastern Churches, Catholic and Orthodox, and several Latin communities, celebrate Easter according to the Julian calendar. We celebrated it last Sunday, following the Gregorian calendar. I offer them my warmest wishes: Christ is risen, he is truly risen! May he fill with hope the good expectations of hearts. May he grant peace, outraged by the barbarity of war. Today marks two months since the beginning of this war: instead of stopping, the war has worsened. It is sad that in these days, which are the holiest and most solemn for all Christians, the deadly roar of weapons is heard rather than the sound of bells announcing the Resurrection; and it is sad that weapons are increasingly taking the place of words.

I renew my appeal for an Easter truce, a minimal and tangible sign of a desire for peace. The attack must be stopped, to respond to the suffering of the exhausted population; it must stop, in obedience to the words of the Risen Lord, who on Easter Day repeats to his disciples: "Peace be with you!" (Lk 24:36; Jn 20:19.21). I ask everyone to increase prayer for peace and to have the courage to say, to show that peace is possible. Political leaders, please, listen to the voice of the people, who want peace, not an escalation of the conflict.

In this regard, I greet and thank the participants in the special Perugia-Assisi march for peace and fraternity, taking place today, as well as those who have joined in with similar events in other cities throughout Italy. Today the bishops of Cameroon are making a national pilgrimage, with their faithful, to the Marian shrine of Marianberg, to reconsecrate the country to the Mother of God and to place it under her protection. I pray in particular for the return of peace to their country, which has been ravaged by violence in various regions for more than five years. Let us too raise our prayer, along with our brothers and sisters of Cameroon, that God may soon, by the intercession of the Virgin Mary, grant true and lasting peace to this beloved country. I greet all of you, Romans and pilgrims from Italy and from many other countries. In particular, I greet the Polish, with a thought for their compatriots who are celebrating the "Day of Good" promoted by Caritas, and also for the victims of accidents in mines. I greet the faithful of Milan, Faenza, Verolanuova, Nembro and the volunteers of the Order of Malta from Vicenza. A special greeting goes to the pilgrimage of young Confirmation candidates from the diocese of Piacenza-Bobbio, accompanied by their bishop, as well as the Confirmation candidates from Mondovi, Almenno San Salvatore, Albegno, Cazzago San Martino and Alta Padovana, and also to the group from Sant'Angelo Lodigiano and the altar boys from Spirano. I greet the devotees of Divine Mercy gathered here today in the church-sanctuary of Santo Spirito in Sassia; and the participants in the journey from the Sacra di San Michele to Monte Sant'Angelo. I wish you all a blessed Sunday! And please do not forget to pray for me. Enjoy your lunch, and arrivederci.

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The Five First Saturdays

On July 13, 1917, Our Lady appeared for the third time to the three children of Fatima and showed them the vision of hell. In this vision Our Lady said that "God wishes to establish in the world devotion to Her Immaculate Heart and that she would come to ask for the communion of reparation on the first Saturdays". Eight years later, on December 10, 1925, Our Lady came back and appeared (with the Child Jesus) to Lucia in the convent of the Dorothean Sisters in Pontevedra.

The Child Jesus spoke first,

"Have compassion on the heart of your most Holy Mother, which is covered in thorns with which ungrateful men pierce it at every moment, while there is no one to remove them with an act of reparation".

The Promise

Our Lady then said,

"My daughter, look at my heart surrounded with thorns with which ungrateful men pierce it at every moment by their blasphemies and ingratitude. You, at least, try to console me, and say that I promise to assist at the hour of death with all the graces necessary for salvation, all those who, on the First Saturday of five consecutive months go to confession and receive Holy Communion, recite five decades of the Rosary and keep me company while meditating on mysteries of the Rosary, with the intention of making reparation to me".

What Do I Have To Do?

The devotion of the first Saturdays, as requested by Our Lady of Fatima, carries with it the assurance of salvation. However, to derive profit from such a great promise of Our Lady, the devotion must be properly understood and duly performed.

The requirements as stipulated by Our Lady are as follows;

1. Confession;
2. Communion;
3. Five decades of the Rosary
4. Meditation on one or more of the Rosary mysteries for fifteen minutes;
5. To do all these things in the spirit of reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary;
6. To observe all these practices on the first Saturday of five consecutive months.

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF MARY MACKILLOP

The Sisters of Saint Joseph have prepared an Australian Pilgrimage, "In the Footsteps of Mary MacKillop" commencing in Melbourne on 18 October, journeying through Victoria and South Australia, and ending at Mary MacKillop Place, North Sydney on 29 October 2022. During the pilgrimage we visit many places associated with Mary MacKillop's life and ministry.

The Journey

Starting in Melbourne, experience the early life of Mary and the MacKillop Family.

- Continue the story by coach to Hamilton, Portland and Port McDonnell.
- Spend two nights in Penola connecting with the Mary MacKillop and Fr Julian Tenison Woods' stories.
- Coach into South Australia and visit Our Lady Star of the Sea - a church built by Fr Julian Tenison Woods at Robe.
- Continue on to Adelaide where Mary professed her vows as a Sister of Saint Joseph and immerse ourselves in the unfolding story of the Congregation.
- Fly to Sydney and spend three nights at Mary MacKillop Place where Mary lived and died. Visit her burial site in the Memorial Chapel.
- Extra cost for those who wish to spend a couple of extra nights in Sydney before they return home.

COST- all inclusive

Costs include airfares – port of origin, Adelaide/Sydney, Sydney/port of origin; accommodation, coach travel, admission fees and all meals (but not drinks). Pilgrimage begins on the evening of 18th October & concludes on the morning of 29th October.

- Ex Brisbane \$4050
- Ex Melbourne \$3870
- Ex Sydney \$3870
- Ex Adelaide \$4050
- Ex Perth \$4380
- Ex Tasmania \$4070
- Ex Canberra \$4050
- Ex Cairns \$4240



Single Supplement all areas \$970

GET IN EARLY! These prices are fixed until 30 June 2022. After this date prices may need to be negotiated dependent on oil and fuel costs.

Insurance- Cancellation and/or travel insurance is recommended and available upon request.

Deposit- \$400 of which \$240 non-refundable and non-transferable.

Application- For an application form or further information telephone Annie Bond rsj 02 8912 4818 OR Email national.pilgrimage@mmp.org.au

Applications close 1st September 2022. Pilgrims must be vaccinated.

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

Catholic Theological College

Series of short sessions: online via Zoom

Engaging Your Faith

Choose one, choose all, choose what interests you and all for just \$25 per session, running 3 to 28 May 2022

Booking, payment and further information:

ctc.edu.au/engaging-your-faith/

Catholic Charismatic Renewal (CCR) Presence and Power Conference 2022

The Presence and Power conference is being held 21st - 22nd May. Since the January retreat cancellation, there is a change of location and it is day registration only; this is a wonderful opportunity to come together again, to be refreshed and renewed.

There are two ways to register for the conference. Online link is: <https://form.jotform.com/220861063612852>

For more information, contact email@ccrnsw.org.au

May Retreats: St Mary's Towers, Douglas Park

Sinews of the Heart 6 Days: 6-12 May \$930/ Weekend: 6-8 May \$310 (Presenter: Paul White)

Men's Weekend - Journeys Homewards: 13-15 May 2022 \$310 (Presenter: Paul White)

Living More Deeply in God - Praying with Ignatius of Loyola: 6 Days: 20-26 May \$930/ Weekend: 20-22 May \$310 (Presenters: Retreat Team)

Seeing with Fresh Eyes: Encountering the Risen Christ: 6 Days: 27 May - 2 June \$930/ Weekend: 27-29 May \$310 (Presenter: Elizabeth Lee)

Enquiries: contact@towersretreat.org.au

Ph: (02) 4630 0233

<https://www.towersretreat.org.au>

Housing Needs for Humanitarian Entrants/ Refugees in Newcastle and Surrounds

Settlement Services International (SSI) assist newly arrived refugees to resettle in Newcastle through the Humanitarian Settlement Program (HSP). The tragic events taking place in Afghanistan has led to an influx of Afghan families into our region. Unfortunately, the current housing crisis in Newcastle means many families pass extended periods in short term housing, which greatly impacts well-being and the feeling of being 'at home'. SSI are looking for landlords willing to commence tenancies with our clients. Families will pay market rent and be fully supported by their SSI Case Managers. We are looking for 2-4 bedroom properties in Newcastle. Any assistance is greatly appreciated. Contact Helen Larkin for more information. hlarkin@ssi.org.au

FEDERAL ELECTION

Read the Australian Catholic Bishops' 2022 election statement, Towards a Better Kind of Politics, to help you reflect on the good you can do for the community by using your vote for the common good of all. The statement includes a Prayer for the Election and the principles of Catholic Social Teaching. Download a copy from www.catholic.org.au

Global Table Collective Event- Newcastle

The first event in this series an Afghan cooking class on 30th April 5pm - 8pm, then have an Afghan dinner/feast on 28th May @6pm and another cooking class on 25th June. These three events are to support clients Shariffa and Hamida with experience in cooking for a food business.

Learn to cook some mouth-watering Afghani dishes straight from the professionals! Meet new people, get new recipes and indulge in a delicious, shared meal. Head to the below Try Booking web address to reserve your spot today!

Price: \$70. Date: 30th of April. Time: 5 - 8pm.

Location: Adamstown Uniting Church, 228 Brunner Rd, Adamstown. Book: www.trybooking.com/BYPUF

More info on Global Collective Facebook page.

www.facebook.com/search/top?q=the%20global%20table%20collective

The Chosen Season One Discussion Group

You are invited to The Chosen Season One Discussion group. During the session we will recap the highlights of the episode and be guided on a journey both personal and communal. We will explore as a group the human nature of Jesus as he calls his chosen to be missionary disciples.

Date: Tuesday 26 April – 14 June

Time: 6.30pm-8pm

Register: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/the-chosen-season-1-discussion-group-2022-tickets-301240427227>

The Chosen Season Two Discussion Group

You are invited to The Chosen Season Two Discussion group. During the session we will recap the highlights of the episode and be guided on a journey both personal and communal. We will explore as a group the human nature of Jesus as he builds his community and the threats that exist to tear it down.

Date: Thursday 28 April – 16 June

Time: 6.30pm-8pm

Register: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/the-chosen-season-2-discussion-group-2022-tickets-301246655857>



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
(Please only calls to this phone no texts)

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

Office Hours:
Mon 11am-3.30pm, Tue-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 **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 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

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
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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