



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 24 APRIL 2022,

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER YEAR C

Dear Brothers and Sisters.

This weekend at the hospitality following Masses, the top 3 carpets will be displayed in the hall. Please go and have a look, let me know what you think. While these options are all nice, some suit a church building better than others. We will also need to take into consideration just how long it will take for the carpet to be made or imported when making a choice.

Inside this edition of the Bridgeside Bulletin, you will see photos from the parish Easter Dinner. It was indeed a good night, with lots of conversation and relationship building. It is always amazing what you can learn from others I find. As well as Christmas and Easter, I would like to do this at other times throughout the year. It is good to build relationships together, it is good to get to know our Brothers and Sisters in the faith on a deeper level, so that we can encourage each other in the fulfilling of our Baptismal mission.

With the relaxing of Covid 19 restrictions it is now possible, with the permission of the Diocesan Administrator, to again distribute Communion on the tongue. A few things to remember, though it is not any more unhygienic, people may feel that it is. So as an act of Christian Charity, you might like to wait till the end of the Communion procession if you wish to receive on the tongue. People who have refrained from receiving Holy Communion during this time may need, through an examination of conscience, to discern whether they need to go to the Sacrament of Reconciliation before again beginning to receive the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus. This will commence in the Parish from next weekend the 3rd Sunday of Easter.

Please see the notice inside the bulletin regarding Masses for next week. All the clergy of the Diocese will be attending Professional Development in Newcastle. That means, that Masses will be cancelled. ANZAC Day Mass will be at 9.30am on Monday. Then no Masses until Saturday the 29th of April.

Each week in the Bulletin I publish the short homily given by the Holy Father at the recitation of the Angelus on the preceding Sunday. Please note that during the Easter Season, the Angelus is not prayed, however, the Regina Caeli prayer is. So you will find a name chance for the next few weeks. I have also included this prayer that you can pray at 6am, 12md, and 6pm, if you are so predisposed.

This Sunday, the Second Sunday of Easter, the Church acknowledges the Divine Mercy devotion. Please see the notice inside. These devotions are indeed open to anybody in the parish and all are welcome to attend.

On this Sunday evening at 5pm there will be Evening Prayer of the Dead offered for those members of our defence forces who have paid the ultimate sacrifice for our nation in war. Please come to the Church and join us as a parish as we pray these prayers for our war dead. Please note that there will be Mass at 9.30am on ANZAC day.

At 8am Mass on Sunday morning, Nikki Taylor will be received into the Church. Please make her welcome. Nikki was baptised in the Church of England as a child and has after much prayer and discernment decided to "swim the Tiber". Please remember Nikki in your prayers.

With Love.

Fr. Peter.



Parish Timetable

Mon 25 APR	9.30am ANZAC Day Mass 9am Counters— Team 6 12pm Community Kitchen
Tue 26 APR	9.30am Christian Meditation 12pm Community Kitchen
Wed 27 APR	11am Novena of Our Lady of Perpetual Help 12pm Community Kitchen
Thu 28 APR	12pm Community Kitchen
Sat 30 APR	9.00am Confession 9.30am Mass 5.00pm Vigil Mass
Sun 1 MAY	8.00am Mass 10.00am Mass

Parish Notices

- Masses are cancelled for Tue, Wed, Thu & Fri 26th—29th Apr, as Fr. Peter will be in Newcastle.**
- Bible study is cancelled for Thu 28th Apr.**
- The parish office will be closed Mon 25th Apr for ANZAC Day public holiday.
- Please remember to return Project Compassion boxes and envelopes.
- We are seeking volunteers to present the gifts during Mass. Please contact the parish office if you would like to volunteer.

What's happening locally...

Secular Franciscans

Secular Franciscans are lay Catholic men and women who follow Jesus by living the gospel values in their everyday secular lives in the footsteps of St Francis of Assisi. Their members come from all walks of life.

Website: <http://www.ofsaustralia.org.au>

Enquiries: 6554 5250

There will be a Franciscan meeting at the parish office on Sunday 24th Apr at 9.30am.

Invitation to Divine Mercy Devotions

Sunday 24th April

2pm - 2:45pm Exposition and Reconciliation

2:45pm Benediction

3pm Divine Mercy Chaplet



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.**

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



As part of the work being undertaken to ABOLISH the passage of the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill 2021 through the NSW Legislative Council, an ePetition has been launched. The ePetition is short and unambiguous. The following link will take you to the Legislative Council's ePetitions webpage where you can directly access the ePetition- <https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/lc/pages/epetition-details.aspx?q=apWMtQo6WVdu1NOOVqOtYA>



Saints and Feasts



26/4/2022 St. MARK, was intimately associated with the development of the young Church. Born in Jerusalem, he accompanied Barnabas, Paul, and Peter in their apostolic labours. Mark was a helper to these stronger personalities. According to an ancient tradition, Mark's Gospel reflects his association with Peter. Considered the founder of the

Church in Alexandria in Egypt, Mark is specially honoured by the Coptic Christians of that country.

27/4/2022 ST LOUIS GRIGNON De MONTFORT, Priest, (1637-1716) born in Montfort, France, Louis attended the Jesuit College in Rennes. After ordination he became a hospital chaplain and later began preaching as a traveling missionary. He founded a congregation of priests, the Missionaries of the Company of Mary, and one of sisters, the Daughter of Wisdom. His book on Marian Consecration, 'True Devotion to Mary', remains popular to this day.

28/4/2022 ST PETER CHANEL, Priest and Martyr (1803-1841). The universal Church today honours the first martyr of Oceania. Born in France, he became a diocesan priest. He served selflessly as an assistant priest, parish priest, and seminary rector. In 1836, he joined the newly formed Society of Mary and was sent to Oceania. Misunderstanding and opposition made his work discouraging, but he found strength in prayer and the Eucharist. Finally he converted the son of the King of Futuna in Polynesia, and for that he was martyred.

29/4/2022 ST CATHERINE of SIENA (Virgin and doctor of the church) born youngest of 25 children of a wealthy Italian family in c1347. From a young age she devoted her life to prayer and became a tertiary sister of the Dominican order despite her parent's objections. She worked with the sick and attracted a following of men and women who accompanied her on her frequent journeys. Catherine became heavily involved in the politics of both Church and State as she attempted to make peace between Florence and the papacy. She urged Pope Gregory to return the papacy to

Rome from Avignon, which he did in 1376. His death two years later led to a schism in the Western church, as detractors of the newly elected pope Urban VI set up a rival pope in Avignon. In an effort to restore unity to the church, Catherine gave support to the Urban VI but was exhausted by her efforts. She died soon after suffering a stroke, aged only 33.

30/4/2022 ST PIUS V; POPE, 1504-1572. a Dominican Friar and bishop, was one of the most important popes of the counterreformation era. Elected pope in 1565 he made it quite clear his intention to implement the degree of the Council of Trent in both letter and spirit. He was immediately loved by the Roman people for his holiness and for his radical reform of the morals of the city as well as for a drastic and dramatic purge of the Roman Curia. For the needs of the Church he made important decisions. Bishops were to reside in their dioceses, religious orders were to be reformed the Breviary and the Roman Missal updated and made obligatory except where there was a prescription of 200 years in favour of local rites. The Roman Catechism was completed and translated into many languages, and catechetical instruction of the young made obligatory for all parish priests. Well-loved for his prayer life and his commitment to monastic austerity, personal devotion, and kindness to the poor and sick. He was canonised in 1712.

1/5/2022 St. JOSEPH the Worker. The first day of May- 'May day' has long been dedicated to working people. When he instituted this feast in 1955, pope Pius XII expressed hope that it would emphasise the dignity of labour and bring a spiritual dimension to labour legislation. As Pope John Paul II wrote: 'At the work bench where he plied his trade together with Jesus, Joseph brought human work closer to the mystery of the redemption' ('guardian of the Redeemer', n. 22).



THE LATEST NEWS FROM OUR SAFEGUARDING PROMOTERS – 24Apr22

The Promoters of Safeguarding continue to endorse a culture of safeguarding within the Parish. To this end, your attention is drawn to the **5 Rs of safeguarding** which provide an easy-to-remember process for keeping vulnerable people safe. Safeguarding is all about ensuring that **children, young people and vulnerable adults are protected from abuse and neglect**. Abuse can be physical, emotional, psychological, sexual, financial or other types. Neglect refers to the persistent failure to properly care for someone's needs. For example, not providing a child with adequate food.

If a vulnerable person may be in danger, appropriate preventative action must be taken. The 5 Rs of safeguarding are designed to help people understand how this can be done.

The 5 Rs of safeguarding:

1. **Recognise** – Be aware of different signs and symptoms of potential abuse, harm and neglect. These include withdrawal from friends or usual activities, changes in behaviour such as aggression, anger, hostility, hyperactivity, depression, anxiety, unusual fears, sudden loss of confidence, uncharacteristic frequent absences from school or work, excessive personal cleanliness.
2. **Respond** - If you have a safeguarding concern, it is essential that you respond appropriately and do not ignore the situation. Workplaces and community groups (such as our parish) have a safeguarding policy in place to help understand the actions that should take place.
3. **Record** - This is the who, what, why, when and where of safeguarding. Take precise, comprehensive notes that detail everything about your safeguarding concern. For example, who it involves, what happened, and include times and dates.
4. **Report** - Safeguarding concerns need to be reported without delay. Confidentiality is important, so only share information with those who are a part of the safeguarding process. Ensure that everyone in your organisation knows who these people are e.g. parish priest (PP).
5. **Refer** - It is usually the responsibility of the management/PP to pass on safeguarding concerns to the appropriate authorities. If the safeguarding risk is urgent and you suspect somebody is under immediate threat, you should contact the relevant local authority or police services

To summarise: **spot signs of abuse/neglect, and understand what action should be taken, and note down all relevant information, and inform the necessary individual or organisation, and if urgent then contact authorities** of the safeguarding incident.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Recently deceased: Martin Murphy & John Thomas

Anniversaries: His Eminence, Edward Cardinal Cassidy AC & Bruce A. Logan.

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 Dolahenty, 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.



UNIVERSAL PRAYER

Second Sunday of Easter Year C

Fr. Peter: Brothers and Sisters, with true belief in Jesus Christ, we bring our prayers before the Lord.

1. Reader: That with faith in Christ, Holy Mother Church will always bear witness to the spread of the Gospel. In your Risen glory:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

2. Reader: That a new Bishop will soon be appointed to lead the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle; and that Fr. Greg, will, in the meantime, be sustained by our prayers, in his role as Diocesan Administrator. In your Risen glory:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

3. Reader: That national leaders will make decisions based on respect and the dignity of human life. In your Risen glory:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

4. Reader: That those candidates standing at the federal election will be motivated by the common good and not self-interest. In your Risen glory:

All: Lord, hear our Prayer.

5. Reader: That this ANZAC day, and indeed always, we as a nation may never forget the sacrifice of those who have served in uniform. In your Risen glory:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

6. Reader: That those who doubt their faith may find belief in Christ who was once dead, but now lives forever. In your Risen glory:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

7. Reader: That our parish community, will continue to believe and acclaim the victory of Christ. In your Risen glory:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

8. Reader: That the sick will experience the divine healing of Christ. In your Risen glory:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

9. Reader: That those who have died will share in the glory of Christ our Saviour, especially Martin Murphy & John Thomas who has died recently and His Eminence Edward Cardinal Cassidy AC and Bruce A. Logan, whose anniversaries occur at this time. As well as all those who have died serving our nation in uniform. In your Risen glory:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Fr. Peter: God our Father, having not seen, we believe in Jesus Christ. Hear our prayers and help to sustain our faith in Jesus as the true flesh who rose to glory with you. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Sunday 24 Apr 2022
Second Sunday of Easter Year C

Entrance Antiphon

1 Pt 2:2

Like newborn infants, you must long for the pure, spiritual milk, that in him you may grow to salvation, alleluia.

First Reading

Acts 5:12-16

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

The faithful all used to meet by common consent in the Portico of Solomon. No one else ever dared to join them, but the people were loud in their praise and the numbers of men and women who came to believe in the Lord increased steadily. So many signs and wonders were worked among the people at the hands of the apostles that the sick were even taken out into the streets and laid on beds and sleeping-mats in the hope that at least the shadow of Peter might fall across some of them as he went past. People even came crowding in from the towns round about Jerusalem, bringing with them their sick and those tormented by unclean spirits, and all of them were cured.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 117:2-4. 22-27. R. v.1

(R.) Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.

1. Let the sons of Israel say: 'His love has no end.' Let the sons of Aaron say: 'His love has no end.' Let those who fear the Lord say: 'His love has no end.' (R.)

2. The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone. This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes. This day was made by the Lord; we rejoice and are glad. (R.)

3. O Lord, grant us salvation; O Lord grant success. Blessed in the name of the Lord is he who comes. We bless you from the house of the Lord; the true God is our light. (R.)

Second Reading

Rv 1:9-13, 17-19

A reading from the book of the Apocalypse

My name is John, and through our union in Jesus I am your brother and share your sufferings, your kingdom, and all you endure. I was on the island of Patmos for having preached God's word and witnessed for Jesus; it was the Lord's day and the Spirit possessed me, and I heard a voice behind me, shouting like a trumpet, 'Write down all that you see in a book.' I turned round to see who had spoken to me, and when I turned I saw seven golden lamp-stands and, surrounded by them, a figure like a Son of man, dressed in a long robe tied at the waist with a golden girdle.

When I saw him, I fell in a dead faint at his feet, but he touched me with his right hand and said, 'Do not be afraid; it is I, the First and the Last; I am the Living One. I was dead and now I am to live for ever and ever, and I hold the keys of death and of the underworld. Now write down all that you see of present happenings and things that are still to come.'

Gospel Acclamation

Jn 20:29

Alleluia, alleluia!

You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me; happy those who have not seen me, but still believe!

Alleluia!

Gospel

Jn 20:19-31

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,' and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.' After saying this he breathed on them and said: 'Receive the Holy Spirit. For those whose sins you forgive,

they are forgiven; for those whose sins you retain, they are retained.' Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord', he answered, 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him: 'You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.' There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.

Communion Antiphon

Cf. Jn 20:27

Bring your hand and feel the place of the nails, and do not be unbelieving but believing, alleluia.

Readings for Next Week 30/1 May

First Reading

Acts 5:27-32. 40-41 The Sanhedrin tells the apostles not to mention Jesus.

Responsorial Psalm

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

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

Second Reading

Rv 5:11-14 John hears the voices of angels.

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 Jesus questions Peter.

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.

P: Christe, eleison.

P: Kyrie, eleison.

R: Kyrie, eleison.

R: Christe, 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.

Glory 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 born) 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

It is understandable that the Church should celebrate the octave of Easter by reading as the Gospel the appearance ‘eight days later’ of the risen Lord to Thomas (20:19-31). It is important, however, not to neglect the highly significant events that take place on the earlier occasion, late on Easter Sunday.

In his long discourse at the Last Supper on the night before he died, Jesus promised the disciples that they would receive ‘another Paraclete’ (the Spirit) to be their guide, enlightener and comforter for the time when he would no longer be physically with them. Now on this Easter Sunday evening he makes good that promise in what is really the ‘Johannine Pentecost’.

The disciples are fearful, huddling behind closed doors. Jesus comes among them and reassures them: ‘Peace be with you.’ He shows them the physical reality of his hands and his side to guarantee his identity and continuity with the Lord they had known. Their fear now turned to joy, he announces that they are to be a new link in the chain of mission that he has from the Father: as the Father has sent him into the world – to be the embodiment of divine love in the world – so he now sends them, to be in their turn and through their mutual love for one another, the embodiment of that same divine love (13:34-35; 17:17).

Jesus then imparts the Spirit to the disciples by breathing on them (the same Greek word *pneuma* serves for both ‘breath’ and ‘spirit’). He explains this gift of the Spirit in terms of the power to forgive – and correspondingly to retain – sin. We might well ask why he specifies the gift of the Spirit in this way. Basically, it has to do with reconciliation: the reconciliation of the human race to the Father, which is the essential work of Jesus. John the Baptist had pointed him out as ‘the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world’ (1:29, 35). Jesus had died on the cross as the (Paschal) Lamb whose bones were not broken (19:36). Now the gift of the Spirit is empowering the Church to take up that reconciling mission for the time ahead when Jesus will no longer be physically present.

Thomas is one of the most clearly defined characters in the Fourth Gospel. Born loser, realist, pessimist, he has missed out on the Easter night appearance of Jesus. He won’t believe in the resurrection simply on the other disciples’ claim ‘we have seen the Lord’. He lays down his explicit, highly ‘physical’ conditions.

With the divine ‘courtesy’ that seems to be a feature of the risen Lord in all the appearance stories of the gospels, eight days later Jesus is prepared to meet Thomas’ conditions exactly. But, at the sight of Jesus, Thomas abandons them. Instead he, the late-comer, the obtuse one, makes the most exalted act of faith contained in the gospel: ‘My Lord and my God!’. The confession takes us back to the Prologue: ‘... the Word was with God and the Word was God’ (1:1); ‘No one has ever seen God; it is God the only Son, who is close to the Father’s heart, who has made him known’ (1:18). At this climactic moment of the gospel it is Thomas, the hesitant, the doubter, who brings out the full identity of Jesus.

But that is not the end. Jesus adds a comment that brings us into the picture too. Thomas has believed because, like Mary Magdalene and the other disciples present in the room, he has seen the risen Jesus. Others – succeeding generations of believers – will not see Jesus. Unlike Thomas, they have to believe simply on the report handed down in the Church’s preaching: ‘We have seen the Lord’. On them – that is, on us – Jesus pronounces a blessing: ‘Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe.’

Why ‘blessed’? Because from them/from us a faith greater than that of Thomas and the others will be required: the greater the faith the more scope for the power of God.

So the first ‘edition’ of the Gospel (chapters 1-20) ends with this solemn assurance that believers of all subsequent generations are in no way at a disadvantage compared to the original disciples who saw and heard and touched the Lord. The written gospel imparts to those prepared to believe all the knowledge necessary for a life-giving encounter with the Lord.

The **First Reading**, Acts 5:12-16, jumps ahead rather of the setting of the Gospel to describe how the apostles, empowered with the Spirit, were now able to healing and exorcising ministry previously conducted by Jesus.

The **Second Reading**, Apocalypse 1:9-13, 17-19, is notable towards the end for the splendid self-description of the risen Lord, introducing himself to the seer, John.

POPE FRANCIS
REGINA CAELI
Saint Peter's Square
Easter Monday, 18 April 2022

Dear brothers and sisters, buongiorno!

The days of the Easter Octave are like a single day in which the joy of the Resurrection is prolonged. Thus, the Gospel of today's liturgy continues to tell us about the Risen One, his appearance to the women who went to the tomb (cf. Mt 28:8-15). Jesus goes to meet them and greets them. Then the Lord says two things, two pieces of advice that would be good also for us to welcome as an Easter gift.

The first is he reassures them with simple words: "Do not be afraid" (v. 10). The Lord knows that our fears are our daily enemies. He also knows that our fears hide from the great fear, that of death: fear of fading away, of losing loved ones, of being sick, of not being able to cope further... But at Easter Jesus conquered death. So, no one else can tell us in a more convincing way: "Do not be afraid." The Lord says this right there next to the tomb from which he came out victorious. He invites us to come out of the tomb of our fears. Listen closely: come out of the tombs of our fears, since our fears are like tombs, they bury us. He knows that fear is always lurking at the door of our heart, and we need to hear ourselves say do not be afraid, fear not on Easter morning as on the morning of every day, "do not be afraid." Take courage. Brother, sister, who believe in Christ, do not be afraid! Jesus says: "I tasted death for you, I took your pain upon myself. Now I have risen to tell you: I am here with you forever. Do not be afraid!" Fear not.

But how can we combat fear? The second thing Jesus tells the women can help us: "Go and tell my brethren to go to Galilee, and there they will see me." (v. 10) Go and tell. Fear always closes us in on ourselves, while Jesus instead makes us go forth and sends us to others. This is the solution. We might say to ourselves, but I am not capable of doing this! But just think, the women were not perhaps the most suitable and prepared to proclaim the resurrection, but that did not matter to the Lord. He cares that we go forth and proclaim. Go and tell. Because the Easter joy is not to be kept to oneself. The joy of Christ is strengthened by giving it, it multiplies sharing it. If we open ourselves and bear the Gospel, our hearts will open and overcome fear. This is the secret: we proclaim and overcome fear.

Today's text recounts that proclamation can encounter an obstacle: falsehood. The Gospel narrates a "counter-proclamation," that of the soldiers who guarded the tomb of Jesus. The Gospel says they were paid "a sum of money" (v. 12), a good sum, and received these instructions: "Tell people, 'His disciples came by night and stole him away while we were asleep.'" (v. 13) 'You were sleeping? Did you see during your sleep how they stole the body?' There is a contradiction there, but a contradiction that eve-

ryone believes because money was involved. It is the power of money, the other lord that Jesus says we must never serve. Here is the falsehood, the logic of concealment that opposes the proclamation of truth. It is a reminder for us also: falsehoods – in words and in life – they taint the announcement, they corrupt within, leading back to the tomb. Falsehoods take us backwards, they lead right to death, to the tomb. The Risen One instead wants us to come out of the tombs of falsehood and dependency. Before the Risen Lord, there is another "god" – the god of money that dirties and ruins everything, that closes the door to salvation. This is present everywhere in daily life with the temptation to adore the god of money.

Dear brothers and sisters, rightfully we are scandalized when in the news we discover deceit and lies in the lives of persons and society. But let us give a name also to the obscurity and falsehoods we have in ourselves! And let us place our own darkness and falsehoods before the light of the Risen Jesus. He wants to bring hidden things to light to make us transparent and luminous witnesses to the joy of the Gospel, of the truth that will make you free (cf Jn 8:32).

May Mary, Mother of the Risen One, help us overcome our fears and give us passion for the truth.

Following the recitation of the Regina Caeli...

Dear brothers and sisters!

Happy Easter once again to all of you, Romans and pilgrims from various countries!

May the grace of the Risen Lord give comfort and hope to all those who are suffering: may no one be abandoned! May quarrels, wars and disputes give way to understanding and reconciliation. Underscore this word always: reconciliation, because what Jesus did on Calvary and with His resurrection is to reconcile us all with the Father, with God and with each other. Reconciliation.

God has won the decisive battle against the spirit of evil: let Him win! Let us renounce our human plans, let us be converted to his plans for peace and justice.

I thank all those who have sent me their good wishes in recent days. I am especially grateful for your prayers! I ask God, through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, to reward each one with His gifts.

This afternoon, here in the square, I will meet more than fifty thousand teenagers from all over Italy. A beautiful sign of hope! And there are some already! That is why the Square is prepared in this way.

I wish everyone to live these Easter days in the peace and joy that come from the Risen Christ. Please continue to pray for me. Enjoy your meal and arrivederci!

(In the Square: Long live the Pope!)

The Pope replies: Bravo to the young people of the Immacolata!

The Regina Caeli

Queen of Heaven, rejoice, alleluia!
for he whom you were worthy to bear, alleluia!
has risen as he said, alleluia!
Pray for us to God, alleluia!

Let us pray;

O God, who through the Resurrection of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, did vouchsafe to give joy to the world; grant, we beseech you, that through His Mother, the Virgin Mary, we may obtain the joys of everlasting life. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen



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;

EASTER DINNER



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

The new Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle app is
AVAILABLE NOW!



Discover the Diocese's new app!

The Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle's new app is available now! Mass times, news and events, and parish giving will be just a tap away.

As part of the new app, you are also able to select your Church and receive customised alerts. To view your latest Parish updates, simply scroll down the home page and click on the notices that interest you for more details.

You can download the app for free from the Apple App Store and Google Play Store. Just search for 'Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle' and click install on your mobile or tablet! To learn more about the app, visit www.mn.catholic.org.au/mass-times-app

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>

Praying the Gospels

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

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

Join us each Wednesday 5.00-5.45pm.

Zoom link: <https://mncatholic.zoom.us/j/61036103033>
Password: pray

For more information contact:

rose.mcallister@mn.catholic.org.au

Social Justice Art Exhibition

You are invited to the annual Social Justice Art Exhibition. Work submitted from across the Diocese focuses on the themes found in the 2021-2022 Social Justice Statement Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor. We are delighted to be joined by Dr Sandie Cornish who leads the Office for Justice, Ecology and Peace of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, as we hear her reflect on the statement and the artworks submitted.

Date: Saturday, 14 May

Time: 2pm-5pm

Venue: The Veritas Centre, San Clemente High School, Mayfield

Registration: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/social-justice-art-exhibition-tickets-303235454407>

Mystagogy Monday

Mystagogical reflection invites us into a personal encounter with Christ in the gospel we have heard, the liturgy we have celebrated, or an experience of life or ministry. It invites us to pay attention to what Christ reveals to us, both in that encounter and the living tradition of our faith and to connect it to life now. It invites us to dialogue and transformation.

Join us each Monday morning as we reveal the mystery of God found in the Sunday Gospel.

Commencing 9 May at 10am



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