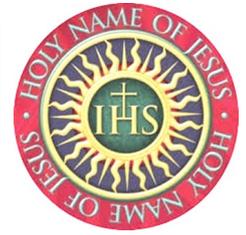




Bridgeside Bulletin



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 22 MAY 2022,

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER YEAR C

Dear Brothers and Sisters.

Please remember to pray for those people elected to parliament at the election this weekend. I am, as many of you will note, odd. I am a rare type of person who has immense respect for the men and women who stand for public office. I do not buy the stereotype that those who go to parliament are in it only for themselves. Those who stand for office, regardless of political persuasion, do so to try and make this country a better place. As such, we should pray for them. Pray that they will serve well. Pray that they will keep the most vulnerable in mind.

This weekend after Masses we will as a community come together to share morning tea. This will be to raise awareness of cancer, and also to raise funds to help find a cure. Prayers will be offered at Masses this week for those who suffer from cancer, as well as those people who fight it. Cancer is an insidious disease that causes immense suffering, both physically and emotionally for the sufferers and their families.

As you will be aware the carpet will soon be replaced. However, there are a couple of minor maintenance issues that need to be fixed first. These will require the brining in of scaffolding into the Church, I think it best therefore to wait until after this is done before putting in the new carpet. I would much rather risk damaging the carpet that is to be replaced. The maintenance issues are fixing the plaster on the ceiling and replacing the fans.

Please continue to pray for the children of the parish who are on their Sacramental Journey. Remember too, their families at this time.

As many of you are aware I will commence my holidays this coming week. I will be in the United Kingdom. This is the fulfilment of a lifelong dream. As a result of my absence from the parish, there will be no weekday Masses while I am away. Fr Tony Brady, Fr Anthony Coloma and Fr John Purnell will be present to celebrate the Sunday Masses. Please make them welcome. Please remember me in your prayers while I am away, rest assured of mine for you all.

With Love.

Fr. Peter.

Parish Timetable

Mon 23 MAY	9am Counters– Team 1 12pm Community Kitchen
Tue 24 MAY	9.30am Christian Meditation 12pm Community Kitchen 3.30pm Holy Hour, followed by Benediction
Wed 25 MAY	9.30am Mass 11am Novena of Our Lady of Perpetual Help 12pm Community Kitchen
Thu 26 MAY	12pm Community Kitchen
Sat 28 MAY	5.00pm Vigil Mass
Sun 29 MAY	8.00am Mass 10.00am Mass

Parish Notices

- Fr Peter will be heading off after the 9.30am Mass on Wed 25 May for his holiday. From 26 May—26 June there will be no weekday Masses, Holy Hour, Confession or Bible Study.
- Fr John Purnell will preside at Mass on 28/29 May.
- Please remember to put kneelers up after use.

PLANNED GIVING RECEIPTS

Please contact the parish office by phone/email or write your name on the form in the church if you require a tax receipt for your planned giving donations. Please only request a receipt if you need it for tax purposes. If you don't need one for tax purposes but are curious about how much you have given throughout the financial year you can request a planned giving report instead. **The due date to request a tax receipt by is June 30th. After that date you will not be able to receive a tax receipt.**

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

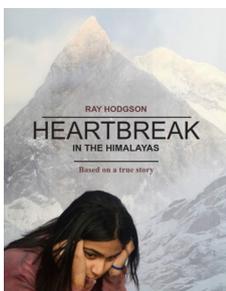
Time: 2pm

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



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.**

FR. TONY BRADY

Fr. Tony Brady celebrates the 60th Anniversary of his Ordination on 3rd June 2022. Fr Tony was our Parish Priest from 1976 till 1988. These were the days of rapid population growth in our towns and Fr. Tony introduced many spiritual renewal programmes that built a solid Catholic Community in our Parish. We might say he was responsible for building the Forster Church both figuratively and literally.

Fr. Tony will Preside at our 5pm Vigil Mass on 4th June when we will be able to celebrate his Diamond Anniversary with him.

A light supper of coffee and nibbles will be held in the Church Hall after the Mass and parishioners are invited to bring a plate or make a donation toward the celebration. All are most welcome. Further Information Greg Byrne 0427 918 568.

A message from Aid to the Church in Need Australia: ACN has launched its "Helping form the Priests of Tomorrow " global campaign. For 75 years, the benefactors of Aid to the Church in Need have generously supported the formation of seminarians. In fact, some of these men now serve as priests in Australia today! At the current time, ACN is supporting some 15,000 seminarians on the path to the priesthood.

Please read and reflect on their stories and discern to help us, spiritually and financially, to form the priests of tomorrow. These young men never cease to pray for the benefactors who assisted them on their journey. Thank you in advance for whatever you can do.

Visit www.aidtochurch.org/seminariansglobal

Reminder that the bulletin is the chief means of communication in the parish. It is therefore imperative that it be read.

Saints and Feasts

21st May Saint Cristóbal Magallanes Jara, martyr, also known as Christopher Magallanes is a martyr and saint venerated in the Catholic Church who was killed without trial on the way to say Mass during the Cristero War after the trumped up charge of inciting rebellion. Canonised by Pope John Paul II on 21st May 2000.

22nd May. St Rita of Cascia, religious, Augustinian Nun, also called Margarita. She was born in Roccaporena, near Spoleto, Italy in 1381, and expressed from an early age the desire to become a nun. Her elderly parents insisted that she be married at the age of twelve to a man described in accounts of her life as cruel and harsh. She spent eighteen extremely unhappy years, had two sons, and was finally widowed when her husband was killed in a brawl. Both sons also died, and Rita, still anxious to become a nun, tried unsuccessfully to enter the Augustinians in their convent at Cascia. She was refused because she was a widow and because of the requirement that all sisters should be virgins. Finally, in 1413, the order gave her entry, and she earned fame for her austerity, devotion to prayer, and charity. In the midst of chronic illnesses, she received visions and wounds on her forehead which resembled the crown of thorns. She died on 22nd



May at Cascia, and many miracles were reported instantly. Canonised in 1900, she is honoured in Spain as La Santa de los Imposibles and elsewhere as a patron saint of hopeless causes.

24th May. Our Lady Help of Christians is a The Feast Day of Our Lady Mary Help of Christians has been celebrated in Australia since 1844 but the history to this day, dates back to the start of the 1800's at a time when Napoleon Bonaparte had gaoled Pius VI (who also died in gaol). And later, when Pope Pius VII was elected he too was gaoled by Bonaparte, who kept him prisoner at Fontainebleau. The Holy Father vowed

to God that if he were restored to the Roman See, he would institute a special feast in honour of Mary. The military eventually forced Bonaparte to release the Pope and on 24 May, 1814 Pius VII returned in triumph to Rome. Twelve months later the Pope decreed that the Feast of Our Lady Mary Help of Christians be kept on 24 May. The infant church in Australia had a special reason for turning to Mary. No priests were sent to the colony in its early days and Mass was not allowed except for one brief year until 1820. It was largely the Rosary in those early days that kept the faith alive. The Australian Catholic community remained faithful to Mary and Australia was the first nation to choose her under the title, 'Mary Help of Christians' as principle Patroness. Australia also became the first country to have a cathedral dedicated in Our Lady, Mary's name. St Mary's Cathedral in Sydney was dedicated in her honour by the Irish pioneer priest, Fr John Therry who arrived in Sydney in 1820.

26th May St Philip Neri, priest, Philip Neri was born in Florence in 1515. His mother died when he was young and he was educated at a Dominican convent. In 1533 he went to Rome and lived as a hermit for two years, then spent a further three years studying theology and philosophy. He gave up his studies and sold his books and encouraged his friends to join him in working for the sick and visiting the churches of Rome. Philip was ordained a priest in 1551 and he spent many hours hearing people's confessions. He founded the Congregation of the Oratory, which gave its name to the musical form 'Oratorio', which developed from their services.

27th May St Augustine of Canterbury, bishop, (Optional Memorial). St. Augustine was born in Rome and died in Canterbury, England, in 604. When Pope Gregory I heard that the pagans of Britain were disposed to accept the Catholic Faith, he sent the prior of St. Andrew, Augustine, and forty of his Benedictine brethren to England. Despite the great difficulties involved in the task assigned to him, Augustine and his monks obeyed. The success of their preaching was immediate. King Ethelbert was baptised on Pentecost Sunday, 596, and the greater part of the nobles and people soon followed his example. St. Augustine died as the first Archbishop of Canterbury.

THE LATEST NEWS FROM OUR SAFEGUARDING PROMOTERS – 22 May 22

The Promoters of Safeguarding continue to endorse a culture of safeguarding within the Parish. To this end, your attention is drawn to **ways to deal with winter blues and feelings of depression**.

When you become depressed, the things that help are usually the things most difficult to do. The key is to start small and build from there. Taking the first step is always the hardest; but, going for a walk or phoning a friend is something you can do right away. By taking the following small but positive steps day by day, you'll soon lift the heavy fog of depression and you'll find yourself feeling happier, healthier and more hopeful again.

Look for support from people who make you feel safe and cared for. The person you talk to doesn't have to be able to fix you, they just need to be a good listener - someone who'll listen attentively and compassionately without being distracted or judging you.

Make face-time a priority. Phone calls, social media, and texting are great ways to stay in touch, but they don't replace good old-fashioned in-person quality time. The simple act of talking to someone face to face about how you feel can play a big role in relieving depression and keeping it away.

Try to keep up with social activities even if you don't feel like it. Often when you're depressed, it feels more comfortable to retreat into your shell, but being around other people will make you feel less depressed.

Find ways to support others. It's nice to receive support, but research shows you get an even bigger mood boost from providing support yourself. So, find ways, both big and small, to help others: volunteer, be a listening ear for a friend, do something nice for somebody.

Care for a pet. While nothing can replace the human connection, pets can bring joy and companionship into your life and help you feel less isolated.

Join a support group for depression. Being with others dealing with depression can go a long way in reducing your sense of isolation. You can also encourage each other, give and receive advice on how to cope, and share your experiences.

Similarly, try these **10 Top Tips** to help yourself; 1) Talk to someone about your feelings. 2) Help someone else by volunteering. 3) Have coffee/lunch with a friend. 4) Accompany someone to the movies/concert/get-together. 5) Call/email an old friend. 6) Go for a walk with a buddy. 7) Schedule a weekly dinner date. 8) Meet new people by taking a class or joining a club/activity. 9) Ask a loved one to check on you regularly. 10) Confide in a teacher, sports coach, or clergy member.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Recently deceased: Sr Florence Mary Tobin & Jessie Moloney

Anniversaries: Joan Savage

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

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



UNIVERSAL PRAYER

Sixth Sunday of Easter Year C

Fr. Peter: Sisters and brothers, with Christ our gift of peace, let us turn to God with our intentions.

1. Reader: That the Holy Church will make Christ's love visible to all humanity. In your glory:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

2. Reader: That a new Bishop will soon be appointed to the Diocese, and that Fr. Greg Barker will be sustained by our prayers as he fulfills the role of Diocesan Administrator. In your glory:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

3. Reader: That world leaders and governments will strive for true peace and justice. In your glory:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

4. Reader: That those members of Parliament elected at this weekend's election will be guided by the Holy Spirit in their deliberations. In your glory:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

5. Reader: That young people preparing for Confirmation and first Holy Communion will be led by the gifts of the Spirit in their Christian lives. In your glory:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

6. Reader: That our parish community may comfort those among us who are troubled or anxious. In your glory:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

7. Reader: That a cure may be found for cancer. In your glory:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

8. Reader: That those affected in any way by cancer may be helped by our prayers and generosity. In your glory:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

9. Reader: That doctors, nurses, palliative care workers, and allied health staff will be blessed for their work in battling cancer. In your glory:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

10. Reader: That the sick will be comforted through God's gracious blessings. In your glory:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

11. Reader: That those who have died will be raised to new life with the Spirit, especially Sr Florence Mary Tobin & Jessie Moloney who have died recently and Joan Savage whose anniversary occurs at this time. In your glory:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Fr. Peter: God our Father, you give us the greatest gift of love. Hear our prayers and help us to no longer be troubled or afraid, but to embrace your gift of peace and remain faithful to your loving word. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Sunday 22 May 2022
Sixth Sunday of Easter Year C

Entrance Antiphon

Cf. Is 48:20

Proclaim a joyful sound and let it be heard; proclaim to the ends of the earth: The Lord has freed his people, alleluia.

First Reading

Acts 15:1-2, 22-29

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Some men came down from Judaea and taught the brothers, 'Unless you have yourselves circumcised in the tradition of Moses you cannot be saved.' This led to disagreement, and after Paul and Barnabas had had a long argument with these men it was arranged that Paul and Barnabas and others of the church should go up to Jerusalem and discuss the problem with the apostles and elders.

Then the apostles and elders decided to choose delegates to send to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas; the whole church concurred with this. They chose Judas known as Barsabbas and Silas, both leading men in the brotherhood, and gave them this letter to take with them:

'The apostles and elders, your brothers, send greetings to the brothers of pagan birth in Antioch, Syria and Cilicia. We hear that some of our members have disturbed you with their demands and have unsettled your minds. They acted without any authority from us, and so we have decided unanimously to elect delegates and to send them to you with Barnabas and Paul, men we highly respect who have dedicated their lives to the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Accordingly we are sending you Judas and Silas, who will confirm by word of mouth what we have written in this letter. It has been decided by the Holy Spirit and by ourselves not to saddle you with any burden beyond these essentials: you are to abstain from food sacrificed to idols, from blood, from the meat of strangled animals and from fornication. Avoid these, and you will do what is right. Farewell.'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 66:2-3, 5-6, 8. R. v. 4

(R.) O God, let all the nations praise you!

1. O God, be gracious and bless us and let your face shed its light upon us. So will your ways be known upon earth and all nations learn your saving help. (R.)

2. Let the nations be glad and exult for you rule the world with justice. With fairness you rule the peoples, you guide the nations on earth. (R.)

3. Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you. May God still give us his blessing till the ends of the earth revere him. (R.)

Second Reading

Rv 21:10-14, 22-23

A reading from the book of the Apocalypse

In the spirit, the angel took me to the top of an enormous high mountain and showed me Jerusalem, the holy city, coming down from God out of heaven. It had all the radiant glory of God and glittered like some precious jewel of crystal-clear diamond. The walls of it were of a great height, and had twelve gates; at each of the twelve gates there was an angel, and over the gates were written the names of the twelve tribes of Israel; on the east there

were three gates, on the north three gates, on the south three gates, and on the west three gates. The city walls stood on twelve foundation stones, each one of which bore the name of one of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

I saw that there was no temple in the city since the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb were themselves the temple, and the city did not need the sun or the moon for light, since it was lit by the radiant glory of God and the Lamb was a lighted torch for it.

Gospel Acclamation

Jn 14:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

All who love me will keep my words, and my Father will love them and we will come to them.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Jn 14:23-29

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said to his disciples: 'If anyone loves me he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we shall come to him and make our home with him. Those who do not love me do not keep my words. And my word is not my own: it is the word of the one who sent me. I have said these things to you while still with you; but the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all I have said to you. Peace I bequeath to you, my own peace I give you, a peace the world cannot give, this is my gift to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid. You heard me say: I am going away, and shall return. If you loved me you would have been glad to know that I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. I have told you this now before it happens, so that when it does happen you may believe.' just as I have loved you, you also must love one another. By this love you have for one another, everyone will know that you are my disciples.'

Communion Antiphon

Jn 14:15-16

If you love me, keep my commandments, says the Lord, and I will ask the Father and he will send you another Paraclete, to abide with you for ever, alleluia.

Readings for Next Week 28/29 May

First Reading

Acts 1:1-11 Jesus is taken up into heaven.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 46:2-3, 6-7, 8-9. R. v. 6

(R.) God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

Second Reading

Eph 1:17-23 Christ will appear again to bring salvation.

Gospel Acclamation

Mt 28:19. 20 Alleluia, alleluia! Go and teach all people my gospel. I am with you always, until the end of the world. Alleluia!

Gospel

Lk 24:46-53 Jesus commissions the eleven, ascends to heaven.

THE ORDER OF MASS

THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

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

Amen. either:

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

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

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

PENITENTIAL ACT

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

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

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

Have mercy on us, O Lord.

For we have sinned against you.

Show us, O Lord, your mercy.

And grant us your salvation.

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

You were sent to heal the contrite of heart:

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

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

You came to call sinners:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

or:

P: Kyrie, eleison.

R: Kyrie, eleison.

P: Christe, eleison.

R: Christe, eleison.

P: Kyrie, eleison.

R: Kyrie, eleison.

Gloria (when said)

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

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

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

At the end of the reading:

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

At the Gospel:

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

A reading from the holy Gospel according to N.

Glorify to you, O Lord.

At the end of the Gospel:

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

THE NICENE CREED

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

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

APOSTLES' CREED

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

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Pray, brethren ... the almighty Father.

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

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

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

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

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

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

After the Preface

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

The mystery of faith. either:

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

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

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

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

THE COMMUNION RITE

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

Our Father, who art in heaven...

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

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

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

Who live and reign for ever and ever.

Amen.

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And with your spirit.

Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

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

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

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

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

The Body of Christ. **Amen.**

The Blood of Christ. **Amen.**

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

THE CONCLUDING RITES

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

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

either:

Go forth, the Mass is ended. or:

Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord. or:

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

Go in peace.

Thanks be to God.

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SCRIPTURE COMMENTARY

by Brendan Byrne SJ

Today's **Gospel**, John 14:23-29, continues the reading from the long discourse that, in the Fourth Gospel, Jesus gives at the Last Supper (John 13:13 – 17:26). Throughout the discourse Jesus speaks a good deal about 'going away' and 'returning'.

It is important to understand that his talk of 'going away' and 'returning' operates on two levels. In the context of the final supper 'going away' most obviously refers to Jesus' imminent departure from this world in death, while his 'return' would refer to his appearance to the disciples three days later as risen Lord.

At a more basic level, however, the 'going away' of Jesus refers to his post-resurrection ascension and departure to the Father (see John 20:17), while his 'return' would then refer to his return to the world at the end of time (see John 5:27). At this level of reference, the discourse addresses his physical 'absence' from the community during this period. This was the time in which the community for whom the Fourth Gospel was written found themselves living. And, of course, it continues to our own time today.

The part of the discourse appearing as today's Gospel is sparked off by a question (v. 22) from Judas (carefully specified by the evangelist as 'not the Iscariot'). He wants to know how during this time of Jesus' physical absence the community of believers will have a sense of his presence, even though as far as the rest of the world is concerned he will be simply absent. In response to Judas' query Jesus stresses three things: love, the Paraclete (Spirit), and peace.

First of all, believers who truly love Jesus have his assurance that he and the Father have made their 'home' within them. This is perhaps the most beautiful and most intimate expression of the theme of divine indwelling in the Fourth Gospel. The divine 'community' of mutual love constituted by Father and Son sets up house, so to speak – makes itself 'at home' – within the hearts of believers and within the community as a whole. It is not just that believers should come to be at home with God; God wants to be at home with them. So, while believers will not, as the original disciples, see and hear and touch Jesus physically, faith will give them a sense of living constantly within this extraordinary 'at home-ness' with God.

Secondly, to compensate for the loss of the teaching, guidance, and encouragement under trial that Jesus has provided for them during his earthly life, they will have the presence of the Holy Spirit, here referred to as 'the Paraclete'. The description of the Spirit as 'Paraclete' or 'Counsellor' takes its cue from the sense of a powerful and respected friend who stands by you when you are in trouble or under accusation – the sort of person you would like to have by you in court as both attorney and character referee. For the community the Paraclete Spirit will also have a teaching and a 'reminding' function. In this way, the teaching Jesus gave them during his earthly life will be kept alive and also adapted to new situations and circumstances confronting the Church.

Finally, Jesus will bequeath to the community the gift of peace. This does not mean that there will never be disputes or disagreements but rather that there will be given a capacity for resolving such disputes in such a way that peace is restored or even more deeply secured.

The **First Reading**, from Acts 15, seems to have been included in order to provide an illustration of the post-Easter community of disciples achieving just such a resolution of conflict. It gives a truncated version of the description in Acts of a meeting of the church in Jerusalem to resolve a significant question thrown up by the highly successful mission of Barnabas and Paul to pagans (non-Jews). Before these people could be full members of the People of God did they have to become Jews first, through taking on the ritual provisions of the Mosaic Law, in particular circumcision for male converts? A compromise solution is reached: circumcision is not imposed but only three lesser requirements that will allow believers of both Jewish and pagan origin to live, eat and associate with each other as one community in peace.

The **Second Reading**, from Apocalypse 21, also addresses the situation of the post-Easter community. Their existence in the great cities of the Mediterranean world under the dominion of Rome may be perilous in the extreme, their loyalty to the state constantly under challenge. But their real 'citizenship' is that of the New Jerusalem, a city whose temple and light is provided by the presence of God and the Lamb. This assurance catches up, once again, the sense of divine indwelling communicated in the Gospel.

THE SACRAMENT OF PENANCE AND RECONCILIATION

296. What is the name of this sacrament?

It is called the sacrament of Penance, the sacrament of Reconciliation, the sacrament of Forgiveness, the sacrament of Confession, and the sacrament of Conversion.

297. Why is there a sacrament of Reconciliation after Baptism?

Since the new life of grace received in Baptism does not abolish the weakness of human nature nor the inclination to sin (that is, concupiscence), Christ instituted this sacrament for the conversion of the baptized who have been separated from him by sin.

298. When did he institute this sacrament?

The risen Lord instituted this sacrament on the evening of Easter when he showed himself to his apostles and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." (John 20:22-23).

299. Do the baptized have need of conversion?

The call of Christ to conversion continues to resound in the lives of the baptized. Conversion is a continuing obligation for the whole Church. She is holy but includes sinners in her midst.

300. What is interior penance?

It is the movement of a "contrite heart" (Psalm 51:19) drawn by divine grace to respond to the merciful love of God. This entails sorrow for and abhorrence of sins committed, a firm purpose not to sin again in the future and trust in the help of God. It is nourished by hope in divine mercy.

301. What forms does penance take in the Christian life?

Penance can be expressed in many and various ways but above all in fasting, prayer, and almsgiving. These and many other forms of penance can be practiced in the daily life of a Christian, particularly during the time of Lent and on the penitential day of Friday.

302. What are the essential elements of the sacrament of Reconciliation?

The essential elements are two: the acts of the penitent who comes to repentance through the action of the Holy Spirit, and the absolution of the priest who in the name of Christ grants forgiveness and determines the ways of making satisfaction.

303. What are the acts of the penitent?

They are: a careful examination of conscience; contrition (or repentance), which is perfect when it is motivated by love of God and imperfect if it rests on other motives and which includes the determination not to sin again; confession, which consists in the telling of one's sins to the priest; and satisfaction or the carrying out of certain acts of penance which the confessor imposes upon the penitent to repair the damage caused by sin.

304. Which sins must be confessed?

All grave sins not yet confessed, which a careful examination of conscience brings to mind, must be brought to the sacrament of Penance. The confession of serious sins is the only ordinary way to obtain forgiveness.

305. When is a person obliged to confess mortal sins?

Each of the faithful who has reached the age of discretion is bound to confess his or her mortal sins at least once a year and always before receiving Holy Communion.

306. Why can venial sins also be the object of sacramental confession?

The confession of venial sins is strongly recommended by the Church, even if this is not strictly necessary, because it helps us to form a correct conscience and to fight against evil tendencies. It allows us to be healed by Christ and to progress in the life of the Spirit.

307. Who is the minister of this sacrament?

Christ has entrusted the ministry of Reconciliation to his apostles, to the bishops who are their successors and to the priests who are the collaborators of the bishops, all of whom become thereby instruments of the mercy and justice of God. They exercise their power of forgiving sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

308. To whom is the absolution of some sins reserved?

The absolution of certain particularly grave sins (like those punished by excommunication) is reserved to the Apostolic See or to the local bishop or to priests who are authorized by them. Any priest, however, can absolve a person who is in danger of death from any sin and excommunication.

309. Is a confessor bound to secrecy?

Given the delicacy and greatness of this ministry and the respect due to people every confessor, without any exception and under very severe penalties, is bound to maintain "the sacramental seal" which means absolute secrecy about the sins revealed to him in confession.

310. What are the effects of this sacrament?

The effects of the sacrament of Penance are: reconciliation with God and therefore the forgiveness of sins; reconciliation with the Church; recovery, if it has been lost, of the state of grace; remission of the eternal punishment merited by mortal sins, and remission, at least in part, of the temporal punishment which is the consequence of sin; peace, serenity of conscience and spiritual consolation; and an increase of spiritual strength for the struggle of Christian living.

311. Can this sacrament be celebrated in some cases with a general confession and general absolution?

In cases of serious necessity (as in imminent danger of death) recourse may be had to a communal celebration of Reconciliation with general confession and general absolution, as long as the norms of the Church are observed and there is the intention of individually confessing one's grave sins in due time.

312. What are indulgences?

Indulgences are the remission before God of the temporal punishment due to sins whose guilt has already been forgiven. The faithful Christian who is duly disposed gains the indulgence under prescribed conditions for either himself or the departed. Indulgences are granted through the ministry of the Church which, as the dispenser of the grace of redemption, distributes the treasury of the merits of Christ and the Saints.

HOMILY OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS

St Peter's Square
Sunday, 15 May 2022

We have heard what Jesus told his disciples before leaving this world and returning to the Father. He told us what it means to be a Christian: "Even as I have loved you, so you must love one another" (Jn 13:34). This is the legacy that Christ bequeathed to us, the ultimate criterion for discerning whether or not we are truly his disciples. It is the commandment of love. Let us stop to consider two essential elements of this commandment: Jesus' love for us – "as I have loved you" – and the love he asks us to show to others – "so you must love one another".

First, the words "as I have loved you". How did Jesus love us? To the very end, to the total gift of himself. It is striking to think that he spoke these words on that night of darkness, when the atmosphere in the Upper Room was one of deep emotion and anxiety: deep emotion, because the Master was about to bid farewell to his disciples; anxiety because he had said that one of them would betray him. We can imagine the sorrow that filled the heart of Jesus, the dark clouds that were gathering in the hearts of the apostles, and their bitterness at seeing Judas who, after receiving the morsel dipped for him by the Master, left the room to enter into the night of betrayal. Yet at the very hour of his betrayal, Jesus reaffirmed his love for his own. For amid the darkness and tempests of life, that is the most important thing of all: God loves us.

Brothers and sisters, may this message be the core of our own faith and all the ways in which we express it: "...not that we loved God but that he loved us" (1 Jn 4:10). Let us never forget this. Our abilities and our merits are not the central thing, but rather the unconditional, free and unmerited love of God. Our Christian lives begin not with doctrine and good works, but with the amazement born of realizing that we are loved, prior to any response on our part. While the world frequently tries to convince us that we are valued only for what we can produce, the Gospel reminds us of the real truth of life: we are loved. A contemporary spiritual writer put it this way: "Long before any human being saw us, we were seen by God's loving eyes. Long before anyone heard us cry or laugh, we were heard by our God, who is all ears for us. Long before any person spoke to us in this world, we were spoken to by the voice of eternal love" (H. NOUWEN, *Life of the Beloved*). He loved us first; he waits for us; he keeps loving us. This is our identity: we are God's loved ones. This is our strength: we are loved by God.

Acknowledging this truth requires a conversion in the way we often think of holiness. At times, by over-emphasizing our efforts to do good works, we have created an ideal of holiness excessively based on ourselves, our personal heroics, our capacity for renunciation, our readiness for self-sacrifice to achieve a reward. This can at times appear as an overly "pelagian" way of viewing life and holiness. We have turned holiness into an unattainable goal. We have separated it from everyday life, instead of looking for it and embracing it in our daily routines, in the dust of the streets, in the trials of real life and, in the words of Teresa of Avila to her Sisters, "among the pots and pans". Being disciples of Jesus and advancing on the path of holiness means first and foremost letting ourselves be transfigured by the power of God's love. Let us never forget the primacy of God over self, of the Spirit over the flesh, of grace over works. For we at times give more importance to self, flesh and works. No, the primacy is that of God over self, of the Spirit over the flesh, of grace over works.

The love that we receive from the Lord is the force that transforms our lives. It opens our hearts and enables us to love. For this reason, Jesus says – here is the second element – "as I have loved you, so must you love one another". That word "as" is not

simply an invitation to imitate Jesus' love; it tells us that we are able to love only because he has loved us, because he pours into our hearts his own Spirit, the Spirit of holiness, love that heals and transforms. As a result, we can make decisions and perform works of love in every situation and for every brother and sister whom we meet, because we ourselves are loved and we have the power to love. As I myself am loved, so I can love others. The love I give is united to Jesus' love for me. "As" he loved me, so I can love others. The Christian life is just that simple. Let's not make it more complicated with so many things. It is just that simple.

In practice, what does it mean to live this love? Before giving us this commandment, Jesus had washed the disciples' feet; then, after giving it, he gave himself up to the wood of the cross. To love means this: to serve and to give one's life. To serve, that is, not to put our own interests first: to clear our systems of the poison of greed and competitiveness; to fight the cancer of indifference and the worm of self-referentiality; to share the charisms and gifts that God has given us. Specifically, we should ask ourselves, "What do I do for others?" That is what it means to love, to go about our daily lives in a spirit of service, with unassuming love and without seeking any recompense.

Then, to give one's life. This is about more than simply offering something of ours to others; it is about giving them our very selves. I like to ask people who seek my counsel whether they give alms. And if they do, whether they touch the hand of the recipient or simply, antiseptically, throw down the alms. Those people usually blush and say no. And I ask whether, in giving alms, they look the person in the eye, or look the other way. They say no. Touching and looking, touching and looking at the flesh of Christ who suffers in our brothers and sisters. This is very important; it is what it means to give one's life.

Holiness does not consist of a few heroic gestures, but of many small acts of daily love. "Are you called to the consecrated life? So many of you are here today! Then be holy by living out your commitment with joy. Are you married? Be holy by loving and caring for your husband or wife, as Christ does for the Church. Do you work for a living? Be holy by labouring with integrity and skill in the service of your brothers and sisters, by fighting for justice for your comrades, so that they do not remain without work, so that they always receive a just wage. Are you a parent or grandparent? Be holy by patiently teaching the little ones how to follow Jesus. Tell me, are you in a position of authority? So many people in authority are here today! Then be holy by working for the common good and renouncing personal gain" (*Gaudete et Exsultate*, 14). This is the path of holiness, and it is so simple! To see Jesus always in others.

To serve the Gospel and our brothers and sisters, to offer our lives without expecting anything in return, any worldly glory: this is a secret and it is our calling. That was how our fellow travellers canonized today lived their holiness. By embracing with enthusiasm their vocation – as a priest, as a consecrated woman, as a lay person – they devoted their lives to the Gospel. They discovered an incomparable joy and they became brilliant reflections of the Lord of history. For that is what a saint is: a luminous reflection of the Lord of history. May we strive to do the same. The path of holiness is not barred; it is universal and it starts with Baptism. Let us strive to follow it, for each of us is called to holiness, to a form of holiness all our own. Holiness is always "original", as Blessed Carlo Cutis used to say: it is not a photocopy, but an "original", mine, yours, all of ours. It is uniquely our own. Truly, the Lord has a plan of love for everyone. He has a dream for your life, for my life, for the life of each of us. What else can I say? Pursue that dream with joy.

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**POPE FRANCIS
REGINA CAELI
Saint Peter's Square
Sunday, 15 May 2022**

Dear brothers and sisters,

Before concluding this Eucharistic celebration, I wish to greet and thank you all: the brother Cardinals, the bishops, the priests, the men and women religious, especially those who belong to the spiritual families of the new Saints, and you, all the faithful, the faithful People of God, gathered here from many parts of the world.

I greet the official delegations from several countries, in particular Mr. President of the Italian Republic. It is good to see that, with their evangelical witness, these Saints have fostered the spiritual and social growth of their respective nations and also of the entire human family. While sadly in the world distances grow, and tensions and wars increase, may the new Saints inspire solutions of togetherness and ways of dialogue, especially in the hearts and minds of those who hold positions of great responsibility and are called upon to be agents of peace, not war.

I greet you all, dear pilgrims, as well as those who have followed this Mass via the media.

And now, let us turn to the Virgin Mary, so that she may help us joyfully imitate the example of the new Saints.

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

Ecumenical Prayer Service in the spirit of Taizé

Venue: Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Tighes Hill

Date: First Sunday each month starting June 5th, 2022

Time: 5.00pm – 6pm followed by a shared supper.

2022 TWEC Dinner

This year's dinner will be held Friday 24 June from 6.30pm at the Therry Centre, East Maitland. We invite you to enjoy a meal, share stories of the Josephite spirit within the diocesan community and imagine the next chapter of the Tenison Woods Education Community story together. Seats at the dinner are \$60 per person which includes drinks, canapés, main course and dessert. Tables of 10, small group and individual bookings are welcome. For details and bookings go to <https://2022twec.eventbrite.com.au>. Attendee names and dietary needs can be entered at checkout. For queries please contact Sharon Murphy on 4979 1134 or sharon.murphy@mn.catholic.org.au

Catholic Theological College presents: 'How do we know Christ now?'

A free online conference (via zoom) will be held on Friday June 17 2022, 9.30am - 12.30pm with a variety of workshops. This conference will focus on the critical question: 'How do we know Christ now?' and explores how we know the same Christ more authentically and powerfully today.

It will be led by the staff of CTC from across the disciplines and use a dialogical approach with opportunities for discussion and experiential engagement.

Workshops (11.30am - 12.30pm)

1. 'Deep Incarnation' and Hope for the Transformation of the World led by Very Rev. Dr Kevin Lenehan
2. Profound Experiences as Encounter: Christian Spirituality for Today led by Dr Rina Madden
3. Exploring Mindfulness and Christian Contemplative Practices led by Dr Cullan Joyce
4. God the Artist Communicates to Us First, Before God the Lecturer: A Workshop Uncovering the Presence of God in Art led by Rev. Dr Elio Capra SDB

To register go to www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/faith-formation/upcoming-events

"LET ME SEE AGAIN"

Facilitated by Catholic Mission, this one hour scripture reflection and dialogue, we will delve deeper into the meaning of the story of Jesus' encounter with

Bartimaeus and explore applications to our life and work. This session will

provide time for personal reflection, dialogue and an invitation to deep

listening to each other. There will also be time for you to consider how to apply

your learning and insights to your role in your school or ministry.

Date: Thursday 26 May

Time: 3:30pm - 4:30pm

To register go to:

www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/faith-formation/upcoming-events

Christian Formation Course

Are you wanting to know more about Christianity and develop a deeper understanding of the Catholic Church?

The Christian Formation Course is a learning experience that allows participants to explore the foundational elements of the Catholic Faith Tradition in community. This course introduces participants to scripture, theology, church history, sacramental life and liturgy.

The Course runs across twelve (12) months and comprises eight (8) units

All who complete the Course are awarded a diocesan Certificate in Christian Formation

By engaging in the course, it is hoped participants will: become more confident in understanding the Catholic faith, grow in their capacity to reflect on their life's journey realise that Christian faith is nurtured in community be affirmed in their gifts for participating in the life of the faith community

grow in awareness of what it means to be a responsive member of the faith community.

The course will commence in July 2022. For more information go to: www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/faith-formation/christian-formation-course



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,
5.30pm 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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