



# 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 23 OCTOBER 2022,

THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR C

## ALL FLESH IS GRASS

**Our time on earth is miniscule compared to the world's natural history but the incarnation reverses any feelings of insignificance.**

In a recent conversation, a friend and I were compelled to consider our nothingness within the enormity of the whole of creation. We are but a speck, a tiny grain of sand and here for such a short amount of time. When considering geological evidence about the natural history of our world we talk in millions of years, and we are here on earth for such a short time. Our own insignificance could lead us into rather despairing thoughts and cause us to feel meaningless and without value. Or we could be drawn into a fear of being easily annihilated and leaving no legacy. These kinds of ruminations are not ours alone as our scriptures give evidence of similar feelings. In Psalm 102 we hear the afflicted one pleading with God: *My heart is stricken and withered like grass; I am too wasted to eat my bread – Ps 102:4*

The feeling of helplessness is profound and yet, other utterances bring hope to the fore. In Psalm 8, the divine majesty of God is linked to human dignity: *When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established; what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them? – Ps 8:3-4*

The incarnation reverses the feelings of insignificance because God became flesh and blood, became human.

### DESIGN OF CREATION

In 'The Garden as a New Creation in John', The Bible Today, Professor Mary Coloe PBVM emphasises the link between Genesis 1, the creation of the world, and the prologue of John's Gospel where both alert the reader to God's design of creation with the pinnacle of creation being when the 'Word became flesh and lived among us' (1:14). Coloe prefers to use the word 'tabernacled' meaning that God dwells with us. This changes the whole focus of creation. Everything in the created world is now waiting to be brought to fulfilment through the glory of Christ. As Paul tells us, 'We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now' (Rom 8:22). When the work of God is finished, when the whole of creation has been returned through the glory of Christ, we shall all be one in God. What is required is to wait in hope (Rom 8:25). In the First Letter of Peter, we hear his response to persecution, that is either current or threatened, and encouragement is given to persevere because the Word has been given to us. 1 Peter 1:24 quotes from Deutero-Isaiah: 'All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass'. All of it withers in time but the hope is in the statement that 'the word of the Lord endures forever' (1Pet 1:25). The readers of this epistle knew that it referred to Isaiah 40:6 where the people who have been returned from captivity in Babylon, one of the great metamorphoses of our faith history, have become a newly created people. It also references another of the great metamorphoses in the Exodus from Egypt. Hope is present because of God's promises and God's work among us and within us.

### RETURNED TO GOD

This idea of recreation is deeply relevant to us on a personal level as well as being part of our faith history and of the hope for our fullness of return through Christ to be part of the perfection of God. All of creation will be returned to God, no more decay, no more imperfection. A recent artwork by Robert Gear, a finalist in Australia's most significant thematic Christian art award, the Mandorla Art Award 2022, images these ideas in a rich way (pictured). Our own unique perspective is symbolised in the foreground with a domestic garden setting. The hint of a vegetable garden, a fruit tree and a fence all point to our domestication within creation. But like the psalmist says, it will wither. In his own description of his work, Gear refers to the 'transitory nature of all human life. The natural world has existed in a continual state of flux, evolving and transforming since the beginning of time. Our presence mirrors the natural world'. The title of Gear's work, 'All Flesh is Grass' echoes Isaiah 40:6 and 1 Peter 1:24 and in the background points to the hope that is expressed in both of those scriptural passages. Gear has painted the landscape in a clear, representational way and he offers a view of hope through the light on the horizon that shows promise and clarity. In the presence of the artwork one is drawn into both the smallness of ourselves in the foreground image compared to the greater picture but also the focus on the horizon. Compared to the age of the hills, we are here but a short moment of time, but it is still valuable. The horizon in this work is dominated by flat topped very ancient landscapes that are found in Western Australia. Some of the oldest surface areas in the world are exposed in the Gasgoyne and Pilbara land forms. In a painting, the artist can give a clear focus in more than one area and Gear has succeeded in focusing on the background and the foreground at the same time. While we are constantly in a state of recreation in both the long-term geological perspective and in the immediacy of our presence in the 'now', we need to be hopeful and generous with the true understanding that God is present in everything and will bring everything together in the fullness of time.

*By Angela McCarthy 11 Sep 2022*

<https://www.pray.com.au/all-flesh-is-grass>



## Parish Timetable

<b>Mon 24 OCT</b>	<b>9am</b> Counters– Team 5 <b>12pm</b> Community Kitchen
<b>Tue 25 OCT</b>	<b>12pm</b> Community Kitchen <b>3.30pm</b> Holy Hour, Benediction & Confession <b>4.30pm Mass</b> (in Parish Hall)
<b>Wed 26 OCT</b>	<b>9.30am Mass</b> (in Parish Hall) <b>11am</b> Novena of Our Lady of Perpetual Help <b>12pm</b> Community Kitchen
<b>Thu 27 OCT</b>	<b>9.30am Mass</b> (in Parish Hall) <b>12pm</b> Community Kitchen
<b>Fri 28 OCT</b>	<b>9.30am Mass</b> (in Parish Hall) <b>7.30pm</b> Cursillo Gathering
<b>Sat 29 OCT</b>	<b>9.30am Mass</b> <b>4.00pm</b> Confession <b>5.00pm Vigil Mass</b>
<b>Sun 30 OCT</b>	<b>8.00am Mass</b> <b>10.00am Mass</b>

## Parish Notices

- **Christian Meditation will be cancelled on Tue 25 Oct.**
- **Advent reflection books**, Incarnate, are available in the church for \$5. **Please get in touch with the parish office if you would like to join a reflection group.**
- **Columban Art Calendars 2023** are on sale in church for \$10.
- **New carpet** will be installed in the church from **24 Oct— 28 Oct**. During this time the church will be closed and **Mass will be held in the parish hall at 4.30pm on Tue and 8am on Wed, Thu & Fri.**

**The Parish will hold a Catholic Mission Appeal at the Masses on 29/30 Oct.** Please give generously to the good works of Catholic Mission. *“What we do for our brother, we are doing it for God. Because God is invisible, but we see Him in our brothers and sisters who are in need.” Bishop Musie*

### DOCUMENTS OF THE SECOND VATICAN COUNCIL

The council sought to address relationships between the Catholic Church and the modern world. Four key documents were the result of the council: **Sacrosanctum Concilium, Lumen gentium, Dei verbum, Gaudium et spes.** Each of these documents changed how the Church interacted with the modern world, with other Christian and non-Christian denominations and with practices within the Church. **Fr Peter would like to invite members of the parish to join him in re-reading and discussing these Constitutions.** Please get in touch with the parish office if you would like to join.

### Cursillo Gathering

Our Diocesan Ultreya will be held in the Forster Parish Hall on **Friday night, 28th October**. Forster Cursillo members will be joined by others from parishes within our diocese. This is a great opportunity to meet people who have experienced a Cursillo weekend and to find out more about Cursillo. We gather for prayer at 7.30pm and finish the Ultreya with supper. Please bring some food to share. On Saturday we will gather for breakfast at Cushla's place at 8am. For more information ring Anne Moloney on 0416 202 106.

## *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.**

**All Saints Day Mass: Tue 4.30pm 1st Nov**  
**All Souls Day Mass: 9.30am & 5pm 2nd Nov**

### All Souls Day

If you would like your deceased loved ones remembered as part of the All Souls' Day Masses please submit their names to the parish office by Nov 1st. You can write their names on an envelope and place on the collection plate during Mass or email their names through to the parish office. **November Mass envelopes can be found on the table in the church.** Those who have died in the last twelve months, where we celebrated a funeral liturgy in our church, will be included by the office automatically. A suggested Mass offering is \$20 however we are grateful for any amount you choose to give.

**Tigrayan Bishop Decries 'Devastating Genocidal War' in Ethiopia:** Bishop Tesfaselassie Medhin has appealed for international help to address the humanitarian catastrophe that is occurring in his region. <https://www.ncregister.com/news/tigrayan-bishop-decries-devastating-genocidal-war-in-ethiopia>

## PARISH CHRISTMAS DINNER

**Date: Wed 21st Dec**

**Time: Mass at 5.30pm**

**followed by dinner in the Parish Hall.**

**No cost to attend.**

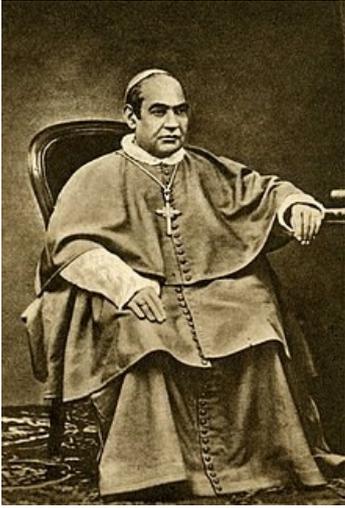
**Please bring a plate of food to share.**

*Some suggestions are: salads, cold cut meats,  
pastas, tray bakes, desserts etc*

**RSVP to Parish Office by 16th Dec.**

If we get enough donations we will hold a fund-raising raffle/silent auction on the night. **Please donate any items for the auction to the parish office.** Items must be new or handmade. Small items can be used as lucky door prizes.

## Saints and Feasts



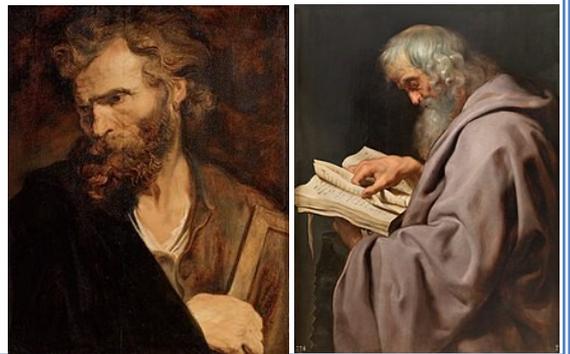
Anthony Mary Claret photographed in 1860

**24 OCTOBER ST ANTHONY MARY CLARET.** Anthony Mary Claret, was a Spanish Catholic archbishop and missionary, and was confessor of Isabella II of Spain. He founded the congregation of Missionary Sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, commonly called the Claretians. In addition to the Claretians, which in the early 21st century had over 450 houses and 3100 members, with missions in five continents, Claret founded or drew up the rules of

several communities of religious sisters. His zealous life and the wonders he wrought, both before and after his death, testified to his sanctity. Claret is the patron saint of weavers.

Apostle Jude by Anthony van Dyck & St. Simon, by Peter Paul Rubens (c. 1611), from his Twelve Apostles series at the Museo del Prado, Madrid

**28 OCTOBER STS SIMON AND JUDE.** St Simon and St Jude were two of Jesus' twelve apostles. St Simon was known as 'the Cananite' or 'the Zealot' by other evangelists and St Jude was likely a blood relative of Jesus and known as one of the 'brethren of the Lord'. Little, however, is known about either of these apostles after the events at Pentecost. Western traditions suggest that St Simon preached in Egypt before joining St Jude in Persia, where they were both martyred. In recent times, St Jude has become popular as the patron of 'hopeless causes'. This probably originates from early Christians confusing St Jude with Judas, who betrayed Jesus. As a result people never prayed for his help and so devotion to St Jude became somewhat of a lost or hopeless cause.



### THE LATEST NEWS FROM OUR SAFEGUARDING PROMOTERS – 23 Oct 22

The **Promoters of Safeguarding** continue to endorse a culture of safeguarding within the Parish. To this end, your attention is again drawn to the **RIGHTS OF THE CHILD**.

As with all peoples, children have human rights across the full spectrum of civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights. Because children are recognised as having particular inherent needs and dependencies, they also have particular rights.

Both the Commonwealth of Australia and the Roman Catholic Vatican (Holy See) ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child in November 1990, this is the central international instrument that underpins both Australia's and the Church's approach to safeguarding children.

The *Australian Human Rights Commission's* child friendly summary of children's rights state that children have the right to:

1. be treated fairly no matter what
2. have a say about decisions affecting them
3. live and grow up healthy
4. have people do what is best for them
5. know who they are and where they come from
6. believe what they want
7. privacy
8. find out information and express themselves
9. be safe
10. be cared for and have a home
11. education, play and cultural activities
12. help and protection if they need it.

The Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle has an abiding commitment to promote the safety, welfare and well-being of children and vulnerable persons — particularly those who participate in the life of the Diocese as part of our faith communities in parishes, in our diocesan systemic schools, early education centres and out-of-school hours care service, as part of our welfare and community services through CatholicCare and other diocesan ministries, including the Office of Safeguarding (OsSG).

The OsSG is an integral part of the Maitland-Newcastle Diocese, reporting directly to the Bishop's Office. The Office of Safeguarding works with NSW Police, the Office of the Children's Guardian, the Department of Community and Justice and other statutory authorities and specialist authorities within the Catholic Church in Australia to fulfil its responsibilities and maximise the safeguarding of children and vulnerable persons.

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:**

**Recently deceased:**

**Anniversaries:** Rose Muscat

***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:***

Joe Camilleri, Reginald Cross, Joseph Barnett, Jane Michie, Imogen Ralph, Robin Koszyk & Maryanne Hall

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



**Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C**

**Sunday 23 Oct 2022**

**Fr Peter:** Dear Brothers and Sisters, with humble hearts, let us bring our intentions before God.

**1. Reader:** That Holy Mother Church will provide shelter and peace for sinners and transgressors. In your mercy:

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

**2. Reader:** That governments will protect society's poor and marginalised. In your mercy:

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

**3. Reader:** That there will be an end to the deadly spiral of violence in Ukraine, Ethiopia and other troubled nations around the world. In your mercy:

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

**4. Reader:** That those suffering spiritual torment will find refuge in God. In your mercy:

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

**5. Reader:** That our parish community will use the Sacrament of Penance to enrich our faith in Christ. In your mercy:

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

**6. Reader:** That we will be generous in our support of the missionary work of the Church, providing opportunities and hope to the poorest of the poor. In your mercy:

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

**7. Reader:** That participants at the National Evangelisation Conference will be inspired and energised in their discipleship, mission, and encounters with Christ. In your mercy:

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

**8. Reader:** That the sick and housebound will be healed in Christ's love, especially all those in our parish bulletin. In your mercy:

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

**9. Reader:** That those who have died will live forever with Christ in God's eternal home, especially Rose Muscat whose anniversary occurs at this time. In your mercy:

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

**Fr Peter:** Loving God, you give us just and humble hearts. Hear our prayers and help us to live with mercy and grace for the welfare of all your children. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen.**

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**A Prayer For Those Unable To Receive Holy Communion**

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

**Sunday 23 Oct 2022**  
**Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C**

**Entrance Antiphon**

*Cf. Ps 104:3-4*

Let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice; turn to the Lord and his strength; constantly seek his face.

**First Reading**

*Sir 35:12-14, 16-18*

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus

The Lord is a judge who is no respecter of personages. He shows no respect of personages to the detriment of a poor man, he listens to the plea of the injured party. He does not ignore the orphan's supplication, nor the widow's as she pours out her story. The man who with his whole heart serves God will be accepted, his petitions will carry to the clouds. The humble man's prayer pierces the clouds, until it arrives he is inconsolable nor will he desist until the Most High takes notice of him, acquits the virtuous and delivers judgement. And the Lord will not be slow, nor will he be dilatory on their behalf.

**Responsorial Psalm**

*Ps 32:2-3, 17-19, 23. R. v.7*

(R.) The Lord hears the cry of the poor.

1. I will bless the Lord at all times, his praise always on my lips; in the Lord my soul shall make its boast. The humble shall hear and be glad. (R.)

2. The Lord turns his face against the wicked to destroy their remembrance from the earth. The just call and the Lord hears and rescues them in all their distress. (R.)

3. The Lord is close to the broken-hearted; those whose spirit is crushed he will save. The Lord ransoms the souls of his servants. Those who hide in him shall not be condemned. (R.)

**Second Reading**

*2 Tm 4:6-8, 16-18*

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to Timothy

My life is already being poured away as a libation, and the time has come for me to be gone. I have fought the good fight to the end; I have run the race to the finish; I have kept the faith; all there is to come now is the crown of righteousness reserved for me, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give to me on that Day; and not only to me but to all those who have longed for his Appearing. The first time I had to present my defence, there was not a single witness to support me. Every one of them deserted me – may they not be held accountable for it. But the Lord stood by me and gave me power, so that through me the whole message might be proclaimed for all the pagans to hear; and so I was rescued from the lion's mouth. The Lord will rescue me from all evil attempts on me, and bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen .

**Gospel Acclamation**

*2 Cor 5:19*

Alleluia, alleluia!

God was in Christ, to reconcile the world to himself; and the Good News of reconciliation he has entrusted to us.

Alleluia!

**Gospel**

*Lk 18:9-14*

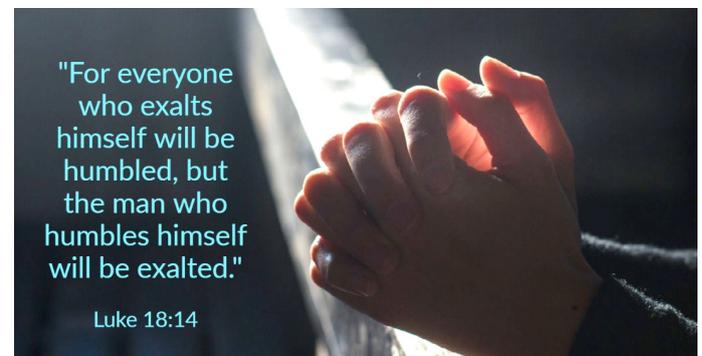
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Jesus spoke the following parable to some people who prided themselves on being virtuous and despised everyone else, 'Two men went up to the Temple to pray, one a Pharisee, the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood there and said this prayer to himself, "I thank you, God, that I am not grasping, unjust, adulterous like the rest of mankind, and particularly that I am not like this tax collector here. I fast twice a week; I pay tithes on all I get." The tax collector stood some distance away, not daring even to raise his eyes to heaven; but he beat his breast and said, "God, be merciful to me, a sinner." This man, I tell you, went home again at rights with God; the other did not. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the man who humbles himself will be exalted.'

**Communion Antiphon**

*Cf. Ps 19:6*

We will ring out our joy at your saving help and exult in the name of our God.



**Readings for Next Week 29/30 October**

**First Reading**

*Wis 11:22 – 12:2* The Lord loves all creation.

**Responsorial Psalm**

*Ps 144:1-2, 8-11, 13-14.* R. see v.1 (R.) I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God.

**Second Reading**

*2 Thes 1:11 – 2:2* The day of the Lord is not yet here.

**Gospel Acclamation**

*Jn 3:16* Alleluia, alleluia! God loved the world so much, he gave us his only Son, that all who believe in him might have eternal life. Alleluia!

**Gospel**

*Lk 19:1-10* Jesus enters the house of Zacchaeus.

# 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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**Sunday 23 Oct 2022**  
**SCRIPTURE COMMENTARY by Brendan Byrne SJ**

The readings today – at least the First Reading, from Ecclesiasticus (Sirach) 35:12-14, 16-19) and the Gospel (Luke 18:9-14) – are, like those of last week, concerned with prayer. Now, however, the issue is not so much persistence in prayer as the kind of person whose prayer is most likely to receive a favourable hearing from God.

The First Reading makes clear that the Lord does not grant favours like the powerful in this world. They are inclined to give a hearing to people of influence and prestige, people who 'present well'. The Lord, on the contrary, is no 'respector of personages' but ever more inclined to listen to those in the greatest distress.

Attractively, the text speaks of the Lord as ready to 'listen' to the widow 'as she pours out her story'. Nothing, surely, is more important when people are distressed as to listen to their story. In some situations that is all we can do, but it is already a very great deal. The text, then, shows us what prayer is all about: baring a sincere heart to the Lord, who listens to our story and, our whole life long, waits till we have told it to the end.

The parable in the Gospel targets 'some people who prided themselves on being virtuous and despised everyone else.' Whereas, as the First Reading has just reminded us, 'The humble person's prayer pierces the clouds', such people are not going to get a good hearing from God. The characters in the parable illustrate these two radically different ways of coming before the Lord in prayer.

In a strongly religious society the issue as to who is virtuous and who is not will always be prominent. In the milieu of Jesus, the gospels particularly associate such concern with the Pharisees. In preaching, however, we must be careful not to reinforce the view that the kind of judgmental behaviour represented by the Pharisee in this parable was typical of Pharisees in general, let alone of Judaism as a religion. It is to be found in all religions, Christianity included.

Whereas in prayer the focus should be upon God, the concentration of this Pharisee rests upon himself. Worse, it is also upon the failings of his fellow human beings. Before enumerating all his own virtues – things quite admirable in themselves from a religious point of view – this person sets himself apart from the sinful mass of humankind ('thieves, rogues, adulter-

ers). How convenient for him that a representative of these kind of people is right here at hand in the person of the tax-collector!

The Pharisee illustrates the attitude of those who can only bolster their own self-image by putting down others. For such people life is a competition in virtue. God assesses the results and issues the prizes. Prayer is an opportunity to keep God informed about one's own success and also about the shortcomings of others. As so often in Jesus' parables, it is all a bit of a caricature. But nonetheless, if we are honest, we can ask ourselves how often we catch ourselves out doing much the same?

The tax-collector, by contrast, stands down the back simply pleading that God be merciful to him, a sinner. In what sense sinner? Because of personal moral failure, for which he now repents? We should not immediately jump to this conclusion. Could it simply be that he finds himself trapped in an occupation that makes him a sinner in his own eyes and those of his world – an occupation which, perhaps, with a family to support and no other job possibilities, he cannot simply abandon? All this the parable leaves open. In any case, as Jesus points out, God's view reverses both verdicts. The one who came to God's house in his own eyes a sinner went home with God's favour ('justified'); the one so sure of his virtue went home without it.

This double divine verdict recorded in the parable could offer comfort to many people today who find themselves or their loved ones (for example, their children) caught in situations judged objectively 'sinful' on more traditional thinking whether in the area of sexuality, or marital involvement or professional occupation. In a complex world, loyalties often run in several directions. The application of general moral rules and norms to individual lives requires sympathy and pastoral understanding of the pressures and burdens most people have to bear. The parable suggests that God's view, at any rate, does not always run simply along conventional lines. The divine impulse is always towards acceptance, mercy and liberation.

The confidence expressed by Paul as he reviews his life in the Second Reading, 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18, looks not so much to his own achievements but to the generosity and faithfulness of God. © Brendan Byrne SJ

### **CatholicCare Christmas Hamper Drive 2022**

*Help us help those in need this Christmas.*

CatholicCare is hoping to distribute much needed hampers through our Food Programs across the Hunter-Manning this Christmas, and we need your support!

You can help by donating any of the items listed below:

- **Tins of ham** • **Fruit mince pies or Christmas puddings** • **Fruit juice or tins of stewed fruit** • **Jams, cranberry or apple sauce** • **Reusable Christmas shopping bags** • **Cereal, long life milk or custard** • **Sweet or savory biscuits** • **Tins of vegetables: baby potatoes, beetroot, corn, peas or tomatoes** • **Tea bags, coffee, hot chocolate, sugar** • **Chocolates, lollies or pancake mix.** Drop off at Parish Office.

### **Financial donations are also welcome!**

Each hamper costs \$50, but any amount will make a difference.

Please visit [catholiccare.org.au/donate](http://catholiccare.org.au/donate)



**POPE FRANCIS  
ANGELUS  
Saint Peter's Square  
Sunday, 16 October 2022**

Dear brothers and sisters, buongiorno!

The Gospel from today's Liturgy concludes with a troubling question posed by Jesus: "When the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?" (Lk 18:8) It's almost like he was saying, "When I come again at the end of time" – or we could also think, even now, at this time of life – "will I find a bit of faith in you, in your world?" This is a serious question. Let us imagine that the Lord came today on earth. Unfortunately, he would see many wars, much poverty and many inequalities. At the same time, he would see tremendous technical conquests, modern means, and people who are always running, who never stop. But would he find someone who dedicates time and affection to him, someone who would put him in first place? Above all, let us ask ourselves, "What would he find in me, if the Lord were to come today, what would he find in me, in my life, in my heart? What priorities would he see in my life?"

We often focus on so many urgent but unnecessary things. We occupy and preoccupy ourselves with so many secondary realities. And perhaps without even recognizing it, we neglect what counts the most and we allow our love for God to grow cold, to grow cold bit by bit. Today, Jesus offers us the remedy to rekindle a tepid faith. And what is the remedy? Prayer. Yes, prayer is the medicine for faith, it is the restorative of the soul. It needs to be constant prayer, however. If we must undergo treatment to get better, it is important to follow the treatment plan well, to take the medicine faithfully and regularly in the right way and at the right times. This is necessary in all of life. Let us think of a houseplant: we need to water it consistently every day. We cannot soak it and then leave it without giving it water for a week! Even more so with prayer. We cannot live only on strong moments of prayer or occasional intense encounters, and then "go into hibernation". Our faith would dry up. We need the daily water of prayer, we need time dedicated to God, so that he can enter into our time, into our lives; we need consistent moments in which we open our hearts to him so that he can daily pour out on us love, peace, joy, strength, hope, thus nourishing our faith.

This is why Jesus tells his disciples – to everyone, not only to some! – "that they ought always to pray and not lose heart" (v. 1). Now someone might object: "But, how can I do that? I don't live in a convent. I don't have much time to pray!" Perhaps a wise spiritual practice for this real difficulty that the elderly, especially our grandparents, know well can come to our aid, which is a bit forgotten today. These are so-called aspirations. The name is a bit outdated, but the substance is good. What are they? They are very short, easy to memorize prayers that can be repeated often throughout the day, in the course of various activities, to remain "in tune" with the Lord. For example, as soon as we awaken, we can say: "Lord, I thank you and I offer this day to you". This is a short prayer. Then, before an activity, we can repeat, "Come, Holy Spirit". Between one thing and another, we can pray thus, "Jesus, I trust in you. Jesus, I love you". Really short prayers that help us stay in contact with the Lord. How often we send instant messages to the people we love! Let's do this with the Lord as well so that our hearts

remain connected to him. And let's not forget to read his responses. The Lord always responds. Where do we find them? In the Gospel which should always be kept at hand and should be opened several times every day, to receive a Word of life directed to us.

And let's go back to the advice I have given many times – carry a pocket-size Gospel in your pocket in your purse. And when you have a minute, open it and read something, and the Lord will respond.

May the Virgin Mary, faithful listener, teach us the art of praying always, without losing heart.

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

Dear brothers and sisters,

On 10 October last year, the first phase opened of the XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops on the theme, "For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, Mission". Since then, the first phase of the Synod is being carried out in the local Churches through listening and discernment. The fruits of the synodal process under way are many, but so that they might come to full maturity, it is necessary not to be in a rush. Therefore, in order to have a more relaxed period of discernment, I have established that this Synodal Assembly will take place in two sessions. The first from 4 to 29 October 2023, and the second in October of 2024. I trust that this decision will promote the understanding of synodality as a constitutive dimension of the Church, and help everyone to live it as the journey of brothers and sisters who proclaim the joy of the Gospel.

Today, in Boves (Cuneo), Fathers Giuseppe Bernardi and Mario Ghibaudo – pastor and assistant pastor, killed in hatred of the faith in 1943 – will be proclaimed Blessed. In extreme danger they did not abandon the people entrusted to them, but assisted them even to the point of shedding their blood, sharing the tragic destiny of other fellow townspeople killed by the Nazis. May their example enkindle in priests the desire to be pastors after Christ's heart, always alongside their people. A round of applause for the new Blesseds!

This Tuesday, 18 October, the Foundation "Aid to the Church in Need" is promoting the "A million children praying the Rosary" campaign. I thank all the children who are participating! Let us unite ourselves to them and entrust the suffering people of Ukraine, and other people who are suffering due to war and any form of violence and misery, to Our Lady's intercession.

Regarding misery, tomorrow is the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. Everyone can give a hand toward a society where no one feels excluded because they are poor.

I greet all of you, people from Rome and pilgrims from various countries: families, parish groups, associations. In particular, I greet the musical band from Freiburg that I heard playing. You are really good! The "Comelico" Choir from Santo Stefano di Cadore and the Association of the Militia of the Immacolata, and the representatives of the Spanish Confederation of Business Organizations and the Spanish Federation of the Self-Employed. I also greet those who are here from Chajarí, Entre Ríos Province (Argentina). May God bless you!

I hope all of you have a good Sunday. And, please, do not forget to pray for me. Enjoy your lunch and arrivederci!

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## THE THIRD WAY: ARGUMENT FROM POSSIBILITY AND NECESSITY

1. We find in nature things that are possible to be and not to be, that come into being and go out of being i.e., contingent beings.
2. Assume that every being is a contingent being.
3. For each contingent being, there is a time it does not exist.
4. Therefore it is impossible for these always to exist.
5. Therefore there could have been a time when no things existed.
6. Therefore at that time there would have been nothing to bring the currently existing contingent beings into existence.
7. Therefore, nothing would be in existence now.
8. We have reached an absurd result from assuming that every being is a contingent being.
9. Therefore not every being is a contingent being.
10. Therefore some being exists of its own necessity, and does not receive its existence from another being, but rather causes them. This all men speak of as God.

COETVS

Joined to the Church, the catechumens are now part of the household of Christ, since the Church nourishes them with the word of God (RCIA 47).



### **Webinar: Challenges in establishing and maintaining a parish RCIA process**

You are invited to register for CIANetwork's upcoming webinar titled, "Challenges in establishing and maintaining a parish RCIA process." The webinar will involve short presentations from three of CIAN's executive members who have a wealth of experience in RCIA: Lisa McKerr (Brisbane), Kathy Horan (Adelaide) and Christine Wood (Hobart). It will also include breakout groups for participants to discuss their parish RCIA processes.

As we work to get our parishes back on track after COVID lockdowns, people keep asking us how to get their RCIA process going again. This webinar will provide practical ideas for your parishes.

REGISTER NOW! See the attached flyer for details.

**When:** Monday 14th November 2022

**Time:** 7-8.15pm AEDT

**Where:** via Zoom

**Register:** <http://www.tinyurl.com/CIAN-Nov2022-webinar>

## RCIA- Rite of Acceptance

### PART 2

#### **The Threshold**

The door or threshold of the Church is an important symbol in many Catholic rites. Doors symbolize transitions and new ways of life. For Christians, Christ, the Good Shepherd and the gate for the sheep, is the most important door, because "whoever enters through [Christ] will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture" (John 10:9). But doors are also liminal spaces, in-between places that are neither here nor there. Even though Christ has died and risen to save us from death, we still live in the in-between time until Christ comes again to welcome all of creation through the doors of the kingdom of God. In the Rite of Acceptance, those wishing to answer God's call are met at the threshold of the Church by the baptized and are ritually welcomed to enter into the Church's doors.

#### **The Cross**

To enter into Christ also means entering into his dying and rising, for he said, "whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me" (Mark 8:34). Those who answer God's call will need to learn how to let go and die to their old ways of life, and this will often be painful and difficult. But the cross is also the sign of our salvation. So in the Rite of Acceptance, the Church consecrates—sets apart and makes holy—those who are committing themselves to following Christ by signing their bodies with the cross.

#### **The Word and the Assembly**

In order to learn how to take up the cross of Christ each day of their lives, these catechumens will need to be nourished by the Word of God, for "one does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God" (Matthew 4:4). In the Scriptures that they will hear every Sunday in the Mass, God speaks, and in the Gospels, Christ proclaims to all those assembled that God's promises last forever. No matter what things the catechumens will encounter—suffering, pain, obstacles, doubt, fear, sin, death—God will never leave them. God's love through Christ never fails. Where we encounter Christ and his love most clearly is in the assembly. When God's people gather on Sunday to proclaim the Scriptures, offer prayers for the world, and remember Christ in the sharing of a meal—the Eucharist—Christ is truly present. It will be through the assembly that the catechumens learn how to live as Christ. The assembly models for them how to die to selfishness, how to forgive others, how to preach the Good News, and how to live in hope through the Holy Spirit. The catechumens will depend on the Spirit of God found in the assembly to apprentice them into a life of discipleship. Because they are not yet baptized, the catechumens cannot yet participate in the prayers of the faithful. These prayers are the Creed, the General Intercessions, and the Eucharistic Prayer which climaxes in Communion. Therefore, after the homily, the catechumens, accompanied by a member of the baptized, are sent to feast on the Word of God, to reflect on how God is continuing to call them in this part of their faith journey, and to discern how they are to respond.

**Learn more:** TeamRCIA.com

**Are you interested in becoming Catholic?** Contact this parish on 0475 242 695 or [forster-tuncurry.pariah@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:forster-tuncurry.pariah@mn.catholic.org.au)

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

### World Youth Day 2023: Pilgrim Information Session

We will be holding two online information sessions for all those who are interested in either attending our Diocesan pilgrimage or learning more about World Youth Day.

Please note, both of these sessions will be the same. You only need to attend one.

**Wednesday 19 October 2022 – 6pm to 7pm or Thursday 3 November 2022 4pm to 5pm.**

To register, visit: <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=x2JU50ZySU-2DkekMO6p1sRqnzeqcN1DnMeIB-amwJIUQ0cxSVZSSTdTNkJFMUJCTTFJSDAxN0E2Ri4u>

### Waiting with Purpose

Waiting with Purpose is a resource that invites all members of the community to gather a circle of people – family, friends, colleagues, ministry teams – to reflect mystagogically on the Advent gospels. This is an opportunity to encounter Christ where we are, to pay attention to what Christ reveals in the scripture and the living tradition of our faith, to share this, to connect it to our life now and to be changed by it. Mystagogical Reflection deepens our capacity to live from Christ.

To access the resource, go to:

[www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/liturgy/liturgical-year/](http://www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/liturgy/liturgical-year/)

**For those wanting to connect via Zoom during Advent we will be hosting Waiting with Purpose Advent Reflection each Monday at 10am.** To register go to:

[www.eventbrite.com.au/e/waiting-with-purpose-advent-2022-tickets-443044436837](http://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/waiting-with-purpose-advent-2022-tickets-443044436837)

### Bishop's Award 2022

Nominations are now open for the 2022 Bishop's Award! The award aims to recognise the good works of students and young people across our Diocese who were actively involved in their parish communities. **Applications close on 2 December 2022.**

Find out more: <https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/youth/bishops-award/>

### Catholic Women's League Australia: Annual Thanksgiving Mass

The Catholic Women's League Australia – New South Wales Inc. Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle is excited to invite you to their Annual Thanksgiving Mass and Luncheon on **Friday 18 November. Mass is at St Paul's Church at 11.30am** and lunch will be at the Telarah Bowling Club at 1pm. Cost for lunch is \$40 per person. For more information contact Margo Nancarrow on 0418 657 989 or [bjmnan4@bigpond.com](mailto:bjmnan4@bigpond.com) or [cwlamn214@bigpond.com](mailto:cwlamn214@bigpond.com)

### The Healing Power of Art

Opening on Thursday 3 November at Wallsend Library (30 Bunn Street), the Healing Power of Art is an exhibition of words, textiles, drawings, and photography from workshops attended by people impacted by institutional child sexual abuse. These works explore the hopeful and creative capacity of the arts in providing a compassionate space for self-expression and healing. The exhibition is open until 4 December and will include two events:

- **Tuesday 8 November 1pm:** Photography through the lens of Gratitude: a conversation on the healing capacity of art with art therapist Danielle Minett and participants from the Loud Sky Art Workshops
- **Thursday 1 December 10am:** Art and Healing: a conversation with art therapist Dr Helena Bezzina, Jo Davis Public Programs - Museum of Art and Culture Lake Macquarie, and participants from the Loud Sky art Workshops

### Diocesan Reflection Day

You are invited to attend the Diocesan Reflection Day on our Spiritual Foundations marking the anniversary of Bishop Bill's death. **To be held on Saturday 12 November, 9.30 am for a 10.00 am start and finish at 3.00 pm.**

There are various locations to choose from including, Victor Peters Suite-Newcastle West, San Clemente High School - Mayfield, St Pauls High School - Booragul, Catherine McAuley College - Medowie, St Joseph's High School – Aberdeen and St Clare's High School – Taree.

The six hubs will allow people to gather together in a close by location and enjoy fellowship with each other. Please bring a plate to share for morning tea and lunch with those attending.

The reflection purpose will be:

- To gather and reconnect with our diocesan people
- To pray, reflect and engage with one another
- To reflect with our diocesan foundational principles
- To renew our sense of community after months of restrictions

**Registration is open now by this link: They will close on Monday 7 November.**

### Interfaith Dialogue

The Interfaith Dialogue will explore leadership within different faith communities. Join us as we explore what is the same or different – and what we can learn from each other. This is an opportunity to join the Ecumenical and Interfaith Council and other faith communities. **The event is being hosted at the Mackillop Pastoral Centre (7 Milson Street, Charlestown) from 6.30pm to 9pm on Thursday 3 November.** A light supper will be served, for catering purposes, **please register online by 31 October.** Register here: [www.eventbrite.com.au/e/interfaith-dialogue-tickets-410277560227](http://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/interfaith-dialogue-tickets-410277560227)



### 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: 0475 242 695

**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**

For volunteer opportunities contact Michelle Robinson: 0447 184 917

### 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.  
Parish Office 02 6554 6401

#### 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

4.00pm 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 Thu 10.30am**  
Estia Tuncurry: **2nd Thu 10.30am**  
Estia Forster: **3rd Fri 10.30am**  
Baptistcare: **4th Thu 10.30am**



### 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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