



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 27 NOVEMBER 2022,

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR A

Dear Brothers and Sisters.

It is now Advent. The season when we prepare not only for Christmas, but also for the coming of Christ again in His glory. The question that must be forefront in our minds and hearts, is will Jesus, when he comes, find me about His mission? It is worth noting that the mission never ends and that we are never not on mission.

With that in mind I would like to thank all those who have contributed to the CatholicCare Christmas Hampers. There are so many people who are needy in our local area. This weekend you will also note St Vincent De Paul giving tree. I was overwhelmed last year by the generosity shown to this particular venture. I once again commend that to you. Soon we will have the SVDP Christmas appeal as well.

Please note that the office is on restricted hours of operation, Danielle is on annual leave. I have the parish mobile but, may not be able to answer it. I will return a call if a message is left. I will be away for 2 weeks in December for family reasons. There will be no weekday Masses from the 6th to the 10th of December, and also from the 13th to the 17th of December. The only change to this is that Mass on the 8th of December for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception will be at 8am. There will be a Mass to mark the Graduation of year 6 on the 9th at 11:30 am. Weekend Masses remain as per normal.

On the 1st and 2nd of December new cabinetry will be installed in the sacristy. Please note the changes in Mass times because of this. This is to provide more storage and replace cupboards that have broken over the years. If you are able to contribute to this important maintenance issue for your Church I would be most grateful for your generosity. Very soon the new hand rails will be installed on the Sanctuary. To those who have contributed towards these, thankyou. Due to various safe guarding reasons a new wall will be shortly constructed in the Confessional. This is to provide a barrier between the penitent and the Priest who is hearing the Confession.

Having marked now the first anniversary of the death of Bishop Bill, we continue to wait for the appointment of a new bishop; keep praying. Remember too, Fr Greg in your prayers as he fulfills the role of Diocesan Administrator.

As mentioned earlier on, next Friday will see the year six graduation Mass. Please keep this group of young people in your prayers as they move to the next stage of their life and the next stage of their journey of discipleship.

Last weekend it was a joy and a privilege to witness the young people in our parish make their First Communion. Please keep them in your prayers.

At Masses this weekend and next, there will be a retiring collection for the Forster Women's Shelter. This has arisen following a conversation I had with some people involved in the running of the shelter, they said that the children who are in residence need some sport equipment, namely a basketball hoop, as well as other equipment. If you are able to and willing to please contribute, a donation from our parish to this worthy local cause, can only be a good thing. The conversation I had about this took place on White Ribbon Day, last Friday. It was a privilege to take part in this community event to highlight the scourge of domestic violence. I hope and pray that this evil never happens again to anybody. Please join me in that prayer.

With love.

Fr. Peter.



Parish Timetable

Mon 28 NOV	9am Counters– Team 3 12pm Community Kitchen
Tue 29 NOV	9.30am Christian Meditation 12pm Community Kitchen 3.30pm Holy Hour, Benediction & Confession 4.30pm Mass
Wed 30 NOV	9.30am Mass 11am Novena of Our Lady of Perpetual Help 12pm Community Kitchen
Thu 1 DEC	8.00am Mass in parish hall 12pm Community Kitchen
Fri 2 DEC	4.30pm Mass in parish hall
Sat 3 DEC	9am First Saturday devotions. 9.30am Mass 4pm Confession 5pm Vigil Mass
Sun 4 DEC	8am Mass -followed by morning tea in the hall 10am Mass

Parish Notices

- Danielle will be away from the office from 22 Nov until 7 Dec.
- New cabinetry will be installed in the Sacristy on Thu 1st & Fri 2nd Dec. Masses on these days will be at 8am Thu & 4.30pm Fri in the parish hall.
- Columban Art Calendars 2023 are on sale for \$10.

Flowers for Christmas

Fr Peter has placed an order of flowers for the Church at the Christmas Masses. If anyone would like to contribute to the cost of the flowers please place your donation into an envelope labelled flowers and place on the collection plate.

Family & Friends

Christmas Party Luncheon at Forster Bowling Club 12 Noon on Sunday 4th December. Ring Carol or Terry the week before to reserve your seat. C= 0431 047 755 T= 0408768 729

Human Rights Day Saturday 3rd December 2022

Great Lakes Rural Australians for Refugees is hosting a free event on Saturday 3rd December 2022 at 2 pm to celebrate Human Rights Day with a panel of guest speakers at Catholic Parish Hall, Lake Street, Forster, with afternoon tea to follow. The speakers include Arif Hussein, Senior Solicitor, Refugee Advice and Casework Service, Sydney; Jamil Armad, Manager of Social Work, Manning Referral Hospital; and Ed Trotter, Community Support, Taree. All are welcome.

The Gardening Group are looking for young, fit people to join the team. Come along to the parish on the 3rd Monday of the month at 8am if you would like to lend a hand.

CHRISTMAS MASSES 2022

Christmas Eve Sat 24th Dec
5.00pm & 7.30pm
Christmas Day Sun 25th Dec
8.00am & 10.00am

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.**

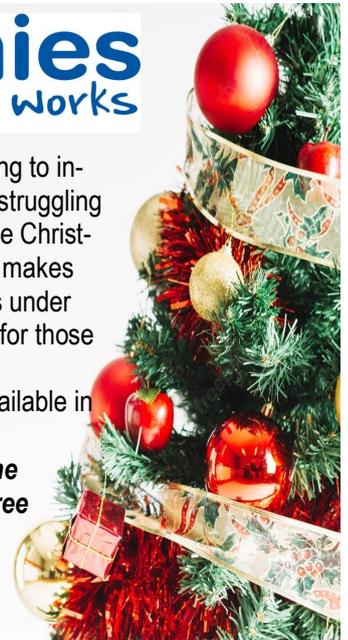


With the cost of living continuing to increase, many Australians are struggling to afford everyday life, let alone Christmas. The Vinnies Giving Tree makes wishes come true, putting gifts under the tree and food on the table for those struggling this holiday season.

Donation envelopes will be available in the church

Please give generously to the St Vincent de Paul Giving Tree and Christmas Appeal this season.

<https://donate.vinnies.org.au/>



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: your national dish, salads, cold cut meats, pastas, tray bakes, desserts.

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

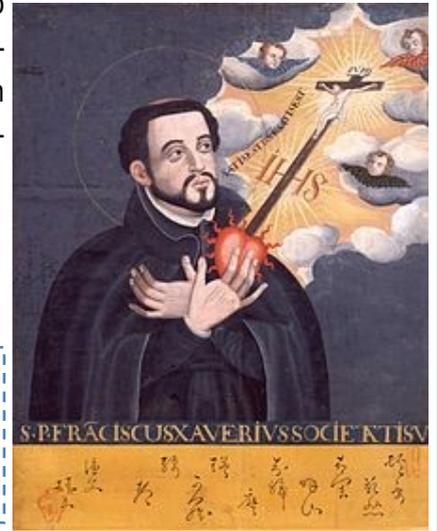
30 NOVEMBER ST ANDREW came from Capernaum and was a fisherman by trade. He was a disciple of John the Baptist before he and his brother, Simon Peter, were called to be the first apostles of Christ. In the Gospels he is mentioned for his part in the feeding of the 5000, as well as John's Gospel account of the Greeks who wished to meet Jesus. There is uncertainty as to where he preached, where he died and was buried. Ancient writings suggest he went to Greece, and was eventually crucified on a saltire (X shaped) cross, from where he preached to the people for



two days before dying. A medieval legend tells of his remains being taken to the coast of Scotland to a place now named St Andrews, which eventually led to him becoming the patron saint of Scotland. Patron of Fishermen.

Saint Andrew (c. 1637)
by Gerard Seghers

3 DECEMBER ST FRANCIS XAVIER, priest, born in Spain in 1506 and studied at the University of Paris. He met St Ignatius of Loyola and joined his group of disciples who found a new religious order; the Jesuits. Preaching in foreign missions became a fundamental aim of the Jesuits and in 1541, he sailed to Goa in India. he worked and lived with the poor people in every place he visited; from India and Ceylon to Japan and the Malay peninsula. During his ten years as a missionary, he is believed to have converted many thousands to Christianity. He is recognised as the patron saint of foreign missions.



A painting of Saint Francis Xavier, held in the Kobe City Museum, Japan

On THE LATEST NEWS FROM OUR SAFEGUARDING PROMOTERS - 27nov22

The **Promoters of Safeguarding** continue to endorse a culture of safeguarding within the Parish. To this end, your attention is drawn to **easing the move to aged care**.

In an article by Eileen Wood in the **THE SENIOR** newspaper, making the move from home living to residential care can be difficult.

Many of the transitions in life, like going to school or university, or getting married, are about growth and becoming more independent and there are often many supporters around them. However, moving into aged care can seem like an overwhelming change to an already vulnerable older person who many have to leave behind their home, family, friends, community and, sometimes, their partner.

Newcastle university researchers are trialling the use of three programs, run together, to make the transition easier. These 3 are:

PEARL - a Program to Enhancement Adjustment to Residential Living will see therapists, including occupational therapy and psychology students, work one-on-one with residents to help them adjust to living in a different environment. This will help residents maintain social contacts and engage in their hobbies and interests.

START - the STRategies for RelaTives program works with family members to give them the skills and tools to help their older loved ones transition to residential care,

DIGNITY OF CHOICE – this program works with the residential facility to assist in upskilling staff in person centred mental health care.

Led by Dr Michelle Kelly, the researchers will evaluate the effectiveness of these 3 programs when run together. Dr Kelly noted that the move to aged care often comes about at a time of vulnerability when a person might have increasing difficulty caring for themselves physically, may have had a fall which requires an immediate move into an aged care facility.

Dr Kelly also said that it is estimated around 50% of those in residential aged care have symptoms of depression while 35% have a diagnosis of depression. This 3-pronged approach is being trialled at Calvary Care in Newcastle and, when completed, the researchers hope it will expand to a national trial.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Recently deceased: Sr Lynette Pearse RSJ, Fr Thomas Zaremba, Jim Legg & David McIntosh

Anniversaries: Anthony Hughes & Peter Hughes

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:

Jane Michie, Imogen Ralph, Robin Koszyk, Maryanne Hall, Joseph Flanagan & Thelma Lyndon.

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



First Sunday of Advent Year A

Sunday 27 Nov 2022

Fr Peter: Dear Brothers and Sisters, as we enter this time of waiting, let us bring our intentions before God.

Reader: That Holy Mother Church will unite together in this season of penance and prayer. In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That nations at war will put aside conflict and find peaceful resolutions. In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That those suffering from the lure of temptation will find resistance in the message of Christ. In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That our parish community will stay awake and stand ready as we wait for the coming of Christ. In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That there will be an end to violence in Ukraine, Afghanistan, Myanmar and all war torn areas. In your glory:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That governments and organisations will work together to provide food security to prevent the catastrophic loss of life which is threatening Ethiopia and other areas. In your glory:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That those who are sick will have mercy and love shown to them, especially all those in our parish bulletin. In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That those who have died will share in eternal redemption with Christ, especially Sr Lynette Pearse RSJ, Fr Thomas Zaremba, Jim Legg & David McIntosh who have died recently and Anthony Hughes & Peter Hughes whose anniversaries occur at this time. In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Fr Peter: Loving Father, you teach us to be attentive in faith and heart. Hear our prayers, and help us to be ever watchful and ready for the glorious coming of our Saviour. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

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 27 Nov 2022
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR A

Entrance Antiphon

Cf. Ps 24:1-3

To you, I lift up my soul, O my God. In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

First Reading

Is 2:1-5

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The vision of Isaiah son of Amoz, concerning Judah and Jerusalem. In the days to come the mountain of the Temple of the Lord shall tower above the mountains and be lifted higher than the hills. All the nations will stream to it, Peoples without number will come to it; and they will say: 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the Temple of the God of Jacob that he may teach us his ways so that we may walk in his paths; since the Law will go out from Zion, and the oracle of the Lord from Jerusalem.' He will wield authority over the nations and adjudicate between many peoples; these will hammer their swords into ploughshares, their spears into sickles. Nation will not lift sword against nation, there will be no more training for war. O House of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 121:1-2. 4-5. 6-9. R. see v.1.

(R.) Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

1. I rejoiced when I heard them say: 'Let us go to God's house.' And now our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem. (R.)

2. It is there that the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord. For Israel's law it is, there to praise the Lord's name. There were set the thrones of judgement of the house of David. (R.)

3. For the peace of Jerusalem pray: 'Peace be to your homes! May peace reign in your walls, in your palaces, peace!' (R.)

4. For love of my brethren and friends I say: 'Peace upon you!' For love of the house of the Lord I will ask for your good. (R.)

Second Reading

Rom 13:11-14

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

You know 'the time' has come: you must wake up now: our salvation is even nearer than it was when we were converted. The night is almost over, it will be daylight soon – let us

give up all the things we prefer to do under the cover of the dark; let us arm ourselves and appear in the light. Let us live decently as people do in the daytime: no drunken orgies, no promiscuity or licentiousness, and no wrangling or jealousy. Let your armour be the Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel Acclamation

Ps 84:8

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation. Alleluia!

Gospel

Mt 24:37-44

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus said to his disciples: 'As it was in Noah's day, so will it be when the Son of Man comes. For in those days before the Flood people were eating, drinking, taking wives, taking husbands, right up to the day Noah went into the ark, and they suspected nothing till the Flood came and swept all away. It will be like this when the Son of Man comes. Then of two men in the fields one is taken, one left; of two women at the millstone grinding, one is taken, one left.

'So stay awake, because you do not know the day when your master is coming. You may be quite sure of this that if the householder had known at what time of the night the burglar would come, he would have stayed awake and would not have allowed anyone to break through the wall of his house. Therefore, you too must stand ready because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.'

Communion Antiphon

Ps 84:13

The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.

Readings for Next Week 3/4 December

First Reading

Is 11:1-10 A shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse. Peace and justice will triumph.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 71:1-2. 7-8. 12-13. 17. R. cf. v.7. (R.) Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.

Second Reading

Rom 15:4-9 Live in harmony with one another.

Gospel Acclamation

Lk 3:4. 6 Alleluia, alleluia! Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!

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 27 Nov 2022
SCRIPTURE COMMENTARY by Brendan Byrne SJ

It is generally well-known that, of all the four Gospels, it is the Gospel of Matthew that stands closest to the Jewish origins of the Christian faith. Not that Matthew was the first to be written; nowadays that privilege is generally accorded to the Gospel of Mark. But Matthew seems to have been composed in a Jewish context where relations with the ancestral faith were a primary concern.

Quite a number of scholars today in fact hold that the community which gave rise to Matthew's Gospel still saw itself to be within the Jewish commonwealth. After the calamity of 70 CE, when the Romans sacked the Temple and all but destroyed Jerusalem and the life of the nation, the Matthean community found itself one of a number of groups struggling to redefine and reinvigorate Israel around the sacred Torah – the Law of Moses. Other scholars – perhaps the majority – would hold that the 'parting of the ways' had already occurred by the time the Gospel was written (usually believed to be in the decade between 80-90 CE).

Whether or not the final break with Judaism had occurred, there is general agreement that the Gospel very much reflects the dialogue and disputes with representative Jewish authorities ('the scribes and Pharisees') that led to the breaking of relations. One thing that preachers and readers of Matthew must constantly keep in mind is that the sharpness and bitterness of the conflicts between Jesus and religious authorities appearing in the Gospel reflect more the conditions of Matthew's community than the actual situation of Jesus some forty or fifty years earlier. Of all the Jewish movements of his day, it is the Pharisees to whom Jesus himself probably stood closest. While undoubtedly he challenged many of their interpretations of the Jewish Law (Torah), the argument was probably less vigorous than appears in the Gospel of Matthew, where the heirs of his own movement and those of the Pharisees (now the rabbis) were struggling over the true definition of God's people, Israel. While all four Gospels need careful handling so as not to reinforce age-old and calamitous prejudices about Jews and Judaism, this is particularly true in regard to Matthew.

Preoccupation with Jewish concerns is seen above all in Matthew's concern with the Torah. The First Gospel, no less than the other three, has as its primary focus the presentation of Jesus as Messiah and Son of God. Yet its christology is marked by a concern to present Jesus as the authoritative Interpreter of the Torah. Jesus has not come to abolish the Torah – not in respect to one letter or even one stroke of a letter; he has come to bring it to perfection (5:17-18).

For this reason Matthew begins his account of Jesus' public ministry with the long Sermon on the Mount (chapters 5-7). Here, with an authority greater than that of Moses, Jesus promulgates the way of life that is to characterise his disciples as the Torah brought to perfection and interpreted according to 'what God wants'. What God wants is indicated in a key text from one of the prophets of Israel: Hosea 6:6, 'What I want is mercy, not sacrifice.' The importance of this prophetic text for Matthew is evident in the fact Jesus twice makes explicit appeal to it in situations of conflict (9:13; 12:7). The supreme test

of valid interpretation of the Torah and action in accordance with it is whether such action displays and promulgates the mercy towards fellow human beings that, for Jesus characterises the action and will of God. The measure of 'perfection' – of perfect faithfulness (righteousness) in keeping the Torah – is, then, 'to be perfect as your Heavenly Father is perfect' (5:48). Later in the Gospel, in the same spirit Jesus will excoriate the scribes and Pharisees for tithing tiny herbs but neglecting what he calls the 'weightier matters of the Torah: justice, mercy and faith' (23:23).

This presentation of Jesus as Interpreter of the Law goes along with a distinctive view of the human condition. Matthew – more precisely, Matthew's Jesus – sees humanity as burdened – burdened by many things but especially by sickness and alienation from God. It is precisely such a vision that forms the context for the great Sermon. Jesus addresses his disciples in the presence of 'all the sick, those who were afflicted with various diseases and pains, demoniacs, epileptics and paralytics, ... great crowds from Galilee, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea, and from beyond the Jordan' (4:24-25). Shaped by the Torah as he now interprets it, beginning with the Beatitudes (5:1-12), the disciples, are to be the kind of people who can be 'Salt' (5:13) and 'Light' (5:14) for this burdened world. Above all, the Gospel presents Jesus himself – in his outreach to sinners, his celebration of mercy, his healing and his teaching – as the one who bears and lifts humanity's burdens (11:28-30). In this he fulfils the role of the Servant of Isaiah who bore the sicknesses of many (8:17; cf. Is 53:4; 12:15-21; cf. Is 42:1-4). Jesus not only teaches the Torah; in this respect he models it in his own behaviour and ministry. The negative portrayal of the 'burdening-imposing' teaching of the scribes and Pharisees (23:4) forms the foil against which stands out the 'burden-lifting' interpretation and action of Jesus.

But, along with the stress upon acceptance and mercy, Matthew's Gospel is also one of high moral demand. Faith is not something of words alone. It must issue forth in action (7:24-28). Above all, what is intolerable is hypocrisy: a mismatch between what one says and what one does, between what appears on the outside and what lies in the heart. There is, then, much denunciation and warning in the Gospel. But it is always important to see who is denounced and for what cause. The chief target of Jesus' wrath is not sinfulness in general but hypocrisy and failure to treat others with the understanding, mercy and forgiveness that one has oneself received from God (18:21-35).

The heart is, in fact, the seat of the 'surpassing righteousness' (5:19) that Jesus requires. Whereas the Torah in its older interpretation said simply, 'You must not kill', Jesus' interpretation goes to the heart: to cut off the anger that is the beginning of murderous intent (5:21-26). Likewise, where the Torah said 'You shall not commit adultery', for Jesus the battle begins in the basic attitude which a man has towards a woman in his heart (5:27).

SOLEMNITY OF OUR LORD JESUS
CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE

POPE FRANCIS

ANGELUS

Asti Cathedral

Sunday, 20 November 2022

At the end of this Celebration, I would like to express my gratitude to the Diocese, to the Province, and to the City of Asti. Thank you for the warm welcome you have given me! I am also very grateful to the civil and religious authorities for the preparations that made this awaited visit possible. I would like to say to all of you that I was pleased to meet you [spoken in dialect: *a la fame propri piasì' encuntreve!*]; and I wish you all the best [in dialect: *ch'a staga bin!*]

I would like to extend a special thought and send my love to the young people – thank you for having come out in such numbers! As of last year, the local Churches observe World Youth Day specifically on the Solemnity of Christ the King. The theme, the same as the next World Youth Day in Lisbon – I renew my invitation that you participate in it – is “Mary arose and went with haste” (*Lk 1:39*). Our Lady did this when she was young, and she tells us that the secret to remaining young is found precisely in those two verbs, *to arise* and *to go*. I like to think of Our Lady who went in haste. She really went quickly; she went in haste. And many times, I pray to Our Lady: “Hey,

hurry up and resolve this problem!” To arise and to go – not to stay still thinking about ourselves, wasting our lives and chasing after comforts or the latest fads, but to aim for the heights, get on the move, leaving behind our own fears to take someone in need by the hand. And today, we need young people who are truly “transgressives”, young people who are truly “transgressives”, non-conformists, who are not slaves to their mobile phones, but who change the world like Mary, bearing Jesus to others, taking care of others, building fraternal communities with others, making dreams of peace come true!

Right now, we are living a *famine of peace*: we are living a famine of peace. Let's think of how many places in the world are scourged by war, in particular of war-torn Ukraine. Let's roll our sleeves and continue to pray for peace! Let us also pray for the families of the victims of the serious fire that happened in these past days in a refugee camp in Gaza, in Palestine, where several children also died. May the Lord welcome into heaven those who lost their lives and console those people who have suffered years of conflict. And let us now invoke the Queen of Peace, Our Lady, to whom this beautiful Cathedral is dedicated. To her, let us entrust our families, the sick, and each one of us, with the worries and good intentions we bear in our hearts.

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GREAT LAKES
Womens
Shelter

GLWS AVATAR 2 Fundraising Movie tickets and Raf- fle

We are hosting a fun filled family fundraising movie, just for you, our wonderful supportive community, to help raise funds to continue our support with the families in shelter.

Avatar 2 - in 3D for the ultimate cinema experience, has been long awaited, coming 12 years after the original Avatar movie, that we all love.

Come and join us on Thursday 15th December at Great Lakes Cinema 3 in Tuncurry,
6pm for drinks and nibbles.

Raffle drawn at 6:45pm. 7pm movie start

Tickets are available with group discounts:
Individual Tickets (Young and Old)\$25, Large Group of 10 \$230, Family or groups of 6 \$140, Family or group of 4 \$90, Add on : Small Popcorn, drink and choc top pack (1 person)\$12.

Lucky door prizes to be won on the night!

Follow the link to purchase tickets to the movie and raffle tickets. <https://glws.org.au/events>

Instead of Elf on a Shelf, move Mary and Joseph thru your house on their "journey to Bethlehem" and end up at the Nativity scene Christmas Eve.



OUR JOURNEY

Holy Name Parish Forster-Tuncurry is formulating a Parish Pastoral Plan to renew our commitment to be the Light of Christ in our community and to build on the services that are already offered by our Parish.

With this in mind we will be holding a Parish Pastoral Assembly on 25th November 2023. The Day will be preceded throughout the year by a series of one day Retreats, preparing us for the Assembly.

All parishioners are encouraged to join us on this exciting Journey as we continue to grow into the Church Christ wants us to be.

The days to enter into your calendars are:-

4th March-The Journey With-In

27th May-The Journey With Christ

26th August - The Journey With Others

25th November- Pastoral Assembly Day

More details will be announced as the days grow closer but it is anticipated each Retreat Day will begin with 9.30am Mass and conclude about 4pm.

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



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

Job opportunity: Casual Receptionist

The Sisters of Mercy at Tighes Hill are looking for a Relief Casual Receptionist/Secretary for a short assignment from **8 December 2022 to 6 January 2023**. The days will be each Thursday and Friday from 9am to 5pm. Previous experience and an understanding of Catholic organisation is preferred. If you are interested in this assignment, please call Sister Margaret on 4964 6400

Thanksgiving Mass

The Newcastle Catholic Charismatic community invites everyone to join in celebrations for a Thanksgiving Mass on **Friday 2 December from 7pm at Holy Cross Catholic Church Glendale**. We also want to especially invite all priests and deacons in the Diocese as a way of giving you a special thanks for your service and sacrifice as you have shepherded the community through challenging times. Please contact Wayne Caruana on 0466 631 384 or on wayne.caruana@mn.catholic.edu.au for more details and RSVP.

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/

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

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/catholic-life/youth/bishops-award/>

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 crea-

tive 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

Praying the Gospels

You are invited to connect and pray with each other across the Diocese from your own home. God speaks to us through the words of the Gospel and then through artist's images of the Gospel message.

Join us each Wednesday 5.00-5.45pm.

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

Password: pray

For more information contact:

rose.mcallister@mn.catholic.org.au

Applications are now open for the 2023 Pastoral Placement Program

The Pastoral Placement Program offers participants an experience of ministry in the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle. The purpose of this program is to give participants the opportunity to experience different workplaces and ministries across the diocese. These 'on the ground' ministry work placements help people explore the opportunities that are available to them to serve God and the local community of the Catholic Church in the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle. The Pastoral Placement Program provides participants a year-long discernment journey, involving the see, judge, act philosophy, to make an informed choice about the possibility of their future ministry or career choices.

For more information and to learn to how to apply go to:

<https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/pastoral-placement-program/>





BAPTISMS

Celebrated most Sundays.
Bookings via the Parish website

MARRIAGE

Celebrated by arrangement with at least 6 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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