



# Bridgeside Bulletin



**The weekly Bulletin of the Catholic Parish of Forster Tuncurry**

*"Unity in Christ"*

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

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

SUNDAY 11 DECEMBER 2022,

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR A

Dear Brothers and Sisters.

Here we are, the third Sunday of Advent. Past the half way mark in this season were we prepare for the coming of the Lord. Up until this point, the theme of our readings have been the second coming of Christ. However, as we get closer to Christmas the emphasis changes. Please note the Christmas Novena begins on the 17<sup>th</sup> of December. To enable anybody who wishes to attend Mass each day during the Novena I will say Mass on Monday the 19<sup>th</sup> of December at 930am. Please note, that Mass will be said on Boxing Day at 930am as well, this ensures that not only do we celebrate the Proto-Martyr, Mass will be offered each day in the octave of Christmas. Please remember to take and distribute the Parish Christmas Cards. This is a simple way of informing people when the Christmas Masses will be and to inviting people to come to Mass.

This coming week I will be away again, this time I am attending the Ordination of a friend. My friend joined the Carmelites many years ago, this will be the first time in about 5 years that we have seen each other, and may well be the last chance to catch up for many years to come.

Many of you have asked how my father is following the surgery. He is going very well. He is in a lot of pain, though that is easing. He is very thankful for the prayers that have been offered, as is my mother. I thank each one of you who have remembered my father in your prayers.

On a personal note, it is my 8<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ordination on Monday the 12<sup>th</sup> of December. I have tried throughout my 8 years to be a good and holy priest. For those times that I have failed, due to my weaknesses and sinfulness, I ask your forgiveness and beg your pardon. Please let us continue to pray for each other.

I leave you with the end of a poem called Christmas, by the late Sir John Betjeman.

With love.

Fr. Peter.

And is it true? And is it true,  
This most tremendous tale of all,  
Seen in a stained-glass window's hue,  
A Baby in an ox's stall ?  
The Maker of the stars and sea  
Become a Child on earth for me?

And is it true? For if it is,  
No loving fingers tying strings  
Around those tissue's fripperies,  
The sweet and silly Christmas things,  
Bath salts and inexpensive scent  
And hideous tie so kindly meant,

No love that in a family dwells,  
No carolling in frosty air,  
Nor all the steeple-shaking bells  
Can with this single Truth compare -  
That God was man in Palestine  
And lives today in Bread and Wine.

### Parish Timetable

<b>Mon</b> 12 DEC	9am Counters– Team 5 12pm Community Kitchen
<b>Tue</b> 13 DEC	9.30am Christian Meditation 12pm Community Kitchen
<b>Wed</b> 14 DEC	11am Novena of Our Lady of Perpetual Help 12pm Community Kitchen
<b>Thu</b> 15 DEC	12pm Community Kitchen
<b>Fri</b> 16 DEC	
<b>Sat</b> 17 DEC	4pm Confession 5pm Vigil Mass
<b>Sun</b> 18 DEC	8am Mass -followed by morning tea in the hall 10am Mass

### Parish Notices

- **No Weekday Mass this week as Fr Peter will be away.**
- **Danielle will be away from the office from 14 Dec until 19 Dec.**
- **Columban Art Calendars 2023** are on sale for \$10.

### CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH

**History of the lunch:** As Christmas approached in 1986, the local Catholic Priest, Fr. Tony Brady, became aware of some people in our community who would be spending Christmas Day alone. In an effort to reach out to these people Fr. Tony instigated a Christmas Day Lunch in the Catholic Church Hall at Forster.

This event has continued each Christmas since that time and once again this year single people and families will gather in the Forster Church Hall on Christmas Day to celebrate the joy of Christ's birth and share Christmas Day Lunch together.

Christmas can be a sad time for those who may be separated from their families by distance and may feel detached from the love and joy that the season is meant to bring. Sharing the day with others can assist in this regard. The free lunch is available to all and all are sure to be made to feel most welcome.

**Information:** The hall, located at 31 Lake Street, Forster, will be open from 11.30am to set up and we will sit down to lunch at around 1.00pm. Further enquiries may be directed to Greg Byrne on 0427 918 568.

You may wish to bring a plate of food or drinks to share. Foods such as cold meats, salads, sauces, breads, pastas, chips, dips etc. are some options. Deserts are always a favourite as well! Please let Greg Byrne know what you will bring so that we don't double up.

### 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.**



AURORA: Sharing the spirit of Christmas

<https://mnnews.today/aurora/december-2022/sharing-the-spirit-of-christmas/>

**Please remember to drop you gifts for the Vinnies giving tree back into the church or the parish office. St Vincent De Paul will distribute the gifts to families next week.**



### 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



**12 DECEMBER OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE** is a title of the Virgin Mary associated with a celebrated pictorial image housed in the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in México City. Mexican national identity is entwined with that of Guadalupe. Official Catholic accounts state that on the morning of 9th December, 1531, Juan Diego saw an apparition of a young girl at the Hill of Tepeyac, near Mexico City. The girl asked that a church be built in her honour and from her apparition Juan Diego recognised her as the Virgin Mary. After recounting his story the Archbishop of Mexico City instructed him to ask the lady for a miraculous sign. The first was to heal Juan's uncle. The virgin told Diego to gather flowers and, although December was very late in the growing season Diego found Castilian roses, not native to Mexico on the hilltop. The Virgin arranged these in his peasant cloak (tilma). When Juan Diego opened his cloak before the Bishop the flowers fell to the floor, and on the fabric was the image of the Virgin of Guadalupe. Juan Diego was canonised in 2002.

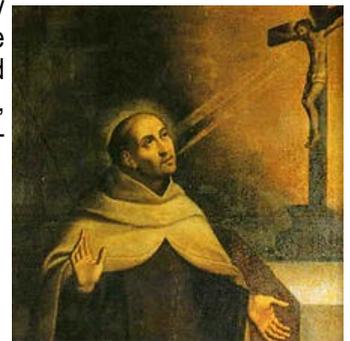
**13 DECEMBER ST LUCY** was a young woman from a wealthy Sicilian family who lived during the early fourth century. It is believed that her mother arranged for her to be married, but Lucy refused as she wanted to devote her life to serving Christ. She offered prayers at the tomb of St Agatha and her mother's illness was miraculously cured. She was eventually martyred during the persecution of Emperor Diocletian, but even in the face of death

Saint Lucy, by Niccolò di Segna mid 14th-century Sienese painting, circa 1340. The saint holds the dagger with which she was ultimately exe-

she showed great courage and faith in God. The name Lucy means 'light' and St Lucy is called upon as the patron saint of the blind.

**14 DECEMBER ST JOHN OF THE CROSS** was born into a poor Spanish family in 1542. After attending a Jesuit college, he joined the Carmelite Order, studied theology and was ordained a priest at the age of 25. St Teresa of Avila encouraged him to join the Discalced Carmelite Reform, which provided two houses for friars. But after several years he was seized and imprisoned by the Calced Carmelite friars, who rejected the reform. St John of the Cross was a mystic and poet, and it was during his captivity that he wrote some of his finest work. He eventually escaped and founded a college at Baeza. St John's is regarded as a Doctor of Mystical Theology, and was officially declared a Doctor of the Church in 1926.

Saint John of the Cross, 17th century anonymous



### THE LATEST NEWS FROM OUR SAFEGUARDING PROMOTERS - 11 Dec 22

The Promoters of Safeguarding continue to endorse a culture of safeguarding within the Parish. To this end, your attention is drawn to the **increased risk of drowning during the summer months**. Between July 2021 and June 2022, there were 339 drowning deaths in Australia, an increase from 294 in 2021 and 248 in 2020. Children aged 1-4 have the highest drowning rates with most drownings happening in swimming pools, while seniors aged 65 to 74 are the third most vulnerable age category.

CEO, Adam Weir, said that it is important to be vigilant around the water. Simple actions like supervising children always on, in and around water, swimming at a patrolled location between the red and yellow flags, avoiding alcohol and recreational drugs while swimming, and wearing a lifejacket while boating and fishing are all things which minimise the danger of drowning this summer.

*Royal Life Saving Society Australia* CEO, Justin Scarr said children were at increased risk of drowning over summer and required constant supervision around swimming pools and inland waterways. "Always make sure children have your full attention and avoid distractions, especially mobile phones. Remember, kids can't help themselves around water, you need to keep watch," Scarr said. "Other simple actions to help make water safety a priority include enrolling children in swimming lessons, checking the pool fence and gate."

*Minister for Sport and Aged Care Services*, Anika Wells, said. "Australians love our summer days at the beach and by the pool, but I urge young families to be cautious and take a safety-first approach to water. Summer is also a drowning danger time for senior citizens. Each death has far-reaching consequences for the family and friends left behind."

#### **Key Actions and Safety Tips for Summer 2022/23:**

1. Swim at a patrolled beach between the red and yellow flags
2. Wear a lifejacket if you are going boating, rock fishing, or on watercraft
3. Avoid alcohol and recreational drugs while undertaking water activities
4. Always supervise children on, in and around water **at all times**
5. Check water conditions before heading out
6. Visit [www.beachsafe.org.au](http://www.beachsafe.org.au)

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:**

**Recently deceased:** Anne Bulmer & Joseph Vella

**Anniversaries:** Severina Magalona & John Green

***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, Joseph Flanagan & Thelma Lyndon.

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



**Third Sunday of Advent Year A**

**Sunday 11 Dec 2022**

**Fr Peter:** Dear Brothers and Sisters, with courage in our hearts, let us bring our intentions before the Lord.

**Reader:** That our Holy Father Pope Francis will instill trust and patience in Catholics all over the world. In your mercy:

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

**Reader:** That leaders of nations and governments will work for justice and peace. In your mercy:

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

**Reader:** That those who have turned away from Jesus will be returned to the Good News and find salvation at Christ's coming. In your mercy:

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

**Reader:** That in this Advent time, our community may take heart and find renewed faith in the Lord. In your mercy:

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

**Reader:** That in our preparations for Christmas, we will not forget those who are lonely or marginalised. In your mercy:

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

**Reader:** That we will all spend time in prayer and with the gospels and come to know Christ more deeply as we prepare to celebrate his birth. In your mercy:

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

**Reader:** That the sick and housebound will be saved through the love of Christ, especially all those in our parish bulletin. In your mercy:

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

**Reader:** That those who have died may come to reign with Christ forever, especially Anne Bulmer & Joseph Vella who has died recently and Severina Magalona & John Green whose anniversaries occur at this time. In your mercy:

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

**Fr Peter:** Father, the coming of your Son is near. Hear our prayers, and guide us with patience and renewed faith as we wait in joyful hope. 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 11 Dec 2022**  
**Third Sunday of Advent Year A**

**Entrance Antiphon**

*Phil 4:4-5*

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

**First Reading**

*Is 35:1-6, 10*

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult, let the wasteland rejoice and bloom, let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil, let it rejoice and sing for joy. The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it,

the splendour of Carmel and Sharon; they shall see the glory of the Lord, the splendour of our God. Strengthen all weary hands, steady all trembling knees and say to all faint hearts, 'Courage! Do not be afraid. 'Look, your God is coming, vengeance is coming, the retribution of God; he is coming to save you.' Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed, then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy, for those the Lord has ransomed shall return. They will come to Zion shouting for joy, everlasting joy on their faces; joy and gladness will go with them and sorrow and lament be ended.

**Responsorial Psalm**

*Ps 145:6-10. R. see Is 35:4*

(R.) Lord, come and save us.

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever, who is just to those who are oppressed. It is he who gives bread to the hungry, the Lord, who sets prisoners free. (R.)

2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind, who raises up those who are bowed down, the Lord, who protects the stranger and upholds the widow and orphan. (R.)

3. It is the Lord who loves the just but thwarts the path of the wicked. The Lord will reign for ever, Zion's God, from age to age. (R.)

**Second Reading**

*Jas 5:7-10*

A reading from the letter of St James

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make complaints against one another, brothers, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

**Gospel Acclamation**

*Is 61:1 (Lk 4:18)*

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.

Alleluia!

**Gospel**

*Mt 11:2-11*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.'

As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'

**Communion Antiphon**

*Cf. Is 35:4*

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

**Readings for Next Week 17/18 December**

**First Reading**

*Is 7:10-14* Prediction of Immanuel, born of a virgin.

**Responsorial Psalm**

*Ps 23:1-6. R. see vv 7. 10 (R.)* Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

**Second Reading**

*Rom 1:1-7* Paul spreads the news of the Son of God.

**Gospel Acclamation**

*Mt 1:23* Alleluia, alleluia! A virgin will give birth to a son; his name will be Emmanuel: God is with us. Alleluia!

**Gospel**

*Mt 1:18-24* An angel visits Joseph, who takes Mary as his wife.

# 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 11 Dec 2022**  
**SCRIPTURE COMMENTARY by Brendan Byrne SJ**

As with the earlier Advent Sundays, the First Reading today, Isaiah 35:1-6, 10, gives expression to the messianic hope. The main point of the passage is to reassure the exiles returning from Babylonian captivity not to be afraid of the journey they have to make across the desert. Their homecoming will be accompanied by a complete transformation of the natural world, recalling the original harmony of Eden. This lends an 'ecological' aspect to the messianic hope.

But the chief reason for the choice of this passage as First Reading lies in the references towards the end concerning the opening of the eyes of the blind, the unsealing of the deaf, the leaping of the lame and the singing of the dumb. Jesus' response to the envoys from John the Baptist as told in the Gospel, Matthew 11:2-11, picks up this description and adds a few more marvels (cleansing of lepers, raising of the dead, and the good news preached to the poor). A recently published text from the Dead Sea Scrolls from Qumran (the so-called 'Messianic Apocalypse') uses an almost identical list of wonders to characterise the messianic age. This text coming from just a few decades before Jesus' own time shows us that he is using language that the hearers of his time would readily understand as saying, 'The messianic times are upon us'.

John's question is really asking whether Jesus is the coming and long-awaited Messiah. Perhaps John himself was having some doubts. The way he described the future ministry of the Coming One and the way Jesus actually behaved were not entirely consistent. Jesus had not turned out to be the fiery preacher of judgment that John had proclaimed (as we may recall from last week's Gospel). Instead, Jesus had embarked upon a ministry of healing and of celebration of God's mercy. Such was the context of his summons to conversion of heart.

On the other hand, John, sensing that his own ministry was coming to an end (necessarily in view of his imprisonment), may have been gently recommending to his disciples that they transfer allegiance to Jesus. Like all good teachers he knows that it is best if they discover something for themselves. So he sends them off with a question. Jesus, again like a good teacher, does not give a simple Yes or No answer. He points to his

activity and implies, 'In the light of your understanding of the promises in Scripture concerning the messianic age, draw your own conclusions. If my activity is "messianic", then what is that saying about who I am?'

The miracles of Jesus are not perhaps the easiest parts of the Gospel tradition to handle in preaching. How nice for the afflicted people who managed to get access to Jesus and his healing power during the brief compass of his life. But where does that leave the vast mass of the afflicted down the centuries to our own day? Once again I think we confront here the 'already-not yet' aspect of the onset of the Kingdom. The messianic age has dawned in the first coming of Jesus but it is by no means fully arrived. For that we have to await the second coming in the sense of the 'two-ways' facing Advent hope, as I explained in the commentary for the First Sunday.

Jesus' concluding commendation of John the Baptist is unstinting. Yet 'the least in the Kingdom of Heaven is greater than he.' They are 'greater' not necessarily in moral stature but in being privileged to be actually the ones who receive the invitation to the banquet of the Kingdom that Jesus is offering. As so often, Jesus is striving to communicate to his hearers a sense of the incredible richness to which he is calling them in God's name.

The miracles are a sign of God's ultimate will for humankind – a kind of 'beachhead' of the Kingdom to give us hope. The Christian tradition has derived from Jesus a vision of the afflicted that sees them not as people punished by God – the conventional view, all too prevalent even amongst 'religious' people – but as people particularly open to be receptacles and instruments of God's power. The same goes for the poor. The 'good news' preached to them is of a piece with the first Beatitude proclaimed by Jesus at the opening of his great Sermon (Matthew 5-7). The poor are 'blessed' because God has adopted their cause and one day will see that it prevails.

Anyone who has a farm or cultivates a garden will agree with St James in the Second Reading from his letter today (5:7-10). You can't 'push' crops or plants to grow. You just have to let them take their time. So it is with our waiting for the Lord.

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**CHRISTMAS HAMPERS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO THE COMMUNITY ON THU 22 DEC.**

**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, 4 December 2022**

Dear brothers and sisters, buongiorno, happy Sunday!

Today, the Second Sunday of Advent, the Gospel for the Liturgy presents the figure of John the Baptist. The text says that John “wore a garment of camel’s hair”, that “his food was locusts and wild honey” (Mt 3:4), and that he was inviting everyone to conversion. And he was saying this: “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!” (v. 2) And he was preaching the nearness of the Kingdom. In short, he was an austere and radical man, who at first sight might appear to be harsh and could instill a certain fear. But then again, we can ask ourselves why the Church proposes him each year as our primary traveling companion during this Season of Advent. What is hidden underneath his severity, behind his apparent harshness? What is John’s secret? What is the message the Church gives us today with John? In reality, the Baptist, more than being a harsh man, is a man who is allergic to duplicity. For example, when the Pharisees and Sadducees, who were known for their hypocrisy, approach him, his “allergic reaction” is quite strong! In fact, some of them probably went to him out of curiosity or to gain something because John had become quite popular. These Pharisees and Sadducees believed they had it all together and, faced with the Baptist’s blunt appeal, justified themselves, saying: “We have Abraham as our father” (v. 9). Thus, due to duplicity and presumption, they did not welcome the moment of grace, the opportunity to begin a new life. They were closed in the presumption of being right. So, John tells them, “Bear fruit in keeping with repentance!” (v. 8) This is a cry of love, like the cry of a father who sees his son ruining himself and says to him, “Don’t throw your life away!” In essence, dear brothers and sisters, hypocrisy is the greatest danger because it can even ruin the most sacred realities. Hypocrisy is a serious danger. This is why the Baptist – as Jesus would be later – is harsh with hypocrites. We can read, for example, the 23rd chapter of Matthew where Jesus speaks really strongly to the hypocrites of that time. And why do the Baptist as well as Jesus do this? To shake them up. Instead, those who sensed they were sinners went “out to him [John], and they were baptized by him, confessing their sins” (v. 5). Therefore, bravura is not important to welcome God, humility is. This is the path to welcome God. Not bravura – “We’re strong, We are great people!” No, no. Humility. “I am a sinner”. But not in the abstract, no – “because of this and this and this”. Each of us needs to confess our own sins, our own failings, our own hypocrisy. It requires getting off the pedestal and being immersed in the water of repentance.

Dear brothers and sisters, John and his “allergic reactions” make us think. Are we not at times a bit like those Pharisees? Perhaps we look at others from top to bottom, thinking that we are better than them, that we have our lives under control, that we don’t need God, or the Church, or our brothers or sisters on a daily basis. We forget that only in

one case is it legitimate to look down on someone else: when it is necessary to help them get up. This is the only case; the others are not legitimate. Advent is a moment of grace to take off our masks – every one of us has them – and line up with those who are humble, to be liberated from the presumption of the belief of being self-sufficient, to go to confess our sins, the hidden ones, and to welcome God’s pardon, to ask forgiveness from those whom we have offended. This is how to begin a new life. There is only one way, the way of humility – to be purified from the sense of superiority, from formalism and hypocrisy, to see ourselves, along with our brothers and sisters, as sinners, and to see Jesus as the Saviour who comes for us, not for the others, for us, just as we are, with our poverty, misery and failings, above all with our need to be raised up, forgiven and saved. And let us remember one thing: with Jesus, there is always the possibility of beginning again. It’s never too late. There is always the possibility to begin again. Be courageous. He is near to us and this is the time of conversion. Everyone might think: “I have this situation inside, this problem that I am ashamed of”. But Jesus is next to you. Begin again. There is always the possibility of taking a step forward. He is waiting for us and never gets tired of us. He never gets tired! And we are annoying, but he never gets tired! Let us listen to John the Baptist’s appeal to return to God. And let us not let this Advent go by like days on the calendar because this is a moment of grace, a grace for us too, here and now! May Mary, the humble servant of the Lord, help us to meet Him, Jesus, and our brothers and sisters on the way of humility, which is the only one that will help us go ahead.

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**After the Angelus, the Pope continued:**

Dear brothers and sisters!

I affectionately greet all of you who come from Italy and from various countries: families, parishes, associations and individuals. I even see flags – Spanish, Polish, Argentinian – many. Welcome to everyone. In particular, I greet the Spanish pilgrims from Madrid, Salamanca, Bolaños de Calatrava and La Solana. In greeting those from Poland, I want to thank those who are supporting the Day of Prayer and the collection of funds for the Church in Eastern Europe.

I am happy to welcome Catholic Action from Aversa, along with Bishop Spinillo; as well as members of the faithful from Palermo, Sutrio and Saronno; the Confirmation candidates from Pattada, Diocese of Ozieri; and those from Sant’Enrico parish in Rome.

I wish everyone a good Sunday and a good continuation of the Advent journey. This Thursday, we will celebrate the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. To her intercession let us entrust our prayer for peace, especially for the tortured Ukrainian people.

Please, do not forget to pray for me. Enjoy your lunch and arrivederci!

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## PROCLAMATION OF THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

The Twenty-fifth Day of December, when ages beyond number had run their course from the creation of the world, when God in the beginning created heaven and earth, and formed man in his own likeness; when century upon century had passed since the Almighty set his bow in the clouds after the Great Flood, as a sign of covenant and peace; in the twenty-first century since Abraham, our father in faith, came out of Ur of the Chaldees; in the thirteenth century since the People of Israel were led by Moses in the Exodus from Egypt; around the thousandth year since David was anointed King; in the sixty-fifth week of the prophecy of Daniel; in the one hundred and ninety-fourth Olympiad; in the year seven hundred and fifty-two since the foundation of the City of Rome; in the forty-second year of the reign of Caesar Octavian Augustus, the whole world being at peace, Jesus Christ, eternal God and Son of the eternal Father, desiring to consecrate the world by his most loving presence, was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and when nine months had passed since his conception, was born of the Virgin Mary in Bethlehem of Judah, and was made man: The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to the flesh.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Proclamation\\_of\\_the\\_Birth\\_of\\_Christ](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Proclamation_of_the_Birth_of_Christ)

## 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:-**

**4<sup>h</sup> March**-The Journey With-In

**27<sup>th</sup> May**-The Journey With Christ

**26<sup>th</sup> August** - The Journey With Others

**25<sup>th</sup> 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.

Estia Health have introduced new blogs to their website that provide useful information to help those caring for elderly family members. Some of the current blog topics on their website are:

1. Carers Fatigue
2. Benefits of puzzles and brain games for the elderly
3. How to care for the elderly at home
4. Stages of dementia

Estia Health will continue to upload new articles to their blog over the coming months. Check out their blog posts here <https://www.estiahealth.com.au/blogs/>



**Congratulations to Maureen and Tony Stevens on their 50th wedding anniversary which was on 6 December. Maureen and Tony received a blessing from Fr Peter in the Church.**



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

### **Save the Date: Toronto Men's Weekend**

A MenALIVE Men's Weekend will be held at the St Joseph's Toronto Parish on the weekend of **25 and 26 March 2023**. The weekend is suitable for all men from 18 years of age and provides an opportunity for attendees to explore what makes them feel fully alive.

More information including how to register will be provided closer to the date. For more information on MenALIVE, visit: [www.menalive.org.au](http://www.menalive.org.au)

### **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)

### **Roll up your sleeves; make a difference**

Do you require professional renewal, or are you seeking a retirement challenge? Communities abroad are asking for qualified and experienced Australians able to mentor their people in education, health, administration, trades, agriculture and more.

Imagine yourself re-engaging your vocational passion in Africa, Asia or the Pacific. Since 1961 Palms Australia has been recruiting Australians able to offer mentoring that will allow overseas counterparts opportunities otherwise unattainable. Sharing your skills will strengthen the capacity of workers overseas to serve their communities for generations to come, long after you return home. Communities in American Samoa, Cambodia, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tanzania, Thailand, Timor-Leste, and Zambia are seeking to fill a variety of roles.

Enquire about those roles via [www.palms.org.au](http://www.palms.org.au) or by calling 02 9560 533 or 0422 472 567.

### **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](mailto: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/>

**A message from Aid to the Church in Need Australia:** ACN is the Pontifical Foundation dedicated to supporting the suffering and persecuted Church.

That Catholic Shop - Christmas orders from Aid to the Church in Need's online store – That Catholic Shop – can still be made all the way up to 19 December! Choose from our broad range of religious gifts and receive free shipping for orders over \$100. Peruse our Christmas range at [www.thatcatholicshop.com](http://www.thatcatholicshop.com)

**Live stream Mass every Sunday at 9.30am at <https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/places/live-stream/>**

Don't miss out on anything in your Diocese! Go to [mnnews.today](http://mnnews.today) to view the events calendar, see photos and read stories about what is happening locally.





### 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 last 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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