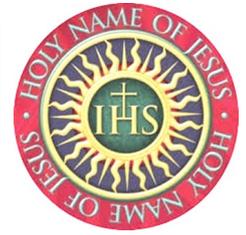




Bridgeside Bulletin



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 25 DECEMBER 2022,

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS) DAY

Dear Brothers and Sisters.

The yearly celebration of Christmas is upon us. I hope that this celebration of God made man fills our hearts with love and peace. I hope that the festive season leaves each and every one of us with our hearts more receptive and open to the urgings and promptings of the Holy Spirit.

I would like to thank each and every one of you for your gifts and well wishes this Christmas season.

I hope and pray that each of us has been able to prepare to celebrate this season well, if we want to know how best to do so then I think we should follow the advice of the Holy Father, "Joy, prayer, and gratitude are three ways that prepare us to celebrate Christmas in an authentic way".

Christmas is a season let's celebrate the whole of it.

My sincere prayer for all is that 2023 is a year that enables us as a parish through our assembly process to encounter God and to inspire each of us to share Him with others.

With love and prayers for this holy time and for the New Year.

Fr. Peter.



Parish Timetable

Mon 26 DEC	9am Counters– Team 7 9.30am Mass
Tue 27 DEC	4.30pm Mass
Wed 28 DEC	9.30am Mass 12pm Community Kitchen
Thu 29 DEC	9.30am Mass 12pm Community Kitchen
Fri 30 DEC	9.30am Mass
Sat 31 DEC	9.30am Mass 4pm Confession 5pm Vigil Mass
Sun 1 JAN	8am Mass 10am Mass

Parish Notices

- **The Parish Office will be closed from 26th Dec until 3rd Jan.**
- **Boxing Day Mass will be held at 9.30am on Mon 26th Dec.**
- **Columban Art Calendars 2023** are on sale for \$10.
- Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help will resume on Wed 11th Jan.

What's happening locally...

ST CLARE'S HIGH SCHOOL TAREE – 2022 HSC RESULTS

Our regional Taree-based Catholic high schools, St Clare's, is celebrating outstanding results from the 2022 NSW Higher School Certificate. In total, 28 Band 6 (marks in the 90s) and 86 Band 5 (marks in the 80s) results were awarded to the 66 candidates. The Band 6 results were achieved in 14 different subjects and the best overall results being achieved in Drama, English, Mathematics, Music, Chemistry, Physics and Industrial Technology.

The most outstanding results again this year were in Drama. In a class of 6 students, 5 scored a Band 6 (marks in the 90s) and 1 Band 5 (Mark in the 80s). All students have been nominated for inclusion in the highly prestigious Sydney OnStage showcase of best performances in the entire state.

The school is awaiting student contacts to establish who will be awarded the 2022 St Clare's Dux Award. This award is presented to the student with the highest Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR). At present the leaders are Taj Simpson (ATAR of 96.90), Seren Everingham (96.45), Georgia Rourke (95.95) and Thomas Fidock (95.70).

Thankyou to everyone who donated towards the church flowers for Christmas. It is much appreciated!



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.**

Church Collection Procedure

Church collections occur immediately after the Universal Prayers. Both the 1st and 2nd collection occur at the same time. The **blue bag is for the 1st collection**, (the Parish collection, for planned giving envelopes and donations to assist with the running of the parish). The blue bag is handed out first, and when this bag is about 3 rows in the red bag is handed out. **The red bag is for the second collection**, (for the care of the clergy). **Tap & Go machines** are available at each Mass for donations by card. 60% of the Tap & Go donations go towards the Parish and 40% go towards the Presbytery.

Merry Christmas from Catholic Mission

Thank you for your donations towards the Catholic Mission Appeal in 2022. Our parish raised \$2,295 to support families from disadvantaged backgrounds through the Deberety Goat Rearing Centre in Ethiopia. Your generosity and prayers are supporting life-changing mission programs. To learn more about the impact of your support, visit catholicmission.org.au/our-work.

Great Lakes Women's Shelter Christmas Appeal 2022

The Catholic Parish of Forster-Tuncurry raised \$2,511.30 for the Great Lakes Women's Shelter Christmas Appeal. Christmas can be a very emotional time for women and children in shelter, with little to no family support, Christmas can feel very lonely. GLWS will put the money towards a trampoline, basketball hoop, basketballs and add some funds to a Christmas Party and an excursion to a zoo. Thank you for your generous donations. GLWS wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy new year for 2023!

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM THE PARISH OFFICE AND THANK YOU FOR ANOTHER WONDERFUL YEAR! WE HOPE YOU ENJOY THE HOLIDAY SEASON AND STAY SAFE. 😊

Saints and Feasts

26 DECEMBER ST STEPHEN traditionally regarded as the first martyr of Christianity, was, according to the Acts of the Apostles, a deacon in the early church at Jerusalem who aroused the enmity of members of various synagogues by his teachings. Accused of blasphemy, at his trial he made a long speech fiercely denouncing the Jewish authorities who were sitting in judgement on him and was stoned to death.

27 DECEMBER ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST was a son of Zebedee and brother of James. John and James (the Greater) were apostles of Jesus, who referred to them as the 'sons of thunder'. He was a witness to many events including the Transfiguration, the raising of Jairus' daughter and the Agony in the Garden of Gethsemane. As he stood at the foot of the cross, John was told by Jesus to accept Mary as his adopted mother. John was the first to reach the tomb when told of the resurrection and the first to recognise the Risen Lord when he appeared to them at Lake Tiberias. Towards the end of his life, John wrote the fourth Gospel as a witness to the Divinity of Christ. He also wrote three epistles contained in the New Testament, and is traditionally, though perhaps not correctly, identified as the author of the Book of Revelation.

28 DECEMBER THE HOLY INNOCENTS, martyrs. It is easy for us to overlook the martyrdom, the murder, of these innocent infant boys. We can be certain that, in that little town of Bethlehem, the number of babies slaughtered would be relatively low. However, that low number by no means diminishes the treachery of Herod's decree or the murders committed by his Roman soldiers. This martyrdom of the Holy Innocents is indeed the forgotten Christmas story. Also easily lost is why these baby boys are called martyrs. Their blood was shed-poured out-on account of Jesus. That is why the liturgical colour for this day is red. They had not done or said anything to anger anyone, but Herod, out of his paranoia over this infant King and

his fury over being tricked by the Wise Men and their going home by a different route after receiving a divine vision to do so, demanded that blood be shed at the expense of these infant boys. It is a most gruesome account in our text, and for that reason many of us choose to make this the forgotten Christmas story. However, theirs is a story that must be told.

30 DECEMBER THE HOLY FAMILY. The Gospels speak little of the life of the Holy Family in the years before Jesus' public ministry. All that is known are the sojourn in Egypt, the return to Nazareth, and the incident that occurred when the twelve-year-old boy accompanied his parents to Jerusalem. The parents were apparently observant Jews, making the pilgrimage to Jerusalem every year with other Jewish families (Luke. 2:41). The Feast of the Holy Family is a liturgical celebration in the Catholic Church in honour of Jesus of Nazareth, his mother, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and his foster father, Saint Joseph, as a family. The primary purpose of this feast is to present the Holy Family as a model for Christian families. It is a holy day of obligation only if it falls on a Sunday.

31 DECEMBER ST SYLVESTER was ordained by Pope St. Marcellinus during the peace that preceded the persecutions of Diocletian. He passed through those days of terror, witnessed the abdication of Diocletian and Maximian, and saw the triumph of Constantine in the year 312. Two years later he succeeded St. Melchisedes as Bishop of Rome. He then sent four legates to represent him at the great Council of the Western Church, held at Aries. He confirmed its decision and imparted them to the Church. The Council of Nice was assembled during his reign, in the year 325, but not being able to assist at it in person, on account of his great age, he sent his legates, who headed the list of subscribers to its decrees, preceding the Patriarchs of Alexandria and Antioch. He was Pope for 24 years and eleven months. He died in the year 335.



Miniature in the Grandes Heures of Anne of Brittany, 1503–1508, by Jean Bourdichon



The Virgin and Child Surrounded by the Holy Innocents by Peter Paul Rubens

THE LATEST NEWS FROM OUR SAFEGUARDING PROMOTERS – 25 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 **gifts of grandparents**. While Christmas may focus on gifts, especially to children from Santa on one day of the year, we should also acknowledge the gifts of grandparents in safeguarding children all year round.

Grandparents can play many important roles in the lives of their beloved young children. Depending on how far away they live and other circumstance, they can be caregivers, teachers and playmates. They are trusted advisors for their adult children who are now parents themselves.

Here are five roles of grandparents to be celebrated as gifts:

- 1. Grandparents give advice** - Being the parent of a baby or toddler is a joy, but it's not always easy, especially for new parents. The sources of information parents trust most are their own parents, more than friends, paediatricians, or websites.
- 2. Grandparents teach young children** - Grandparents can bring a special enthusiasm to the time they spend with their little ones, and that helps a child learn and grow. They teach more directly by telling stories and sharing family and cultural traditions. Grandparents are also in a unique position to reinforce limits and lessons from parents. Actively involved grandparents can help children grow in confidence, cope with stress and have fewer behavioural issues as they get older.
- 3. Grandparents provide childcare** - More than just occasional help, many families rely on grandparents for regular, trusted childcare for their little ones.
- 4. Some grandparents are primary caregivers** - Many grandparents are also helping raise their grandchildren, which increases both the challenges and the rewards.
- 5. Grandparents love** - The most important thing that grandparents bring their little ones is love. Babies, toddlers and pre-schoolers learn and grow through close, caring relationships with the adults in their lives. The attention, interaction and unconditional love from grandparents (and parents, of course) helps a young child feel safe and secure.

A happy, holy and safe 2022 Christmas to you all from the Parish Safeguarding Committee.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Recently deceased: Margaret Furnell, Nancy Watts, Joyce Sweetman & Fr Michael Champlin OP

Anniversaries: Christine Anne Stimpson & Wayne Anderson

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 & Jackie Cross.



The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) Day Sunday 25 Dec 2022

Fr Peter: Dear Brothers and Sisters, today a holy light has shone upon the earth. Let us bring our prayers before God the Father of all humanity.

Reader: That through the birth of God's Son, Holy Mother Church of God will ever acclaim God's presence among all people. In your glory:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That this Christmas may herald the reign of the peace of Christ.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That the holy child of Bethlehem will draw us out of darkness, and into the light of God.

In your glory:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That those separated from loved ones this Christmas will find assurance in the love of God's family. In your glory:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That as our community celebrates the birth of our Saviour, we will bring about peace on earth and good will for all. In your glory:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That the Christ child, born in a lowly manger, will stir us to show compassion for those in need. In your glory:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That we who are gathered here will take the light of Christ into our daily lives. In your glory:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That through the Virgin's Son, the sick will be given renewed life, especially all those in our parish bulletin. In your glory:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That those who are mourning the loss of a loved one this Christmas period will feel the love of Christ who is God among us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That those who have died may ever share in the eternal light of Christ, especially Margaret Furnell, Nancy Watts, Joyce Sweetman & Fr Michael Champlin OP who have died recently and Christine Anne Stimpson & Wayne Anderson whose anniversaries occur at this time. In your glory:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Fr Peter: Father, all the ends of the earth have seen your saving power. Hear our prayers this Christmas day as we joyfully proclaim the glory of your infant Son on earth. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

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Sunday 25 Dec 2022

The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) Vigil

Entrance Antiphon

Cf. Ex 16:6-7 Today you will know that the Lord will come, and he will save us, and in the morning you will see his glory.

First Reading

Is 62:1-5 A reading from the prophet Isaiah

About Zion I will not be silent, about Jerusalem I will not grow weary, until her integrity shines out like the dawn and her salvation flames like a torch. The nations then will see your integrity, all the kings your glory, and you will be called by a new name, one which the mouth of the Lord will confer. You are to be a crown of splendour in the hand of the Lord, a princely diadem in the hand of your God; no longer are you to be named 'Forsaken', nor your land 'Abandoned', but you shall be called 'My Delight' and your land 'The Wedded'; for the Lord takes delight in you and your land will have its wedding. Like a young man marrying a virgin, so will the one who built you wed you, and as the bridegroom rejoices in his bride, so will your God rejoice in you.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 88:4-5. 16-17. 27. 29 R. see v.2

(R.) For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

1. 'I have made a covenant with my chosen one; I have sworn to David my servant: I will establish your dynasty for ever and set up your throne through all ages.' (R.)

2. Happy the people who acclaim such a king, who walk, O Lord, in the light of your face, who find their joy every day in your name, who make your justice the source of their bliss. (R.)

3. 'He will say to me: "You are my father, my God, the rock who saves me." I will keep my love for him always; for him my covenant shall endure.' (R.)

Second Reading

Acts 13:16-17. 22-25 A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

When Paul reached Antioch in Pisidia, he stood up in the synagogue, held up a hand for silence and began to speak: 'Men of Israel, and fearers of God, listen! The God of our nation Israel chose our ancestors, and made our people great when they were living as foreigners in Egypt; then by divine power he led them out. Then he made David their king, of whom he approved in these words, "I have selected David son of Jesse, a man after my own heart, who will carry out my whole purpose". To keep his promise, God has raised up for Israel one of David's descendants, Jesus, as Saviour, whose coming was heralded by John when he proclaimed a baptism of repentance for the whole people of Israel. Before John ended his career he said, "I am not the one you imagine me to be; that one is coming after me and I am not fit to undo his sandal".'

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! Tomorrow the wickedness of the earth will be destroyed: the Saviour of the world will be our king. Alleluia!

Gospel

Mt 1:1-25 A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
A genealogy of Jesus Christ, son of David, son of Abraham: Abraham was the father of Isaac, Isaac the father of Jacob, Jacob was the father of Judah and his brothers, Judah was the father of Perez and Zerah, Tamar being their mother, Perez was the father of Hezron, Hezron the father of Ram, Ram was the father of Amminadab, Amminadab the father of Nahshon, Nahshon the father of Salmon, Salmon was the father of Boaz, Rahab being his mother, Boaz was the father of Obed, Ruth being his mother, Obed was the father of Jesse; and Jesse was the father of King David. David was the father of Solomon, whose mother had been Uriah's wife, Solomon was the father of Rehoboam, Rehoboam the father of Abijah, Abijah the father of Asa, Asa was the father of Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, Joram the father of Azariah, Azariah was the father of Jotham, Jotham the father of Ahaz, Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, Hezekiah was the father of Manasseh, Manasseh the father of Amon, Amon the father of Josiah; and Josiah was the father of Jechoniah and his brothers. Then the deportation to Babylon took place. After the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Shealtiel, Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, Zerubbabel was the father of Abiud, Abiud the father of Eliakim, Eliakim the father of Azor, Azor was the father of Zadok, Zadok the father of Achim, Achim the father of Eliud, Eliud was the father of Eleazar, Eleazar the father of Matthan, Matthan the father of Jacob; and Jacob was the father of Joseph the husband of Mary; of her was born Jesus who is called Christ. The sum of generations is therefore: fourteen from Abraham to David; fourteen from David to the Babylonian deportation; and fourteen from the Babylonian deportation to Christ. This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet: The Virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord told him to do: he took his wife to his home and, though he had not had intercourse with her, she gave birth to a son; and he named him Jesus.

Sunday 25 Dec 2022

The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) Day

Entrance Antiphon

Cf. Is 9:5 A child is born for us, and a son is given to us; his sceptre of power rests upon his shoulder, and his name will be called Messenger of great counsel.

First Reading

Is 52:7-10 A reading from the prophet Isaiah
How beautiful on the mountains, are the feet of one who brings good news, who heralds peace, brings happiness, proclaims salvation, and tells Zion, 'Your God is king!' Listen! Your watchmen raise their voices, they shout for joy together, for they see the Lord face to face, as he returns to Zion. Break into shouts of joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord is consoling his people, redeeming Jerusalem. The Lord bares his holy arm in the sight of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 97:1-6. R. v.3

- (R.) All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.
1. Sing a new song to the Lord for he has worked wonders. His right hand and his holy arm have brought salvation. (R.)
 2. The Lord has made known his salvation; has shown his justice to the nations. He has remembered his truth and love for the house of Israel. (R.)
 3. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Shout to the Lord all the earth, ring out your joy. (R.)
 4. Sing psalms to the Lord with the harp, with the sound of music. With trumpets and the sound of the horn acclaim the King, the Lord. (R.)

Second Reading

Heb 1:1-6 A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

At various times in the past and in various different ways, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; but in our own time, the last days, he has spoken to us through his Son, the Son that he has appointed to inherit everything and through whom he made everything there is. He is the radiant light of God's glory and the perfect copy of his nature, sustaining the universe by his powerful command; and now that he has destroyed the defilement of sin, he has gone to take his place in heaven at the right hand of divine Majesty. So he is now as far above the angels as the title which he has inherited is higher than their own name. God has never said to any angel: You are my Son, today I have become your father, or: I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Again, when he brings the First-born into the world, he says: Let all the angels of God worship him.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! A holy day has dawned upon us. Come you nations and adore the Lord. Today a great light has come upon the earth. Alleluia!

Gospel

Jn 1:1-18 A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

In the beginning was the Word: the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things came to be, not one thing had its being but through him. All that came to be had life in him and that life was the light of men, a light that shines in the dark, a light that darkness could not overpower. A man came, sent by God. His name was John. He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him. He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light. The Word was the true light that enlightens all men; and he was coming into the world. He was in the world that had its being through him, and the world did not know him. He came to his own domain and his own people did not accept him. But to all who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to all who believe in the name of him who was born not out of human stock or urge of the flesh or will of man but of God himself. The Word was made flesh, he lived among us, and we saw his glory, the glory that is his as the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth. John appears as his witness, He proclaims: 'This is the one of whom I said: He who comes after me ranks before me because he existed before me.' Indeed, from his fullness we have, all of us, received – yes, grace in return for grace, since, though the Law was given through Moses, grace and truth have come through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; it is the only Son, who is nearest to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

Communion Antiphon

Cf. Ps 97:3 All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

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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Christmas Greetings from Fr Greg Barker, Diocesan Administrator

In spite of all the hype, I truly do love Christmas. I happily sing carols in the weeks leading up to that blessed event. Singing loudly and proudly of mangers and shepherds, kings and angels and 'snow that lays round about, deep and crisp and even'.

Sometimes in Tasmania, where I am from, Christmas day does have snow that lays round about, but rarely deep or even!

The message in all the carols reflects the true spirit of the season - the birth of Christ. Like all births it heralds a new beginning and is a celebration of the possibility to come as a child, that child particularly, grows to maturity. It is full of promise and opportunity.

Many of us go overboard with our giving. We get caught in thinking the price tag is reflective of how much we love those we are buying for. I don't feel we count the cost, thankfully, as much when we receive. We are generous and kind when offered a gift, knowing intrinsically that it is truly the thought that counts.

'Good King Wenceslas' is my favourite carol. I sing it with all the gusto that is the joy of the Christmas season. Putting all the right emphasis on the syllables of Wen-ces-las as one must!

There are elements to the carol I especially like. The noticing of someone in need and the desire to transform a 'poor man's' life comes immediately to mind. The recognition that our own lives are enhanced when we do that is also important.

The poor man can offer nothing in return to the wealthy man. The generosity of the giving carries the carol. I like, too, that the servant who accompanies his king is also offered thought-

ful kindness. There is effort in the giving and generosity in the sharing.

We don't have to look far to find those who need our care at Christmas. The 'poor man' could easily be a family member estranged, a parent having to work on Christmas day, a family suffering the loss of a loved family member, a job, a friend or a home.

The giving trees in shopping centres, churches and community centres are perfect ways to share generously and anonymously with others. Many community centres, the St Vincent De Paul Conference and CatholicCare Community Kitchens, together with other agencies, offer opportunities for hampers or community lunches where all are welcome to contribute or attend. And you don't have to be alone, lonely or without to come together and celebrate with them. All you need is to accept the invitation to be present – the greatest present of all.

It is after all in the giving that we receive. As the carollers sing 'wealth or rank possessing, Ye who now will bless the poor, shall yourselves find blessing'.

Have a wonderful and blessed Christmas time. Be safe.

<https://mnnews.today/aurora/december-2022/56062-o-come-all-ye-faithful/>

Fr Greg's Christmas Video Message

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c2xbhcn094Y>

Readings for Next Week 31/1 January

First Reading

Nm 6:22-27 Aaron is instructed on how to bless the Israelites.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 66:2-3. 5. 6. 8. R. v.2 (R.) May God bless us in his mercy.

Second Reading

Gal 4:4-7 We are children of God in the spirit that cries out 'Abba!'

Gospel Acclamation

Heb 1:1-2 Alleluia, alleluia! In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; now he speaks to us through his Son. Alleluia!

Gospel

Lk 2:16-21 The shepherds arrive at the manger.

THANK YOU FOR DONATING TO THE CATHOLICCARE CHRISTMAS HAMPER DRIVE



Thank you
for your
generosity

With your help
we've raised
\$12,180

and put together
315 CHRISTMAS
HAMPERS
for families and individuals
in need in Taree and Forster.

It was wonderful to see how much had been donated to the CatholicCare Christmas hampers! The hampers were distributed at the community lunch on Thursday 22nd Dec to families in need. Thank you to the Parish for all your support.

POPE FRANCIS
ANGELUS
Saint Peter's Square
Sunday, 18 December 2022

Dear brothers and sisters, buongiorno!

Today, the fourth and final Sunday of Advent, the liturgy presents the figure of Saint Joseph to us (cf. Mt 1:18-24). He is a just man who is about to get married. We can imagine what his dreams for the future are – a beautiful family, with an affectionate wife and many wonderful children, and a dignified job – simple and good dreams, the dreams of simple and good people. But all of a sudden, these dreams come up against a disconcerting discovery. Mary, his betrothed, is expecting a child, and the child is not his! What would Joseph have felt? Shock, pain, confusion, perhaps even irritation and disappointment.... But... He experienced his world was falling apart all around him! And what was he supposed to do?

The Law gives him two options. The first is to accuse Mary and make her pay the price for her alleged infidelity. The second is to secretly annul their engagement without exposing Mary to scandal and to harsh consequences, taking upon himself, however, the burden of shame. So, Joseph chooses this second option, which is the way of mercy. And behold, at the height of his crisis, right when he is thinking and evaluating all this, God gives him a new light in his heart – he declares to him in a dream that Mary's motherhood did not come about because of a betrayal, but was the work of the Holy Spirit, and the baby to be born would be the Saviour (cf. vv. 20-21), and Mary would be the Mother of the Messiah, and he would be His guardian. On waking up, Joseph understands that the greatest dream of every devout Israelite – to be the father of the Messiah – was being fulfilled for him in a completely unexpected way.

To accomplish this, in fact, it was not enough to belong to David's lineage and to be a faithful observer of the law, but he would need to entrust himself above and beyond all else to God, welcome Mary and her Son in a completely different way than was expected, differently than had ever been done. In other words, Joseph would have to renounce all reassuring certainties, his perfect plans, his legitimate expectations, and open himself to a future that was completely to be discovered. And before God, who disrupts his plans and asks that he trust Him, Joseph says "yes". Joseph's courage is heroic and is exercised in silence – his courage is to trust, he welcomes, he is willing, he asks for no further guarantees.

Brothers and sisters, what does Joseph say to us today? We too have our dreams, and perhaps we think of them more, we talk about them together at Christmas. Perhaps we lament over some dreams that have been shattered and we see that our best expectations often need to be put together with unexpected, disconcerting situations. And when this happens, Joseph shows us the way. We do not need to give in to negative feelings, like anger or isolation – this is the wrong way! Instead, we need to attentively welcome surprises, the surprises in life, even crises. When we find ourselves in crisis, we should not make decisions quickly or instinctively, but let them pass through the sieve, like Joseph did who "considered everything" (cf. v. 20), and base ourselves on the underlying certainty of God's mercy. When someone experiences a crisis without

giving in to isolation, anger, and fear, but keeps the door open for God, He can intervene. He is an expert in transforming crises into dreams – yes, God opens crises into new horizons we never would have imagined before, perhaps not as we would expect, but in the way He knows how. And these, brothers and sisters, are God's horizons – surprising – but infinitely more grand and beautiful than ours! May the Virgin Mary help us live open to God's surprises.

After the Angelus

Dear brothers and sisters!

I am concerned about the situation created in the Lachin Corridor in the Southern Caucasus. I am particularly concerned about the precarious humanitarian conditions of the population which risk further deterioration during the course of the winter season. I ask everyone involved to commit themselves to finding peaceful solutions for the good of the people.

And in addition, let us also pray for peace in Peru, that the violence in that country might cease and that the path of dialogue might be embarked upon to overcome the political and social crisis that is afflicting the population.

I greet all of you affectionately, those of you who have come from Rome, from Italy and from many parts of the world. I especially greet members of the faithful from California, and those from Madrid, as well as the groups from Praia A Mare, Catania, Caraglio, and from the parish of Santi Protomartiri in Rome.

Let us ask the Virgin Mary, whom the liturgy invites us to contemplate on this Fourth Sunday of Advent, to touch the hearts of those who can stop the war in Ukraine. Let us not forget the suffering of those people, especially of the babies, the elderly, the people who are sick. Let us pray. Let us pray.

I wish all of you a good Sunday and that your journey during this last stage of Advent might go well. Please do not forget to pray for me. Enjoy your lunch and arrivederci.

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Pope Francis celebrating Christmas Eve Mass in 2013

“Let us not forget... Christmas, yes. At peace with the Lord, yes.... But with the people of Ukraine in our hearts. And let us offer concrete signs of help for them.”

Pope Francis message to remember the people of Ukraine this Christmas.



Parish Christmas Dinner



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

Thank You From The Great Lakes College

Savannah Duffy was the recipient of the Fr Tony Stace Scholarship award in 2022.

"Thank you for donating toward our College Presentation Evening 2022. It was the first time since 2019 we were all able to come together and celebrate the outstanding academic, sporting and cultural achievements of our students. Over 500 parents/carers attended the evening with over 200 students receiving awards.

If it wasn't for your ongoing support and commitment each year we wouldn't be able to reward our students.

On behalf of Great Lakes College I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!"

Erin Connors | Head Teacher College (Relieving)

Give the gift of education this Christmas

Today, more than half a million children in Vietnam live with a disability. Even though the right to an education is mandated by Vietnamese law, thousands of school-aged children in Vietnam stay at home or sit uninvolved in classrooms because of a disability. When these children become adults, they face serious disadvantages in life due to the gap in their education. Many are trapped in a perpetual cycle of intergenerational poverty and discrimination.

39-year-old Lan* is a mother of three children and lives in the Quang Tri province in Vietnam. Her eight-year-old son, Quan*, and 12-year-old daughter, Loan*, both have a vision impairment.

"Because Quan cannot see clearly, it has been hard for him to make friends. He has a hard time keeping with his studies and because he has been afraid of using stairs, he would only use the ground floor classroom," Lan said.

Quan and Loan were very shy and kept away from other children. Lan was often subjected to uncomfortable questions from her neighbours and fellow villagers, who would ask about her son's condition.

"I often cried. In the past, neighbours and villagers would ask questions like 'What's wrong with his eyes?' 'Why so?' 'Is this due to your way of living or your ethics?'," Lan said.

As any loving mother would, Lan wanted to help create a better future for her children. Determined to turn things around for herself and her children, she joined the Empowerment of People with Disabilities project, run by Caritas Australia's partner, the Centre for Sustainable Rural Development (SRD).

Thanks to the generosity of donors, the Caritas Australia supported program provides an opportunity for children with disabilities who struggle to learn at school to play and make friends with other children while receiving help to complete their studies.

Through the program, Quan and Loan were able to join community-based classrooms so that they could interact with other children living with disabilities. Lan has volunteered to help run the classes and is now a leader of a parents' group in her area. Her children are more confident and are looking forward to completing their schooling.

"Quan is more confident and talking more with others, responding when being asked, saying hello to someone coming to our home. Previously, he did not talk to those he did not know."

"His first-grade teacher said he often stayed at one place in the class, not making friends. But now second-grade, his teacher has said he is talking and even joking with his friends. I am happy to hear that."

"I believe that my kids will have a brighter and independent future from the hard work we do today."

Caritas Australia invites you to make a donation this Christmas, which will go towards the life-changing work that its partner, the Centre for Sustainable Rural Development (SRD) is undertaking to support families like Lan's, through its Empowerment of People with Disabilities program. Your generous contribution will support families around the world to live safe, just, and dignified lives visit www.caritas.org.au/donate/a-just-world-for-all/ to find out more.

**pseudonyms have been used to protect the privacy of program participants.*

Tom Svich Communications Specialist for Caritas Australia

<https://mnnews.today/>



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

Sharing Hope with Christians in Syria and Lebanon this Christmas

Aid to the Church in Need is asking for support to aid our brothers and sisters who are suffering so deeply in Syria and Lebanon through our Christmas appeal Sharing Hope with Christians in Syria and Lebanon this Christmas. The support we are pledging to them is very much emergency relief to sustain the Christian population in hope. The projects we are supporting are projects such as medical aid, community help and gifts for children in Lebanon, as well as support for lay faithful and accommodation for families in Syria.

It is only with your help that ACN can support Christians in Lebanon and Syria this Christmas!

To watch videos and read stories of the projects we are supporting visit www.aidtochurch.org/christmas2022

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

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** 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 0475 242 695

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 0475 242 695

Family and Friends Group

Meets monthly, contact Carol and Terry Pearson on 0408768729.

Singing Practice

Ken Heffernan 0475 242 695
(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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