



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

Ph: 0475 242 695 E: forster-tuncurry.parish@mn.catholic.org.au W: www.forstertuncurrycatholic.org.au

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

SUNDAY 4 DECEMBER 2022,

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT A

Dear Brothers and Sisters.

Last Friday in at Sacred Heart Cathedral, I had the privilege of leading prayers for our deceased bishops and priests. Afterwards, one of the priests asked me why I bow my head when I say or hear the Name of Jesus. My response surprised him, I said "that we are asked to do so during the Liturgy". He said, that was a hangover from what he called "the Old Mass". I pointed him to the General Instruction where it says that this should happen. As I drove home, I was thinking about the fact that this is not well known. Indeed, section 275 of the General Instruction of the Roman Missal, states that a "bow signifies reverence and honour shown to the person themselves or to the signs that represent them... a bow of the head is made when the 3 Divine Persons are named together and at the name of Jesus, of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and of the Saint in whose honour Mass is being celebrated". It seems odd to me that so few people do this when the Church asks us as part of the Liturgy to bow our heads at the above mentioned times. I ask all people to consider doing this, it is a simple way of showing reverence to Christ, to Mary and to those Saints who are being remembered at Masses. Indeed, I think that doing this outside of the Liturgy is a good witness of our faith. A simple bow of the head when the name of Jesus or Mary is mentioned publicly is a simple way of evangelizing. Yes, Fr used the "E" word! It is something that we who are disciples of Jesus are called to do, however, it is something that can be difficult for Catholics. So four simple little hints.

First, deepen your knowledge of the Catholic tradition. This is obvious, there are various ways to do this, many offered by the Parish. Bible Study, the study of the various documents of the Church, (note the ad on page 2 of the bulletin). If we are going to pass on the faith, we need to know it. We need to know it at a deeper level than we do. If our faith has not grown since we left primary school, (and for many it has not)! how can we pass it on to others?

Second, invite someone you know to come to church. Again obvious, but, how many of us do this? We seem scared to do it. People might say "no". Well, if they do, they do! At least we have planted a seed, at least there is an opening for a conversation. I would like to challenge each of you to invite at least one person a month to come along to Mass! This might be someone in your family, a colleague, a neighbor, or someone you see socially. Don't be afraid to ask, if the response is no, you might try again later, or even leave it up to the Holy Spirit. I lay this challenge before you.

Third, let the language of the faith be naturally on your lips. Talk about God. Talk about the Church. Don't be ashamed of it. People might not like it, but, so what? Allow our Catholic beliefs to come to verbal expression. We should not bash people over the head with them, that is not at all Catholic. However, we should not push our beliefs, nor allow them to be pushed to the background, so as to sacrifice them on the altar of political correctness. The non-verbal can be just as important: put a crucifix or a picture of a favorite saint up in your home or office; arrange to have a Biblical quote as the screen-saver on your computer. If this prompts a reaction or a question, so much the better for evangelization purposes.

Fourth, don't be afraid to pray in public. Say grace at a restaurant. Make the Sign of the Cross at an Anzac day ceremony and as you pass a memorial. Do so as you pass a Catholic Church as a sign of reverence for the fact that the Blessed Sacrament is inside it. Pray your Rosary on your morning walk, and carry your Rosary Beads visibly as you do it.

These are 4 very simple things that can be done to evangelize.

The sacristy cupboards are being replaced as I write this. If you are able to contribute to this project I would be most grateful. Though the sacristy is rarely ever seen it is vital for the functioning of Masses and other Liturgies that happen in the Church. That said, the people who help in the ministry of Sacristan are also vital to the life of the parish. If you are called to this ministry please do contact me.

Starting from the first of January, I will be making use of the various Votive Masses available for use in the Missal. Each Saturday Mass at 930am will be a Votive Mass of Our Lady. Each first Friday of the Month will be a Votive Mass of the Sacred Heart, and the third Friday will be a Votive Mass of the Holy Name of Jesus, and others as opportune. This will of course depend on what the Liturgy of the Church will allow on a given day. It will be wonderful to use these spiritual treasures that Holy Mother Church gives us.

I draw your attention to the ad in the bulletin for the Christmas party on the 21st of December. I think it is important that as a community of the faithful, we here at Holy Name Parish should celebrate the big things with each other. Please note that the Parish feast day is on the 3rd of January. I hope to be able to arrange something for us to mark this occasion. Please stay tuned. Please do consider my request to bow our heads during the Liturgy, particularly at the Holy Name.

With Love.

Fr Peter.

Parish Timetable

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| Mon 5 DEC | 9am Counters– Team 4 12pm Community Kitchen |
| Tue 6 DEC | 9.30am Christian Meditation 12pm Community Kitchen |
| Wed 7 DEC | 11am Novena of Our Lady of Perpetual Help 12pm Community Kitchen |
| Thu 8 DEC | 8am Mass Fr Kevin Corrigan will preside 12pm Community Kitchen |
| Fri 9 DEC | 11.30am Mass |
| Sat 10 DEC | 4pm Confession 5pm Vigil Mass |
| Sun 11 DEC | 8am Mass -followed by morning tea in the hall 10am Mass |

Parish Notices

- There will be **No morning Mass on Tue 6 Dec, Wed 7 Dec, please note the change of times for the 8th, and 9th of Dec** as Fr Peter will be away, the vigil Mass will be as normal.
- **Danielle will be away from the office from 22 Nov until 7 Dec.**
- **Columban Art Calendars 2023** are on sale for \$10.

Become an SRE volunteer

Did you know that some 50% of Catholic children are in state schools? Have you ever thought about becoming a Special Religious Educator? This could be an opportunity for you to meet new people, discover new friendships and build quality relationships whilst mastering skills and confidence in Catechetics.

You can make a difference in the schools within your parish! For people of faith, knowing you are participating in Christ's call to share the Good News to all is a great source of joy and meaning. If you would like to learn more about how you can help, please contact the Parish Office 0475 242 695.

DOCUMENTS OF THE SECOND VATICAN COUNCIL

Key documents: **Sacrosanctum Concilium, Lumen gentium, Dei verbum, Gaudium et spes.**

In the coming weeks we will include a link to each of these documents in the parish bulletin. An opportunity to meet and discuss these documents will be available for those who are interested. Please get in touch with the parish office if you would like the meeting details.

CHRISTMAS MASSES 2022

Christmas Eve Sat 24th Dec

5.00pm & 7.30pm

Christmas Day Sun 25th Dec

8.00am & 10.00am

Prayer for the appointment of our new Bishop

Shepherding God
you reveal your way of unfailing love
in the image of the Good Shepherd
who seeks the lost,
shows compassion
knows and is known by the sheep
and lays down his life for them.
We your people of Maitland-Newcastle
are without a bishop to shepherd us.
We ask that your Holy Spirit
who moves through this great south land,
inspire the choice of our new Bishop,
empower his 'yes'
and open our hearts in hospitality and love.
We make this prayer through Christ our Lord, Amen.
Our Lady of Perpetual Help **pray for us**
Mary MacKillop of the Cross **pray for us.**

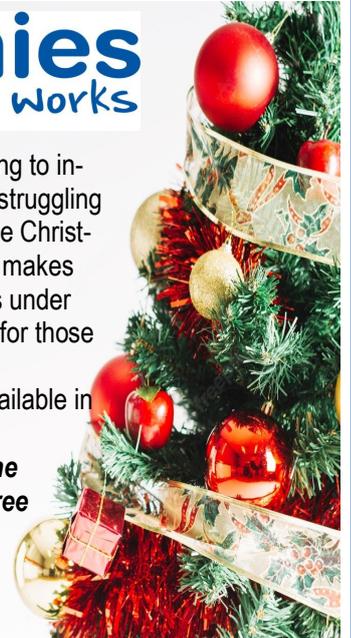


With the cost of living continuing to increase, many Australians are struggling to afford everyday life, let alone Christmas. The Vinnies Giving Tree makes wishes come true, putting gifts under the tree and food on the table for those struggling this holiday season.

Donation envelopes will be available in the church

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

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



PARISH CHRISTMAS DINNER

Date: Wed 21st Dec

Time: Mass at 5.30pm

followed by dinner in the Parish Hall.

No cost to attend.

Please bring a plate of food to share.

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

RSVP to Parish Office by 16th Dec.

If we get enough donations we will hold a fundraising 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.





Full-length icon of Saint Nicholas by Jaroslav

6 DECEMBER ST NICHOLAS was a 4th century bishop of Myra in Turkey and little is known about his life other than myths and legends. One such story tells of St Nicholas giving three young women a bag of gold each for their marriage dowries, in order to save them from prostitution. And in another, he is said to have brought back to life three boys who had been murdered. In the low countries of Europe, his popularity as a patron of children led to the custom of giving children presents on his feast day. Then later, Dutch Protestants living in North America combined this custom with the Nordic legend of a magician who rewarded good children with presents and punished those who were naughty. This new super-legend gave rise to the much beloved Santa Clause.

7 DECEMBER ST AMBROSE was born at Trier in 334 AD. While practising law he was appointed governor of the province of Aemilia and Liguria. Four years later when the see of Milan became vacant, St Ambrose was chosen as the new bishop, despite the fact that he was not even baptised. He reluctantly accepted the position, was baptised, ordained a priest and then installed as bishop. In 390 AD, after Emperor Theodosius ordered the savage massacre of many people, St Ambrose impressed upon the Emperor to perform a public penance for this act of cruelty. St Ambrose is listed as one of the four great Latin doctors of the church. He was a great orator who gave sermons that offered practical teachings for his people. He was also the first teacher in the West to make significant use of hymns as a popular means of praise.

8 DECEMBER IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY. Immaculate Conception, according to the teaching of the Catholic Church, was the conception of the Blessed Virgin

Mary in her mother's womb free from original sin. The Immaculate Conception is commonly confused with the doctrine of the Incarnation and the virgin birth of Jesus, though the two deal with separate subjects. The Catholic Church teaches Mary was conceived by normal biological means, but her soul was acted upon by God (kept "immaculate") at the time of her conception. Although the belief that Mary was sinless and conceived immaculate has been widely held since Late Antiquity, the doctrine was not dogmatically defined until 1854, by Pope Pius IX in his papal bull *Ineffabilis Deus*. The Catholic Church celebrates the Feast of the Immaculate Conception on December 8; in many Catholic countries, it is a holy day of obligation or patronal feast, and in some a national public holiday.

11 DECEMBER POPE ST DAMASUS | 306-384. All lovers of Scripture have reason to celebrate this day. Damasus was the pope who commissioned Saint Jerome to translate the Scriptures into Latin, the Vulgate version of the Bible. Damasus was a sixty-year-old deacon when he was elected bishop of Rome in 366. His reign was marked by violence from the start when another group decided to elect a different pope. Both sides tried to enforce their selections through violence. Though the physical fighting stopped, Damasus had to struggle with these opponents throughout his years as pope. Damasus may not have won this battle directly, but he won the war by initiating works that outlasted all his opponents. Not only did he commission the Vulgate translation but he also changed the liturgical language of the Church from Greek to Latin. He worked hard to preserve and restore the catacombs, the graves of the martyrs, and relics.



The Immaculate Conception (1767-1769) by Giovanni Battista Tiepolo

THE LATEST NEWS FROM OUR SAFEGUARDING PROMOTERS - 04dec22

The **Promoters of Safeguarding** continue to endorse a culture of safeguarding within the Parish. To this end, your attention is drawn to **benefits of joining the Retirement Residents Village Association** which is the *only* organisation that represents residents of retirement villages in NSW exclusively.

In an article by Therese Murray in the **THE SENIOR** newspaper, she explains the benefits of joining this not-for-profit association.

She commences by stating that, when people buy into a retirement village, they also buy into a lifestyle which they hope will sustain them for many years. She continues by posing the questions that, casting aside the glossy brochures of prospective village residents, where does someone get unbiased facts about life in these villages, what costs to expect and other advice?

Murray asserts that the **Retirement Residents Village Association** supplies the following:

- The association is overseen by a board whose members are residents of retirement villages.
- New members can access 30 years of collective experience, access information on rights and obligations, and help strength the association's advocacy role.
- Members can access the association's website, library of information sheets, twice-yearly newsletter, monthly bulletin on topical items of retirement living interest.
- Inquiry calls put members in contact with board members for advice.

Prospective residents can join as an associate, then change to full membership after moving in. Only full members can vote. Part of the choice people make in moving to a residential village is to secure a lifestyle surrounded by family and friends in an enjoyable community.

The article concludes with, "We don't have a crystal ball and, when conditions change, it might be wise to take out a little insurance by joining the NSW **Retirement Residents Village Association**."

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Recently deceased: Lloyd Jamieson, Maryanne Hall, Marie May.

Anniversaries: Marie Smith, John Green, & Michael Mico.

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.



Second Sunday of Advent A

Sunday 04 Dec 2022

Fr Peter: Dear Brothers and Sisters, with repentance in our hearts, let us bring our prayers before the Lord.

Reader: That Holy Mother Church will be a sign of justice and peace. In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That all living in sin and darkness will repent and see the love of God. In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That ministers of the Church will be renewed in their dedication and service. In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That like John the Baptist, we will share God's message of repentance and salvation with people in our lives. In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That all people will care for the beauty of God's creation. In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That governments, communities, and individuals will to work together to curb the spread of Covid-19. In your glory:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That those who are sick will find fullness of peace in Christ. In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That those who have died will see the salvation of God, especially Lloyd Jamieson and Maryanne Hall who have died recently and for Marie Smith, John Green and Michael Mico whose anniversary occurs at this time. In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Fr Peter: Loving Father, through Christ we are given the hope of Salvation. Hear our prayers, and help us in our prayer and penance as we wait to welcome Christ the Saviour. 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 4 Dec 2022
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT A

Entrance Antiphon

Cf. Is 30:19,30

O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.

First Reading

Is 11:1-10

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse, a scion thrusts from his roots: on him the spirit of the Lord rests, a spirit of wisdom and insight, a spirit of counsel and power, a spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord. (The fear of the Lord is his breath.) He does not judge by appearances, he gives no verdict on hearsay, but judges the wretched with integrity, and with equity gives a verdict for the poor of the land. His word is a rod that strikes the ruthless, his sentences bring death to the wicked. Integrity is the loincloth round his waist, faithfulness the belt about his hips. The wolf lives with the lamb, the panther lies down with the kid, calf and lion cub feed together with a little boy to lead them. The cow and the bear make friends, their young lie down together. The lion eats straw like the ox. The infant plays over the cobra's hole; into the viper's lair the young child puts his hand. They do no hurt, no harm, on all my holy mountain, for the country is filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters swell the sea. That day, the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples. It will be sought out by the nations and its home will be glorious.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 71:1-2. 7-8. 12-13. 17. R. cf. v.7

(R.) Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.

1. O God, give your judgement to the king, to a king's son your justice, that he may judge your people in justice and your poor in right judgement. (R.)

2. In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails. He shall rule from sea to sea, from the Great River to the earth's bounds. (R.)

3. For he shall save the poor when they cry and the needy who are helpless. He will have pity on the weak and save the lives of the poor. (R.)

4. May his name be blessed for ever and endure like the sun. Every tribe shall be blessed in him, all nations bless his name. (R.)

Second Reading

Rom 15:4-9

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Everything that was written long ago in the scriptures was meant to teach us something about hope from the examples scripture gives of how people who did not give up were helped by God. And may he who helps us when we refuse to give up, help you all to be tolerant with each other, following the example of Christ Jesus, so that united in mind and voice you may give glory to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. It can only be to God's glory, then, for you to treat each other in the same friendly way as Christ treated you. The reason Christ became the servant of

circumcised Jews was not only so that God could faithfully carry out the promises made to the patriarchs, it was also to get the pagans to give glory to God for his mercy, as scripture says in one place: For this I shall praise you among the pagans and sing your name.

Gospel Acclamation

Lk 3:4. 6

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

Gospel

Mt 3:1-12

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

In due course John the Baptist appeared; he preached in the wilderness of Judaea and this was his message: 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' This was the man the prophet Isaiah spoke of when he said: A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight. This man John wore a garment made of camel-hair with a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judaea and the whole Jordan district made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. But when he saw a number of Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism he said to them, 'Brood of vipers, who warned you to fly from the retribution that is coming? But if you are repentant, produce the appropriate fruit, and do not presume to tell yourselves, "We have Abraham for our father," because, I tell you, God can raise children for Abraham from these stones. Even now the axe is laid to the roots of the trees, so that any tree which fails to produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown on the fire. I baptise you in water for repentance, but the one who follows me is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to carry his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand; he will clear his threshing-floor and gather his wheat into the barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.'

Communion Antiphon

Bar 5:5; 4:36

Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.

Readings for Next Week 11/12 December

First Reading

Is 35:1-6, 10 The desert will rejoice and blossom.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 145:6-10. R. see Is 35:4 (R.) Lord, come and save us.

Second Reading

Jas 5:7-10 Be patient, even in suffering.

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 John asks, 'Are you the one who is to come?'

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 4 Dec 2022
SCRIPTURE COMMENTARY by Brendan Byrne SJ

Today's First Reading, like that of last week, features one of the classic expressions of messianic hope taken from the prophet Isaiah (11:1-10). This time, however, there is a significant difference. Whereas last week's reading expressed the hope in more general terms, today's reading – at its beginning and at its end – focuses that hope more precisely upon a saving figure who is to come from the house (literally, 'the stock') of Jesse, that is, from the royal house of David. So the longing is now more strictly 'messianic' in that it centres upon the coming of an ideal king of David's line, who will personally inaugurate the messianic age.

What is to give this figure his unique quality is the fact that he is to be empowered, in manifest ways, by the spirit of the Lord. Among the many gifts the spirit will bestow upon him is 'knowledge of the Lord'. We should understand knowledge here in the full biblical sense implying not merely intellectual awareness but deep personal intimacy. As the text goes on to suggest, it is out of this deep awareness of God and God's will for human beings that the ruler will be able to institute true justice in the Land, with a particular bias towards the cause of the poor.

The text then moves into a justly famous sequence describing the harmony in the natural and animal world that will attend the messianic age. It virtually amounts to a restoration of the original vision of Eden. All comes to a climax in the magnificent statement that the whole country will be filled 'with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters swell the sea.' That is, the knowledge first mentioned in relation to the Davidic ruler, will radiate out from him to the whole of society and even to the animal world.

In a way that catches up the vision of the nations streaming to Zion in last week's reading, the text ends with an affirmation that Israel and her ruler so established will stand as a 'signal' to the nations of the world, who will seek out her wisdom. Christian interpretation will find prefigured here the role of Jesus as Messiah and Son of God, the one 'in whom the nations will place their hope' (Matt 12:21; see Rom 15:12).

The Second Reading, from Romans 15:4-9, has Paul addressing Gentile believers in Rome as the beneficiaries of this role

traced out for Israel's Messiah. Across differences in community living that may arise, they are to 'accept' ('welcome') one another, conscious of the fact that in the person of Israel's Messiah, God has reached out beyond Israel to include them in the community of salvation. In the words of Isaiah quoted in Matthew's Gospel (12:21) Jesus is the Messiah in whose name 'the Gentiles will place their hope' (Isa 42:4) The acceptance Gentile believers have received from God and the hope that it has brought into their lives should lead them to be accepting and tolerant in their turn. What Paul has specifically in mind is tolerance in bearing with members of the community who were more scrupulous in the matter of observing the food laws and other Jewish rituals (see Rom 14:1-23).

The Gospel, Matthew 3:1-12, presents us with the appearance and preaching of John the Baptist. John's message, 'Prepare a way for the Lord', virtually states the theme of the entire season of Advent. Nonetheless, it is not all that easy simply to take John's words and proclaim them as Christian Gospel today. Jesus hardly filled the role of preacher of end-time doom that John sketches out for him here. More of this next week!

What is essential and truly preparatory to Jesus' proclamation of good news is John's summons to conversion of heart. The 'way' that Isaiah wanted prepared in the wilderness is one that must be prepared in the wilderness of the human heart. The good news will then find a hearing when at last it is proclaimed.

The greatest obstacle to conversion of heart is complacency – a complacency that especially stems from privileged status ('We have Abraham for our father') and a sense that one is different from the despised outsiders and so can rest secure. Jesus will 'baptise with the Holy Spirit and with fire'. That is, he will seek to catch up human lives into the fire that is God's love, communicated through the Spirit (Rom 5:5). But only hearts that are truly repentant and converted will be able to be grasped within a 'baptism' of this kind. John's baptism with water is a preparatory rite of conversion, readying human hearts for the entrance of this message about God's love, the true 'knowledge of the Lord' that Jesus will impart.

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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



POPE FRANCIS

ANGELUS

*Saint Peter's Square
Sunday, 27 November 2022*

Dear brothers and sisters, *buongiorno*, blessed Sunday!

In the Gospel of today's Liturgy we hear a beautiful promise that introduces us to the Season of Advent: "Your Lord is coming" (*Mt 24:42*). This is the foundation of our hope, it is what supports us even in the most difficult and painful moments of our life: God is coming, God is near and is coming. Let us never forget this! The Lord always comes, the Lord visits us, the Lord makes himself close, and will return at the end of time to welcome us in his embrace. Before this word, we ask ourselves: How will the Lord come? And how will we recognize him and welcome him? Let us dwell briefly on these two questions.

The first question: *how will the Lord come?* Very often we hear it said that the Lord is present on our path, that he accompanies us and speaks to us. But perhaps, distracted as we are by many things, this truth remains merely theoretical for us; yes, we know that the Lord is coming but we do not live according to this truth, or we imagine that the Lord will come in a spectacular way, perhaps through some miraculous sign. And instead, Jesus says that he will come as in "the days of Noah" (*cf. v. 37*). And what did they do in the days of Noah? Simply, the normal, everyday things of life, as always: "eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage" (*v. 38*). Let us bear this in mind: God is hidden in our life, he is always there – he is concealed in the commonest and most ordinary situations in our life. He does not come in extraordinary events, but in everyday things; he manifests himself in everyday things. He is there, in our daily work, in a chance encounter, in the face of someone in need, even when we face days that seem grey and monotonous, it is right there that we find the Lord, who calls to us, speaks to us and inspires our actions.

However, there is a second question: *how can we recognize and welcome the Lord?* We must be awake, alert, vigilant. Jesus warns us: there is the danger of not realizing his coming and being unprepared for his visit. I have recalled on other occasions what Saint Augustine said: "I fear the Lord who passes by" (*Sermons*, 88, 14.13), that is, I fear that he will pass by and I will not recognize him! Indeed, Jesus says that those people in the time of Noah ate and drank "and they did not know until the flood came and swept them all away" (*v. 39*). Pay attention to this: they did not realize anything! They were absorbed in their own things and did not realize that the flood was about to come. Indeed, Jesus says that, when he will come, "two men will be in the field; one is taken and one is left" (*v. 40*). In what sense? What is the difference? Simply that one was vigilant, he was waiting, capable of discerning God's presence in daily life, whereas the other was distracted, "pulled along", and did not notice anything.

Brothers and sisters, in this Season of Advent, let us be shaken out of our torpor and let us awaken from our slumber! Let's try to ask ourselves: am I aware of what I am living, am I alert, am I awake? Do I try to recognize God's present in daily situations, or am I distracted

and a little overwhelmed by things? If we are unaware of his coming today, we will also be unprepared when he arrives at the end of time. Therefore, brothers and sisters, let us remain vigilant! Waiting for the Lord to come, waiting for the Lord to come close to us, because he is there, but waiting alert. And may the Holy Virgin, Woman of waiting, who knew how to perceive the passing of God in the humble and hidden life of Nazareth and welcomed him in her womb, help us in this journey of being attentive to wait for the Lord who is among us and passes by.

After the Angelus

Dear brothers and sisters!

I follow with concern the increase in violence and clashes that have been taking place for months in the State of Palestine and in Israel. Last Wednesday, two cowardly attacks in Jerusalem injured many people and killed an Israeli boy; and the same day, during armed clashes in Nablus, a Palestinian boy died. Violence kills the future, shattering the lives of the young and weakening hopes for peace. Let us pray for these young men who died and for their families, especially their mothers. I hope that the Israeli and Palestinian authorities will more readily take to heart the search for dialogue, building mutual trust, without which there will never be a peaceful solution in the Holy Land.

And I also wish to remember Burkhard Scheffler, who died three days ago here beneath the colonnade of Saint Peter's Square; he froze to death.

I affectionately greet you all, from Italy and various countries, especially the pilgrims from Warsaw and Granada, the representatives of the Romanian community and those of the community of East Timor present in Rome, as well as the Ecuadorians who are celebrating the Feast of Our Lady of El Quinche. I greet the Red Cross volunteers of Acerenza, the *Ente Nazionale Pro Loco d'Italia*, and the faithful of Turin, Pinerolo, Palermo, Grottammare and Campobasso. I address a special thanks to the Italian bakers, in the hope they will overcome the current difficulties.

I greet the participants in the March that took place this morning to denounce sexual violence against women, unfortunately a general and widespread reality everywhere and also used as a weapon of war. Let us not tire of saying no to war, no to violence, yes to dialogue, yes to peace; in particular for the martyred Ukrainian people. Yesterday we recalled the tragedy of the Holodomor.

I greet the secretariat of the FIAC (International Forum of Catholic Action), gathered in Rome on the occasion of the Eighth Assembly.

And I wish you all a blessed Sunday and a good Advent journey. Please, do not forget to pray for me. Enjoy your lunch, and *arrivederci!*

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GREAT LAKES
Womens
Shelter

GLWS AVATAR 2 Fundrais- ing Movie tickets and Raffle

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

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

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

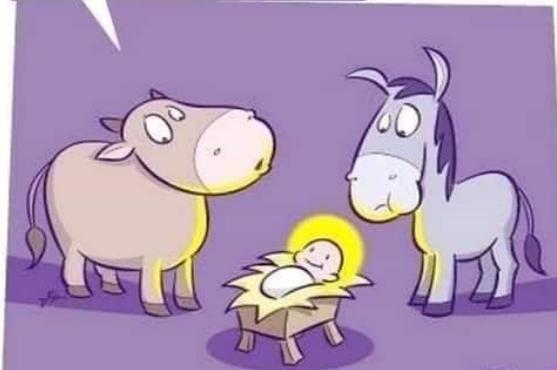
Raffle drawn at 6:45pm. 7pm movie start

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

Lucky door prizes to be won on the night!

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

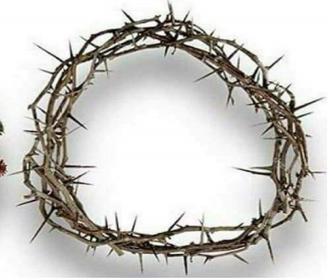
Dude, there's a **baby** in the salad...



'TIS THE SEASON



'TIS THE REASON



Go make disciples

CHRISTIAN INITIATION FORMATION PROCESS

Accompanying seekers journeying into the mystery of God's love.

'Go make disciples' is a formation opportunity for **new and experienced Christian Initiation Ministers** ministering with adults and children and their families, and **any parishioner interested in the ministry** of Christian Initiation.

Over six weeks participants will explore the entire Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA).

There will be opportunities to grow in knowledge and understanding of the RCIA; pray and reflect mystagogically; reimagine and discern the ministry of Christian initiation in the parish community; explore questions and insights; meet other ministers, share experience, strengthen networks, deepen faith, hope and love.

Hosted by the Diocesan Christian Initiation Forum with the Northern Pastoral Region Parish Leaders.



*Go, therefore, make disciples
of all the nations; baptise
them ... and teach them ...
And know that I am with you
always; yes to the end of time.
(Mt 28: 19-20)*

When

Tuesdays 1.00 pm – 4.30 pm
7, 14, 28 Feb, 7, 21, 28 Mar 2023.

Where

Forster Parish Hall,
31 Lake St Forster.

Facilitators

Fr Andrew Doohan,
Louise Gannon rsj,
Christian Initiation Forum members.

Bring

Your copy of "Rite of Christian Initiation
of Adults"
[ISBN 9781876295721 RRP \$24.95].
Copies can be borrowed or purchased
for \$20 at first session.

RSVP

by Friday 27 Jan 2023
To Forster Parish Office
0475 242 695

[forster-
tuncurry.parish@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:forster-tuncurry.parish@mn.catholic.org.au)

Each participant will need a copy of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. Copies can be purchased or borrowed from Fr. Peter ahead of the formation OR from Sr Louise at the first session on 7 February.

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

Job opportunity: Casual Receptionist

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

Waiting with Purpose

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

To access the resource, go to:

www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/liturgy/liturgical-year/

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

www.eventbrite.com.au/e/waiting-with-purpose-advent-2022-tickets-443044436837

Praying the Gospels

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

Join us each Wednesday 5.00-5.45pm.

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

Password: pray

For more information contact:

rose.mcallister@mn.catholic.org.au

Applications are now open for the 2023 Pastoral Placement Program

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

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

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

Dear Friend of Salesian Missions Australia,

Recently we have received a request to support emergency relief efforts by the Salesians located in the Horn of Africa. Communities are in need of water, food and hygiene supplies as food shortages increase and conflict continues. With economic inflation impacting us all, support is also needed to enable transport of supplies into these regions. Your assistance would be appreciated by sharing this email with your family, friends and parishioners and include in your bulletin. Please read more about the Salesians work below:

Tigray, Ethiopia

Since conflict began in 2020 in the Tigray region of Ethiopia, the Salesians have been active in distribution of food and essential items reaching over 3000 families. To address the ongoing needs of people in the region, the Salesians are working to distribute water and hygiene and sanitation facilities. With all major services having been destroyed by conflict everyone is 'in the same boat' and in great need of humanitarian assistance.

Palabek Refugee Settlement, Uganda

Located 30km from the border of South Sudan, recent establishment of 25 agriculture groups who attend to over 92 acres of crops, has been instrumental in supplementing the decrease in food rations available due to ongoing food shortages. The Salesians, together with the more than 76 000 refugees residing in Palabek, are steadily at work to meet the physical and human needs of the community.

Juba, South Sudan

Education, food relief, services and community programs continue to bring hope to the vast population of Internally Displaced Persons in Juba – predominately children, women and the elderly. Each day, approximately 4000 children access primary and secondary schooling, as well as a Vocational Training Centre. In addition to providing schools, the Salesians are also active in providing access to women's programs and sports programs for children in the camp.

The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

With increased civil unrest in the city of Goma – DRC, Salesian works are having to pivot to meet the needs of several hundred families, now taking refuge in the grounds of Don Bosco Ngani Youth Centre. With the current area serving as inadequate living conditions, the community is hard at work to meet the essential needs of food, water, and hygiene.

To make an online donation to support these communities please go to <https://salesianmissionsaustralia.org.au/donate/horn-of-africa-food-and-supply-shortages>





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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