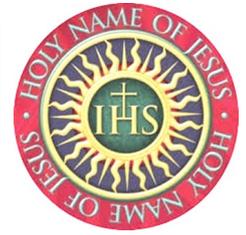




# Bridgeside Bulletin



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 19 FEBRUARY 2023,

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A

## What's happening in Syria and Turkey

Thousands of people have been killed after a catastrophic 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck southeast Turkey (officially known as Türkiye) and Syria, followed by another large earthquake only hours later.

- Thousands of deaths have been reported in Turkey and Syria, and the death toll is increasing by the hour.
- Freezing winter weather is only adding to the devastation, as the thousands left injured, trapped or homeless are stuck in bitter cold and freezing rain.
- The quakes caused devastation in rebel-held northwest Syria, where entire buildings collapsed, leaving people trapped under the rubble.

### 7.8 magnitude



Turkey and Syria were struck by two earthquakes in a matter of hours.

### Freezing Weather



Subzero winter weather is adding to the devastation

### Over 40,000 people



in both Syria and Turkey have lost their lives.

The time to act is now. We're in contact with Caritas Syria and other Caritas agencies on the ground as they assess the scale of the damage and critical needs. Your donation today will help communities affected by the earthquake.

Your generous donation means our partners in Turkey and Syria can respond swiftly to support the survivors of this unimaginable tragedy.

Visit: [www.caritas.org.au/syria-turkey](http://www.caritas.org.au/syria-turkey) or call 1800 024 413 toll free to donate now.



### Syria

Buildings have collapsed and rescue efforts are underway in the freezing rain to recover survivors from piles of rubble.

### Turkey

In Turkey's south, poor internet connectivity and damaged roads have hindered efforts to assess the damage and respond in the worst-hit areas.



## Parish Timetable

<b>Mon</b> 20 FEB	9am Counters– Team 1 12pm Community Kitchen
<b>Tue</b> 21 FEB	9.30am Christian Meditation 12pm Community Kitchen 3.30pm Holy Hour, Benediction & Confession 4.30pm Mass
<b>Wed</b> 22 FEB	9.30am Mass <i>Ash Wednesday</i> 11am Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help 12pm Community Kitchen 5pm Mass <i>Ash Wednesday</i>
<b>Thu</b> 23 FEB	12pm Community Kitchen
<b>Fri</b> 24 FEB	9.30am Mass
<b>Sat</b> 25 FEB	9.30am Mass 4pm Confession 5pm Vigil Mass
<b>Sun</b> 26 FEB	8am Mass <i>Join us for morning tea in the hall after Mass.</i> 10am Mass

## Parish Notices

- **Ash Wednesday Masses will be at 9.30am and 5pm.**
- There will be **NO MASS Thu 23rd Feb** as Fr Peter will be away.

### Family & Friends' Group – 2023

**Sunday 19th February**, Luncheon – 12:30 at Forster Golf Club. Please ring Lois on 0413 392 173 if you would like to attend.

## PARISH REFLECTION DAY

Our Reflection Day on 4th March offers the opportunity to form friendships within our Community as we share our life experiences in a supportive environment.

Fr. Ronald Rolheiser writes in his book "Sacred Fire":

**"From the minute we are born we begin to struggle to get our lives together, that is, to come to a sense of who we are, of what our meaning is, and of how we can live in such a way that our own lives remain integrated and meaningful and that our presence in the world is a positive one."**

And so we are driven by some internal force to search for answers to the questions "Who am I? Where do I belong? Who or What fulfills my needs?" Where can I find happiness?

Come and join us as we share our journeys.

Please indicate your willingness to join us by adding your name and contact details to the sheets in the church.

## 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.

## Planned Giving

The End of Financial year is just around the corner and with it comes a new set of planned giving envelopes. **If you currently have envelopes and would like to move over to direct debit or you are interested in receiving a set of planned giving envelopes please contact the parish office on 0475 242 695 or forster-tuncurry.pariah@mn.catholic.org.au.** This will help us gauge how many envelopes we need to order for the 23/24 FY.

We have a range of options available to contribute financially to our parish: planned giving envelopes, bank transfers, Mass Times App, online payments & direct debits.

If you are interested in discussing any of these options please contact us at the parish office. We are very grateful for the donations we receive that help us with the running costs and ongoing maintenance of the church, office and hall.

**PALMS FOR ASH WEDNESDAY:** Please bring the palms that were blessed last Palm Sunday back to the church in readiness for Ash Wednesday. They can be placed in the basket provided in the church so that they can be burnt and used as the ash on **Ash Wednesday 22 Feb.**

## Parish Ministries

**Opportunities to join our parish ministries are available.**

**The Baptism Preparation Team** is in need of more members. The members meet with families whose children are preparing to be baptised to discuss the Rite of Baptism and help prepare them for the Sacrament. The Baptism Preparation Meeting occurs on the 2nd Monday of each month. During this short session, the nature and significance of Baptism is discussed and there is an opportunity for questions to be asked. Formation will be provided for those interested.

**The Funeral Team** is in need of more members. The members of this ministry meet with the family of the deceased to go through the Order of Service for the funeral when the priest is unavailable. Funeral team members are compassionate in nature and can work with a family who is experiencing grief. Formation will be provided for those interested.

**The Music Ministry** is taking off once again. We are seeking another volunteer to create and run a music PowerPoint at the 8am Mass. Training will be provided.

**Contact the parish office of you are interested in joining these important ministries.**

**Stations of the Cross booklets** will be available in the church throughout Lent for those who would like to pray in their own time. The church is open from 9am-3pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday for private prayer.



## Saints and Feasts



Peter Damian (far right), depicted with Augustine, Anne, and Elizabeth

**21 FEBRUARY ST PETER DAMIAN.** Peter Damian was born to a large but poor Italian family in 1007 AD. He was orphaned at a young age and was mistreated by an older brother. He was eventually cared for and educated by another brother who was an arch-priest. He joined a Benedictine monastery where he lived the simple and strict life of a hermit. Peter was made the cardinal bishop of Ostia in 1057 and began many local reforms. He wrote numerous sermons and biographies, and was a strong supporter of church reforms

and discipline.

**22 FEBRUARY THE CHAIR OF ST PETER.** The Chair of St Peter. The feast of the Chair of St Peter commemorates St Peter's founding of the Church of Antioch, as well as his role as the first bishop of Rome. The portable chair believed to have been used by St Peter himself is preserved at the Vatican, above the apsidal altar of St Peter's Basilica. In ancient times it was customary for teachers to sit while teaching their students, who would stand around them. Even in the early

church, bishops would give the homily seated, with the congregation standing as they listened. And so it is that the celebration of St Peter's Chair is a remembrance of his role as both teacher and bishop.

**23 FEBRUARY ST POLYCARP** St. Polycarp was converted to Christianity by St. John the Apostle and became an important leader throughout western Asia Minor as the Bishop of Smyrna. Polycarp was eventually betrayed by a servant who had him arrested. He was urged to denounce his religion and to curse Christ, to which he replied, "I have served him for eighty six years and he has done me no wrong." He was ordered to be burnt alive, and it is said that he offered a prayer of praise and glory to God and the flames did not harm him.

Engraving by Michael Burghers, ca 1685



## THE LATEST NEWS FROM OUR SAFEGUARDING PROMOTERS – 19 FEB 23

The Promoters of Safeguarding continue to endorse a culture of safeguarding within the Parish. To this end, your attention is drawn to **the difference between 'belonging' and 'fitting-in'**

Many families have started a new school year with their children and it's important to remember that kids need more than new shoes and school supplies. While school and other groups can be wonderful places for kids to learn and grow, they often include challenges and barriers to healthy development.

One of those barriers is the emphasis on 'fitting in' at all costs. Kids (and adults) are faced with a daily barrage of messages from peer groups, families, the media and organisations that they must 'fit in' in order to belong. Messages that young people get about fitting in are often focused on the need to look or be a certain way, wear the 'right' clothes, play the 'cool' sport, or hang out with the 'popular' kids. It can be confusing for kids (and adults) because belonging is a basic human need. Belonging is incredibly important to healthy human development and the core is about love, acceptance and connection. The pressure to fit in is usually shame-based – sending painful and damaging messages to young people that they are not worthy or not good enough.

'Belonging' is being accepted for you whereas 'fitting-in' is being accepted for being like everyone else. In other words, I get to be me if I 'belong' - I have to be like you to 'fit in'.

Too many adolescents feel pressured to fit in through ways that are not healthy to their overall identities around gender, physical appearance, colour of skin, sexuality and other aspects of themselves. The pressure to fit in is also linked to issues of bullying. Feeling pressured to fit in at all costs can lead youth (and adults) to participate in unhealthy relationships – or go along with the crowd in the face of hurtful, mean-spirited behaviours.

Parents, families and adults have important roles to play in helping kids understand the difference between fitting in and belonging. One way to do this is to foster empathy and understanding with the young people in our lives. Let kids know that you are there for them and that you understand how hard the pressure to fit in can be. Share stories about how you struggled as a kid (and perhaps even as an adult) so that young people don't feel alone and isolated. Help them learn to find the courage to be seen as who they are and to seek out other youth and adults that accept them for who they are.

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:**

**Recently deceased:**

**Anniversaries:** Phillip Jones

***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, Mikaela Hunter & Joe Barnett.

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



**Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A**

**Sunday 19 Feb 2023**

**Fr Peter:** Brother and Sisters, with faith in God's law let us bring our prayers before the Lord.

**1. Reader:** That Holy Mother Church, as the people of God, will seek for perfection in the eyes of Christ. In your mercy:

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

**2. Reader:** That as he takes up his appointment among us as our shepherd, Bishop Michael Kennedy may know our welcome, experience our love and receive the grace of the Holy Spirit. In your mercy:

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

**3. Reader:** That Fr Greg Barker, the Diocesan Administrator may be blessed for his service. In your mercy:

**All: Lord, hear our prayer**

**4. Reader:** That those affected by the deadly earthquake in Turkey and Syria will receive the help they urgently need and prayerful support from all of us. In your mercy:

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

**5. Reader:** That the people of Ukraine and other areas of violence will soon know peace and hope. In your mercy:

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

**6. Reader:** That those who cause hurt through wrongdoing will find a contrite heart through Christ. In your mercy:

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

**7. Reader:** That our parish will strive to live by God's law of love for all our neighbours. In your mercy:

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

**8. Reader:** That the sick will find healing and comfort in the Lord. In your mercy:

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

**9. Reader:** That those who have died will live forever in God's perfect love, especially Phillip Jones whose anniversary occurs at this time. In your mercy:

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

**Fr Peter:** God our Father, your love for us is perfect. Hear our prayers and help us to overcome conflict with our neighbours and give us lasting faith in your law of perfect love. 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 19 Feb 2023**  
**Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A**

**Entrance Antiphon**

*Ps 12:6*

O Lord, I trust in your merciful love. My heart will rejoice in your salvation. I will sing to the Lord who has been bountiful with me.

**First Reading**

*Lv 19:1-2. 17-18*

A reading from the book of Leviticus

The Lord spoke to Moses; he said: 'Speak to the whole community of the sons of Israel and say to them: "Be holy, for I, the Lord your God, am holy.

"You must not bear hatred for your brother in your heart. You must openly tell him, your neighbour, of his offence; this way you will not take a sin upon yourself. You must not exact vengeance, nor must you bear a grudge against the children of your people. You must love your neighbour as yourself. I am the Lord."

**Responsorial Psalm**

*Ps 102:1-4. 8. 10. 12-13. R. v.8*

(R.) The Lord is kind and merciful.

1. My soul, give thanks to the Lord, all my being, bless his holy name. My soul, give thanks to the Lord and never forget all his blessings. (R.)

2. It is he who forgives all your guilt, who heals every one of your ills, who redeems your life from the grave, who crowns you with love and compassion. (R.)

3. The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy. He does not treat us according to our sins nor repay us according to our faults. (R.)

4. As far as the east is from the west so far does he remove our sins. As a father has compassion on his sons, the Lord has pity on those who fear him. (R.)

**Second Reading**

*1 Cor 3:16-23*

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

Didn't you realise that you were God's temple and that the Spirit of God was living among you? If anybody should destroy the temple of God, God will destroy him, because the temple of God is sacred; and you are that temple. Make no mistake about it: if any one of you thinks of himself as wise, in the ordinary sense of the word, then he must learn to be a fool before he really can be wise. Why? Because the wisdom of this world is foolishness to God. As scripture says: The Lord knows wise men's thoughts: he knows how useless they are, or again: God is not convinced by the arguments of the wise. So there is nothing to boast about in anything human: Paul, Apollos, Cephas, the world, life and death, the present and the future, are all your servants; but you belong to Christ and Christ belongs to God.

**Gospel Acclamation**

*1 Jn 2:5*

Alleluia, alleluia!

Whoever keeps the word of Christ, grows perfect in the love of God. Alleluia!

**Gospel**

*Mt 5:38-48*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You have learnt how it was said: Eye for eye and tooth for tooth. But I say this to you: offer the wicked man no resistance. On the contrary, if anyone hits you on the right cheek, offer him the other as well; if a man takes you to law and would have your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. And if anyone orders you to go one mile, go two miles with him. Give to anyone who asks, and if anyone wants to borrow, do not turn away.

'You have learnt how it was said: You must love your neighbour and hate your enemy. But I say this to you: love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you; in this way you will be sons of your Father in heaven, for he causes his sun to rise on bad men as well as good, and his rain to fall on honest and dishonest men alike. For if you love those who love you, what right have you to claim any credit? Even the tax collectors do as much, do they not? And if you save your greetings for your brothers, are you doing anything exceptional? Even the pagans do as much, do they not? You must therefore be perfect just as your heavenly Father is perfect.'

**Communion Antiphon**

*Ps 9:2-3*

I will recount all your wonders, I will rejoice in you and be glad, and sing psalms to your name, O Most High.

**Readings for Next Week 25/26 February**

**First Reading**

*Gen 2:7-9; 3:1-7* The Lord creates man and the garden of Eden..

**Responsorial Psalm**

*Ps 50:3-6. 12-14. 17. R. see v.3 (R.)* Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

**Second Reading**

*Rom 5:12-19* Jesus has atoned for Adam's sin.

**Gospel Acclamation**

*Mt 4:4* Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! No one lives on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

**Gospel**

*Mt 4:1-11* Jesus is tempted by the devil in the desert.

# 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.**

© 2019 design by Rev Fr Peter Street. Text from the Roman Missal 2011.



Today's Gospel takes up the last two of the six pronouncements with which Jesus authoritatively reinterprets the Torah (Law) of Moses in the direction of the 'deeper righteousness' required of the community of the Kingdom.

The radical reinterpretation he offers in the Gospel is very helpfully foreshadowed by the passage from Leviticus 17 (vv. 1-2, 17-18) in the First Reading. This shows that, while Jesus' pronouncements in the Gospel involve a contrast with what was said 'of old' (that is, in the Law of Moses), there is no absolute opposition. Rather, his fulfilment of the Law brings out its radical depth. The opening statement, 'Be holy, for I, the Lord your God, am holy,' serves as a kind of theme for what is called the 'Holiness Code' in the Book of Leviticus (chapters 17-26). It makes the point – one that Jesus will take up – that the 'righteousness' required of Israel reflects the character and action of Israel's God. The concluding sentences address the issue of dealing with injury received from a fellow Israelite. Anticipating the teaching of Jesus, the Law looks to the human heart and insists that grudges must not be held in a way that seeks opportunities for vengeance. On the contrary, the matter must be brought out into the open and resolved within the wider ideal of 'loving one's neighbour as oneself'.

Jesus' reinterpretation of the Torah arrives at its most radical point in the two final rulings that make up the Gospel: on retaliation (Matthew 5:38-42) and love of enemies (5:43-48). The old prescription about 'an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth' (Exod 21:24; Deut 19:21; Lev 24:20) is commonly cited as an example of the harshness of the Old Testament dispensation. This is unfair. In the tribal situation of early Israel, where institutions of justice were barely established, the law of strict reciprocity was a realistic measure to contain and limit the spiral of violence – to bring 'pay back' to a closure that all parties would recognise as fair. What Jesus commends is a readiness to disarm violence by being prepared to accept double what the perpetrator requires. The specific in-

stances that he mentions – surrendering your cloak as well as your tunic; going two miles instead of just one – reflect social conditions in the Palestine of his day when soldiers of the occupying Roman forces could make such demands of members of the populace with impunity – something perfectly illustrated when Simon of Cyrene is compelled to carry Jesus' cross (Matt 27:32). Readiness to meet such demands in order to disarm violence is hardly realistic on the level of society as a whole where evil and evildoers must be resisted and restrained. If disciples of Jesus, on an individual or small group level (as, for example, in Christian non-violent protest), adopt a generous stance in the face of injury and unreasonable demand, the freedom to do so will stem from consciousness of the far greater generosity they have themselves received from God.

In the case of the ruling about enemies (5:43-48) it is again important not to drive a wedge between the old and the new. Lev 19:18, cited in the First Reading, says 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself,' adding nothing about enemies. Hating one's enemy is simply a human tendency that Jesus knows to be widely prevalent. He resists it in the context, now made explicit, of the disposition and action of God, whose 'children' his disciples know themselves to be. 'Like parent, like child,' the adage runs. So they will truly show themselves to be children of God if they reflect the divine action in this radical way.

In conclusion, Jesus offers a definition of what it means to be 'perfect' in observance of the Torah: 'You must be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect.' The stress here falls upon the little word 'as': perfection means acting towards others, including one's enemies, as the Creator acts towards all, good and bad alike.

The Second Reading, 1 Corinthians 3:16-23, offers a fine evocation of Christian community identity. In the Christian dispensation the sense of God's dwelling in the Temple in Jerusalem has been transferred to the community of believers. As the 'body' of the risen Lord, vivified by the Spirit, they now constitute the dwelling place of God. Divi-

## CatholicCare Food Programs

CatholicCare Food Programs are appealing to the Forster Parish to help support their Breakfast and Lunch Programs this school year.

**Donations of the following food items would be greatly appreciated:** Juice Poppers; muesli bars and other health bars; dried fruit or fruit cups; packets of popcorn, pretzels or similar.

If you would like to help us sustain less fortunate kids through our Food Programs, your support would make a real difference. **Donations can be dropped off to the community kitchen Monday to Thursday between 9am and 12pm**



**POPE FRANCIS**  
**ANGELUS**  
**Saint Peter's Square**  
**Sunday, 12 February 2023**

Dear brothers and sisters, buongiorno!

In the Gospel of today's liturgy, Jesus says: "Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets. I have come not to abolish but to fulfil" (Mt 5:17). To fulfil: this is a key word to understand Jesus and his message. But what does this fulfilment mean? To explain, the Lord begins by saying what is not fulfilment. The Scripture says "Do not kill", but for Jesus this is not enough if brothers are then hurt by words; the Scripture says "Do not commit adultery", but this is not enough if one then lives a love tainted by duplicity and falsehood; the Scripture says "Do not bear false witness", but it is not enough to take a solemn oath if one then acts with hypocrisy (cf. Mt 5:21-37). This is not fulfilment.

To give a concrete example, Jesus concentrates on the "rite of the offertory". Making an offering to God reciprocates the gratuity of his gifts. It was a very important rite – making an offering to reciprocate symbolically, let's say, the gratuitousness of his gifts – so important that to interrupt it was forbidden other than for serious reasons. But Jesus states that it must be interrupted if a brother has something against us, in order to go and be reconciled with him first (cf. vv.23-24): only in this way is the rite fulfilled. The message is clear: God loves us first, freely, taking the first step towards us, without us deserving it; and so we cannot celebrate his love without in our turn taking the first step towards reconciliation with those who have hurt us. In this way there is fulfilment in God's eyes, otherwise external, purely ritualistic observance is pointless, it becomes a pretence. In other words, Jesus makes us understand that religious rules are necessary, they are good, but they are only the beginning: to fulfil them, it is necessary to go beyond the letter and live their meaning. The commandments that God has given us must not be locked up in the airless vaults of formal observance; otherwise, we are limited to an exterior, detached religiosity, servants of "God the Master" rather than children of "God the Father". Jesus wants this: not to have the idea of serving a God the Master, but the Father; and this is why it is necessary to go beyond the letter.

Brothers and sisters, this problem was present not only in Jesus' time; it is there today too. At times, for example, we hear it said, "Father, I have not killed, I have not stolen, I have not harmed anyone...", as if to say, "I am fine". This is formal observance, which is satisfied with the bare minimum, whereas Jesus invites us to aspire to the maximum possible. That is: God does not reason with calculations and tables; he loves us as one who is enamoured: not to the minimum, but to the maximum! He does

not say, "I love you up to a certain point". No, true love is never up to a certain point, and is never satisfied; love always goes beyond, one cannot do without. The Lord showed us this by giving his life on the cross and forgiving his murderers (cf. Lk 23:34). And he entrusted to us the commandment most dear to him: that we love each other like he loved us (cf. Jn 15:12). This is the love that gives fulfilment to the Law, to faith, to true life!

So, brothers and sisters, we might ask ourselves: how do I live faith? Is it a matter of calculations, formalism, or a love story with God? Am I content merely with not doing harm, of keeping the "façade" in good order, or do I try to grow in love for God and others? And every now and then, do I check myself on Jesus' great commandment, do I ask myself if I love my neighbour as He loves me? Because perhaps we are inflexible in judging others and forget to be merciful, as God is with us.

May Mary, who observed the Word of God perfectly, help us to give fulfilment to our faith and our charity.

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**After the Angelus**

Dear brothers and sisters!

Let us continue to stay close, with prayer and concrete support, to the earthquake victims in Syria and Turkey. I saw on the television programme "A Sua Immagine" the images of this catastrophe, the pain of these peoples who are suffering as a result of the earthquake. Let us pray for them, let us not forget them, let us pray and think about what we can do for them. And let us not forget tormented Ukraine: may the Lord open ways of peace and give those responsible the courage to follow them.

The news from Nicaragua has saddened me a great deal, and I cannot but remember with concern Bishop Rolando Álvarez of Matagalpa, whom I care about greatly, sentenced to 26 years imprisonment, and also those who have been deported to the United States. I pray for them and for all those who are suffering in that dear nation, and I ask for your prayers. Let us also ask the Lord, by the intercession of the Immaculate Virgin Mary, to open the hearts of political leaders and all citizens to the sincere search for peace, which is born of truth, justice, freedom and love, and which is achieved through the patient pursuit of dialogue. Let us pray together to Our Lady. [Hail Mary]

I greet all of you, Romans and pilgrims from Italy and other countries. I greet the groups from Poland, the Czech Republic and Peru. I greet the Congolese citizens who are present here. Your country is beautiful, it is beautiful! Pray for the country! I greet the students from Badajoz, Spain, and those of the Gregorian Institute of Lisbon.

I greet the young people of Amendolara-Cozenza and the AVIS group from Villa Estense-Padua.

And I wish you all a happy Sunday. Please, do not forget to pray for me. Enjoy your lunch, and arrivederci!

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## Project Compassion Sunday

Please take home a Project Compassion box or set of donation envelopes to support Caritas Australia this Lenten season and help support vulnerable people around the world, now and For All Future Generations.

With your support, Caritas Australia has been able to support communities around the world to tackle poverty, food security, education, water and sanitation and disaster risk reduction. Project Compassion 2023 reminds us that the good that we do today will extend and impact the lives of generations to come.

As St Pope John Paul II said, "The future starts today, not tomorrow."

Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow For All Future Generations.

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your parish, by visiting [caritas.org.au/project-compassion](http://caritas.org.au/project-compassion), or by calling 1800 024 413.

## The CIAN March Webinar "Holy Week and Mystagogy"

The Zoom webinar will involve short presentations from two of CIAN's executive members who have a wealth of experience in RCIA: Simon Yeak, Sacramental Life & RCIA coordinator for Sydney Archdiocese, and Br Bernard Mary Fonkalsrud, a CIAN Executive Committee member. It will also include breakout groups for participants to discuss the presentation and how their parish can engage the Elect and catechumens in Holy Week and post-Easter mystagogy.

A big thank you and welcome to those who have already registered for our upcoming webinar. If you haven't registered yet, then registrations are now open, use the link below to register for this Zoom webinar.

**REGISTER NOW!**

**When: Monday 13th March 2023**

**Time: 7-8.15pm AEDT**

**Where: via Zoom**

**Register: <https://tinyurl.com/CIAN-Mar2023-webinar>**

**Cost: Free**

If you can't attend this webinar live, then register and your registration will automatically give you free access to the webinar replay for 14 days after the webinar through until 27 March. After that date the replay will still be available to CIAN members on the members portal.

*We look forward to being with you for our webinar on March 13. Every blessing, Dr. Christine Wood- Chair, CIAN*



**The latest edition of the Caritas Newsletter has arrived. The online link to the Edition is here: [caritasnews\\_summer-2023\\_digital\\_4th-revision.pdf](http://caritasnews_summer-2023_digital_4th-revision.pdf)**

## PRAYER FOR PEACE IN UKRAINE

Almighty and Great God, accept our gratitude for your boundless mercy towards us. Hear the supplication of our afflicted hearts for the land and people of Ukraine, as they confront foreign aggression and invasion. Open the eyes of those who have been overtaken by a spirit of deception and violence, that they be horrified by their works. Grant victory over the powers of evil that have arisen and bless Ukraine with your gifts of liberty, peace, tranquillity, and good fortune.

We implore you, O Merciful God, look with grace upon those who courageously defend their land. Remember the mothers and fathers, the innocent children, widows and orphans, the disabled and helpless, those seeking shelter and refuge, who reach out to you and to their fellow human beings looking for mercy and compassion.

Bless the hearts of those who have already shown great generosity and solidarity, and those who prepare to receive their Ukrainian brothers and sisters in Ukraine's greatest time of need. Bring us together as your children, your creation, and instil in us your strength, wisdom and understanding. May you be praised and glorified, now and forever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

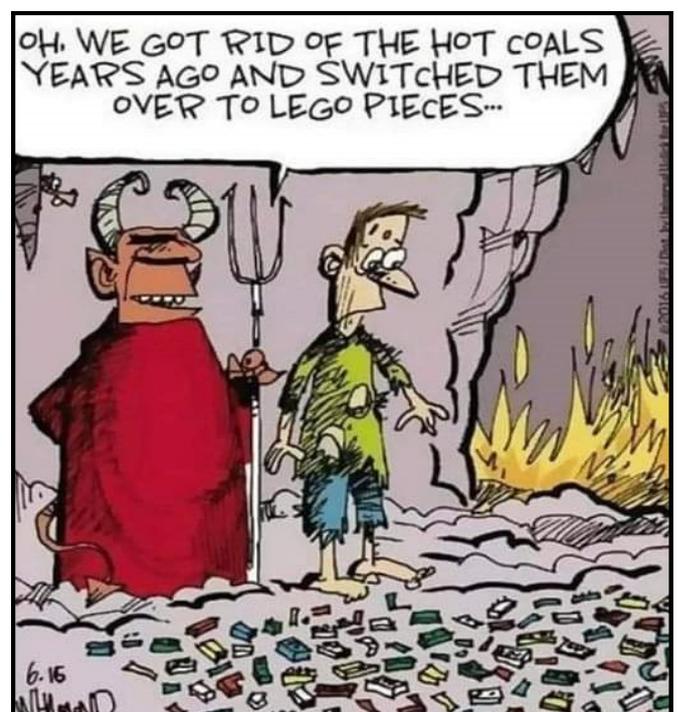
## Mission: Change their lives ... and yours.

Communities in Africa, Asia or the Pacific are seeking Australians from a variety of professions and trades to share their skills with those who have less opportunity to develop their talents.

Explore 35 positions by scanning the QR code below. On our website you can also see news including stories from those currently supported in Timor-Leste, Samoa, American Samoa and Thailand.

Please enquire further about potential assignments for you or someone you know:

RING: 02 9560 5333 or 0422 472 567.



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

### Rite of Election – 26 February 2023

The Rite of Election on **Sunday 26 February 2023** is an opportunity to welcome all the catechumens who will be baptised in their parishes at the Easter Vigil [a catechumen is an unbaptised person whose search for meaning has brought them to the Catholic Church]. You are invited to join the People of God in witness and prayerful support of those who choose to be Catholic from 2.30pm at Sacred Heart Cathedral Newcastle West, followed by afternoon tea. Please RSVP for catering to E sharon.murphy@mn.catholic.org.au P 4979 1134.

### Middle East Emergency Appeal

Caritas Turkey and other Caritas agencies are responding to a series of powerful earthquakes in southeast Turkey and Syria, where thousands of lives have been lost already and the death toll increases by the hour.

Caritas Turkey are on the ground coordinating with local authorities and other organisations to see how they can best assist. Your generous support can help provide emergency relief to help families recover and rebuild from disaster. Visit [www.caritas.org.au/donate/emergency-appeals/turkey-and-syria-earthquake/](http://www.caritas.org.au/donate/emergency-appeals/turkey-and-syria-earthquake/) or call 1800 024 413 toll free to provide much needed support to the Middle East by donating to our Middle East Emergency Appeal.

**2023 Lenten Reflection:** Finding Light within the Darkness

Pastoral Ministries has prepared a Lenten resource for our diocese, Finding Light within the Darkness. Every Lent there is a fresh invitation to retreat from the noise and busyness of daily life. To listen with our heart, to contemplate our humanness so we can actively focus on humanity. We are invited to turn to God dwelling within us and consider how we can find light in the darkness and how we can be light to others. This resource provides opportunities for prayer, faith-sharing, and outreach in our local community.

To access this resource, go to:

[www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/liturgy/lent-2023/](http://www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/liturgy/lent-2023/)

### History, Theology and Practice of Synodality - Free online course offered by Boston College

Through an online platform you will have access to a series of pre-recorded videos during the months of February and March 2023.

"Synodality is not the chapter of a treatise on ecclesiology,

and even less a fad, a slogan or the new term to be used or manipulated in our meetings. No! Synodality expresses the nature of the Church, its form, its style, its mission." Pope Francis.

To register go to: <https://formaciononline.bc.edu/en/home/>

### aMeN caMiNo

The aMeN CaMiNo offers an opportunity to become a local pilgrim in your own diocese, to encounter God through nature, to escape from the busyness of life and to connect with others. During this one-hundred-kilometre experience you will walk with others over a variety of terrain, exploring bush, beach, lake and mountains. As the days pass and you experience self-emptying, an awakening of the senses is heightened, allowing you to fully immerse yourself in the wonder and awe of God's creation. There will be many moments to reflect, pray, journal and be still, all within our very own Maitland-Newcastle Diocese.

For more information, visit: [www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/faith-formation/amen-camino/](http://www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/faith-formation/amen-camino/)  
**Expression of Interest close on 24 February:** <https://forms.office.com/r/ZysE5V5Fiy>

### Sisters in Faith Dinner

The Diocesan Ecumenical and Interfaith Council would like you to join us for our Sisters in Faith Dinner to mark International Women's Day. It's an opportunity for all women of faith to come together to form friendships.

**Date: Wednesday 8 March**

**Time: 6pm to 9pm**

**Location: Victor Peters Suite, 841 Hunter St, Newcastle West**

**Cost: \$30 per person**

**RSVP by: 1 March**

Registration is open now: [www.eventbrite.com.au/e/sisters-of-faith-dinner-tickets-513511305137](http://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/sisters-of-faith-dinner-tickets-513511305137)

### menALIVE Weekend for Men

**What are you doing on 25 and 26 March?** Could you benefit from a weekend featuring talks, personal testimonies, opportunities for discussion, and space to reflect? Since menALIVE commenced in 2003, thousands of Catholic men have been encouraged and inspired at weekends across Australia. Now, a local menALIVE weekend is being organised in Toronto, conducted by experienced leaders from the menALIVE Team.

The cost is \$50 per person, with lunch and dinner on Saturday provided. For more information or to register, visit <https://torontoparish.org/menalive-mens-weekend/> Enquiries, phone Phil McWilliam (0408 88 0408), Col Gwynne (0409 047 644), or Toronto Parish Office (4959 2777).



### 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: **4th 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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