



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 12 MARCH 2023,

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR A

Dear Brothers and Sisters.

As you are aware our new Bishop will be installed next Friday night. Please do keep Bishop Kennedy in your prayers in the lead up to this important event and indeed thereafter. Owing to the fact that there is a Clergy Conference in the first half of next week and my need to be present for the installation, there will be no Masses in the parish in the week commencing 13th March. The first Mass will be at 9.30am on the 18th of March.

Last Saturday the parish began the process of discernment about a new Pastoral Plan. This process began with a reflection day attended by almost 50 parishioners. To those who spoke, and lead the day I say thank you. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who attended for the spirit of openness which permeated the day. I would also like to encourage all parishioners to attend the future reflection days. Details will be announced in due course, however, please keep the 24th of June free. Please see photos inside. I ended the day by reading Acts 2: 42-47. This reading and the 5 foundations to which it alludes forms the basis of the Diocesan Pastoral Plan, it will also form the basis of the parish plan. Please could everyone read this reading often and take it to prayer.

One thing that is already evident from the first day, is a desire to have the faith spread and to accompany people on their journey towards God. It will therefore be important that we look not only at evangelization, but also initiation; from the Baptism of babies, to the Sacraments of Initiation, through to helping adults who wish to convert to the Catholic faith. Over the next few months I will be looking to revamp the Sacraments of initiation for the children of the Parish. It is obvious that what we offer in this space is not meeting the needs of the Children involved, or their families. We will as a result of this period of introspection around this come up with a new way of forming the Children and their families in readiness for the Sacraments, a way that is different from what has gone before. It is important that the children and indeed their families learn about the Church, the Sacraments and the faith as part of this process, it is also vitally important that they experience from us a welcoming community. This may well be a long process, if anyone wishes to be involved in this please contact the office. Over the next few months I would like to encourage the reformation of and an extension of both the Funeral and Baptism preparation teams. If you feel that you are being called by God to minister in the parish in this way please do contact the office and leave your details.

Last Friday I attended the World Day of Prayer 2023 at the Uniting Church. For those who do not know the WDoP is arranged by Christian women from a particular nation with a certain theme each year. Next year the nation is Palestine. Our Parish will be hosting the World Day of Prayer in 2024. This will be an opportunity to reach out in faith and love to fellow Christians in the community and to hold the people of Palestine in our prayers. There will be a shared afternoon tea following the prayer service. I encourage as many people as possible to take part. Further details will be announced closer to the event on the 1st of March 2024.

As well as the normal scheduled time for Confessions in the parish, there will be extra times available during Holy Week in preparation for Easter, on the morning of the 6th of April, 7th of April, and the 8th of April at 10.00am. Morning Prayer of the Church will be celebrated on the 8th of April at 9am.

The Chrism Mass for this year will be celebrated at the Sacred Heart Cathedral on the 4th of April commencing at 7pm. This will be Bishop Michael's first as the Bishop of Maitland-Newcastle.

At 8am Mass this Sunday morning Michelle Quilter will receive the First Scrutiny in preparation for her full reception into the Church at the Easter Vigil. Please keep her in your prayers.

Over the last few weeks I have had a couple of conversations about Children's Liturgy of the Word, which has, in the past been an element of life for Holy Name Parish. Is it time we look at bringing it back. How did it work, how could it work, are there parishioners who would be interested in being involved in this. What links might we make with Holy Name School in this area?

Please remember that I am happy to come and bless people's homes. If you would like this to happen please drop a note into one of the collection bags at Mass or contact the office. Please note that Mass offering envelopes are available on the table at the entry of the Church.

Just a reminder, as I mentioned last week I will be away for the month of May, I am going to the UK, to attend the festivities around the Coronation, I will, while away, pop over to Rome for a week. If I am going to see the King, I should probably best go and see the Holy Father too.

With love.

Fr. Peter.

Parish Timetable

Mon 13 MAR	9am Counters– Team 4 12pm Community Kitchen
Tue 14 MAR	9.30am Christian Meditation 12pm Community Kitchen 5.15pm Singing Practice
Wed 15 MAR	11am Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help 12pm Community Kitchen
Thu 16 MAR	12pm Community Kitchen
Sat 18 MAR	9.30am Mass 4pm Confession 5pm Vigil Mass
Sun 19 MAR	8am Mass <i>Join us for morning tea in the hall</i> 10am Mass

Parish Notices

- **There will be no Masses on the 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th March.**

What's happening locally...

Bucket Collection 18/19 March

Word has reached me of a pilgrim who would like to attend World Youth Day and who needs some financial assistance to do so. If any parishioners would like to help, please note that there will be a bucket collection to assist this pilgrim after Mass next weekend.

Family & Friends' Group

Sun 19th March Luncheon -12 noon -Tuncurry Rockpool Café
Buy fish and chips, or something from the café, or bring a picnic lunch & chair. We will be sitting at the café or close by. All are welcome to attend. No RSVP, Just turn up.

Sunrise Supported Living

Minister of Communion to the Sick and Housebound volunteer urgently needed to take communion to the residents at Sunrise from 31st March - 1st September. The frequency would be once a month. Please contact the parish office if you are able to assist.

Vinnies 2022 Christmas Appeal

On behalf of St. Vincent de Paul Holy Name Conference, could I once again express our deep appreciation and gratitude for the generosity of the Parish in supporting our Christmas Appeal and the Toy/Gift Giving Tree.

We banked an amount of \$1,516. 20, which went towards assisting struggling families with Christmas food, and provided toys and gifts to all. No child or young person missed out on a gift which put smiles on all of their faces...So again, many thanks to everyone who made this possible.

Marlene. President.

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.

GLECCA: The Great Lakes Education Christian Care Association, exists to employ, coordinate and mentor a Chaplain for Great Lakes College, they would like a Roman Catholic representative on their committee. The committee meets at 2pm on the 1st Monday of each month. Could any interested parishioners please contact the office to put your name forward?

News From Holy Name School

- **Holy Name School would like Easter Egg donations for their Easter Egg Raffle. Please drop egg donations off to the parish office.**
- **Pancake Tuesday-** Mrs Morse and Mrs Williamson manned the school BBQ's to cook pancakes for each child and their teachers on Pancake Tuesday. The day we feast before we fast during the season of Lent. Kindergarten enjoyed their first school Pancake Tuesday alongside their Yr 6 buddies.
- **Ash Wednesday-** Yr 3-6 joined the parish of Holy Name to celebrate Ash Wednesday. As a sign that Lent is to begin, the students were signed the sign of the cross on their foreheads with ashes. Father Peter led the infants Ash Wednesday liturgy in our school hall. Our School Captains and Vice Captains signed the infants children with ashes along side Fr Peter and Mr Mackay.
- **Mini Vinnies-** Our Mini Vinnies have shown great commitment doing 'good works' with in our school community. Together they have made palm crosses, this was a tricky task but with lots help from each other and perseverance they managed to make around thirty crosses that we will keep and donate to the Parish next year for Ash Wednesday.

Installation of Most Rev Michael Kennedy

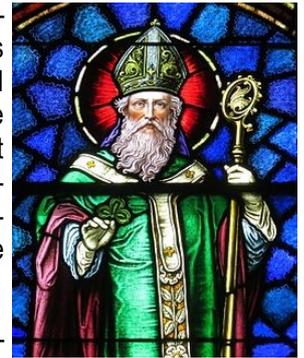
The Liturgical Reception and Installation of Most Rev Michael Kennedy as the ninth Bishop of Maitland-Newcastle will be held on **Friday 17 March 2023 at 6pm** at Sacred Heart Cathedral, Hamilton. This important event in the life of our Diocese is an invitation only event. Invitations have been issued and each parish has been allocated places and asked to nominate their parish representatives and RSVP for those people. **The installation will be live streamed on the evening of Friday 17 March and can be watched via our website: www.mn.catholic.org.au.** There will be opportunities to gather with Bishop Michael Kennedy following the Installation. Bishop Michael is committed to visiting with, and meeting the people of our Diocese, and has dedicated significant time as he commences with our Diocese to visit each region and connect with the people of our Diocese. Further information will be shared about the visit of Bishop Michael Kennedy to our region soon.

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 Clergy.

Saints and Feasts

17 MARCH. ST PATRICK was a 5th century Romano-British Christian missionary and bishop in Ireland. Known as the "Apostle of Ireland", he is the primary patron saint of the island along with Saints Brigit and Columba. The dates of Patrick's life cannot be fixed with certainty but, on a widespread interpretation, he was active as a missionary in Ireland during the second half of the fifth century. He is generally credited with being the first bishop of Armagh, Primate of All Ireland. When he was about 16, he was captured from his home and taken as a slave to Ireland, where he lived for six years before escaping and returning to his family. After becoming a cleric, he returned to northern and western Ireland. In later life, he served as an ordained bishop, but little is known about the places where he worked. By the seventh century, he had already come to be revered as the patron saint of Ireland.



Stained-glass window of St. Patrick from Saint Patrick Catholic Church, Junction City, Ohio, United States



18 MARCH. ST CYRIL of Jerusalem was a distinguished theologian of the early Church (315-386). About the end of 350 AD he succeeded Maximus as Bishop of Jerusalem, but was exiled on more than one occasion due to the enmity of Acacius of Caesarea, and the policies of various emperors. Cyril left important writings documenting the instruction of catechumens and the other of the Liturgy in his day. He is venerated as a saint by the Roman Catholic Church, Eastern Orthodox Church, Oriental Orthodox church and the Anglican Communion. In 1883, Cyril was declared a Doctor of the Church by Pope Leo XIII. He is highly respected in the Palestinian Christian Community.

THE LATEST NEWS FROM OUR SAFEGUARDING PROMOTERS – 12 MAR 23

The Promoters of Safeguarding continue to endorse a culture of safeguarding within the Parish. To this end, your attention is drawn to **the impact that the shingles virus can have on a patient's quality of life.** 'Shingles Awareness Week' is posted as February 27 – March 5.

Shingles is caused by the reactivation of the chickenpox virus, usually during adulthood. About 1 in 3 people will get shingles in their lifetime.

Dr Jana Pittman, former Australian Olympic athlete, reported that she is passionate about raising awareness of this painful and potentially debilitating condition especially in light of seeing how badly her mum suffered from it recently.

While symptoms of shingles can vary, for Pittman's mother the pain was so intense that she thought she was having a heart attack probably in response to the dormant virus residing in the spinal area. When her mother said she also had a sore red and blistered rash, Dr Pittman realised that shingles was the likely culprit.

Dr Pittman stresses that you cannot catch shingles from someone who has shingles. You can, however, get chickenpox from someone who has shingles if you have never had chickenpox nor been immunised against it.

We know that it is linked to a drop in your immunity, which is why those most at risk are 50 years of age or over, as well as people who are immunocompromised. If you had chickenpox as a child, your normal immune system may not be able to protect you as you get older, so the chickenpox virus may reactivate as shingles.

Avoiding contact with people who have chickenpox and shingles, as well as practicing good hand hygiene and cough hygiene may reduce your risk.

In Australia, shingles vaccination with the Zostavax vaccine is **FREE** for **adults aged 70 years**. Catch-up vaccination is also available for adults aged 71 to 79 years until 31 October 2023.

Another vaccine, Shingrix, is also currently approved and offers better protection (over 90% effective), but requires two separate injections (2 to 6 months apart), is **NOT FREE** and can be quite expensive.

It is recommended that you talk to your doctor about other available treatments, such as antivirals and other vaccines available.



Easter in the Holy Name of Jesus Parish, Forster-Tuncurry.

Holy Thursday 6th April

Confession 10am, Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper 6.30pm followed by adoration and Night Prayer.

Good Friday 7th April

Morning Prayer at 9am followed by Confession until 10.20am, Stations of the Cross 10.30am & Passion of the Lord 3pm.

Holy Saturday 8th April

Morning Prayer at 9am followed by Confession until 10.20am, & Vigil in the Holy Night 7pm.

Easter Sunday 9th April

Easter Mass of the Resurrection 8am & 10am.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Recently deceased:

Anniversaries: Monica Hunt

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:

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.



**Third Sunday of Lent Year A
Sunday 12 Mar 2023**

Fr Peter: Brothers and sisters, through the waters of life, let us bring our prayers before the Lord.

Reader: That Holy Mother Church will respond to the word of God in spirit and in truth. In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

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.

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

All: Lord, hear our prayer

Reader: That the elect of God Michelle Quilter will be open to the stirrings of the Holy Spirit as she moves towards full reception into Holy Mother Church. In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That our nation will work to enhance life giving outcomes that meet the needs of all vulnerable Australians. In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That Christians everywhere will reject the lure of evil and live to worship Christ who brings eternal life. In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That there will be an end to hunger and famine. In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That our parish will live by Christ's word as vibrant springs of new life. In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That the sick will be refreshed in God's healing power. In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That those who have died will live forever in the springs of eternal life, especially Monica Hunt whose anniversary occurs at this time.

In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Fr Peter: Loving Father, we worship you in spirit and in truth. Hear our prayers and give us faith in the coming of Christ to know that he is the way to eternal life. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

**Sunday 12 Mar 2023
Third Sunday of Lent Year A**

Entrance Antiphon

Cf. Ps 24:15-16

My eyes are always on the Lord, for he rescues my feet from the snare. Turn to me and have mercy on me, for I am alone and poor.

First Reading

Ex 17:3-7

A reading from the book of Exodus

Tormented by thirst, the people complained against Moses. 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt?' they said. 'Was it so that I should die of thirst, my children too, and my cattle?' Moses appealed to the Lord. 'How am I to deal with this people?' he said. 'A little more and they will stone me!' The Lord said to

Moses, 'Take with you some of the elders of Israel and move on to the forefront of the people; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the river, and go. I shall be standing before you there on the rock, at Horeb. You must strike the rock, and water will flow from it for the people to drink.' This is what Moses did, in the sight of the elders of Israel. The place was named Massah and Meribah because of the grumbling of the sons of Israel and because they put the Lord to the test by saying, 'Is the Lord with us, or not?'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 94:1-2. 6-9. R. v.8

(R.) If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

1. Come, ring out our joy to the Lord; hail the rock who saves us. Let us come before him, giving thanks, with songs let us hail the Lord. (R.)

2. Come in; let us bow and bend low; let us kneel before the God who made us for he is our God and we the people who belong to his pasture, the flock that is led by his hand. (R.)

3. O that today you would listen to his voice! 'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah in the desert when your fathers put me to the test; when they tried me, though they saw my work.' (R.)

Second Reading

Rom 5:1-2. 5-8

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Through our Lord Jesus Christ by faith we are judged righteous and at peace with God, since it is by faith and through Jesus that we have entered this state of grace in which we can boast about looking forward to God's glory. This hope is not deceptive, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given us. We were still helpless when at his appointed moment Christ died for sinful men. It is not easy to die even for a good man – though of course for someone really worthy, a man might be prepared to die – but what proves that God loves us is that Christ died for us while we were still sinners.

Gospel Acclamation

See Jn 4:42. 15

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ! Lord, you are truly the Saviour of the world; give me living water, that I may never thirst again. Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel

Jn 4:5-42

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus came to the Samaritan town called Sychar, near the land that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob's well is there and Jesus, tired by the journey, sat straight down by the well. It was about the sixth hour. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink.' His disciples had gone into the town to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to him, 'What? You are a Jew and you ask me, a Samaritan, for a drink?' – Jews, in fact, do not associate with Samaritans. Jesus replied: 'If you only knew what God is offering and who it is that is saying to you: Give me a drink, you would have been the one to ask, and he would have given you living water.' 'You have no bucket, sir,' she answered 'and the well is deep: how could you get this living water? Are you a greater man than our father Jacob who gave us this well and drank from it himself with his sons and his cattle?' Jesus replied: 'Whoever drinks this water will get thirsty again; but anyone who drinks the water that I shall give will never be thirsty again: the water that I shall give will turn into a spring inside him, welling up to eternal life.' 'Sir,' said the woman, 'give me some of that water, so that I may never get thirsty and never have to come here again to draw water.' 'Go and call your husband' said Jesus to her 'and come back here.' The woman answered, 'I have no husband.' He said to her, 'You are right to say, "I have no husband"; for although you have had five, the one you have now is not your husband. You spoke the truth there.' 'I see you are a prophet, sir' said the woman. 'Our fathers worshipped on this mountain, while you say that Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.' Jesus said: Believe me, woman, the hour is coming

when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know; for salvation comes from the Jews. But the hour will come – in fact it is here already – when true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth: that is the kind of worshiper the Father wants. God is spirit, and those who worship must worship in spirit and truth.' The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah – that is, Christ – is coming; and when he comes he will tell us everything.' 'I who am speaking to you,' said Jesus 'I am he.' At this point his disciples returned, and were surprised to find him speaking to a woman, though none of them asked, 'What do you want from her?' or, 'Why are you talking to her?' The woman put down her water jar and hurried back to the town to tell the people, 'Come and see a man who has told me everything I ever did; I wonder if he is the Christ?' This brought people out of the town and they started walking towards him. Meanwhile, the disciples were urging him, 'Rabbi, do have something to eat'; but he said, 'I have food to eat that you do not know about.' So the disciples asked one another, 'Has someone been bringing him food?' But Jesus said: 'My food is to do the will of the one who sent me, and to complete his work. Have you not got a saying: Four months and then the harvest? Well, I tell you: Look around you, look at the fields; already they are white, ready for harvest! Already the reaper is being paid his wages, already he is bringing in the grain for eternal life, and thus sower and reaper rejoice together. For here the proverb holds good: one sows, another reaps; I sent you to reap a harvest you had not worked for. Others worked for it; and you have come into the rewards of their trouble.' Many Samaritans of that town had believed in him on the strength of the woman's testimony when she said, 'He told me all I have ever done', so, when the Samaritans came up to him, they begged him to stay with them. He stayed for two days, and when he spoke to them many more came to believe; and they said to the woman, 'Now we no longer believe because of what you told us; we have heard him ourselves and we know that he really is the saviour of the world.'

Communion Antiphon

Jn 4:13-14

For anyone who drinks it, says the Lord, the water I shall give will become in him a spring welling up to eternal life.

Readings for Next Week 18/19 March

First Reading

1 Sm 16:1. 6-7. 10-13 Samuel anoints David king.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 22 R. v.1 (R.) The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Second Reading

Eph 5:8-14 Live in the light.

Gospel Acclamation

Jn 8:12 Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ! I am the light of the world, says the Lord; whoever follows me will have the light of life. Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel

Jn 9:1-41 On the Sabbath, Jesus cures a man who was blind from birth.

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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Living Water

This Third Sunday of Lent we begin the first of three gospels taken from long narratives in the Gospel of John. My understanding is that they are read on these Sundays with the catechumens who will be baptised at the Easter Vigil particularly in view. They are wonderfully rich; theologically, spiritually and pastorally. It's hard to do justice to them in the compass of a Sunday homily. Today's Gospel (John 4:5-42) features the story of Jesus' meeting and conversation with a Samaritan woman who comes to draw water from a well. As a background to this, the First Reading (Exodus 17:3-7) describes the episode where, in response to the Israelites' grumbling that they are dying of thirst in the wilderness, Moses, at the Lord's instruction, provides them with water from a rock. The provision of life-giving water forms an obvious connection between the two passages. In some respects, however, a better background to Jesus' meeting with the woman at the well would have been one of the episodes taken from the patriarchal stories where leading figures meet their future spouses at a well (Isaac and Rebekah: Genesis 24; Jacob and Rachel: Genesis 29). Earlier in the Fourth Gospel, Jesus had provided the 'best wine' at the wedding at Cana (John 2:1-11). It was the bridegroom's responsibility to provide the wine at a wedding. By doing so miraculously he has disclosed that he is Bridegroom of Israel (see also John 3:29). In his person and presence the long-promised 'nuptials' between God and Israel (Hosea 2:14-23) have been accomplished. Now, in this scene by a well in Samaria, Jesus, the Bridegroom, breaks through a strong ethnic (Jews and Samaritans) and social (man talking in public to a woman not of his family) barrier to 'woo' the Samaritans, descendants of the long-separated Northern Kingdom of Israel. In this way he seeks to overcome the age-old hostility between Jews and Samaritans, reconstituting an inclusive People of God. The long sequence follows a pattern common to most of the long narratives of the Fourth Gospel: all begins with a human need for something (for water [as here], for wine, for wholeness, for bread, for sight, for life); Jesus remedies the need miraculously – or at least, as here, implies that he can do so (getting water from the well without a bucket). The gift so provided then functions as a symbol of a much more profound gift tied to the person of Jesus: that he is the Bread of Life, the Light of the World, the Resurrection and the Life, etc. In conformity with this pattern, the first part of the episode itself has two stages. The first concerns the provision of water. Overcoming the two barriers (ethnic and social), Jesus asks the woman to slake his thirst by providing him with a drink of water. When the woman expresses surprise at this, he begins to develop a deeper, symbolic meaning by speaking of a gift ('living water') that he could provide for her if only she knew who he was. At one level, 'living water' suggests providing a constantly gushing spring, rather than the inert water of a well. At a deeper level, however, what Jesus is driving at is 'water' that would give life – not life in the sense of mere existence but the 'eternal life' that is genuinely a share in the life of God (John 1:4; etc). As will become clear later in the conversation, the gift of 'living water' is nothing else than the gift of the Spirit (cf. Paul's wonderful statement in the Second Reading: 'the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit that has been given to us' [Rom 5:5]). The woman cannot at this point get beyond the sense of ordinary water. She thinks the mysterious stranger is offering to provide it 'on tap', as it were, thereby obviating her need to keep coming to this well for water. The conversation has

reached an impasse – something familiar to all engaged in spiritual and pastoral direction. The woman cannot enter into a deeper appreciation of who Jesus is and of the real gift he has to offer until she has explored more deeply her own life and personal situation. So we move to the next stage of the drama with Jesus' instruction to her to go and call her husband. Feminist exegesis has taught us to be careful about waxing lyrical – or lurid – about the shortcomings of the woman's private life. While the scene does ultimately suggest that she undergoes a profound conversion, she is also a symbolic figure, symbolic of her Samaritan people. Jews considered Samaritan religion debased and tainted with idolatry eyes. The woman's 'five husbands' could refer to false gods they had at times worshipped. Her present lack of a husband could indicate the present readiness of the Samaritans to be 'wed' to Jesus, Israel's true Bridegroom, Jesus. The knowledge of her private life that Jesus displays leads the woman to recognise him as a prophet. Prophets, you see, can see beneath the surface of things. This prompts her in turn to bring up the question of worship, a matter of hot contention between her people and the Jews. The Samaritans worship God 'on this mountain' (Mt Gerazim) in Samaria, the Jews only in the Temple at Jerusalem. Jesus resolves the issue, speaking of a 'worship' of a different order completely transcending locale. The hour is coming – 'and now is' (in the person of Jesus) – when those who worship God as God now wants to be worshipped do so 'in spirit and in truth'. That is, not through animal sacrifices such as were conducted at the temples but through a worship proceeding from a heart that is truly converted through the gift of the Spirit (see 20:22-23) and through acceptance of the revelation of God ('the truth') present in the person of Jesus. When the woman goes on to speak of the Messiah who is to come, Jesus reveals himself to be that figure, employing a phrase rich with resonance of the revelation of Israel's God: 'I am he' (see Exod 3:14). The whole drama moves to its second part as the disciples return and are surprised to find Jesus talking with a woman, bridging therefore the social (gender) as well as the ethnic barrier. The woman herself sets aside her waterjar; she can abandon her quest for ordinary water. She is already grasping something of the true gift that Jesus has to give her, of which ordinary water was simply a symbol: the life-giving gift of the Spirit and revelation of the truth. The woman, in fact, now becomes a missionary to her own people. Though not strictly literal, I do like the translation of her invitation that I came across somewhere: 'Come and see a man who told me the story of my life.' What better summing up of spiritual or pastoral direction could there be than this? 'Come and see someone who has helped me see my life, with all its ups and downs, failures and wanderings, not as a disjointed series of episodes, many without meaning, but as a coherent story – an unfolding story of salvation. Noteworthy, too, is the sense that even while her journey of faith is incomplete, while she is still wondering ('I wonder if he is the Christ?'), the woman begins to attract people to Jesus. She has become a missionary. The final scenes describe the success of her mission. As a result of her testimony Jesus reaps a rich 'harvest' among the Samaritans, who come to acknowledge him as 'Saviour of the world' – a hint of universal significance outstripping the confines not only of Israel but Samaria as well. Jesus has no need of the ordinary food that the disciples have brought for him. His 'food' is to carry out the will of the One (the Father) who sent him. He already has this 'food' in the now evident success of the Samaritan mission. We should not

neglect the wonderful passage from St Paul that forms the Second Reading (Romans 5:1-2, 5-8). Presumably, it has been included here because of the mention of the Spirit's being 'poured out into our hearts', the same image of the Spirit as a gift of water. In essence Paul is developing here an argument for hope. Hope springs from the consideration of what God has already done for us and the extremity of love that that implies. If God has shown so much love for us when we were 'sinners' and 'enemies' – giving the Son to die for us – how much more confident can we be that God's love will see us through to final salvation, now that we have

become – through faith and justification – God's friends (lit. 'reconciled'). Hope flows from the sense of the extremity of God's love communicated by the Spirit. The whole scene shows how one person's conversion in conversation with Jesus foreshadows and indeed leads to a world-wide outreach of salvation. And it all began with God's Word incarnate placing himself in a situation of human need. The one who thirsted for ordinary water imparts to those who believe in him the 'living water' of the Spirit.

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**POPE FRANCIS
ANGELUS
Saint Peter's Square
Sunday, 5 March 2023**

Dear brothers and sisters, buongiorno!

On this Second Sunday of Lent, the Gospel of the Transfiguration is proclaimed. Jesus takes Peter, James and John with him on the mountain and is revealed to them in all his beauty as Son of God (cf. Mt 17:1-9).

Let us pause a moment over this scene and ask ourselves: Of what does this beauty consist? What do the disciples see? A special effect? No, that is not it. They see the light of God's holiness shining on the face and on the clothing of Jesus, the perfect image of the Father. God's majesty, God's beauty is revealed. But God is Love. Therefore, the disciples had been beholding with their eyes the beauty and splendour of divine Love incarnate in Christ. They had a foretaste of paradise. What a surprise for the disciples! They had the face of Love before their very eyes for so long without ever being aware of how beautiful it was! Only now do they realize it with such joy, with immense joy.

In reality, through this experience, Jesus is forming them, preparing them for an even more important step. Soon after that, in fact, they would have to recognize the same beauty in him when he would mount the cross and his face would be disfigured. Peter struggles to understand: he would like to stop time, "pause" the scene, stay there and prolong this marvelous experience. But Jesus does not allow it. Indeed, his light cannot be reduced to a "magical moment"! It would thus become something false, artificial, something that would dissolve into the fog of passing sentiment. On the contrary, Christ is the light that orients our journey like the pillar of fire for the people in the wilderness (Ex 13:21). Jesus' beauty does not alienate his disciples from the reality of life, but gives them the strength to follow him all the way to Jerusalem, all the way to the cross. Christ's beauty is not alienating. It always brings you forward. It does not make you hide. Go forward!

Brothers and sisters, this Gospel traces a path for us too. It teaches us how important it is to remain with Jesus even when it is not easy to understand everything he says and does for us. In fact, it is by staying with him that we learn to recognize on his face the luminous beauty of love he gives us, even when it bears the marks of the cross. And it is in his school that we learn to see the same beauty on the faces of the people who walk beside us every day – family, friends, colleagues who take care of us in the most varied ways. How many luminous faces, how many smiles, how many wrinkles, how many tears and scars reveal love around us! Let us learn to recognize them and to fill our hearts with them. And then let us set out in order to bring the light we have received to others as well, through concrete acts of love (cf. 1 Jn 3:18), diving into our daily occupations more generously, loving, serving, and forgiving with greater earnestness and willingness. The con-

templation of God's wonders, the contemplation of God's face, of the Lord's face, must move us to the service of others.

We can ask ourselves: Do we know how to recognize the light of God's love in our lives? Do we recognize it with joy and gratitude on the faces of the people who love us? Do we look around us for the signs of this light that fills our hearts and open them to love and service? Or do we prefer the straw fires of idols that alienate us and close us in on ourselves? The great light of the Lord and the false, artificial light of idols. Which do I prefer?

May Mary, who kept the light of her Son in her heart even in the darkness of Calvary, accompany us always on the way of love.

After the Angelus

Dear brothers and sisters,

These past days, my thought has been often directed to the victims of the train accident that happened in Greece. Many were young students. I am praying for the deceased. I am near the wounded and to their relatives. May Our Lady comfort them.

I now express my sorrow for the tragedy that took place in the waters of Cutro, near Crotone. I am praying for the numerous victims of the shipwreck, for their relatives and for those who survived. I manifest my appreciation and my gratitude to the local population and institutions for their solidarity and hospitality toward these our brothers and sisters. I renew my appeal to everyone so that similar tragedies may not be repeated. Let the human traffickers be stopped so they do not continue to dispose of the lives of so many innocent people! May the journeys of hope never more be transformed into journeys of death. May the clear waters of the Mediterranean never more be bloodied by such tragic accidents! May the Lord give us the strength to understand and to weep.

I greet all of you, people from Rome and pilgrims from Italy and various countries. In particular, I greet the Ukrainian community from Milano who has come on the occasion of the fourth centenary of the martyrdom of the Bishop, Saint Josaphat who gave his life for the unity of Christians. Dear brothers and sisters, I praise your efforts to welcome your compatriots who have fled from the war. May the Lord, through the intercession of Saint Josaphat, grant peace to the battered Ukrainian people.

I greet the pilgrims from Lithuania and the Lithuanian community of Rome who are celebrating Saint Casimir, as well as the Catholic Romanian community from Zaragoza (Spain), and the parish groups who have come from Murcia and Jerez de la Frontera (Spain); and from Tbilisi, Georgia.

I greet the faithful from Burkina Faso, the Confirmation candidates from Scandicci and from Anzio; the faithful from Capaci, Ostia and San Mauro Abate in Rome.

I wish all of you a good Sunday. Please, do not forget to pray for me. Enjoy your meal and arrivederci!

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Acts 2:42-47

The whole community remained faithful to the teaching of the apostles, to the brotherhood, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers.

The many miracles and signs worked through the apostles made a deep impression on everyone.

The faithful all lived together and owned everything in common; they sold their goods and possessions and shared out the proceeds among themselves according to what each one needed.

They went as a body to the Temple every day but met in their houses for the breaking of bread; they shared their food gladly and generously; they praised God and were looked up to by everyone. Day by day the Lord added to their community those destined to be saved.

Third Sunday of Lent 11 & 12 March

Zimbabwe is experiencing an intense drought, exacerbated by climate change. With the support of Caritas Hwange, Priscilla learnt conservation farming skills to grow drought-resistant crops and started poultry farming to support her family during the current food crisis.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2023. 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/envelopes available from your parish, by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion, or by calling 1800 024 413.



Parish Reflection Day

Our Reflection Day last Saturday was enjoyed by 49 parishioners. We were certainly challenged to "Journey – Within" as we listened to personal stories of 'Search, Hope and Gratitude' which were given by members of our community. We then discussed in small groups how each of these experiences related to us in our own lives – happy stories, sad stories but all stories that we could share with those around us! We were provided with a lovely morning tea and lunch to keep us energised for this journey! Finally we looked at how this might translate into involvement in Parish life and we ended the day with a beautiful and very uplifting ceremony which saw each of us light a candle as a sign of our commitment to carry the light of Christ to others in our community.

If any participants took their Involvement Forms home we would like to remind them to return them to the Church. These will help in building up the life of the Forster Tuncurry Parish.



Setting the parish on fire on Reflection Day!



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

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/

Art and Spirituality Workshop

Creation of art provides an opportunity for a deepening awareness of oneself and the world, and can act as a catalyst for evoking the Spirit. Art is a means to see-to-re-search and find the living meaning of what it means to open the heart. Everyone has the ability to create art, but in order for it to be theological, the artist needs to explore ways that it makes sense of faith. Opening the heart through art involves making meaning through the creation, then reflecting on the art itself and the unfolding the moment-to-moment direct experience of the process.

This workshop will provide an opportunity to awaken the Spirit through the beauty of God's creation, prayer, and reflection. Participants will engage in art making experiences which will nourish their faith.

Date: Thursday 23 March, 9am-3pm

Venue: Kilaben Bay Community Centre

Cost: \$25 per person

To register go to:

www.eventbrite.com.au/e/art-and-spirituality-workshop-march-2023-tickets-532521174167

Way of the Cross – Sunday 26 March

This year, following over 55 years of local tradition, the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle will once again celebrate the Ecumenical Way of the Cross on the grounds of Toronto Parish, Kilaben Bay on the Fifth Sunday of Lent.

Picking up the theme from this year's World Youth Day (WYD) – "Mary arose and went with haste" – we will join with Bishop Michael Kennedy as we experience the Way of the Cross through the eyes of Mary. We will journey with creative retellings of Mary's story as shared by women from across our Diocese and fellow Christian Churches. This prayerful experience will be supported by our school communities and local WYD pilgrims.

People will start gathering at St Joseph's Toronto from 2pm at the Community Centre. The event will start at 3pm, afternoon tea will be provided.

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/68191395109>

Password: 316071 For more information contact: rose.mcallister@mn.catholic.org.au

Ignatian Camino: 15 September to 7 October

Walk the route taken in 1522 by Inigo Lopez de Loyola (who later became Saint Ignatius of Loyola). The camino will commence in Spain's Basque Country, and will conclude in the town of Manresa, near Barcelona. This 20-day pilgrimage will offer participants periods of silence, prayer, personal reflection, spiritual conversation, and sharing in small groups. Led by Michael Smith SJ, a Jesuit priest originally from New Zealand. Michael is a spiritual director, pastoral counsellor, and also teaches in the Master of Spiritual Direction at ACU. Contact Michael at michael.smith@acu.edu.au to register your interest.

Australian Catholic University courses

Master of Spiritual Direction

A coursework degree for those with a background in theology and an interest in developing a specialisation in spiritual direction. You will develop knowledge, understanding and advanced skills suited to the ethical, self-aware and safe practice of spiritual direction in the Ignatian tradition, normally in Christian contexts. For more info: www.acu.edu.au/course/master-of-spiritual-direction

Graduate Diploma of Spiritual Direction

For those who are interested in becoming a spiritual director, but do not have formal background in theology. Drawing from the Ignatian spiritual tradition, this course provides the theological, spiritual, psychological and ethical frameworks, as well as practical skills necessary to undertake spiritual direction as a ministry. For more info: www.acu.edu.au/course/graduate-diploma-in-spiritual-direction

Graduate Diploma of Supervision

Our contemporary social and cultural contexts reveal the need for accredited supervision of those working in ministry, clinical and leadership settings. This graduate degree enables you to develop advanced knowledge and skills suited to ethical, self-aware and safe practice of the supervision of individuals and groups across a number of fields, including health care, aged care, education and social service settings. Graduates may be eligible to apply for membership with the Australasian Association of Supervision (AAOS). For more info: www.acu.edu.au/course/graduate-diploma-in-supervision



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 Thursday in Feb, May, Aug & Nov, 5.30pm Meeting Room

Pastoral Council

1st Thursday Feb, May, Aug & Nov, 6.00pm Meeting Room

Novena to our Lady of Perpetual Help and Rosary

Wed 11.00am in the Church
Shiony 0411 493 086

Secular Franciscan Fraternity

4th Sunday of the month 9.00am
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

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: Phillip Gibney

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