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 5 MARCH 2023, SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR A

Dear Brothers and Sisters.

Please continue to keep our Bishop elect Michael Kennedy in your prayers in the lead up to his instillation on the 17th of March. I wonder how our Lenten disciplines are going. I hope that they are proving difficult for you. Remember what I said about the fruits of a difficult Lent. This weekend we have commenced our reflection days, I hope and pray that the Pastoral Plan that come out of that process is something to enliven our parish. Please read Acts 2: 42-47 in connection with this.

Last Sunday, immediately after the 10am Mass I departed the parish for Newcastle to attend the Rite of Election. The ceremony that occurred in the Sacred Heart Cathedral was a small but significantly important step for Michelle Quilter who will be received into the Church at the Easter Vigil. Please keep her in your prayers in the lead up to Easter. See photos below.

Please remember to let the office know if you are able to attend the Triduum. These ceremonies are beautiful. They are one long liturgy. Please come to all of it. The times are below.

Holy Thursday: 630pm. Good Friday: 3pm Holy Saturday 7pm.

Please note that Stations of the Cross will be on Good Friday at 1030am. These are a devotion and not part of the Triduum.

Easter Sunday Masses will be at 8am and 10am.

There will also be times available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and the Divine Office as well; these will be notified closer to the end of Lent.

If you are able and willing to fulfill any ministries please do contact the office and let me know. I would also dearly love to have some people who are able to serve on the Altar.

Also just to let you all know my holidays this year will be in May. I will leave on the 1st and return on the 7th of June. I will be going to the United Kingdom. For the Coronation of our King.

With Love,
Fr Peter

Parish Timetable

Mon 6 MAR	**9am** Counters– Team 3 **12pm** Community Kitchen
Tue 7 MAR	**9.30am** Christian Meditation **12pm** Community Kitchen **3.30pm** Holy Hour, Benediction & Confession **4.30pm Mass** **5.15pm** Singing Practice
Wed 8 MAR	**11am** Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help **12pm** Community Kitchen
Thu 9 MAR	**9.30am Mass** **12pm** Community Kitchen
Fri 10 MAR	**9.30am Mass**
Sat 11 MAR	**9.30am Mass** **4pm** Confession **5pm Vigil Mass**
Sun 12 MAR	**8am Mass** *Join us for morning tea in the hall* **10am Mass**

Parish Notices

- **There will be NO MASS on Wed 8th March.**

What's happening locally…

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.

The Catholic Parish of Forster-Tuncurry Columbarium and Memorial Garden currently has niches available for reservation. If you are considering The Catholic Parish of Forster-Tuncurry as the resting place for you or your loved ones, please contact the parish office. For more information visit our website: https://forstertuncurrycatholic.org.au/columbarium/

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.

CatholicCare Social Services Hunter-Manning
DIOCESE OF MAITLAND-NEWCASTLE

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 presenttation 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

Christian Initiation Australia Network

Second Sunday of Lent 4 & 5 March

Tereesa is a Gamilaroi woman from Western Sydney who struggled with homelessness while raising her four children. Through the Baabayn Young Mums and Bubs Group, Tereesa was able to reconnect with her culture and create a better future for her children. 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.

Caritas AUSTRALIA

PROJECT COMPASSION FOR ALL FUTURE GENERATIONS

Aid to the Church in Need is asking for support to provide sisters in Romania with a new heating system. The Sisters of the Mother of God are the oldest congregation of sisters in the Romanian Greek Catholic Church. The history of their community has long been one marked by persecution, particularly when Romania was under communist rule. Today the sisters continue to aid their local community with youth groups, spiritual support and counselling, as well as providing the poor with basic necessities. But they are facing a major problem. Their ancient heating system has finally broken down and needs to be replaced, but they cannot afford the cost. The sisters need your help! To make an offering and learn more visit www.aidtochurch.org/monthlyproject or scan the QR code.

Saints and Feasts

7 MARCH. STS PERPETUA AND FELICITY were martyrs of Roman Carthage, c.204. Perpetua was a young married woman with a newly born son. She was arrested for refusing to offer sacrifice to the Emperor and during this time was allowed to keep her son with her in prison. She received many visions, including that of a ladder extending to Heaven and a battle whereby she defeated Satan. Also arrested was a slave-girl called Felicity, who was advanced in pregnancy and gave birth to a girl while in prison. Perpetua and Felicity and several men were all found guilty of treason and were taken to the arena to be killed by wild beasts. Perpetua and Felicity showed great bravery and survived their encounter with a mad heifer, but at the request of the jeering crowd were eventually put to the sword.

The martyrdom of Perpetua, Felicitas, Revocatus, Saturninus and Secundulus, from the Menologion of Basil II (c. 1000 AD)

8 MARCH. ST JOHN OF GOD was originally a soldier who fought for Spain against the French and the Turks. Around the age of forty, he repented his former life and converted to a life of service to God. In 1539 he bought a house and gave shelter and care to the sick and needy. After his death, John's followers formed a Religious Order of hospitalers, the Brothers of St John of God. He is the patron saint of nurses, hospitals and the sick.

St. John of God saving the Sick from a Fire at the Royal Hospital in 1549 by Manuel Gómez-Moreno González (1880)

9 MARCH. ST FRANCES OF ROME was born in 1384. Frances was forced into marriage and lived for forty years as wife, mother and house-keeper before she was able to realise her dream of being a nun and ascetic. She established a community of laywomen who followed the Rule of St Benedict and ministered to the poor. Frances was a dedicated laywoman who in a time of plague and civil war, worked tirelessly for the poor and the sick yet without compromising her love for her husband and family. Nursing her husband till his death, she them moved into the house with the other Oblates and was superior for the four remaining years of her life. She died on this day in 1440.

Part of a series The Life of St. Frances of Rome Tor de' Specchi Monastery, Rome, Italy by Antoniazzo Romano (1468)

THE LATEST NEWS FROM OUR SAFEGUARDING PROMOTERS – 5 MAR 23

The Promoters of Safeguarding continue to endorse a culture of safeguarding within the Parish. To this end, your attention is drawn to **knowing that you, or someone you know, can do something about online abuse.**

Generally, children are more at risk of online abuse than adults. This is not only related to their immaturity and inexperience in navigating the online world but also because they often spend more time online than many adults.

If you, or someone you are supporting, answer 'Yes!' to any of the following questions, this represents online abuse.

- Has someone made you feel threatened, intimidated or humiliated online?
- Has someone used digital technology to menace, harass or offend you?
- Has someone shared an intimate image or video of you online?
- Have you seen online content that shows child abuse, terrorism or extreme violence?

Depending on the social media service or online platform, you can report, block or mute the abuse. In order to do this:

1. Collect evidence – this evidence can be screenshots, webpage address (URL), account profiles, usernames or other information about where the material is located.
2. Report to the online service – firstly, contact the online service and, if the content is not removed within 48 hours, report your issue to the Australian eSafety Commissioner (https://www.esafety.gov.au/report)
3. Prevent further contact- use functions within the app to ignore, mute or block the other person. Check privacy settings on your device(s) and use optional filtering or parental control functions.
4. Get more help – find counselling or support. For **young people** (under 18 years of age), reach out to a trusted adult, teacher or school counsellor and let them know what is happening and how it makes you feel. You can also talk or chat online to a free counselling service. Online chat support is available 24/7, 365 days a year (1800 55 1800). **Adult cyber abuse** impacts on your sense of safety, self-esteem, mental health and physical wellbeing. The most important thing to remember is that it is not your fault – you are not alone and there is help available. Again, reach out to trusted adult acquaintances &/or contact eSafety who can request or direct the removal of seriously harmful online content where the material meets the criteria for removal under the Online Safety Act.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Recently deceased: Gary Manning, Fracesco & Carolina Zinetti.

Anniversaries: Dale McCarthy, Ray Vidler, Roger Currey, Sandra Currey, Nathan Garth & Michael O'Hara

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.

Second Sunday of Lent Year A
Sunday 05 Mar 2023

Fr Peter: Brothers and Sisters, through faith in the transfigured Christ, let us bring our prayers before the Lord.

Reader: That the Holy Father Pope Francis will continue to guide the Church in Christ's message for the faithful. 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 those who have suffered harm from members of the Church may find within the Church herself a concrete response to their pain and suffering. In your mercy:

Reader: That governments will make decisions based on Christ's message of grace and mercy. In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That those who do not know Christ will come into the light and discover the glory of his Resurrection. 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 parish will have the strength to carry out anything that God asks of us. In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That the sick will know the presence of Christ our rock of salvation. In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That those who have died will shine like the sun in God's presence forever, especially Gary Manning, Fracesco & Carolina Zinetti, who have died recently and Dale McCarthy, Ray Vidler, Roger Currey, Sandra Currey, Nathan Garth & Michael O'Hara whose anniversaries occur at this time. In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Fr Peter: Loving Father, you ask us to listen to the words of your Son. Hear our prayers and give us the strength to always carry out your will and to live your word. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

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 05 Mar 2023
Second Sunday of Lent Year A

Entrance Antiphon
Cf. Ps 26:8-9
Of you my heart has spoken, Seek his face. It is your face, O Lord, that I seek; hide not your face from me.

First Reading
Gen 12:1-4
A reading from the book of Genesis
The Lord said to Abram, 'Leave your country, your family and your father's house, for the land I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name so famous that it will be used as a blessing. 'I will bless those who bless you: I will curse those who slight you. All the tribes of the earth shall bless themselves by you.' So Abram went as the Lord told him.

Responsorial Psalm
Ps 32:4-5. 18-20. 22. R. v.22
(R.) Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.
1. The word of the Lord is faithful and all his works to be trusted. The Lord loves justice and right and fills the earth with his love. (R.)

2. The Lord looks on those who revere him, on those who hope in his love, to rescue their souls from death, to keep them alive in famine. (R.)

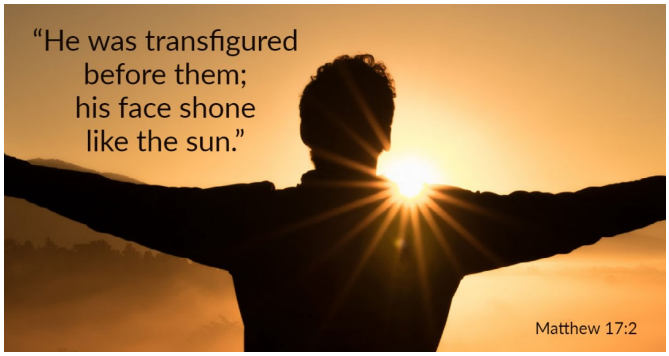
3. Our soul is waiting for the Lord. The Lord is our help and our shield. May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place all our hope in you. (R.)

Second Reading
2 Tm 1:8-10
A reading from the second letter of St Paul to Timothy
With me, bear the hardships for the sake of the Good News, relying on the power of God who has saved us and called us to be holy – not because of anything we ourselves have done but for his own purpose and by his own grace. This grace had already been granted to us, in Christ Jesus, before the beginning of time, but it has only been revealed by the Appearing of our saviour Christ Jesus. He abolished death, and he has proclaimed life and immortality through the Good News.

Gospel Acclamation
Mt 17:5
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him.
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel
Mt 17:1-9
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone. There in their presence he was transfigured; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became as white as the light. Suddenly Moses and Elijah appeared to them; they were talking with him. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Lord,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He was still speaking when suddenly a bright cloud covered them with shadow, and from the cloud there came a voice which said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; he enjoys my favour. Listen to him.' When they heard this, the disciples fell on their faces, overcome with fear. But Jesus came up and touched them. 'Stand up,' he said 'do not be afraid.' And when they raised their eyes they saw no one but only Jesus.
As they came down from the mountain Jesus gave them this order. 'Tell no one about the vision until the Son of Man has risen from the dead.'

Communion Antiphon
Mt 17:5
This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.



Readings for Next Week 11/12 March

First Reading
Ex 17:3-7 The Israelites complain to Moses in the desert.

Responsorial Psalm
Ps 94:1-2. 6-9. R. v.8 . (R.) If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Second Reading
Rom 5:1-2. 5-8 Christ laid down his life for us.

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 Jesus meets the Samaritan woman at the well.

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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.**
Glory to you, O Lord.
At the end of the Gospel:
The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

THE NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, (all bow) **and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come**

again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, (all bow) **born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Pray, brethren ... the almighty Father.
May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of His name, for our good and the good of all His holy Church.
At the end of the prayer, the people acclaim:
Amen.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord be with you. **And with your spirit.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right and just.**
After the Preface
Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

The mystery of faith. either:

We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again. or:

When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again. or:

Save us, Saviour of the world,
for by your Cross and Resurrection
you have set us free.

Through him, and with him, ... for ever and ever.
Amen.

THE COMMUNION RITE

At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:
Our Father, who art in heaven...
Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil...
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and forever.
Lord Jesus Christ, who said to your Apostles...
Who live and reign for ever and ever.
Amen.
The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And with your spirit.
Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. (X2)
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.
Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.
The Body of Christ. **Amen.**
The Blood of Christ. **Amen.**

Let us pray. At the end of the prayer, the people acclaim:
Amen.

THE CONCLUDING RITES

The Lord be with you. **And with your spirit.**
May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the † Son, and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**
either:
Go forth, the Mass is ended. or:
Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord. or:
Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your Life. or:
Go in peace.
Thanks be to God.

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SUNDAY 5 MAR 2023 REFLECTION BY BRENDAN BYRNE

Jesus Transfigured

As in all three cycles for Sundays of the year, the Gospel for this Second Sunday of Lent features the mysterious episode of the Transfiguration (Matthew 17:1-9). It is not easy, however, to see the principle behind the choice of the remaining two readings: the Call of Abraham (Gen 12:1-4) and a brief extract from the Second Letter to Timothy (1:8-10). It may be that all have to do in some sense with 'vocation' or 'calling'. This would follow on well from the theme of 'temptation' or 'test' last week, where what was at stake was the quality of trust on the part of those (Israel, Jesus, ourselves) called by God.

The call of Abraham in the First Reading marks the second great development in the Book of Genesis after the Primeval history (Genesis 1-11). Following the lapse of the first human pair (Genesis 3), the intervening material (Genesis 4-11) has been nothing else than a record of ever-increasing sin, violence and dehumanisation, culminating in the great flood (Genesis 7-9). Here creation literally goes into reverse and would have done so irrevocably had it not been for God's preservation and blessing of Noah. The building of the Tower of Babel (11:1-9) represented a futile effort on the part of human beings acting independently of the Creator to restore their status and dignity. The call of Abraham marks the beginning of a vast divine project to achieve what the people of Babel wanted but could not realise because of the evil inherent in the human heart.

Let us note key elements of the call. First, Abraham must 'leave' his father's house, his family and his country, and all the security they provide. From now on his security will rest simply in God's promise to create from him 'a great nation' and (what the people of Babel wanted) 'a great name', one so famous that it will become a byword for blessing amongst all the peoples of the earth.

The text is also open to the sense (see the NRSV) 'in you all the nations of the earth shall be blessed' – the understanding that has prevailed in most subsequent interpretation, including that of the New Testament. The sense is that the blessed existence originally intended by the Creator for human beings and the earth (Gen 1:1 – 2:3) but frustrated by human sin, will come to realisation through what is now beginning with the call of Abraham and his trusting response.

The text here sets a fundamental pattern for Christian life. We are all in some sense inheritors of the 'call' of our ancestor Abraham. Particularly in this season of Lent, we are called to sit lightly to the conventional securities offered by this world, to rest, rather, in a promise and vision of 'blessedness' held out by God.

The Second Reading from 2 Timothy goes along with this in its brief summary of Christian life and vocation. We are the people who 'rely on the power of God, who has saved us and called us to be holy (that is, people especially close to God), not because of anything we ourselves have done (cf. the futile efforts of the people of Babel) but by God's own grace'. This 'grace,' determined since the beginning of time, has now been realised in the 'appearance' (Greek: 'epiphany') of Christ Jesus.

It is probably the word 'appearance' that has led to this text from 2 Timothy being associated with the Gospel of the Transfiguration. Here we have an 'appearance' of Jesus truly unique in the accounts of his earthly life. In the biblical tradition whiteness signals closeness to God and God's heavenly court, a closeness confirmed here by the presence of two figures, Moses and Elijah, known from the biblical record to be enjoying heavenly existence (Deut 34:6; 2 Kgs 2:11). Shortly before this episode, Jesus has for the first time revealed to the disciples that the Son of Man is destined to suffer and be killed (16:21). As represented by Peter, they simply cannot square this suffering destiny with their knowledge of him to be 'the Messiah, the Son of God' (16:16, 22-23). Jesus' glorious transformation and the Father's voice from heaven ('This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him!') communicates with divine authority that these two truths must be held together: Jesus is God's beloved Son and he is, as he has said, going to fulfil his messianic vocation through suffering and death.

The disciples (specifically Peter) want to 'hold' the messianic moment ('Let us build three tents …'). But there are no 'shortcuts' to glory. From now on, precisely as God's beloved Son, Jesus is to tread the path to Jerusalem as the Messiah who came, 'not to be served but to serve and give his life as a ransom for many' (20:28). It is with this deepened sense of his vocation – and ours – that we are invited to continue with him our Lenten journey to Jerusalem.

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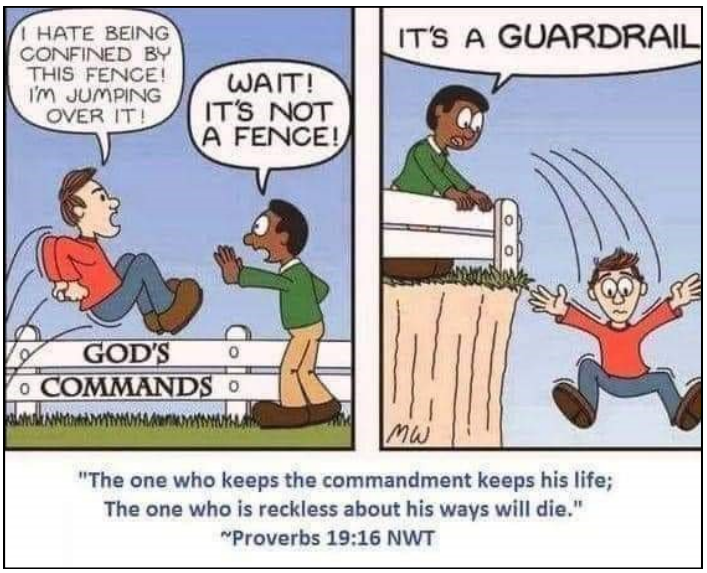

CONNECT WITH CARITAS AUSTRALIA

This Lent, learn more about our impact in Africa

To celebrate the Feast Day of St Oscar Romero, Caritas Australia invites you to connect with our staff and partners and discover how our work is making a difference now and for all future generations.

'Connect with Caritas Australia' is a unique opportunity to ask questions about our programs in Africa and to dig deeper into the work of our partner in Zimbabwe.

Date: Thursday, 23 March, 2023

Time: 7.00-8.00pm AEDT

Register for this Zoom event: www.caritas.org.au/connect

POPE FRANCIS
ANGELUS
Saint Peter's Square
Sunday, 26 February 2023

Dear brothers and sisters, buongiorno!

The Gospel of this first Sunday of Lent presents to us Jesus in the desert, tempted by the devil (cf. Mt 4:1-11). "Devil" means "divider". The devil always wants to create division, and it is what he sets out to do by tempting Jesus. Let us see, then, from whom he wants to divide him, and how he tempts him.

From whom does the devil want to divide Jesus? After receiving Baptism from John in the Jordan, Jesus was called by the Father "my beloved Son" (Mt 3:17), and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in the form of a dove (cf. v. 16). The Gospel thus presents us the three divine Persons joined in love. Then Jesus himself will say that he came into the world to make us, too, partake in the unity between him and the Father (cf. Jn 17:11). The devil, instead, does the opposite: he enters the scene to divide Jesus from the Father and to distract him from his mission of unity for us. He always divides.

Let us now see how he tries to do it. The devil wants to take advantage of the human condition of Jesus, who is weak as he has fasted for forty days and is hungry (cf. Mt 4:2). The evil one then tries to instil in him three powerful "poisons", to paralyse his mission of unity. These poisons are attachment, mistrust, and power. First and foremost, the poison of attachment to material goods, to needs; with persuasive arguments the devil tries to convince Jesus: "You are hungry, why must you fast? Listen to your need and satisfy it, you have the right and the power: transform the stones into bread". Then the second poison, mistrust: "Are you sure the Father wants what is good for you? Test him, blackmail him! Throw yourself down from the highest point of the temple and make him do what you want". Finally, power: "You have no need for your Father! Why wait for his gifts? Follow the criteria of the world, take everything for yourself, and you will be powerful!". The three temptations of Jesus. And we too live among these temptations, always. It is terrible, but that is just how it is, for us too: attachment to material things, mistrust and the thirst for power are three widespread and dangerous temptations, which the devil uses to divide us from the Father and to make us no longer feel like brothers and sisters among ourselves, to lead us to solitude and desperation. He wanted to do this to Jesus, he wants to do it to us: to lead us to desperation.

But Jesus defeats the temptations. And how does he defeat them? By avoiding discussion with the devil and answering with the Word of God. This is important: you cannot argue with the devil, you cannot converse with the devil! Jesus confronts him with the Word of God. He quotes three phrases from the Scripture that speak of freedom from goods (cf. Dt 8:3), trust (cf. Dt 6:16), and service to God (cf. Dt 6:13), three phrases that are opposed to temptation. He never enters into dialogue with the devil, he does not negotiate with him, but he repels his insinuations with the beneficent Words of the Scripture. It is an invitation to us too; one cannot defeat him by negotiating with him, he is stronger than us. We defeat the devil by countering him in faith with the divine Word. In this way, Jesus teaches us to defend unity with God and among ourselves from the attacks of the divider. The divine Word that is Jesus' answer to the temptation of the devil.

And we ask ourselves: what place does the Word of God have in my life? Do I turn to it in my spiritual struggles? If I have a vice or a recurrent temptation, why do I not obtain help by seeking out a verse of the Word of God that responds to that vice? Then, when temptation comes, I recite it, I pray it, trusting in the grace of Christ. Let us try, it will help us in temptation, it will help us a great deal, so that, amid the voices that stir within us, the beneficent one of the Word of God will resound. May Mary, who welcomed the Word of God and with her humility defeated the pride of the divider, accompany us in the spiritual struggle of Lent.

After the Angelus

Dear brothers and sisters,

Distressing news continues to arrive from the Holy Land: many people killed, even children… How can this spiral of violence be stopped? I renew my appeal to make dialogue prevail over hatred and vengeance, and I pray to God for the Palestinians and Israelis, that they may find the path to fraternity and peace, with the help of the international community.

I am also very concerned about the situation in Burkina Faso, where terrorist attacks continue. I invite you to pray for the people of that dear country, so that the violence they have suffered does not make them lose faith in the path of democracy, justice and peace.

This morning I learned with sorrow of the shipwreck off the Calabrian coast, near Crotone. Forty dead have already been recovered, including many children. I pray for each one of them, for the missing and for the other surviving migrants. I thank those who have brought relief and those who are providing shelter. May Our Lady sustain these brothers and sisters of ours. And let us not forget the tragedy of the war in Ukraine; the war has already continued for a year. And let us not forget the suffering of the Syrian and Turkish people due to the earthquake.

I address my greeting to all of you who have come from Italy and from other countries. I greet the pilgrims from Spain, Portugal, Mexico and Croatia. I greet the faithful of Palermo, Montelepre, Termini Imerese and Riese Pio X; the students of the Interregional Seminary of Campania in Naples; teenagers from various parishes of the diocese of Milan; the young candidates for Confirmation from Cavaion and Sega, Verona; the group from Limbadi and the children about to receive their First Communion, from Sant'Aurea in Ostia Antica.

I welcome the Italian Organ Donors' Association, which is celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of its founding: I thank you for your commitment to social solidarity, and I urge you to continue to promote life through the donation of organs. A special greeting goes to those who have come on the occasion of World Rare Diseases Day, which will take place the day after tomorrow; I reiterate my encouragement to the Associations of the sick and their relatives; may our closeness never be lacking, especially to children, to let them feel God's love and tenderness.

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

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Enrolment is now open for the 2023/2024 Graduate Certificate in Mission & Culture (GCMC)

The Diocese of Maitland Newcastle in partnership with the Faculty of Theology and Philosophy at the Australian Catholic University (ACU) is offering the Graduate Certificate in Mission and Culture (GCMC). This innovative and integrated formation and education program is designed specifically to support the leadership development needs across the diocese.

The GCMC was conceived for professionals in Catholic institutions and related agencies who wish to enhance their understanding of the Christian and Catholic context in which they exercise leadership.
"The Graduate Certificate in Mission and Culture fosters creative and constructive responses to real-world issues. It enables new patterns of thinking, of learning, of working, and of being that advance the Catholic character and ethos of the diocese and all who serve it."
Professor Dermot Nestor, Executive Dean, Faculty of Theology and Philosophy, ACU

The course provides participants with the necessary higher-level skill sets to think theologically around their organisational leadership practices and to develop skills in the promotion of a Christian and specifically Catholic culture.

The diocese offers a number of sponsored places, to find out more information go to: https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/faith-formation/australian-catholic-university-acu/

evangelise

Evangelise conference video resources now available for all

Recordings from the October 2022 Evangelise conference are now available publicly, through the new online video resource library, Evangelise Plus (www.evangeliseplus.com.au).

Celebrating 50 Years
REMEMBER CELEBRATE IMAGINE
CATHOLIC THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF DIVINITY

Enrolments are still open for Semester 1 at Catholic Theological College.

We have many areas of study that may be of interest such as ***John Henry Newman and the Church in the Nineteenth Century, Pastoral Leadership for a Safe Church and many online options***

For more information contact: registrar@ctc.edu.au
or visit ctc.edu.au

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE OFFICE FOR JUSTICE, ECOLOGY AND PEACE
SOCIAL JUSTICE TRENDS

Challenging Slavery at Easter

Each Easter, millions of Australians will enjoy a chocolate egg or bilby, but few consider the dark reality of exploitation that lurks within its supply chains. The chocolate industry has long been tainted by reports of forced labor and slavery, particularly in West African countries such as Ghana and Ivory Coast, which produce most of the world's cocoa.
The International Labor Organization says that an estimated 1.56 million children are involved in hazardous work in cocoa production in West Africa, with many forced to work long hours, use dangerous equipment, and endure physical and emotional abuse.
"Every person ought to have the awareness that purchasing is always a moral – and not simply an economic – act."
– Pope Francis
Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans (ACRATH) this year is encouraging Australians to join the campaign for Slavery Free Easter eggs and Chocolate.
While some chocolate companies have taken steps to address these issues, such as implementing certification programs and working with local communities to improve working conditions, progress has been slow and there is still much work to be done.
Consumers can play a role in combating slavery in chocolate supply chains by choosing to buy from companies that have transparent and ethical sourcing practices, and by supporting advocacy efforts to hold the industry accountable. Which of the following actions will you pledge to do this year?
● Commit to buying only chocolate carrying the Rainforest Alliance or Fairtrade certification logo. Companies sourcing cocoa certified by Rainforest Alliance or Fairtrade are working towards the elimination of slavery in the cocoa industry.
● Tell at least five other people about slavery in the cocoa industry and encourage them to buy products displaying the Rainforest Alliance or Fairtrade logo. They will discover how delicious it tastes.
● Display the ACRATH poster in your school, parish, workplace or home.
● Make a donation to support the work of ACRATH. Donations can be made online at https://www.trybooking.com/au/donate/acrath.
Thanks to ACRATH for the above information. To find more information about this topic, go to the ACRATH web site at: https://acrath.org.au/take-action/chocolate/
by harrison.pocknee@catholic.org.au
02/23/2023

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

Divine Retreat Centre – March 2023 Program

The Divine Retreat Centre will host several retreats in March, they include:

- 1st Friday Healing Service, Chatswood – 3 March
- One Day Malayalam Retreat – 4 March
- Lenten Growth Retreat – 17 to 19 March
- Spiritual Retreat at St Patrick's Wallsend – 20 March
- Spiritual Retreat at St Luke;s Revesby – 21 March
- One Day Pilgrimage – 26 March

For more information, visit www.divineretreatcentre.org

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

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).

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.

Expressions of Interest for 2023/2024 Christian Formation Course are now open

Are you wanting to know more about Christianity and develop a deeper understanding of the Catholic Church?

The Christian Formation Course (CFC) is a learning experience that allows participants to explore the foundational elements of the Catholic Faith Tradition. This one-year course introduces participants to scripture, theology, church history, sacramental life and liturgy. The Course runs across twelve (12) months and comprises eight (8) units. All who complete the Course are awarded a diocesan Certificate in Christian Formation by engaging in the course, it is hoped participants will: become more confident in understanding the Catholic faith grow in their capacity to reflect on their life's journey realise that Christian faith is nurtured in community be affirmed in their gifts for participating in the life of the faith community grow in awareness of what it means to be a responsive member of the faith community. Commencing on Tuesday 2 May 2023, no prerequisite formation or qualification is required to enrol. To find out more about the Christian Formation Course, visit: www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/faith-formation/christian-formation-course/

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

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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