



Bridgeside Bulletin



The weekly Bulletin of the Catholic Parish of Forster Tuncurry

"Unity in Christ"

Holy Name of Jesus Church, 31 Lake Street, Forster 2428 NSW

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

SUNDAY 23 MARCH 2025

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR C

Parish Priest

Fr John Vo Vien

E: John.Vo@mn.catholic.org.au

Emergency Contact:

0458 327 219

(Please only calls to this phone
and leave a voicemail message,
no texts)

Admin Assistant

Jade Le

E: jade.le@mn.catholic.org.au

Office Hours:

Tue, Thu & Fri: 9am - 3.30pm

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www.forstertuncurrycatholic.org.au

Follow us on facebook:

@catholicparishofforstertuncurry

WEEKEND MASS TIMES

Sat 5.00pm

Sun 8.00am & 10.00am

RECONCILIATION

9.00am & 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: 3rd Thu 10.30am

Baptistcare: 4th Wed 2.00pm

BAPTISMS

Celebrated most Sundays during
Mass and Saturday mornings
after Mass.

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

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

There was an astronomer who had just completed his telescope. He placed it on the rooftop and every night, he gazed at the stars in the sky.

One evening, he suddenly discovered a blue dragon on the moon's surface. He shared the news with his friends, and soon, people flocked to see the strange creature. Everyone praised the astronomer. However, an elderly scholar also came to take a look. After examining the telescope, he shook his head and continued to observe the lens carefully. Finally, he discovered a blue thread tangled around the lens and told the astronomer: "My friend, before observing the stars, check your telescope for any issues." The telescope in the story is a symbolic representation of how we view life and others.

Today's Gospel reading for the Third Sunday of Lent invites us to reflect on our own lives, to identify what is lacking, incorrect, or sinful, and to make amends, convert, and renew ourselves. This is more important than merely judging, criticizing, and condemning others.

I am pleased to announce that Bishop Michael has appointed **Deacon Vincent (Vince) Michael Ryan and Deacon John Pelletier** as Parish Deacons in the parishes of Gloucester, Krambach, Forster Tuncurry, Taree, and Wingham, under the supervision of Fr Andrew Doohan who will be the newly appointed Parish Priest in Gloucester and Krambach from 1st April; Fr John Vo, Parish Priest in Forster Tuncurry; and Fr Kevin Corrigan, Parish Priest in Taree and Wingham.

Their appointment is from 1st April 2025 until the bishop advises them otherwise in writing.

Let us warmly welcome and congratulate Deacon Vince and Deacon John! We wish them all the best in their ministry.

I am thrilled to let you know that **my parents, Matthew and Lucia**, have arrived in Australia on Saturday, March 22nd. They are staying with me at the presbytery until Easter. I hope you have a chance to say hello to them. Please note that they cannot speak English, but I will be happy to assist with translation.

My parents would like to express their heartfelt gratitude to our parish community for your prayers and financial support, which have made their trip possible.

You will have the opportunity to hear from them personally, as they will be sharing few words at all Masses next weekend.

Thank you, and I look forward to introducing them to you all!

God bless,

Fr John

Photo: Fr John's
parents



PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:**Recently deceased:** Ellen Stewart, Brian Rudkin**Anniversaries:** Dhenden Prudente, Vina Taping, Ceferino & Temotea Prudente, Jose & Rosario De Guzman, Rizal & Jesusa Abellera, Patrick Abellera, Divide Goc-Ong, Gaudencia Prudente, Ananias & Epifania Sabac, Milchor Sabac, Geronimo Sabac, Marcris Eduard Ingaran.**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:** Maureen Stevens, John Fazio, Norma Pope.**Sunday 23 Mar 2025 Third Sunday of Lent Year C****Entrance Antiphon** Cf Psalm 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 Exodus 3:1-8. 13-15

A reading from the book of Exodus

Moses was looking after the flock of Jethro, his father-in-law, priest of Midian. He led his flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in the shape of a flame of fire, coming from the middle of a bush. Moses looked; there was the bush blazing but it was not being burnt up. 'I must go and look at this strange sight,' Moses said, 'and see why the bush is not burnt.' Now the Lord saw him go forward to look, and God called to him from the middle of the bush. 'Moses, Moses!' he said. 'Here I am' he answered. 'Come no nearer' he said. 'Take off your shoes, for the place on which you stand is holy ground. I am the God of your father,' he said 'the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.' At this Moses covered his face, afraid to look at God.

And the Lord said, 'I have seen the miserable state of my people in Egypt. I have heard their appeal to be free of their slave-drivers. Yes, I am well aware of their sufferings. I mean to deliver them out of the hands of the Egyptians and bring them up out of that land to a land rich and broad, a land where milk and honey flow.'

Then Moses said to God, 'I am to go, then, to the sons of Israel and say to them, "The God of your fathers has sent me to you." But if they ask me what his name is, what am I to tell them?' And God said to Moses, 'I Am who I Am. This' he added 'is what you must say to the sons of Israel: "The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you." This is my name for all time; by this name I shall be invoked for all generations to come.'

Responsorial Psalm Ps 102:1-4. 6-8. 11. R. v.8

(R.) The Lord is kind and merciful.

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

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

3. The Lord does deeds of justice, gives judgement for all who are oppressed. He made known his ways to Moses and his deeds to Israel's sons. (R.)

4. The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy. For as the heavens are high above the earth so strong is his love for those who fear him. (R.)

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12

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

I want to remind you how our fathers were all guided by a cloud above them and how they all passed through the sea. They were all baptised into Moses in this cloud and in this sea; all ate the same spiritual food and all drank the same spiritual drink, since they all drank from the spiritual rock that followed them as they went, and that rock was Christ. In spite of this, most of them failed to please God and their corpses littered the desert.

These things all happened as warnings for us, not to have the wicked lusts for forbidden things that they had. You must never complain: some of them did, and they were killed by the Destroyer.

All this happened to them as a warning and it was written down to be a lesson for us who are living at the end of the age. The man who thinks he is safe must be careful that he does not fall.

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 4:17

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Repent, says the Lord; the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel

Luke 13:1-9

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Some people arrived and told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with that of their sacrifices. At this he said to them, 'Do you suppose these Galileans who suffered like that were greater sinners than any other Galileans? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen on whom the tower at Siloam fell and killed them? Do you suppose that they were more guilty than all the other people living in Jerusalem? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did.'

He told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came looking for fruit on it but found none. He said to the man who looked after the vineyard, "Look here, for three years now I have been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and finding none. Cut it down: why should it be taking up the ground?" "Sir," the man replied "leave it one more year and give me time to dig round it and manure it: it may bear fruit next year; if not, then you can cut it down."

Communion Antiphon

John 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.

Parish Timetable

Mon 24 Mar	9.00am Counters – Team 2 11.00am Funeral for Ellen Stewart
Tue 25 Mar	9.30am Christian Meditation 3.30pm Holy Hour, Benediction & Confession 4.30pm Mass (The Annunciation of the Lord) 5.30pm Singing practice (Church)
Wed 26 Mar	<u>9.30am No Mass</u> 11.00am Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help
Thu 27 Mar	8.00am Mass
Fri 28 Mar	9.30am Mass
Sat 29 Mar	9.00am Confession 9.30am Mass 4.00pm Confession 5.00pm Vigil Mass
Sun 30 Mar	8.00am Mass Join us for morning tea after Mass 10.00am Mass Join us for morning tea after Mass

Office Hours: Wed, Thu & Fri: 9am - 3.30pm

Community Kitchen Hours: Mon to Thu: 12pm - 1pm

THE LATEST NEWS FROM OUR SAFEGUARDING PROMOTERS – 23 MAR 2025

The Promoters of Safeguarding continue to endorse a culture of safeguarding within the Parish. This week, your attention is drawn to continuing **online fraud targeting the elderly**.

Online fraud of seniors is an ongoing concern, as scammers exploit their trust and limited familiarity with technology. These fraudulent activities often involve deception, where criminals pose as legitimate institutions such as banks, government agencies, or even family members. The goal is to steal personal information, money, or both. Common tactics include the emails looking legitimate to trick you into falling for the scam, fraudulent phone calls, fake online ads, and fraudulent online shopping scams. Elderly victims might receive **emails or phone calls claiming they've won a prize, need to make urgent payments including fines, or must provide personal information to prevent identity theft**. These scams prey on the emotional vulnerability of seniors, often leading them to act quickly without questioning the authenticity of the situation.

It is vital to educate older adults about the risks of online fraud. Awareness, scepticism, security measures like strong passwords and two-factor authentication can help protect seniors from falling victim to scams. **Additionally, family members should regularly offer guidance on safe internet practices.**

Annie Evans

PARISH NOTICES

♦ There will be **NO MASS Wednesday 26 March** as Fr John will be away.

♦ Jade Le (Parish Secretary) will be on annual leave from 15th March until 25th March 2025.

Parish Office will be closed from **15th March until 25th March 2025** and will reopen on **Wednesday, 26th March 2025**.

♦ **Stations of the Cross booklets** are now available on the table in the church for private prayer.

FUNERAL NOTICE

A funeral for the **late Ellen Stewart** will be held in Holy Name Church on **Monday 24th March at 11am**. Please pray for her family at this time.

CHANGES TO THE SUNDAY COLLECTION

Starting on **Sunday 6th April** we will make some changes to the way we take up the collection during Mass.

The **1st Collection** (the Parish collection, for planned giving envelopes and donations to assist with the running of the parish) will occur during the Offertory.

The **2nd Collection** (for the care of the clergy) will occur straight after Communion and then the reflection Hymn is played.

The purpose of these changes is to avoid confusion, particularly for our visitors, who may find it unclear when two collection bags are being handed out together.

Thank you for your understanding!

SOCIAL JUSTICE AFTERNOON

Forster Uniting Church

Palm Sunday 13 April. 2pm – 4pm

Guest Speaker - Tim Prescott

Entertainment

Afternoon Tea Provided

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Preparation 2: Monday, 24th March 3:30pm-4:30pm in Parish Hall. Parents will pick up your child at 4:30pm. **Please keep our children and their families in your prayers.**

Readers Roster for Next Week 29/30 March

Sat 5pm: Brook Stephens - Michael Siddle - Tony Stevens

Sun 8am: Maria Armitage - Mick Doyle - Norm Chapman

Sun 10am: Monique Johnson - Julie Livingstone - Lois McPherson

Readings for Next Week 29/30 March

First Reading: [Joshua 5:9-12](#)

Second Reading: [2 Corinthians 5:17-21](#)

Gospel: [Luke 15:1-3, 11-32](#)



Third Sunday of Lent 22nd and 23rd of March 2025

Lam is 27 years old from a small village in rural Vietnam who faced significant challenges due to his short stature. Growing up, Lam often felt isolated due to limited job opportunities and difficulty moving around his community. While his friends started jobs after high school, Lam stayed home with his parents, unsure if he could ever achieve his dream of becoming a graphic designer.

Everything changed when Lam joined the I-SHINE program, supported by Caritas Australia. Through this initiative Lam completed a six-month course developing his graphic design skills. Along the way, he built confidence, made friends and gained a sense of connection.

Today, Lam runs a successful freelance graphic design business from home, serving clients worldwide and earning a steady income. Lam hopes his story will encourage other young people with disabilities to overcome obstacles and pursue their dreams.

Lam's journey shows how your support of Project Compassion empowers individuals to break barriers and transform their lives. Will you walk alongside people like Lam this Lent?



Photo credit: Caritas Australia

Please donate today.

You can support Project Compassion 2025 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code above.

Or online at: caritas.org.au/project-compassion

Or by calling: 1800 024 413

Thank you for standing with us, as we *Unite Against Poverty this Lent*.

COMMUNITY KITCHEN

Serving meals to the community from the Parish Hall **Mon, Tue, Wed, & Thu 12pm-1pm**. For volunteer opportunities contact Meg Norling on **0409 840 054**

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**. <http://childprotection@mn.catholic.org.au>

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: Mr Ben Doyle

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: Mrs Christine Harmer

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

0408 768 729.

Singing Practice

Ken Heffernan 0475 242 695 (see parish timetable)

Holy Hour

First Friday of the month, 6pm &

Tues 3.30pm in the Church

Parish Council

1st Thursday of the month at

4.30pm, Meeting Room

Finance Council

3rd Wednesday in Feb, May, Aug &

Nov, 5.30pm 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

Desiree Bennett: 0429 200 555

Promoters of Safeguarding

Annie Evans 0412 620 962

Fr John 0475 242 695

Jade Le 0475 242 695