**PARISH NEWS**

 **14th May 2017**

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life,’ says the Lord. ‘No one comes to the Father except through me.’ John 14:6

**PARISH BARBECUE TODAY**

Don’t forget the Parish Barbecue today - Sunday, 14th May, at 12 noon. Bring your own steaks or sausages and have them expertly cooked by the Parish Chefs. Or just bring your own sandwich and join in the fellowship!

**MEN’S DINNER**

Tuesday 6th June 2017

6.00pm for 6.30pm St Albans Forster

Speaker: Max Donnellan speaking about “My Life in TV Production”

Cost $12 ph for 2 course dinner. Drinks available.

Lists at Forster & Tuncurry Churches or phone Clive Davies 0412 653061

**FAMILIES MINISTER**

As we investigate ways forward for both financing and securing a Families Minister for our parish, please pray for guidance for those who will make the decisions.

**SAMARITANS FOOD**

For May – Soups – tinned or packet.

**In Our Prayers:**

**Our Parish:**

* Aged care workers
* Please continue to pray for people with ongoing needs in your prayers each day:

*If you would like to add someone to the Parish Prayer list, be sure to obtain permission from the person concerned and then contact the Parish Office.*

**Our Diocese:**

* Bishop Greg and Assistant Bishop Peter
* Parishes of Southlakes and Swansea
* Manning Valley Anglican College
* Charitable organisaitons
* Diocese of Northern Territory

**The World:**

* The Episcopal Church in New Jersey (USA)
* Liz Burns (CMS Tanzania)

We commend to God’s keeping those who have recently died and we pray for those who mourn their passing. We remember with thanks those whom we have loved whose anniversary occurs at this time.

**COURTHOUSE ROSTER**

17th May Mavis Humphries & Margaret Connell

7th June Heather Milligan & Patricia Dastidar

**CONTACT DETAILS**

**Parish Priest:** The Reverend Mark Harris 6555 4200

 revmarkharris@icloud.com

**Priest in Local Mission** The Reverend Bill Green 6555 4200

**Parish Office:** St. Alban’s Anglican Church: 6555 4200

 info@forsteranglican.com

**Parish Secretary** Judy Hall 0400 890 728

**Op Shop:** Head St Car park 6555 4267 Enquiries: 6555 4200

**Book Shop** bookshop@forsteranglican.com6555 4272

**Parish Website:** www.forsteranglican.com

**Items for Parish News:**

Email: PN@forsteranglican.com or phone Janet 6554 5981 or parish office 6555 4200 by 12noon Wednesday.

**Our Bank Details:** BSB**:** **705 077** Account: **000400710**

Acc Name: **Anglican Parish of Forster/Tuncurry**

**CANCER RESEARCH MORNING TEA**

The morning tea for Cancer Research will now be held on Saturday June 17th at 10am. This will be hosted by the Tuncurry Friendship Group. More details to come.

**CELEBRATING THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN**

The diocese has organised three events to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the ordination of women to the diaconate and has extended a welcome to all to attend. They are as follows:

Wednesday May 10: Celebration Eucharist at 11am at Christ Church Cathedral, Newcastle.

Saturday June 3: Diocesan Celebration and Eucharist at 11am at Christ Church Cathedral, Newcastle.

Tuesday June 6: Conference Eucharist & Diocesan Anglican Women’s Service at 10.30am at Christ Church Cathedral, Newcastle.

Notices are on display in the foyer of each church and further information can be located at [www.newcastleanglican.org.au/events](http://www.newcastleanglican.org.au/events)

**SOME BOOK REVIEWS**

Smuggling The Light *Esther Chang & Eugene Back* ($22.99?)

OK. I’ll admit it. Because I have been spoilt by quality literature, I did not at first take to this book. The style for me was just a little too plain. I’m glad that I persevered though, as in the end, the starkness of the style was well-suited to the amazing biography that followed.

Esther Chang ( not her real name – for security purposes) is a Chinese missionary working with North Koreans. Originally North Korean herself, Esther lived in the north of China, near the Korean border and was an avid non-Christian until her twenties when she converted due to the gentle, persistent persuasion of her ‘grandmother’.

Following this conversion and through a deepening of her faith, she began to work supporting North Korean refugees who came to her village at first with food, clothing, shelter and the provision of bathing facilities, and later with messages about Jesus Christ. This then extended to the provision of bibles and establishing supportive prayer and study groups.

The humane tasks that she performed were done so at considerable risk – both in terms of her own country and that of North Korea – which she frequently visited, bring much needed supplies to starving villagers. This later resulted in her imprisonment and torture at the hands of officials from both countries.

Her story of survival and unfailing service, is an incredible one – and some of the horrors that she witnessed, at first hand, are made the more graphic by the simple starkness of the unfolding narrative. In the light of the current tense climate of North Korea, all should read this book. I highly recommend it.

Forgotten God *Francis Chan* ($19.99)

With Pentecost approaching, it is timely to reflect on the Holy Spirit – the spirit which energises and encourages us to follow Christ and worship our God.

In my readings, I have found plenty of material on Jesus Christ and so much on God – but about the third member of the Trinity, there is not so much written. This book fills some of that gap.

The book outlines the special gifts that the Holy Spirit brings, not only by references to the bible but also through narrative explanation and referencing to specific examples. I especially enjoyed the chapter on the theology of the Holy Spirit (Chapter 3) where the author discusses some of the things that have been revealed about the Holy Spirit. He further expounds aspects on the Trinity by explaining that there is no simplistic metaphor for explaining our triunal God – saying that to simplify our God into such cute terms as a triangle or formulae for water (ice, water, steam) or egg (shell, yolk, white) is to do considerable injustice to the greatness of our God. Instead he outlines some practical truths about the Spirit: He is a person; He is God; He is eternal and Holy; He has his own mind and He prays for us; He has emotions; and, He has His own desires and will; He is omnipotent, omnipresent and omniscient.

The Holy Spirit can be the power behind and within us as we seek to deepen our Christian faith. This book helps in explaining how we can more fully realise the gifts that He bestows upon us.

Judy Hall

**AGED CARE SERVICE – 17th MAY**

Every third Wednesday of the month there is an Anglican Service held at Kularoo Gardens at 2.00pm. It would be thoughtful and caring if a few extra parishioners could come along to support the residents.

It you are unsure of just where the Chapel is, give me a ring and I can meet you at the front door.

Lyn Davies 0491-136-455

**ANGLICAN WOMEN’S ANNUAL SERVICE 2017**

The Anglican Women’s Annual Service will be at

Christ Church Cathedral, Church Street, Newcastle on Tuesday, 6th June.

* Morning tea from 9.45 am.
* Holy Eucharist 10.30 am. Celebrant: Rt Rev Dr Peter Stuart. Preacher: The Ven Canon Sonia Roulston.
* 11.45 am Guest Speaker: Rt Rev Kay Goldsworthy, Bishop of Gippsland.
* BYO lunch, coffee and tea provided.
* 1.15 pm The Rev Di Langham, Chaplain, Cessnock Gaol.

Ring Marg Gogerly 6554-6708 or Helen Barber 0419-996-594 if you would like to come.

**PARISH NAME BADGES**

A reminder about Parish Name Badges they can be supplied at a cost of $10 and $12 for the new metallic magnetic clip. To order please contact Suellen 6554 8264 or the Parish Office 65554200.