**PARISH NEWS**

 **16th April 2017**

 **EASTER DAY**

*Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us; therefore let us keep the feast. The Lord is risen indeed, alleluia!*

****1 Corinthians 5: 7–8

**Easter - A time of light and hope!**

Sometimes we wonder why dark things happen in our world? Sometimes we wish there was more hope for everyone? Enter Easter! An amazing celebration of hope! Because of what Jesus did that first Easter, we believe that the God of love will shine light into the darkness. Jesus said "I am the light of the world! Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life!" (John 8:12)

The whole awe-inspiring universe was created by Jesus (Colossians 1:15-20) and he entered his creation as a man about 2000 years ago. Why would he do that?! Because He cares for us all so much that he lived, died and rose again that very first Easter to bring us the hope of eternal life! But this life is full of obstacles to eternal life, and Jesus says clearly that the only way to reach eternal life is through him (John 14.6). Just as a torch lights your way when it’s dark, Jesus lights the way to the next life after death, all we need to do is put our faith in him and follow him!

That first Easter shows us that death is not the end! Even though dark things happen, there is hope! This Easter, I encourage you to reconnect with its Christian origins by joining in with celebrations at your local community churches. As you celebrate with your loved ones, friends, and community this Easter, may God bless you abundantly with light and hope!

**EASTER SERVICES**

Easter Sunday: 6.00am Dawn Service at

The Tanks, Forster.

6.00am St. James Bungwahl 8.00am St. Albans Forster

9.30am St. Albans Forster (Contemporary)

9.30am St. Nicholas Tuncurry 11.30am St. Pauls Nabiac

Would everyone please bring a stemmed flower to place on the cross on Easter Sunday.

**THE GOOD COFFEE**

A Coffee Habit Can Be Good!! Another $160 has been forwarded to GLECCA to support the High School Chaplaincy, by the donations of espresso drinkers at St.Albans. A hearty thank you to them.

Keith Bastian

**SEAFOOD DINNER - ADVANCE NOTICE!**

The traditional Seafood Dinner will be on Saturday, 6th May, 6.30 for 7.00pm at Krambach Hall. Menu as follows

Entrée: Prawns, Crab and Oysters

Main: Barbecued Fish & Salads

Sweets: Fresh Fruit Salad and Ice Cream

Tea and Coffee

Cost $30 per person. Raffles and Lucky Door Prizes

Bookings are essential – Tables of 8 (before Tuesday, 2nd May). Contact Aileen 6559-1541, Moya 6559-1265, or Helen 6550-2383. Please bring glasses and drinks!

Non Seafood Diners, please notify us when booking, as other arrangements can be made.

**A COACH FOR KRAMBACH?**

We are thinking of hiring a coach to take parishioners to the Seafood Dinner at Krambach. If you would be interested in travelling by coach, please put your name on the list at the back of St Alban’s, or phone the Parish Office on 6555-4200

**In Our Prayers:**

**Our Parish:**

* Worshipping communities
* 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 Beresfield & Thornton, Branxton, Greta & Lochinvar
* Examining Chaplains
* Diocesan Ordinands
* Diocese of North West Australia

**The World:**

* The Peace of Jerusalem
* 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: **Robert Learmond.**

**COURTHOUSE ROSTER**

19th April Suellen Belton & Diane Kellehear

3rd May Heather Dwyer & Nerelle Duff

**MISSION FOR APRIL – ABM**

Please give as generously as you can this month to the Anglican Board of Mission.

**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** Phillip Castle 0422 036 656

**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: **00040071**

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

**HELP DESPERATELY NEEDED**

Our Something Special Bookshop ***desperately*** needs volunteers to cover the absences of regulars. If you can assist, please notify Deborah Laurie (0402359780)  or Judy Hall (0400890728).

**SAMARITANS FOOD**

For April, small tins of baked beans or spaghetti, quick meals. Perhaps any half price specials you notice!

**RUG RATS**

There will be no craft class for the Rug Rats on Anzac Day, 25th April. Coralie.

**ELECTION OF NEW BISHOP**

The Bishop's Incumbency Board met last Wednesday with Bishop Peter. As you are aware, Bishop Greg Thompson has stepped down as Bishop in our Diocese.

Board Members, including myself, have spent the past three years processing and discussing a more respectful alternative for choosing a Bishop. Three proposals have been put to Synod with the final being written at the moment. The proposal will be available to be voted on by members at a special Synod on May 27th. The time frame is approximately 150 days and we hope to vote on the election of our next Bishop at the end of November. The interim Bishop's Incumbency Board and the new incoming Board (27th May)  have tight deadlines to achieve this.  Please keep this process and our new Bishop in your prayers, as s/he is a Bishop for both the Clergy and the Laity.

Belinda Clancy, Synod Parish Representative, Bishop's Incumbency Board Member and Bishop's Lay Synod Secretary.

**SOMETHING SPECIAL CHRISTIAN BOOKSHOP**

As we celebrate the wonder of the risen Christ, that perfect gift of love, why not take up the opportunity to further our knowledge of his teachings through reading and reflection?

There is a great range of stock on sale in our bookshop which is open today. On the following pages are several reviews of current stock that just may interest you, your children or your neighbours.

Why not drop in today after our service and check out what we have on offer?

**BOOK REVIEW: ‘Answering your kids’ Toughest Questions (Helping them understand loss, sin, tragedies, and other hard topics)** written by Elyse Fitzpatrick and Jessica Thompson.

This useful book contains down-to-earth guidance for how to respond as a parent/grandparent to your child’s/grandchild’s tough questions. The book offers a variety of helpful ideas for discussing these topics which are relevant, sensitive, biblical, age-appropriate, and are based on sound child development research. Informative chapters include tips on how to discuss such tricky topics as:

* ‘Why do people die?’
* ‘Why does God let natural disasters happen?’
* ‘Why does the Bible say that? Difficult Bible stories’

In the chapter ‘Why do people die?’ the writers (a mother and daughter team) provide the following helpful advice about talking to your child/grandchild about death:

* Talk about the topic **before** you need to
* Know your child’s/grandchild’s **maturity level**
* Speak at a level they can **understand**
* **Pray**about it before you speak

This book emphasises the importance of presenting a balanced, realistic view of life, death, good, and bad to your children/grandchildren when you are discussing their tough questions.

Priced at only $15.99 this is a useful book for **all** Christian parents/grandparents, but especially for those who are trying to answer some of the difficult questions our kids/grandkids ask.

*Trisha Harris*

**AND WHY NOT TRY READING…**

* He Chose Nails…What God Did to Win Your Heart ($14.99) This is an easy to digest book by popular author, Max Lucado. Through a careful unpacking of each stage in Christ’s crucifixion journey, Max leads readers on a journey exploring the promises God made to us and how these were fulfilled.
* The Women Of Easter ($21.99)

This beautiful hardcover book explores the grace that each of the Marys received as they beheld the events leading up to and immediately following the crucifixion. Written as a narrative, this book brings to life the Easter events from a fresh perspective.

* It Is Finished: Finding Lasting Victory Over Sin ($15.99) Through an exploration of the New Covenant, Gary Wilkerson shows how we can use our learnings from the events surrounding Easter to become stronger in the fight against sin.
* The Cross Is Not Enough…Living As Witnesses to the Resurrection ($24.95)

This book explores how the resurrection contributes to our growth as a Christian, as a whole person.

* Our Mob, God’s Story…Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Artists Share Their Faith ($34.99)

I cannot commend this book anymore highly. It is a beautiful coffee table book containing over 60 beautiful colour prints of Aboriginal artwork together with the stories of how the respective Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists came to faith. The colour and the design of each artwork is representative of their various cultures and traditions – and is truly amazing. Funds raised from the sale of these books go to supporting the translation of the bible into Aboriginal languages. At a mere $35, this book is an absolute bargain!

***Diocese of Newcastle***

***Anglican Cursillo Movement***

**Workshop # 3, 2017.**

**Belmont Anglican Church Hall,**

 **24 Church St, Belmont**

**When :- April 29th @ 9.00 for 9.30 & finishes @ 2:00**

for

**Leaders School / Servant Community**

 This reminder / invitation to ***all*** *vets*, new or old, to encourage you to attend the final Leaders School / Servant Community (LSSC) workshops organized by secretariat for 2017, so don’t miss out.

 The first two workshops have been a great success and inspiration to all the vets that attended. LSSC is a vital part of our fourth day, and no matter how long ago you attended your weekend, you’ll get great encouragement from the learning material and experiences shared by all who attend.

***Any enquiries, please contact servant Community Coordinators: Gail Isles. ddmgk@bigpond.com***

 ***Bill Nicolle. sticks@aapt.net.au***

***Don’t forget to bring your lunch, Mission Praise, cross & name tag.***