**PARISH NEWS**

 **19th March 2017**

 **THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT**

*God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.* Romans 5.8

***BISHOP GREG RESIGNS – see insert***

**PARISH SERVICE AND AGM**

Next Sunday, 26th March, there will be one service in the Parish, at St Alban’s, 9.30am. This will be followed by the Parish AGM in St Alban’s Hall at 11.30am. It is hoped as many parishioners as are able will attend the AGM. Contributions towards morning tea would be much appreciated!

**NOMINATIONS FOR PARISH COUNCIL**

Nomination forms are in the back of each church and when completed (you must be on the parish electoral roll) need to be given to any of our wardens Clive Davies (St Alban’s), Judy Hall (St Alban’s) or Kit Carson (St Paul’s) or handed in to the Parish Office. Parish Office Hours are 9am-12pm Monday to Thursday. Alternatively please place completed forms in the pigeonhole outside the office.

This is also the year to elect three representatives for Synod. Please prayerfully consider nominating.

Nominations are also called for the Rector’s Incumbency Board representatives (3 needed plus 2 reserves).

**AGM PAPERS**

The AGM reports are available at the back of each church. Please read these carefully. Questions about these need to be in writing and left at the Parish office or directed to secretary@forsteranglican.com by **today**, 19th March, 2017.

**In Our Prayers:**

**Our Parish:**

* Lay Liturgical Assistants and Readers
* Please continue to pray 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 Bulahdelah & Tea Gardens and Forster/Tuncurry
* Newcastle Anglican Schools Corporation
* The homeless
* Diocese of Sydney

**The World:**

* Church in Mbale, Uganda
* 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: **Gwenda Kidd.**

**SAMARITANS FOR MARCH**

Toiletries for any family member – mum, dad or the children. The Samaritans are very grateful for all the donations of goods which our parish regularly makes. Keep up the good work!

**COURTHOUSE ROSTER**

22nd March Frances McPherson & Bev Christiansen

5th April Marge Cooper & Beryl Allen

**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**

**MARCH MISSION - BCA**

Our Mission for March is to support the work of the Bush Church Aid Society (BCA) and is also **BCA BOX OPENING TIME.**  Please return your boxes to Suellen for counting and processing.  If you are not at present and would like to support the Bush Church Aid on a regular basis, please contact Suellen for a box. Also used stamps are sent to BCA. Suellen Belton - BCA Box Secretary - 6554 8264

**ANGLICAN CURSILLO MOVEMENT**

There will be two Leaders School/Servant Community Workshops as follows:

* Tea Gardens Anglican Church, March 25th – 9.00 for 9.30am finishes 2.00pm
* Belmont Anglican Church, April 29th – 9.00 for 9.30am finishes 2.00pm.

The workshops are designed to give an insight into the purpose and function of our Leaders School/Servant Communities program and also to prepare our people for a role as members of such a group.

Enquiries to Servant Communities Coordinators: Gail Isles ddmgk@bipond.om or Bill Nicolle sticks@aapt.net.au

**WHAT’S NEW IN OUR BOOKSHOP**

The Something Special Christian Bookshop thanks you for your patronage over the past few months. We have had a turnover of books in the past week and invite you to come in and browse the refreshed collection on Sunday after the service or between 9am and midday Monday to Friday.

A beautiful coffee-table style book **“Our Mob: God’s Story – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Artists Share Their Faith”** is available to order. There is a display copy in the bookshop. Celebrating 200 years of the Bible Society in Australia, the book features reproductions of the artists’ work illustrating scriptural truths. It is a very reasonable price of $35 during March only.

Also, a selection of Easter cards are now in stock at our normal card price of only $1.50.

For those who find some theological books too “heavy” we have a series of small, easy to read books covering a range of topics by Scott Perry. Scott is a youth minister but the books are for all ages, and are easy to read. Topics covered include Suffering and Evil, the Holy Spirit, Jesus, Predestination. Each book costs $6.99.

We continue to stock a range of bibles, a large selection of children’s books, biographies, Christian classics, and books dealing with relationships, grief and Christian living and some giftware. We have a new range of books dealing with parenting.

Finally, we value your help in serving in the bookshop as a regular or occasional volunteer. We need a couple more volunteers to be able to continue to guarantee the shop opens each weekday or maybe even expand its opening hours. The shop is a service to people of all denominations (or none) in Forster-Tuncurry.

**BISHOP THOMPSON ANNOUNCES RESIGNATION**

Anglican Bishop of Newcastle Greg Thompson today announced he is resigning from his role as Bishop of Newcastle.

Bishop Thompson served the Anglican Diocese of Newcastle as Bishop for three years and has been a strong advocate for survivors of child abuse during his tenure. “Since the end of the Royal Commission’s Case Study 42 on the Anglican Diocese of Newcastle I’ve been reflecting on the important work of the Royal Commission and the change underway in the Diocese of Newcastle and its impact on my health,” Bishop Thompson said.

“It has been widely documented in both the media and the Royal Commission how the culture and conduct from some sections of the church has had an impact on survivors, families, and communities across the Diocese of Newcastle.

“I have witnessed this culture first hand, both as victim of abuse and in my work as Bishop to address the Diocese’s abuse legacy. “When I started this journey to right the wrongs of child abuse in the Diocese I didn’t expect to be in this position, nor did I expect to uncover systemic practices that have enabled the horrendous crimes against children.

“The decision to resign was not an easy one, it weighed heavily on my heart. However, I must place the wellbeing of my family and my health above my job.” Bishop Thompson said. Bishop Thompson has worked in the church for 38 years and has enjoyed the many exciting roles he has served in during that time.

With the revelations of the appalling accounts of child abuse performed by clergy and church workers during the Royal Commission, Bishop Thompson established the Parish Recovery Teams to work with church communities to address past abuse histories and assist survivors and communities to find a measure of support and recovery.

“I have confidence in the present church leadership of this Diocese who have stood with me in wanting to face the past and shape a healthy future. I could not have done my work without their professional and dedicated support for change,” Bishop Thompson added.

Bishop Thompson’s ministry as the Bishop of Newcastle will formally conclude on May 31, 2017.

**STATEMENT FROM BISHOP PETER STUART**

On behalf of the Anglican Diocese of Newcastle, I express our considerable sadness at the news that Greg Thompson won't be returning to ministry as the Anglican Bishop of Newcastle.

In his short time as our Bishop he has been the catalyst for deep cultural change around the protection of children and the support of victims of abuse. He called us to face our past and in doing so shape a healthy future. This will be his enduring legacy.

As part of shaping a healthy future, we worked together in November to initiate independent external reviews of diocesan governance and the professional standards and redress processes. These reviews are well underway and will continue the crucial work of transforming the Diocese. Bishop Greg has led the Diocese to greater health.

In 2013, the Diocesan family rejoiced that a ‘son of the diocese’ had been elected as the Diocesan Bishop. The clergy and people have delighted in his ministry in parishes, at the diocesan convention and synod. We have felt deep anguish for him and his family as we learnt of the abuse he experienced and the rejection by some in the Diocese.

Throughout his ministry he has been committed to hearing the voices at the grassroots and empowering the vulnerable and people in need. Drawing on the great treasures in the teachings of Jesus, he has been unafraid of speaking strongly to the powerful to ensure transparency and promote justice.

We are deeply thankful for Bishop Greg Thompson’s ministry as Anglican Bishop of Newcastle. Our thoughts and prayers are with him and his family in this time of transition.