**EPIPHANY 4 – WHAT IS LOVE?**

**3rd FEBRUARY, 2019.**

***Jesus read from the prophet Isaiah: “The Spirit of the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives.’ Luke 4.18***

***OUR PARISH VISION:***

***Connecting meaningfully. Inspiring hope and transformed lives. Through faith in Jesus***

**ORDINATION WITH A DIFFERENCE (copy as sent to The Encounter,) written by Judy Hall, Parish Secretary.**

Reverend James Brooks was ordained into the priesthood of the Anglican Church on Thursday 24th January at St Alban’s Anglican Church, Forster. The ceremony was presided over by Bishop Peter Stuart from the Diocese of Newcastle and attended by the two assistant bishops – Reverend Charlie Murry and Reverend Sonia Roulston and a host of clergy from the diocese.

The event was significant in that priests are usually ordained at Newcastle Cathedral. It was a great honour to have the event held in the parish of Forster-Tuncurry. A large number of parishioners were present to witness the ordination and to welcome Reverend James and his family to the area. A special part of the ceremony was the laying on of hands by the ministers in attendance.

Reverend James will take up the role of families’ minister – thus expanding the Anglican Ministry team in this area. He is looking forward to teaching scripture in the local schools and connecting with young families and those who are interested in building their knowledge of Christianity.

Reverend James and his wife Sophie, together with their five children (ranging from 1 to 9 years) will reside in Tuncurry.

**GREAT LAKES ADVOCATE**

Rev’d James, Sophie, Daniel, Janella, Kara, Elijah and Toby are featured on page 3 of 30th January Advocate. Both stories with photos (the Encounter & Advocate) are accessible on our website.

**OUR MISSION FOCUS FOR FEBRUARY IS ABM**

ABM – Anglican Board of Mission – Australia. Working for Love, Hope & Justice.

Pew reflections written by Rev Will Johnston, ABM 2019.

Sometimes the truth that God tells us through his word can be difficult for us to hear. Jesus told a difficult truth to the Jews in the Synagogue in his hometown. Deep within his message was the truth that God’s love is for everyone and not just for Jews – demonstrated by his acts of healing and mercy to gentiles in difficult times. Today we can rest assured that, as surely as God formed us in the womb and knew us, he has a love for us that breaks down all barriers.

* Pray that God might break down the barriers of prejudice in our lives that we might show his love to all we meet.
* Give thanks for the Church of North India, remembering especially today their ministry in a predominantly non-Christian context.

**MEMBERS OF OUR CHURCH COMMUNITY AND FRIENDS WITH ONGOING NEEDS**

Ella Engel, Jenny Lawson, George Hodgson, Keith Roach, Michelle, Nadia Maybury, Lyn Thompson, Marion & Peter Roberts, Isabel McBride, Barbara Bramble, Diana, George Mazaraki.

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 - Lynelle Boyd.

**BUNNINGS BBQ**

The parish has received BBQ dates from Bunnings as follows **– Saturday, 30th March, Saturday, 25th May, Saturday, 13th July.**

**MEN’S DINNER**

The first meeting for 2019 is this **Tuesday, 5th February**. Allan Sheppard will be sharing his knowledge of Darwin and the surrounding areas. Keith Bastian and his team will be catering for the group. $15.00 each, plus drinks. An informal way to introduce friends to our church. Sign-on sheet at all churches or ‘phone Clive 0412 653 061.

**TODDLER TIME**

This happy, noisy, loving, caring group will start off the new year on Monday, 18th February at 9.30am at St. Alban’s Hall. Need more info? Speak to Rev’d James.

**SUMMER PROGRAM 2019**

Great picture of the toddlers playing in their “boat” – This playground equipment was purchased with monies raised from the Bunnings BBQs.

Collect your copy today and browse through all the info it contains.

**PARISH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Date is set down for **Sunday, 17th March.** Parish Secretary, Judy Hall, asks that all reports be sent to her via email Judy72hall@bigpond.com or hard copy to the office by Sunday, 24th February. Thanks.

**FRIENDSHIP GROUP**

The Friendship Group invite YOU to a morning tea, next Wednesday **February 6th**. It is just a cup of tea/coffee and a chat. Come to St. Alban’s Hall about 10.00am – bring a friend! (Gold coin donation)… Helen Barber

**AGED CARE SERVICE AT ESTIA, FORSTER**

This Wednesday, **6th February,** our monthly Anglican Service is held at 10.30am.

**GAMES AFTERNOON**

Saturday, **9th February**, 1pm thru to 3pm. Penny Jude is the contact person. Come along and enjoy a game or two – or maybe bring along a game that you received as a gift and haven’t played as yet – always willing hands to join in the fun. A gold coin donation for mission and the inevitable afternoon tea.

**SAMARITANS DONATIONS**

TINS, TINS, TINS – fruit, veggies, tins of spread, jars of jam, vegemite, peanut butter all manner of food. It’s amazing the huge selection we have at our fingertips. This collection is delivered in our local area to those less fortunate than ourselves. Always the volunteer who collects the donations is overjoyed with our generosity.

**THANK YOU, AMAZING GOD**

Thank you, amazing God,

For your love that reaches us wherever we are – thank you;

For not giving up on us, even when we have given up on you – thank you;

For sending your Son to walk among us;

Though he was beaten, tortured and killed;

For sacrificing him in order to rescue us – thank you.

We struggle for a word that says it better,

Yet there are no words that can sum up who you are and what you’ve done for us.

So we simply say: thank you.

Prayer No. 14 from the book “500 prayers for young people” by Martin Saunders.

**Senior Minister/Rector**: Rev’d Mark Harris 0425 265 547

 revmarkharris@icloud.com

**Families Minister:** Rev’d James Brooks 0411 335 087

 jamesknac@gmail.com

**Priest in Local Mission:** Rev Helen Quinn 0427 592 723

 rqu783662@bigpond.com

**Parish Office:** St. Alban’s Anglican Church: 5543 7683

 info@forsteranglican.com

**Parish Secretary:** Judy Hall 0400 890 728

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

**Book Shop:** bookshop@forsteranglican.com5543 7683

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

**Fb:** Anglican Parish of Forster-Tuncurry.

**Items for Parish News:** Lyn Davies 0491 136 455 or Parish Office 5543 7683 by noon Wed, Thanks.

Our bank details: BSB 705077 Account 000400710

Account name: Anglican Parish of Forster/Tuncurry