**THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD**

**6TH JANUARY, 2019.**

***They saw the child with Mary, his mother; and they knelt down and worshipped him. Matthew 2:11***

***OUR PARISH VISION:***

***We will connect meaningfully with our community in order to inspire hope and transformed lives through faith in Jesus.***

**SERVICE TIMES FOR 2019**

As from to-day, Sunday 6th January, 2019 service times are as follows:

* St. Alban’s 8.30am, 10am and 5.30pm
* St. Paul’s & St. John’s 10am

**EPHESIANS 3:12**

*in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.*

It is an awesome privilege to be able to approach God with freedom and confidence. Most of us would be apprehensive in the presence of a powerful ruler.

But thanks to Christ, by faith we can enter directly into God’s presence through prayer. We know we’ll be welcomed with open arms because we are God’s children through our union with Christ. Don’t be afraid of God. Talk with him about everything. He is waiting to hear from you. NIV Life Application Bible.

**BUNNINGS BBQ**

Our first date for 2019 is Saturday, 19th January. You’ll find a roster on the notice board in the parish hall and we welcome newcomers to the day, it’s a great way to outreach to our community. Phone Clive Davies 0412653061 for more info. The 19th is only two weeks away…………..

**OUR MISSION FOCUS FOR JANUARY IS THE BIBLE SOCIETY.**

**About the Bible Society.**

We live in a world where too many people don’t engage with the Bible.

In some parts of the world, the Scriptures are difficult to access or are simply unavailable. In this country, the Bible is readily available but has lost its significance and its value is unrecognised by millions.

We’re working hard here at home and in key areas across the world to change this. We take the Bible and find ways to translate and distribute it, create digital formats, advocate for its place in society and help people relate to and make sense of it in their everyday lives.

All our efforts are driven by one conviction: **we believe that when people engage with the Bible, lives can change – for good.**

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

Ella Engel, Jenny Lawson, Maureen Armstrong, George Hodgson, Louise, Keith Roach, Michelle, Max Kennedy, Beryl Allen, Nadia Maybury, Sue Hollis, Lyn Thompson, Marion & Peter Roberts, Allan Peel, Isabel McBride, Russell Parry, Helen Barber, Barbara Bramble.

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.

**SAMARITANS DONATIONS**

Thoughts for January – holiday food – popcorn, chips, biscuits, jelly, topping, tins of fruit, long life custard, or what is YOUR favourite holiday food? Also, we need to think about children’s lunches as they start the school year, especially the “first timers”.

**BOOKSHOP NEWS** from Phillip Castle

Bookshop will reopen tomorrow, Monday 7th January.

**TODDLERTIME – A CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS**

There is to be a meeting on Monday, 14th January at 9.30am in the Parish Hall to talk about ways of including more volunteers in this outreach program.

We are thinking of helpers in the kitchen, cutting fruit etc. for the toddlers and morning tea for the mums, dads, grans. There is a need of a “Working with Children Check” which can be done through the parish office. Please come along!

**LIGHT LUNCH 2019**

A change of name!! You are invited to come along and enjoy a “light lunch” on Wednesday, 9th January at St. Alban’s Hall. The cost is $8.00 and you will be offered a two-course lunch followed by tea and/or coffee. Usual time, 11.30am for 12 noon. Great conversations, catch-ups and laughter.

A good time to mark your calendars – every second Wednesday of each month!

**DO WE REALLY NEED TO PRAY?**

From Honest Evangelism by Rico Tice.

**ASK THE LORD.**  And we’re right to pray. Jesus tells us to!

*Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.” Matthew 9:37,38*

Jesus saw these people in two ways: as sheep without a shepherd, and also as a plentiful harvest – a waving field of corn waiting to be reaped. There are all these thousands of people who need to be told about the kingdom and pointed to the Shepherd, and there are so few workers. There’s no one to do the harvesting. And so he tells his friends to pray – that activity that often seems so small and inconsequential, and yet changes the world and transforms eternal destinies.

**A VERY DIFFERENT CHRISTMAS** – Rico Tice & Nate Morgan Locke.

What are you HOPING FOR THIS YEAR?

What kind of life?

When I talk to people about what they think will get them into heaven, I get all sorts of responses:

*I’m a blood donor.*

*I go to church – almost every week.*

*I’ve been baptized and I take communion.*

*I recycle.*

*I’m a good wife and mother and I work hard.*

*I pay my taxes.*

In other words, *I’m a decent person. I’ve lived a good life. I’m a moral person. Ok, I’m not perfect, but I’ll do. Decency. That’s a good enough life to give to God.*

And most people will agree with you. But I’m not going to, because God’s not going to.

**READINGS: 13th JANUARY -THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD**

Isaiah 43:1-7, Psalm 29, Acts 8:14-17, Luke 3:15-22.

**GAMES AFTERNOON**

Second Saturday each month – next Saturday 12th January, 1pm, come along and enjoy your favorite game or learn a new one – in the Parish Hall. Relax, chat, coffee. More info? Penny Jude 0414 776 535.

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

 revmarkharris@icloud.com

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

**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.com 5543 7683

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

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

**Items for Parish News:** Lyn Davies 0491 136 455. Parish Office 5543 7683 by 3pm Wed, Thanks.

Our bank details: BSB 705077 Account 000400710

Account name: Anglican Parish of Forster/Tuncurry