THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

**13TH JANUARY, 2019.**

***The Holy Spirit descended on Jesus in bodily form like a dove, and a voice came from heaven, ‘You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.’ Luke 3.22***



Our Families Minister - **Rev. James Brooks and Sophie.** We praise God for prayers answered what a blessing James and Sophie and family will be to our parish.

On Thursday, 24th January at 6.00pm Bishop Peter Stuart will be with us at St. Alban’s for the ordination to the priesthood of Rev. James Brooks.

All are invited to welcome Rev. James and Sophie with their family. Let’s overflow the building with our love and support for this spiritual blessing that has been poured on us.

We will enjoy time together following the service with a cuppa and a bite to eat.

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

Prayer points for this week**:**

**Australia – Remote and Indigenous Ministry** **Support**: Pray that God will make clear his purposes as the RIMS team discusses plans for translation work in the Top End with key organisations involved in translation work.

**Lebanon:** Give thanks to God for the ministry to Iraqi and Syrian refugees in Lebanese refugee camps. Pray for families to find security in God’s word when everything around them feels unstable.

**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 Anne Leckie Wright, Victor George Godwin, Joan Winter.

**TODDLERTIME – A CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS**

There is to be a meeting tomorrow, 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!

**THURSDAY MORNING AT ST. ALBAN’S**

On Thursday of each week a traditional communion service is held. The service commences at 9.30am, followed by morning tea.

**BUNNINGS BBQ**

Thanks to all the volunteers! An amazing response, well done. All come along next Saturday, 19th January and have a chat, buy a sausage and a drink, enjoy connecting with our community.

**A LIVING SACRIFICE**

Rev. Mark’s closing words from his message last Sunday “As we begin 2019, I challenge us all to make a living sacrifice. Let’s re-commit ourselves to living in a way that will honour King Jesus. Let’s share with

our families, neighbours, friends, and anyone else who will listen, all about our wonderful Saviour. As we worship Him in all we say and do!”

My addition - Each week we pray – Father, we offer ourselves to you as a living sacrifice….

What does that mean to you? A living sacrifice? Living: a way that a person lives. Sacrifice: giving up a thing you value, so that something good may happen. Many more dictionary thoughts – what does a living sacrifice mean in your life?

**READINGS: 20th JANUARY**

Isaiah 62:1-5, Psalm 36:5-10, 1 Cor:12.1-11, John 2:1-11.

**TEACHING A STONE TO TALK** by Annie Dillard.

*Why do people in churches seem like cheerful brainless tourists on a packaged tour of the Absolute….On the whole I do not find Christians, outside the catacombs, sufficiently sensible of conditions. Does anyone have the foggiest idea what sort of power we so blithely invoke? Or, as I suspect, does no one believe a word of it?*

*The churches are children playing on the floor with their chemistry sets, mixing up a batch of TNT to kill a Sunday morning. It is madness to wear ladies’ straw hats and velvet hats to church; we should all be wearing crash helmets. Ushers should issue life preservers and signal flares; they should lash us to our pews. For the sleeping god may wake someday and take offense, or the waking god may draw us out to where we can never return.*

***OUR PARISH VISION:***

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

The Brooks children Toby 1, Daniel 9, Kara 5, Janella 7 and Elijah 3.

**SOME QUESTIONS TO ASK AT THE START OF A NEW YEAR**

(Thoughtfully given to me by Heather Webster for inclusion in the PN)

What’s the most important way you will, by God’s grace, try to make this year different from last year?

In which spiritual discipline do you most want to make progress this year, and what will you do about it?

**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](mailto: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