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Picton – Pheasants Nest – Tahmoor –  
Thirlmere – Wilton – Yanderra

**Parish Priest: Fr Peter Tien**  
**Married Deacon: Rodney Mackrill, jnr**



*Parish Bulletin*

24th SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME—Year A

17 September 2023

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:**

Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait for you, that your prophets be found true.

**FIRST READING:** Ecclesiasticus 27:30-28:7

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus  
*Forgive your neighbour's faults and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven.*

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM:**

The Lord is kind and merciful; slow to anger and rich in compassion.

**SECOND READING:** Romans 14:7-9

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans  
*Whether alive or dead, we belong to the Lord.*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:**

Alleluia, alleluia!  
I give you a new commandment: love one another as I have loved you.  
Alleluia!

**GOSPEL:** Matthew 18:21-35

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew  
*I will tell you that you forgive not seven times but seventy times seven.*

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON:**

How precious is your mercy, O God!  
The children of men seek shelter in the shadow of your wings.

**Next week's readings:**

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Is 55:6-9, Phil 1:20-24, Mt 20:1-16

**ST ANTHONY'S CHURCH—TAHMOOR**

**Saturday Vigil—5.00 pm**

**Sunday—8.30am**

**WEEKDAY MASS TIMES:**

Tuesday - 5.00 pm—Adoration

5.30 pm—Tahmoor

Wednesday - 8.30 am— Tahmoor

Sts Andrew Kim Tae-gön, priest, martyr

Paul Chong Ha-sang & companions, martyrs

Thursday - 8.30 am— Tahmoor

St Matthew, apostle, evangelist

Friday— 8.30 am - Tahmoor

Arabic Mass 6pm, every 2nd Friday—  
September dates: 29th

**Reconciliation (Confession)**

Saturday 4.00 pm—4.30 pm

**Baptism and Marriage**

Please contact the parish office.

**OFFICE HOURS**

Tuesday & Thursday 9am—3pm

Wednesday 9am—1pm

**Parish Phone** 4683 2230

**Fr Peter** 0406 001 540

20 Stratford Road, Tahmoor 2573

**Email:** picton@dow.org.au

**Website:** [www.stanthonypicton.org.au](http://www.stanthonypicton.org.au)

**REFLECTION by Father Michael Tate**

**Forgiveness**

I don't like the phrase: 'Forgive and forget'. Remembering can be an important part of healing. Forgiving is about giving up the desire 'to get even', making sure that the 'punishment fits the crime'. It is that sort of forgiveness which we dare to ask of God for ourselves. But here's the catch: it is that sort of forgiveness which we must practise towards others.

When we don't, we are like the principal debtor in Jesus' story. In harshly dealing with a minor debtor, he refused to share his king's quality of forgiveness. If we don't pass on this aspect of God's life to others, then we are warned that we will end up in a hellish situation unable to share in the fullness of Divine life.

It is easy to talk 'Big Picture' forgiveness. It is much harder within the family or circle of acquaintances. It seems impossible to simply will it. But we have to ask for the grace to do it.

We could pause for a moment to pray:

'Our Father who art in Heaven . . . forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.'

## PRAY FOR THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED:

Lord grant them eternal peace & joy and to their families and friends strength and comfort

**ANNIVERSARY:** Franco Medici, Charlie Buttigieg, Christopher Buttigieg, Mary Buttigieg and Joyce Zammit

## RECENTLY DECEASED :

**PRAY FOR THE SICK** Eva Bastac, Debbie James, Jean Le Roux, Marie Darlington, Christine Jupe, Graeme Menser, Ross Spirou, Mauro Mariano, Melony Cox, Joanne McMahan, Daniel Clarke, James McNeil, Ian Macnamara, Stephanie Macnamara, Elizabeth Linsell

## ACOLYTES THIS WEEK NEXT WEEK

VIGIL JOHN RYAN  
8.30AM ADRIAN VANNAN KEVIN DEVINE

## READERS

VIGIL: GAIL HANGER TBA  
8.30AM TRUDY HANCOCK PAUL WYATT

**CLEANERS:** HELEN WLLIS PAULINE BUTTIGIEG  
MARY ANN BUTTIGIEG

**FLOWERS:** CHRIS CARBURY MURIELLE AZZI

**SACRISTY:** MARY GILBERT

**MORNING TEA:**  
MICHELLE HIGGS KATE & JASON

## CATHOLIC FAMILY CAMPING WEEKEND FOR 2023

Join us for a good time with great people. October 27-29 2023 - Fridays 4pm till Sunday 3pm, Wooglemai Catholic Camping Facility/ Environmental Centre, Sheehys Creek Road, Oakdale (15 minutes from Picton)  
Flyers available from the racks in the church foyer.

**PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES:** Planned Giving Envelopes are ready to be collected .

If you are not part of supporting the parish financially through Planned Giving and would like to, please contact the parish office. Giving can be via weekly envelopes, via direct debit or credit card.

**COLUMBARIUM:** The Parish has been investigating the installation of a columbarium in the grounds of the Tahmoor church. A small committee has been established to progress this matter. A Development Application has now been lodged with Wollondilly Council and is awaiting determination. If approved, the columbarium will be situated in the grassed area on the western side of the church building, and be completed in 2024.

**THE BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL** is being promoted in our parish this weekend. "Our faith calls us to help one another through prayer and action. Offering dignified support and care for our retired clergy, who have always cared for us; and a sound and holistic formation of our young seminarians, our future priests, are my responsibilities as your Bishop. I seek your prayers and practical support to help me ensure that I can do this. Your donation to this appeal is very much appreciated."

+ BISHOP BRIAN MASCORD

To make a secure on-line donation, please visit [www.dow.org.au/giving](http://www.dow.org.au/giving) , or call (02) 4222 2446 to make a donation over the phone. **Our parish will also hold a special leaving collection after Mass. We invite you to make a cash donation.**

## SIGNIFICANT MARRIAGE ANNIVERSARIES

Bishop Brian Mascord will be celebrating the annual Significant Marriage Anniversaries Mass this Sunday at St Francis Xavier Cathedral, Wollongong at 2pm.

We congratulate the following parishioners:  
Phillip & Maureen Clarke 40 years  
Anthony & Diana Ingrey 50 Years

**SEASON OF CREATION 2023** We are in the Season of Creation and there are some wonderful activities and resources for families delve into at <https://seasonofcreation.org> Take the time as we move into Spring to pray, to plant, to recycle and enter into the awe and wonder we find in dwelling on and being in God's creation.

## THE UPCOMING SACRAMENTS OF RECONCILIATION AND EUCHARIST:

The parent only meetings will be held on: Wednesday 11 October at 7pm, **OR** Friday 13 October at 1pm **OR** Sunday 15 October following the 8.30am Mass. Only one of these meetings needs to be attended. All meetings will be held in the Parish administration building. Further details are available from the foyer of the church.

## MOROCCO EARTHQUAKE

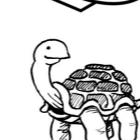
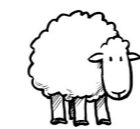
Caritas Australia has launched an appeal for the victims of the earthquake in Morocco. Over 2,000 people have been confirmed dead.

Thousands of people have been injured, over 1,000 critically. Search and rescue efforts are ongoing, with many people still trapped under rubble. The time to act is now. Caritas agencies are on the ground as they assess the scale of the damage and critical needs. Your donation today can help communities affected by the earthquake.

Please give generously at [www.caritas.org.au/donate/emergency-appeals/morocco-earthquake/](http://www.caritas.org.au/donate/emergency-appeals/morocco-earthquake/)

## BLESSING OF ANIMALS MONDAY 2 OCT 9.30AM

As usual, the Blessing of Animals will take place on the Monday of the long weekend, 2 October at 9.30am at the Parish of Saint Michael, 325 Lawrence Hargrave Drive, Thirroul. The blessing takes place in the courtyard next to the church. All animals under 800kgs and their carers are welcome, though please keep the larger crocodiles on a tight leash. The feast of St Francis of Assisi is on Wednesday, 4 October, with Mass at 9am—animals are welcome at that Mass. Blessed are you, Lord, maker of all living creatures. May we always praise you for your beauty in creation.



## IN HONOUR OF FOSTER AND KINSHIP CARE WEEK, CATHOLIC CARE SPOKE TO ONE OF THEIR AMAZING FOSTER CARERS WHO SHARED THEIR STORY.

Anna, a single 41-year-old Administration Manager from Bowral, was drawn to becoming a foster carer since she was in her twenties. However, it wasn't until her last relationship ended when she was 39 that she enquired about becoming a foster carer with CatholicCare Wollongong.

"I had the physical room in my house and the room in my heart and head, so I just thought 'let's go for it.'" Anna said.

Now, Anna has been a foster carer to 16-year-old Emily\* for over 6-months. "I do feel like a mother figure to her, but I also feel like her friend." She said.

The 10th-16th of September is Foster Care Week. This week we acknowledge the incredible impact of carers like Anna, in enabling vulnerable children and young people to obtain a brighter future.

To read Anna's full story about becoming a foster carer, visit [www.catholiccare.dow.org.au](http://www.catholiccare.dow.org.au)

\*name changed

## STATISTICS SHOW

## VOLUNTEERS LIVE LONGER!

**Now is your chance – plan to join us at the next St Anthony's working bee between 8am and midday on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> September for a few hours.**

**ALL WELCOME!**

**Details next week.**

**ST PADRE PIO PARISH—GLENMORE PARK:** On 24 September 2023 at 10am, there will be a Solemn Procession with the Relic of St Padre Pio followed by Solemn Feast Mass. After the Mass, the pilgrims will be blessed by the Relic of St Padre Pio, Everyone is welcome to attend.

**PARISH SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY BLESSING:** On Sunday 29 October at the 8.30am Mass, any parishioners who have celebrated, or will be celebrating, this year, a milestone wedding anniversary—25, 30, 40, 50 or 60 years is invited to attend to receive a special blessing during Mass. Please let the parish office know if you will be attending.

## A WOMEN'S OPPORTUNITY TO EXPERIENCE A CURSILLO THREE-DAY WEEKEND:

Do you feel there is more to your life? Is your spiritual life a little sluggish at the moment? Join fellow Catholic women as we explore our faith and discuss where this faith is taking us. Father Chris Roberts is our Spiritual Director and will offer Mass daily. Our next weekend is being run at Carmel House, Varroville, from the evening of Thursday 5 October until Sunday afternoon, 8 October. Please phone Geraldine on 0421329365 or scan the QR code for more information on what Cursillo is ....



**THE JOURNEY,** 17 September 2023 – Your Diocesan Weekly Podcast On The Journey This Week: Fr Mike Delaney asks; Will it cost me to look at forgiveness differently so that I can see God's mercy being poured out both as justice and compassion in every moment of my day? Mother Hilda's meeting with a new dad reminds her of God's excitement about being our father. Plus, Fr Tony Percy, a faith testimony from Mark Raue, and Pete Gilmore.

The Journey podcast available at [www.jcr.org.au](http://www.jcr.org.au).