



PARISH OFFICE : 302 High St Maitland
Tuesday - Friday 9.30am - 4.30pm
Lunch 1pm to 1.30pm
Phone: 49338918
P.O. Box 215 Maitland 2320
chisholm@mn.catholic.org.au
<https://maitlandcatholicparishes.org.au/>

ST JOSEPH'S (Est 1835), Cnr King St & New England Hwy, East Maitland
Vigil 5.00pm; Sunday 8.30am
Judy 0412 689 517

6.00pm Registrations
Bec 0431 056 632

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST (Est 1841)
Maitland

SACRED HEART, New England Hwy, Campbell's Hill - **Vigil 6.30pm.**
Registrations - Judy 0412 821 505 or Carole 0429 328 127

HOLY FAMILY, 11 John St, Largs
Sunday 8.20am. Registrations - Terry 0429 727 704 or email terryob1956@gmail.com

ST COLUMBA'S, Cnr Prince & Church Sts, Paterson - **Sunday 9.30am.**
Registrations - Maryanne 0409 336 993

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION (Est 1871)
Cnr George & James Sts, Morpeth
Sunday 7.15am. Registrations - John 4934 8520 / 0414 254 230

ST PATRICK'S (Est 1905), 55 New England Hwy, Lochinvar - **Sunday 9.30am. Registrations** - Tony 4932 0208/0437 280 147

OUR LADY OF LOURDES (Est 1947), Cnr Anderson Dr & Delprat Ave, Beresfield
Vigil 6.00pm. Registrations - Irena 4966 2902 / 0407 662 901

ST PAUL'S (Est 1961), 10 Young St, Rutherford - **Sunday 8.00am.**
Registrations — Gabby 0422 086 991

Ministers

All baptised members of the community
Ministry Team

Parish Priest: Fr George Anthicad

Asst Priests: Fr John Lovell

& Fr Graham Fullick

(Presbytery 4934 5783)

Support Clergy

Fr Maurice Cahill

Regional Office

Louise Gilchrist, Janine Sidoti,
Sandra Buck, Rebecca Piefke

ACTiv8 Youth Co-ordinator

Rebecca Piefke 0422 500 429

Spiritual care of sick & aged in care or at home: Phone office 49338918

Dying, Bereaved & Funeral Ministry:

0428 220 997

Family Ministry Co-ordinator, Hunter

Deanery

Lucy Sneesby-Tooth 0417 773 444

We are in the country of the Worimi, Gamilleroi, Wonnarua, Gweagul, Darkinjung, Biripi and Awabakal peoples. We respectfully acknowledge their Elders, celebrate their continuing culture and the living memory of their ancestors.

Entrance Antiphon

Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

PRESIDER

On this the Fourth Sunday of Advent we focus on the immediate preparations prior to the birth of Christ. We reflect on Mary's model of greatness. She heard the message of the angel and entered into God's plan for humanity. She heard the Word of God and put it into practice as we too are called to do.

Today we light our fourth candle and name it the "ANGELS" candle for those messengers who bring God's Word into our world.

PRESIDER

Lord Jesus, your coming was proclaimed as the descendant of the house of David and your throne would be established forever, and so we pray:-

R/ COME LORD JESUS

Lord Jesus, you come among us now in your Word and Sacrament to give us the strength to Live according to the Good News you revealed and so we pray:-

R/ COME LORD JESUS

Lord Jesus, you are the one who will come again in glory as scripture has predicted and which is all part of the way the eternal God wants things to be, and so we pray:-

R/ COME LORD JESUS

Let us pray

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading Mi 5:1-4

A reading from the prophet Micah

Out of you will be born the one who is to rule over Israel.

The Lord says this:

You, Bethlehem Ephrathah, the least of the clans of Judah, out of you will be born for me the one who is to rule over Israel; his origin goes back to the distant past, to the days of old.

The Lord is therefore going to abandon them till the time when she who is to give birth gives birth.

Then the remnant of his brothers will come back to the sons of Israel.

He will stand and feed his flock with the power of the Lord,

with the majesty of the name of his God. They will live secure, for from then on he will extend his power to the ends of the land.

He himself will be peace.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Resp. Psalm Ps 79:2-3. 15-16. 18-19. R. v.4
Lord, make us turn to you;
let us see your face and we shall be saved.

O Shepherd of Israel, hear us, shine forth from your cherubim throne.

O Lord, rouse up your might,

O Lord, come to our help. (R.)

God of hosts, turn again, we implore, look down from heaven and see.

Visit this vine and protect it, the vine your right hand has planted. (R.)

May your hand be on the man you have chosen, the man you have given your strength. And we shall never forsake you again: give us life that we may call upon your name. (R.)

Second Reading Heb 10:5-10

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

I am coming to do your will.

This is what Christ said, on coming into the world: You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation, prepared a body for me.

You took no pleasure in holocausts or sacrifices for sin; then I said, just as I was commanded in the scroll of the book, 'God, here I am! I am coming to obey your will.'

Notice that he says first: You did not want what the Law lays down as the things to be offered, that is: the sacrifices, the oblations, the holocausts and the sacrifices for sin, and you took no pleasure in them; and then he says: Here I am! I am coming to obey your will. He is abolishing the first sort to replace it with the second. And this will was for us to be made holy by the offering of his body made once and for all by Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the servant of the Lord:

may his will for me be done.

Alleluia!

Gospel Lk 1:39-45

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Why should it happen that I am honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord?

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.'

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

Homily - Fr John Lovell

Our 2nd Reading this Sunday is from the Letter to the Hebrews. It looks at how Jesus came among us to fulfil the requirements of the Law. This is important because Jesus was condemned by the custodians of the Law (the High Priests, Scribes and Pharisees) for *breaking* God's Law. These people had become so blinded by their obsession with the 'letter of the Law' that they had lost sight of its true purpose.

The Law was a complex set of rules derived largely from the Torah, the first five books of the Old Testament, attributed to Moses. The over-zealous attitude of the Scribes and Pharisees in policing the Law, particularly among people they didn't like, for even the slightest transgression, was a kind of old-world form of 'political correctness'. And their response to Jesus' alleged breaches of the Law (especially His healing of sick or crippled people on the Sabbath) was to demand His elimination – an attitude towards accused people that nowadays we might term 'cancel culture'.

True faith tells us Jesus did not come on Earth to satisfy the 'letter of the Law' but to fulfil the 'spirit of the Law'. And the spirit of God's Law is mercy. God's law was given to humanity, not to enslave or condemn us, but to help us live together in peace and harmony. Our civil laws are meant to serve this same purpose. In following the example of Jesus, the best obedience we can show God is by showing mercy to others: by forgiving grievances, helping people in need and loving all people. May this season of Advent, when we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus, renew this spirit in our hearts. It was for this that He died for us and rose from the dead, and it was for this that He was born into our world. We call it the Good News.

The Nicene Creed

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,

All bow

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.

UNIVERSAL PRAYERS

Celebrant: We celebrate The Word became flesh and dwelt among us because Mary believed truly when she said 'Yes' to God. We pray that men and woman in our world will receive Christ in faith and love.

We pray for Pope Francis, Bishops and Priests, that they have the courage to be true Apostles of Your word and be a living sign to all people and that Your church is a haven for truth, peace and Justice for all Nations. We pray.
. . . Lord graciously hear us.

May our hearts be full of love and gratitude and may we shine the light of Christ on others as we join together to celebrate the coming of Christ. We pray. . . **Lord graciously hear us.**

We pray for those who are receiving the 'True Presence' of Jesus in Holy Communion for the first time. May they give Him a joyous reception, and continue to invite Him into their hearts for the rest of their lives. We pray. . . **Lord graciously hear us.**

For all those who care for the elderly and those who are alone at Christmas, may they know that God sees all and their reward will be great in Heaven. We pray. . . **Lord graciously hear us.**

We pray for the people who are planning to travel to be with family in this holiday time, that they take care and keep well and return home safely. We pray. . . **Lord graciously hear us.**

For those who have died recently Including Mario Rito Arellano, Carmel Farnham (nee Fullick), James (Jimmy) Mate and Margaret McLeish. May they now rest in the eternal light of heaven with all the saints. We pray. . . **Lord graciously hear us.**

Celebrant: Almighty God, You have created every man and woman to live and work in peace, and know the wonder of your love. Help us all to know You are the one God and to live with You forever.

Communion Antiphon Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be called Emmanuel.

A PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love you above all things and I desire to receive you in my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already there and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you. AMEN.

We pray for the recently Deceased

Mario Rito Arellano, Carmel Farnham (nee Fullick), James (Jimmy) Mate, Margaret McLeish

We remember those whose Anniversaries occur around this time including

Will Brandt, Rev. Father John Flynn SS, Nita Goldspring, James Locke, Harry James Martin, Noel Mills, Jan Mitchell, Sr Andrea Myers RSJ, Mary Riordan, John Skinner, Rhys Thomas, Aleta Way, Harry Wilson, Ronald William Woodhead

We pray for those who are sick at this time

Angeles Adapon, Dalisay Almanza, Teresa Almanza, Arabella Rae Arroyo, Joseph Austin, Cynthia Appleton, Judy Mary Carmody, Olga Charlton, Robyn Chesworth, Kerry Copus, Marion & Luke Crotty, Nicholas Dilley, Brigid Field, Pam French, Melinda Grainger, Vince Gurr, Anne & Peter Hardy, Leanne Hardy, Julie Hartigan, John Hogan, Ken Jones, Ethan Joseph, Krystyna Kulzcznski, Fr Anthony Lemon (Murwillumbah), Michael Lockyer, Sharon Martin, Kevin Moloney, Lisa Peattie, Terry Prouse, Ella Rusak, Olga Rusak, Jane Winsor O'Keefe, Amelia Verdera Satana, Margaret Sipple, Zane Slomka, Steven Small, Anne Standing, Carol Su'a, John Szczudluk, Vivian Tee, Veronica Tuck, Kathleen Tuckerman, Bill Temperley, Veronica Tuck, Robert Wild, Jo Winkler

For those who will be Baptised

Martha Joanne Peter Lawrence, Jesse Bradley Parker, Korbyn James Paul Salmon

For those who will be Married

Vanessa Anne Blyton & Ethan Christopher Ernst

Parish Notices



COVID—The New Normal


- **Numbers in churches** are unlimited.
- **QR Coding** in and out remain compulsory.
- **Holy Communion** is not permitted on the tongue. Communion from the Chalice is restricted to the celebrant only.
- **Masks** are not required, however encouraged.
- **Sign of Peace:** physical signs of the peace are not allowed, but members of the same household may participate.
- **Cleaning:** Is to continue as normal. Please use hand sanitiser
- **Singing** is allowed by everyone.
- The **Diocesan general dispensation** from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass is now withdrawn however if you are immune-compromised you should adhere to your medical advice as to whether or not to attend Mass. If you are unwell with even the slightest symptoms of cold or flu **do not attend Mass** until you receive a negative COVID result.
- For a more detailed report please follow this link: <https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/news-events/covid-19-update/>

Music Practice for 6.30pm, St Mary's,
OUTDOOR CHRISTMAS VIGIL MASS
 MONDAY 6.30pm in St Joseph's East Maitland.
 ALL WELCOME. For more information
 Contact Sue O'Donohue 0414890813

ACTiv8 Christmas Hamper Raffle
 Activ8 Youth will be conducting a raffle to raise funds for the youth group.
 Keep a look out for tickets

The 2022 Columban Catholic Art Calendar is now available at the Sacred Heart Campbell's Hill.
 The cost of each calendar is \$8.00.

Normal Vigil Masses on Saturday 25th for Beresfield and Campbell's Hill will not occur so they will celebrate their Masses on Sunday evening.
 Please see times below.

 Congratulations to the 96 children who completed their sacramental journey over the past few weeks. It certainly has been a long road from when they commenced in 2019 to now. Thank you to all our Sacraments of Initiation team members, led by Trish Bowe. To witness their commitment to the children has been special. Thank you to the parents who supported their children and encouraged them to learn more about the sacraments. We pray that they too have learned more along the way, and thank you to our clergy for supporting all our volunteers, parents and children. Their joy was evident as they celebrated the First Communion Masses.

 **Volunteers are needed at the Regional Christmas Vigil at St Mary's Campus.**
 There are posters where you can leave your name and contact number in each church or you can ring the parish office. We are looking for welcomers, readers, musicians, altar servers, extraordinary ministers, collectors and of course people who can help to setup and pack up.

CHRISTMAS WEEK MASS ROSTER

- Tues 21st December** (*St Peter Canisius, priest, doctor*)
 5.30pm Mass, St Joseph's East Maitland
- Wed 22nd December**
 7.00pm Mass, Holy Family, Largs
 12.00pm Mass, St John's Chapel, Maitland
- Thurs 23rd December** (*St John of Kanty, priest*)
 7.00am Mass, St Joseph's, East Maitland
- Fri 24th December Christmas Vigil**
 6.00pm Mass, OLOL, Beresfield
 6.30pm Mass, Outdoor, St Mary's School Grounds Maitland
 7.00pm Mass, St Paul's, Rutherford
- Midnight Mass 12.00am** St Joseph's, East Maitland

PRIVATE PRAYER / ADORATION

- Mon 20th December**
 9.30am—12.00 Prayer, St Joseph's, East Maitland
 12 - 1pm Adoration, St Joseph's, East Maitland
- Tues 21st December**
 9.30-10.30am Prayer, St Joseph's, East Maitland
- Wed 22nd December**
 9.30-10.30am Prayer, St Joseph's, East Maitland
- Thurs 23rd December**
 9.30-10.30am Prayer, St Joseph's, East Maitland
- Fri 24th December**
 7.30am Adoration, St Joseph's, East Maitland
 9.30am Prayer of the Church, OLOL, Beresfield
 St John's Chapel Maitland open for private prayer 23rd & 24th December only.

St John's Chapel will be closed during the month of January. The last Mass of the year will be on 22nd December 2021

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