



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR A, Sunday 18th December 2022

Advent Candle Prayer Response

R: Come Lord Jesus

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.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading *Is 7:10-14*

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The virgin will conceive.

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No', Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.' Then Isaiah said:

'Listen now, House of David: are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men without trying the patience of my God, too? The Lord himself, therefore, will give you a sign. It is this: the maiden is with child and will soon give birth to a son whom she will call Immanuel, a name which means "God-is-with-us".'

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm

Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

The Lord's is the earth and its fullness, the world and all its peoples. It is he who set it on the seas; on the waters he made it firm. (R.)

Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord? Who shall stand in his holy place? The man with clean hands and pure heart, who desires not worthless things. (R.)

He shall receive blessings from the Lord and reward from the God who saves him. Such are the men who seek him, seek the face of the God of Jacob. (R.)

Second Reading *Rom 1:1-7*

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Jesus Christ, a descendant of David, is the Son of God.

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures.

This news is about the Son of God, who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead. Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation Alleluia, alleluia!

A virgin will give birth to a son; his name will be Emmanuel: God is with us. Alleluia!

Gospel *Mt 1:18-24*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus was born of Mary, the betrothed of Joseph, a son of David.

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

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
Youth Mass 6.00pm

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST (Est 1841) Maitland
SACRED HEART, New England Hwy, Campbell's Hill - Vigil 6.30pm
celebrated at St Paul's Rutherford

HOLY FAMILY, 11 John St, Largs
Sunday 8.20am.
ST COLUMBA'S, Cnr Prince & Church Sts, Paterson - Sunday 9.30am

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION (Est 1871) Cnr George & James Sts, Morpeth
Sunday 7.15am.

ST PATRICK'S (Est 1905), 55 New England Hwy, Lochinvar-Sunday 9.30am.

OUR LADY OF LOURDES (Est 1947), Cnr Anderson Dr & Delprat Ave, Beresfield
Vigil 6.00pm.

ST PAUL'S (Est 1961), 10 Young St, Rutherford - Sunday 8.00am.

Ministers

All baptised members of the community

Ministry Team

Parish Priest: Fr George Anthicad
Asst Priests: Fr John Vo Vien
Fr Graham Fullick

Presbytery 4934 5783

Urgent Priest on Duty
0428 017 273

Support Clergy

Fr Maurice Cahill
Fr Kevin Kiem

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

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.

REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate

Just Man Dreaming

Joseph could not ignore Mary's pregnancy, but he had an exceptional large-heartedness, so that he preserved a future for Mary even though she had apparently wronged him.

If he had gone to sleep in a frame of mind to avenge his honour, he would not have been ready to have the deepest levels of his consciousness stirred in the way God wanted. In the deep sleep of a just and good man, Joseph was enlightened as to the divine dimension of Mary's pregnancy. The old cycle of human history, literally generation after generation, was being broken. Something utterly new had happened.

You and I are just as likely to receive an intuition as to God's plan for us in the depths of sleep: who we really are, who we are destined to be, where we fit in to God's plan for transforming the whole of creation. When we get these instructive moments in our sleep, what can we do when we wake up? We can do what Joseph did: get up and do what is needed to fulfil the message.

We could pause for a moment to thank Joseph for showing what dreams can be made of. Tonight might be the night!

© Fr Michael Tate; mtate@bigpond.com

Rev Prof Michael Tate graduated in Law from the University of Tasmania in 1968, and in Theology from Oxford University in 1971. He lectured at the University of Tasmania from 1972-78, being Dean of the Faculty of Law in 1977-78. He was a Senator for Tasmania from 1978-93, being Federal Minister for Justice from 1987-93. He served as Ambassador to The Hague and the Holy See from 1993-96. He then returned to Australia and was ordained in May 2000 and has been a parish priest in the Archdiocese of Hobart since then. He is an Honorary Professor of Law at the University of Tasmania where he lectures in International Humanitarian Law.

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
(*all bow*)
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the
dead;

he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God the
Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge the living
and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting. Amen.

UNIVERSAL PRAYERS

Celebrant: Brothers and Sisters we are chosen by God to spread the love of the One who made us. Let us be like Joseph and put our faith in the Lord.

Prayer Leader:

For strength and wisdom of the Holy Spirit for those who lead us in our faith, Pope Francis, Bishops, Priests and Deacons and all religious teachers. . . .We pray. . . . Lord hear our prayer

We pray for all people in our World, as we come to the celebration of our Saviour's birth among us, that his Spirit will move in our hearts with faith and love.....We pray Lord hear our prayer

For all those who will join us at Mass to celebrate Christmas, may they be blessed by the Lord with renewed love and strengthened faith.... We pray. Lord hear our prayer.

We pray for all our people who will be travelling this holiday time, and ask that they be kept safe from all harm. . . .We pray. . . . Lord hear our prayer

In our World torn by war and cruelty, with millions of homeless and refugees, that the Prince of Peace will stir the compassion of those who enjoy freedom and the blessings of peace. . . .We pray. Lord hear our prayer

We pray for the people in our Community who are not well and are unable to be with us at this Eucharist, and for all people who are grieving the loss of family members including our fallen police officers. We pray. Lord hear our prayer

We pray for those who have returned to our Father in our Heavenly Home especially Helen Bowe, Helen Davies and Vincent Gurr who died recently, we ask that the prayers of Our Lady and St. Joseph will be with them and they enter purified into the full joy of God's presence . . . We pray. . . Lord hear our prayer

Celebrant: Lord God, as Christmas draws near, we bring these prayers before you, assisted by the Blessed Mary, ever-Virgin, Mother of your Son, who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

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.

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

We pray those who have died this week

Helen Bowe, Helen Davies, Vincent Gurr

We remember those whose Anniversaries occur around this time including

Robert Carroll, Ricardo Eugenio, Harry James Martin, Sr Andrea Myers rsj, Dorothy Sawyer,
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,
Ian Christopher Bajo, Lorraine Bartlett, Brian & Esme Bisson, Judy Mary Carmody, Olga Charlton,
Robyn Chesworth, Juliet Cranny, Marion & Luke Crotty, Nickolee Dennis, Nicholas Dilley,
Yvonne Mary Fielding, Pam French, Glenda Frost Higginbottom, Melinda Grainger, Anne & Peter Hardy,
Leanne Hardy, Ethan Joseph, Karen Kenyon, Krystyna Kulzcznski, Hughie Laverrey, Patricia Lancaster,
Fr Anthony Lemon (Murwillumbah), Michael Lockyer, Sharon Martin, Judy Massey, Victoria Micallef,
Kevin Moloney, Mharielle Munoz, Daphne Parfait, Lisa Peattie, Jen Phillips, Ella Rusak, Olga Rusak,
Margaret Sipple, Steven Small, Anne Standing, Carol Su'a, Vivian Tee, Bill Temperley, Andrew Veitch,
Nilda Walker, Robert Wild, Jo Winkler, Phillip Wilson

We pray for those children who will be Baptised this weekend

Archie David Edwards, Leo John Edwards, Madi Mae Irwin, Grace Violet Lantry, Mason John Lantry,
Zarlia Elodie Mellon, Briarna Lilly-May Smith

We pray for those who will Confirmed this week

Samuel Faleulu Jr. Ngungutau

We pray for the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) Candidates and Catechumens who have commenced their Journey to join our Communities

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The Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle has an abiding commitment to promote the safety, welfare and wellbeing of children and vulnerable adults. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility if you have any concerns for a child or vulnerable adult please contact the Office of Safeguarding: P 4979 1390



CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

VIGIL MASS

Saturday 24th December

5.00pm - St Joseph's East Maitland

6.00pm - Our Lady or Lourdes Beresfield

6.30pm - Sacred Heart Mass at St Paul's Rutherford

MIDNIGHT MASS

12.00AM SUNDAY 25TH December -

St Joseph's East Maitland

CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES

Sunday 25th December

7.15am - Immaculate Conception Morpeth

8.00am - St Paul's Rutherford

8.20am - Holy Family Largs

8.30am - St Joseph's East Maitland

9.30am - St Patrick's Lochinvar

9.30am - St Columba's Paterson

6.00pm - St Joseph's East Maitland



Piety Stall

Come and shop, last chance.

Will be closed until the weekend of the 28th January.

Thank you for all your support over the year.
Wishing blessings for Christmas and 2023.

ACTiv8 Youth are seeking volunteers to assist with vibrant and energetic youth groups in 2023.

If you think you may be able to offer some time on either a Tuesday or Wednesday evening please contact Bec at the parish office for more information
email chisholm@mn.catholic.org.au
Or phone for more information 49338918

IN PREPARATION OF OUR OFFICE CLOSURE DURING CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR

- The Parish office will be closed from end of day Friday 23rd December and will re-open Wednesday 4th January 2022
- If you wish an anniversary/notice/article to be placed in the bulletin for the weekends of 25th December or 8th January 2023 please advise the office by Monday 19th December 2022 and leave a phone message (02 49338918) or via email chisholm@mn.catholic.org.au
- There will be no anniversaries/notices or articles placed in the bulletin for Sunday 1st January as this bulletin will be prepared before Christmas.

Update on the Sacred Heart Church:

The Engineer inspected the church on Monday 14 December and he will be providing a full report. In summary, he agreed with the decision made on Friday 11 December to have the church fully closed to the public during this time of repairs. The repairs will be a costly and lengthy process. Until further notice Mass for the Sacred Heart Community will be celebrated at St Paul's Rutherford which includes our Christmas Vigil and all Baptisms. We thank our friends at Rutherford who have opened their church to us with love and compassion.

**TICKETS AVAILABLE
AT YOUR CHURCH,
YOUTH GROUPS OR
PARISH OFFICE
FROM THIS WEEK**



WEEKDAY MASS ROSTER

Mon 19th December

Tues 20th December

5.30pm Mass, St Joseph's, East Maitland

Wed 21st December (St Peter Canisius, priest and doctor of the church)

7.00pm Mass, Holy Family, Largs

Thurs 22nd December

7.00am Mass, St Joseph's, East Maitland

Fri 23rd December (St John of Kanty, priest)

7.00am Mass, St Joseph's, East Maitland

Sat 24th December

8.00am Mass/Reconciliation, St Joseph's, East Maitland

Sun 18th December

9.00am Mass Polish, St Mary's Chapel (Victoria St Maitland)

PRIVATE PRAYER / ADORATION

Mon 19th December

9.30am-noon Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, St Joseph's, East Maitland

12 Midday-1 pm Eucharistic Adoration St Joseph's, East Maitland

Tues 20th December

9.30-10.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, St Joseph's, East Maitland

Wed 21st December

9.30-10.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, St Joseph's, East Maitland

Thurs 22nd December

9.30-10.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, St Joseph's, East Maitland

Fri 23rd December

7.30am Adoration, St Joseph's, East Maitland

9.30am Prayer of the Church, LOL, Beresfield