



**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.  
**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 Anthonicad  
**Asst Priests:** Fr John Vo Vien  
Fr Graham Fullick

Presbytery 4934 5783

**Urgent Priest on Duty**  
0428 017 273

**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

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.

### **Advent Candle Prayer Response**

**R: Come Lord Jesus**

#### **Entrance Antiphon**

O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.

#### LITURGY OF THE WORD

#### **First Reading** *Is 11:1-10*

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

*He judges the poor with justice.*

A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse, a scion thrusts from his roots:

on him the spirit of the Lord rests, a spirit of wisdom and insight, a spirit of counsel and power, a spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord. (The fear of the Lord is his breath.)

He does not judge by appearances, he gives no verdict on hearsay, but judges the wretched with integrity, and with equity gives a verdict for the poor of the land. His word is a rod that strikes the ruthless, his sentences bring death to the wicked. Integrity is the loin cloth round his waist, faithfulness the belt about his hips. The wolf lives with the lamb, the panther lies down with the kid, calf and lion cub feed together with a little boy to lead them. The cow and the bear make friends, their young lie down together. The lion eats straw like the ox. The infant plays over the cobra's hole; into the viper's lair the young child puts his hand. They do no hurt, no harm, on all my holy mountain, for the country is filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters swell the sea. That day, the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples. It will be sought out by the nations and its home will be glorious.

**The Word of the Lord**  
Thanks be to God

#### **Responsorial Psalm**

**Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.**

O God, give your judgement to the king, to a king's son your justice, that he may judge your people in justice and your poor in right judgement. (R.)

In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails. He shall rule from sea to sea, from the Great River to the earth's bounds. (R.)

For he shall save the poor when they cry and the needy who are helpless. He will have pity on the weak and save the lives of the poor. (R.)

May his name be blessed for ever and endure like the sun. Every tribe shall be blessed in him, all nations bless his name. (R.)

#### **Second Reading** *Rom 15:4-9*

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

*Christ, the hope of all people.*

Everything that was written long ago in the scriptures was meant to teach us something about hope from the examples scripture gives of how people who did not give up were helped by God. And may he who helps us when we refuse to give up, help you all to be tolerant with each other, following the example of Christ Jesus, so that united in mind and voice you may give glory to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. It can only be to God's glory, then, for you to treat each other in the same friendly way as Christ treated you. The reason Christ became the servant of circumcised Jews was not only so that God could faithfully carry out the promises made to the patriarchs, it was also to get the pagans to give glory to God for his mercy, as scripture says in one place: For this I shall praise you among the pagans and sing your name.

**The Word of the Lord**  
Thanks be to God

#### **Gospel Acclamation** Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia!

#### **Gospel** *Mt 3:1-12*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

*Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.*

In due course John the Baptist appeared; he preached in the wilderness of Judaea and this was his message: 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' This was the man the prophet Isaiah spoke of when he said: A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight. This man John wore a garment made of camel-hair with a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judaea and the whole Jordan district made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. But when he saw a number of Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism he said to them, 'Brood of vipers, who warned you to fly from the retribution that is coming? But if you are repentant, produce the

appropriate fruit, and do not presume to tell yourselves, "We have Abraham for our father," because, I tell you, God can raise children for Abraham from these stones. Even now the axe is laid to the roots of the trees, so that any tree which fails to produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown on the fire. I baptise you in water for repentance, but the one who follows me is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to carry his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand; he will clear his threshing-floor and gather his wheat into the barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.'

**The Gospel of the Lord**

**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ**

## REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate

### Inaugurating a New Humanity

John proclaimed that the reign of God was 'at hand' as he immersed and plunged followers into the waters of the Jordan River. (His nickname was John the Immerser, or 'baptiser' in the Greek.) He used flowing water to symbolise the washing away of the past for those who repented so that they could be totally focused on the 'at hand' person who would inaugurate God's kingdom.

In this passage, John does not identify the 'Someone'! But he realised that this 'Someone' would have divine power to affect the future by immersing, baptising, his followers with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

At this stage of Advent, we should be like John's disciples, filled with a sense of anticipation, looking forward to the *coming towards us* ('Advent' in Latin) of the One who can flood our minds and bodies with the Holy Spirit and can immerse our hearts in Divine Fire.

We could pause for a moment to thank God that, even though we are unworthy to carry His sandals, there is One who is coming towards us wanting to transform us with Divine Power.

© 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 in this Advent time we await the coming of our Saviour. Make our faith strong that we always have confidence and trust in Your fatherly care.

#### Prayer Leader:

For the leaders of our Church; the Pope, Bishops, Priests, Deacons and Religious orders: We pray for the Holy Spirit to inspire them with words of wisdom to continue the saving work of Christ until the end of the world. . .

We pray in faith. . . . **Lord hear our prayer**

God our Father, fill the heart of a Priest, with the Spirit of Christ giving him Your wisdom, that he may become Your true Shepherd like Jesus, building up Your Kingdom and to lead us as our Bishop . . . .We pray in faith. . .

**Lord hear our prayer**

For all the people of the Chisholm Region in this Advent time as we await the coming of the Christ child: May they become connected to our Almighty God in their hearts sharing love, and be Christ's life and light in the world. . . .We pray in faith. . . . **Lord hear our prayer**

For all people who are finding life difficult at this time. That through the Immaculate Conception of Mary, whose solemnity we celebrate this week, will renew their faith and trust in our loving God, that He will carry them even those who are in doubt. . . .We pray in faith. . . . **Lord hear our prayer**

We ask special blessings on those who are searching in faith, especially those who attend the RCIA programme. May they find joy in the love of God, present in their lives. . . .We pray in faith. . . . **Lord hear our prayer**

We remember those who are not well and unable to celebrate Eucharist with us. Send special blessings on them and create hope in their hearts for Your eternal love. . . . We pray in faith. . . . **Lord hear our prayer**

We pray for those who have gone to rest before us and give thanks for their faith they have passed on to us, especially Hughie Leverey and Stuart Cluny Macpherson. May they rest in the peace of Christ. . . . .We pray in faith. . . . **Lord hear our prayer**

**Celebrant:** Merciful Father, we beseech You, O Lord: be with us Your people, who cry to You, that what we seek, may be obtained by Your loving heart and generosity. We ask this through Jesus Your Son.

**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** Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.

***We pray those who have died this week***

Hughie Leverey, Stuart Cluny Macpherson

***We remember those whose Anniversaries occur around this time including***

Tim Austin, Barry Collins, Kevin Collins, Ellen Harvey, Jack Harvey, Winifred Hill, May Hoffman,

James Herbert Mate, Mark Anthony Mate, Brian Moran,

Peter and Stefania Nowik, Catherine (Kay) Mungoven, Douglas Reid, James Riordan snr,

Mary Riordan Geoffrey V. Thompson

***We pray for those who are sick at this time***

Angeles Adapon, Dalisay Almanza, Teresa Almanza, Arabella Rae Arroyo, Joseph Austin, Cynthia Appleton, Lorraine Bartlett, Brian & Esme Bisson, Judy Mary Carmody, Olga Charlton, Robyn Chesworth, Juliet Cranny, Marion & Luke Crotty,

Nickolee Dennis, Nicholas Dille, Yvonne Mary Fielding, Pam French,

Glenda Frost Higginbottom, Melinda Grainger, Vince Gurr, Anne & Peter Hardy, Leanne Hardy, Julie Hartigan, Ethan Joseph, Karen Kenyon, Krystyna Kulzczynski, 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***

Amara Alengadan, Leah Patricia Gard, William John Green, Hazel Grace Kirkwood, Blair Lorraine Massey,

Finn Robin Massey, Chelsea Anne Turner, Peyton Rose Willingham

***For those who will be Confirmed***

James Matthew Kipfer, Mark Nicholas Kipfer, Patrick John Kipfer, Philip Simon Kipfer

***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



## Vinnies Christmas Appeal

An invitation is extended to all parishioners throughout the Region to contribute towards the St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal, which will be conducted over this weekend and next weekend.

Envelopes will be available in parish churches.

People can also donate by calling 131812 or visiting [vinnies.org.au](http://vinnies.org.au). This is an opportunity to think of others who are struggling in our community and make their Christmas a little brighter.

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception Mass will take place on Thursday 8th December at 8am, Immaculate Conception, Morpeth followed by morning tea.

Everyone is welcome.

### Volunteers URGENTLY needed for midnight Mass and Christmas day 6pm Mass

Proclaimers of the Word, welcomers, collectors, altar servers, offertory, extraordinary ministers, musicians including organist and choir, overhead projector operator, adult supervisors with a current WWC number. Please contact Fr Graham this week on [graham.fullick@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:graham.fullick@mn.catholic.org.au) or 49345783 if you would like to participate.

**Piety Stall** will be open at all Masses on the weekend at St. Joseph's Church.

Christmas stock available including Advent candle sets, Nativity Scenes, and children's coloring books. New stock and books including Bible Stories for Children Contact Marion 0419811759.

### Pints with a Purpose: Pilgrimage

On Monday 5 December you're invited to join the Diocesan Council for Ministry with Young People at Pints with a Purpose. Speaker Ryan Gato, the coordinator of the Diocesan Pilgrimage to World Youth Day 2023. The event starts at 6pm at the Sydney Junction Hotel. For more information, please contact Mary-Anne de Luca on 0409 077 373.

### WEEKDAY MASS ROSTER

**Tues 6th December** (St Nicholas, bishop)  
5.30pm Mass, St Joseph's, East Maitland

**Wed 7th December** (St Ambrose, bishop, doctor)  
7.00pm Mass, Holy Family, Largs

**Thurs 8th December** (The IMMACULATE CONCEPTION of the BLESSED VIRGIN MARY)  
7.00am Mass, St Joseph's, East Maitland  
8.00am Mass, Immaculate Conception Solemnity Mass

**Fri 9th December** (Saint Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin, hermit)  
7.00am Mass, St Joseph's, East Maitland

**Sat 10th December**  
8.00am Mass/Reconciliation, St Joseph's, East Maitland

**Sun 11th December**  
9.00am Mass Polish, St Mary's Chapel (Victoria St Maitland)



## THE CATHOLIC PARISHES AND SCHOOLS OF THE MAITLAND REGION PRESENT

### CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

Saturday December 17th, 5.00pm at All Saints College St Peters Campus (Free Church St Maitland)

BBQ, drinks, coffee, lolly bags, Santa, singalong, candles & market stalls

Everyone is invited to attend and join in our Christmas Celebration

### Message from the Regional Liturgy team and clergy

A few years back the site of the outdoor Christmas Eve Mass was moved from East Maitland school grounds to the St Mary's Campus in Maitland. This was because East Maitland did not have a hall large enough with the facilities that we could be used in case of storms or extreme heat.

This year St Mary's Campus buildings and grounds were greatly affected by flooding. This unfortunately has meant that the Christmas Eve outdoor Mass will not be able to be held there. After discussions and prayer the Regional Liturgy team felt that, given Christmas Day falls on a Sunday, it would be best to have our Christmas Mass times the same as our traditional weekend Mass times with the addition of Midnight Mass at East Maitland.

The 6pm Sunday night Mass group are considering whether this Mass will go ahead, just for this Christmas weekend, as most of our volunteers will be wishing to spend the afternoon and evening with their family. But if you would like to attend the Christmas Day 6pm Sunday night Mass please let us know via email [chisholm@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:chisholm@mn.catholic.org.au) so a decision can be made. Fr George will be happy to celebrate this Mass if we have volunteers and parishioners wishing to attend. Thank you for understanding and Blessings to you and your family.

The Columban calendar is now available for sale East Maitland, Rutherford and Morpeth Churches Cost \$8.00

### PRIVATE PRAYER / ADORATION

**Mon 5th 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 6th December**  
9.30-10.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, St Joseph's, East Maitland

**Wed 7th December**  
9.30-10.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, St Joseph's, East Maitland

**Thurs 8th December**  
9.30-10.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, St Joseph's, East Maitland

**Fri 9th December**  
7.30am Adoration, St Joseph's, East Maitland  
9.30am Prayer of the Church, OLOL, Beresfield

St John's Chapel Maitland: is closed until further notice  
Live stream Mass every Sunday at 9.30am  
[www.mn.catholic.org.au/places/live-stream](http://www.mn.catholic.org.au/places/live-stream)