



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

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading *Is 35:1-6, 10*

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

God himself will come and save us.

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult, let the wasteland rejoice and bloom, let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil, let it rejoice and sing for joy. The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it, the splendour of Carmel and Sharon; they shall see the glory of the Lord, the splendour of our God. Strengthen all weary hands, steady all trembling knees and say to all faint hearts, 'Courage! Do not be afraid. 'Look, your God is coming, vengeance is coming, the retribution of God; he is coming to save you.' Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed, then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy, for those the Lord has ransomed shall return. They will come to Zion shouting for joy, everlasting joy on their faces; joy and gladness will go with them and sorrow and lament be ended.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm

Lord, come and save us.

It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever, who is just to those who are oppressed. It is he who gives bread to the hungry, the Lord, who sets prisoners free. (R.)

It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind, who raises up those who are bowed down, the Lord, who protects the stranger and upholds the widow and orphan. (R.)

It is the Lord who loves the just but thwarts the path of the wicked. The Lord will reign for ever, Zion's God, from age to age. (R.)

Second Reading *James 5:7-10*

A reading from the letter of St James

You also must be patient; do not lose heart, the Lord's coming will be soon.

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the

ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make complaints against one another, brothers, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor. Alleluia!

Gospel *Mt 11:2-11*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Are you the one who is to come, or must we wait for someone else?

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.'

As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'

The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ



You take the children or the mother-in-law on a long trip and you hear at some point, always from the back seat, never long enough into the journey: "Are we there yet?" The essential message of Saint John was: "Prepare the way. Turn away from your sins". The essential message of Jesus is "The time is fulfilled. Repent and believe the Good News." Indeed, Jesus **IS** the Good News. God **IS** with us at his coming birth in Bethlehem. He is the One. But John the Baptist, his first cousin, asks Jesus one of those "Are we there yet?"-questions. He asks Jesus in fact "Are you the one who is to come [the Messiah, the anointed one] or are we to wait for another?" It is not a good start when your cousin sends you a message from prison. Of course Jesus, whose birth we anticipate, secured our freedom from the gaol of sin by paying with his own blood, even as we are still sinners, which is our greatest security to eternal life. Now here we see St. John's temptation to despair precisely because he is in prison. He has been brooding and reflecting as only a prisoner can, longing like all of creation, all of us. Are you the One?

This great saint really is asking cousin, Jesus *Is what I have done worth it; does it have any meaning or value? Can I put my trust in you? Will you love me and save me after all this, or do I still have to wait?* What happened to John, happens in our own lives doesn't it? We are not even St. John's sandal strap, yet we work, we raise children, we seek to do good, we study, we worry. Is it worth it? We get downtrodden like John in gaol. Worse, we tread on God and others. We doubt Jesus, we don't pray, we don't worship, we are not even thankful for the grace we can never merit. We are aware of being sinned against and hurt, but forget the plank in our eye when we sin. Finally, or actually firstly, PRIDE kicks in. We think we merit Jesus posting bail for us, getting us out of gaol for free. Even the good we do is never enough, so we are despondent in this valley of tears. The devil depresses us, makes us irritable.

What does Jesus say to his cousin and us his adopted brothers and sisters? "The deaf hear, blind see, cripples walk, lepers are cleansed, dead are raised **"AND blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me"**! What is the wink from Jesus or the backhander to his cousin and us? Do not take offence at me! Believe in the grace of your own baptism. Believe in the fruit of your own baptism. Do not let the devil's world get you down. Go to confession and throw off the sins. I want again to free you. The devil is the great discourager. I am the great **encourager**. We have grace of baptism and always need grace of **prayer, fasting and repentance** in the desert, for faith, hope and charity, to believe, trust and love. If like Jesus and John we persevere to the end, the end is just the **beginning** of new life, salvation. Salvation is born in Christ whose birth we anticipate. We lift our hearts to the Lord like babies to an outreaching parent, God the Father. No. We are not there yet. But to get the benefit, prepare the way, the acceptable time is now. The questions we should be asking ourselves are **"Am I ready yet?"** **"Am I making myself ready?"**

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: Father Creator of all, You are the source of peace, look on Your people for whom we now pray, that they may share in the true peace of Christ.

Prayer Leader:

Father Almighty send forth Your Holy Self to inspire the leaders of our Church: Pope Francis, Bishops, Priests, Deacons: help them with their work on earth, to build up your eternal Kingdom. . . Gracious Lord. **Hear our prayer.**

For the leaders of the nations of the world: that God may enlighten their minds and guide their hearts with wisdom to treat all people with justice and compassion. . . Gracious Lord. **Hear our prayer.**

Holy Spirit open the mind and heart of one who would accept the challenge and respond generously to Your call, continuing the work of the Good Shepherd and lead us, as Our Bishop in this Diocese . . Gracious Lord. **Hear our prayer.**

May the Holy Spirit shine special blessings on Fr John Vo as he celebrates his ordination anniversary. We give thanks for his faith, love and compassion that he shares with us as he guides us in the words of the Gospel. . . . Gracious Lord. . . . **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for the homeless refugees who are seeking a place of peace and rest, that your presence will be felt among them giving them courage to continue in their journey in this life Gracious Lord. . . . **Hear our prayer.**

Holy Lord may your love shine on those who are unable to celebrate in the true presence of Yourself due to ill health. . . Gracious Lord. . . . **Hear our prayer.**

Christ came to live among us that we might share His divine life. We pray for all our people who have died during this week, especially Carlo Dalapo and Ron Harris, that they may know Jesus face to face. . . . Gracious Lord. . . . **Hear our prayer.**

Celebrant: We praise and thank You Father, that we know You in Your Son who came among us. We know through Him your readiness to hear us. We ask in His name, through Christ our Lord.

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 Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

We pray those who have died this week

Carlo Dalapo, Ron Harris

We remember those whose Anniversaries occur around this time including

Mario Rito Arellano, Hazel Eileen Brennan, Corazon Eugenio, Ricardo Eugenio, William Charles Euston, Jack Fogarty, Evelyn Marquez, Johnathon Thomas Meehan, Terese Maria New, Rhys Thomas, Graham Wholert, Marie Wurth & Kathleen Wurth

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, Vince Gurr, Anne & Peter Hardy, Leanne Hardy, Julie Hartigan, Ethan Joseph, Karen Kenyon, Krystyna Kulzcznski, Hughie Lavery, 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

Arthur George Brennan, Ruby Crowe, Rivah Crowe, Rome Crowe, Avaya Ann Duggan, Mason Joseph Edwards, Abigail Rose Osborn

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 this weekend.

Envelopes will be available in parish churches.

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

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

The Combined Churches of Morpeth present **"9 Lessons and Carols"** this Sunday 11th December at 6pm at St James Anglican Church (Morpeth). Everyone welcome.

Regional Advent

2nd Rite Reconciliation



- ◆ Tuesday 13th December, 6.15pm, St Joseph's East Maitland
- ◆ Thursday 15th December, 6.15pm, St Paul's Rutherford



ACTIVS YOUTH Christmas Raffle

HELP US RAISE FUNDS FOR OUR YOUTH GROUP

PRIZES INCLUDE
\$50 HOYTS MOVIE VOUCHER
\$20 SMIGGLES VOUCHER
2 BOTTLES OF WINE & CHOCOLATES
VITTORIA CAPSULE COFFEE MACHINE

TICKETS 2 FOR \$5

RAFFLE DRAWN THURSDAY 22ND DECEMBER

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

As mentioned in last week's bulletin our Christmas Masses will be the same time as our traditional weekend Masses with the addition of Midnight Mass at East Maitland. As also mentioned in last week's bulletin it would be lovely to hear from you if you wish to attend Christmas Day 6pm Mass so a decision can be made this week please email:

Chisholm@mn.catholic.org.au
by Wednesday 14/12/22

Update on Sacred Heart Church white-ant issues: Over the past month or so we have had the pest company treat sites of active white-ants within the church. This week our builder commenced work to repair the damage caused by these pests. Unfortunately, while the builder was inspecting the rafters, he has found more active white-ants in another site and quite bad damage to the rafters. On Friday (9/12) the pest company came to treat this new site and on Monday an Engineer will be coming to inspect and report on the damage. In the meantime there will be support poles placed in areas of the church. Baptism for the next two weeks and the Advent Reconciliation have been moved to St Paul's Rutherford. We will keep you informed.

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

WEEKDAY MASS ROSTER
Mon 12th December (<i>Our Lady of Guadalupe</i>)
Tues 13th December (<i>St Lucy, virgin, martyr</i>) 5.30pm Mass, St Joseph's, East Maitland
Wed 14th December (<i>St John of the Cross, priest, doctor</i>) 7.00pm Mass, Holy Family, Largs
Thurs 15th December 7.00am Mass, St Joseph's, East Maitland
Fri 16th December 7.00am Mass, St Joseph's, East Maitland
Sat 17th December 8.00am Mass/Reconciliation, St Joseph's, East Maitland

ADVENT RECONCILIATION /PRIVATE PRAYER / ADORATION
Mon 12th 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 13th December 9.30-10.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, St Joseph's, East Maitland 6.15pm Advent Reconciliation St Joseph's, East Maitland
Wed 14th December 9.30-10.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, St Joseph's, East Maitland
Thurs 15th December 9.30-10.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, St Joseph's, East Maitland 6.15pm Advent Reconciliation St Paul's, Rutherford
Fri 16th December 7.30am Adoration, St Joseph's, East Maitland 9.30am Prayer of the Church, OLOL, Beresfield

Sun 18th December 9.00am Mass Polish, St Mary's Chapel (Victoria St Maitland)
