

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 Greg Arnold

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, Gweagui, Darkinjung, Biripi and Awabakal peoples. We respectfully acknowledge their Elders, celebrate their continuing culture and the living memory of their ancestors.



The Nativity of the Lord **CHRISTMAS VIGIL** **Mass of Midnight** YEAR A, Sunday 25th December 2022

Entrance Antiphon

The Lord said to me: You are my Son.
It is I who have begotten you this day.

Gloria

Gloria to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will.
We praise you, we bless you,
we adore you, we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.
Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading *Is 9:1-7*

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

A son is given to us.

The people that walked in darkness
has seen a great light; on those who
live in a land of deep shadow a light
has shone. You have made their
gladness greater, you have made their
joy increase; they rejoice in your
presence as men rejoice at harvest
time, as men are happy when they are
dividing the spoils. For the yoke that
was weighing on him, the bar across
his shoulders, the rod of his
oppressor, these you break as on the
day of Midian. For all the footgear of
battle, every cloak rolled in blood,
is burnt and consumed by fire.

For there is a child born for us,
a son given to us and dominion is laid
on his shoulders; and this is the name
they give him: Wonder-Counsellor,
Mighty-God, Eternal-Father, Prince-of-
Peace. Wide is his dominion in a
peace that has no end, for the throne
of David and for his royal power,
which he establishes and makes
secure in justice and integrity.

From this time onwards and for ever,
the jealous love of the Lord of hosts
will do this.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm

Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.

O sing a new song to the Lord, sing
to the Lord all the earth. O sing to the
Lord, bless his name. **(R.)**

Proclaim his help day by day, tell
among the nations his glory and his
wonders among all the peoples. **(R.)**

Let the heavens rejoice and earth be
glad, let the sea and all within it
thunder praise, let the land and all it
bears rejoice, all the trees of the wood
shout for joy at the presence of the
Lord for he comes, he comes to rule
the earth. **(R.)**

With justice he will rule the world,
he will judge the peoples with his
truth. **(R.)**

Second Reading *Ti 2:11-14*

A reading from the letter of St Paul to Titus

God's grace has been revealed to all people.

God's grace has been revealed, and it
has made salvation possible for the
whole human race and taught us that
what we have to do is to give up
everything that does not lead to God,
and all our worldly ambitions; we must
be self-restrained and live good and
religious lives here in this present
world, while we are waiting in hope for
the blessing which will come with the
Appearing of the glory of our great
God and saviour Christ Jesus. He
sacrificed himself for us in order to set
us free from all wickedness and to
purify a people so that it could be his
very own and would have no ambition
except to do good.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation Alleluia, alleluia!

Good News and great joy to all the
world: today is born our Saviour,
Christ the Lord.
Alleluia!

Gospel *Lk 2:1-14*

A reading from the holy Gospel
according to Luke

Today a saviour has been born for you.

Caesar Augustus issued a decree for
a census of the whole world to be
taken. This census – the first – took
place while Quirinius was governor of
Syria, and everyone went to his own
town to be registered. So Joseph set
out from the town of Nazareth in
Galilee and travelled up to Judaea, to
the town of David called Bethlehem,

since he was of David's House and line, in order to be registered together with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to a son, her first-born. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them at the inn. In the countryside close by there were shepherds who lived in the fields and took it in turns to watch their flocks during the night. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone round them. They were terrified, but the angel said, 'Do not be afraid. Listen, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people. Today in the town of David a saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. And here is a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.' And suddenly with the angel there was a great throng of the heavenly host, praising God and singing:

'Glory to God in the highest heaven
and peace to men who enjoy his favour.'

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

Homily - Fr Maurice Cahill

The coming of the Christ event had its beginning way back in eternity. It was ever the plan for the Lord to come among us. And He will still be with us, way on into eternity. Our Bible picks up the story of God's long, patient action of preparing a people; It tells of the calling of many prophets and holy teachers. All of them had to make their YES to God - to surrender to his call. Many glimpsed the wonderful event of the future Emmanuel, God with us.

There was one last "gate" that must swing open – a final YES still needed. Mary is often called the *Gate of Heaven* for allowing the entrance of Emmanuel, the Messiah. It was a complicated, mysterious ask; a big, big surrender into the unknown, as the angel Gabriel asked if she would be mother to the Messiah.

St. Bernard spoke beautifully about it. He said it was as if all of heaven stood still, listening for her answer. It was like all the earth was waiting with bated breath, in that most tremendous moment of our history. And it was, on the instant, Emmanuel – God is with us, in the flesh.

The shepherds witness the only grand welcome that the Holy babe received – like the full heavenly choir, orchestra, and all. St. Luke graphically paints the story of Christmas day in words – the event captured for us ever since by countless artists. We follow the shepherds to find the Newborn Christ. They need only find the one light still burning on that silent night. Mary and Joseph had much to contend with on that eventful night. Yet, they were further surprised by these rough, humble men coming with lamps. What a story they must have shared.

So here we are, invited to DO A SHEPHERD. We surely must gaze with them in wonder, as we watch and listen with them. We, likewise, stand in awe, contemplating the wonder of this small child; how he is holiness itself in his most humble abode of the stable and among animals. In the fields when heavens rang with the news, God blessed them. When they saw the child, God blessed them. On their return and celebration of what they saw, God blessed them. And as you and I hear again and ponder the story of stories, God blesses us.

Be amazed! The event that began in eternity will never be finished. Emmanuel has surely quietly slipped in among us in this silent night. He is with us now, and will never depart from the people he came to gather. Praised be the Lord Jesus, who came among us.

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: Christ is the light of the world, with His light shining on us this day, let us pray for those who are in any kind of darkness.

Prayer Leader: The response is

'Lord let your light shine on them this day'

We pray for the homeless. **Response**

We pray for the hungry. **Response**

We pray for the lonely. **Response**

We pray for those who live in the midst of war and upheaval. **Response**

We pray for prisoners. **Response**

We pray for the sick. **Response**

We pray for those who are away from home this day. **Response**

We pray for those who are grieving. . . **Response**

We pray for those who have died including Glenda Elizabeth Higginbottom, Keith Jordan

Margaret Therese Kirkwood and Barry Watterson **Response**

We pray for our own special needs. . . . **Response**

Celebrant: God of Love and Mercy, may your Son scatter the darkness of the world, and make this day radiant with His light. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

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 The Word became flesh, and we have seen his glory.

We pray those who have died this week

Glenda Elizabeth Higginbottom, Keith Jordan, Margaret Therese Kirkwood, Barry Watterson

We remember those whose Anniversaries occur around this time including

Mary & Jim Bonser, Marcia Callinan, Catherine & Stan Clark, Merv Clayden, Aidan Creigh,
Oswald (Ossie) Davies, Margaret Dunn, Edmund Ferry, Cletus Grant, Anton Laznik (Tony), James Locke,
Noel Francis Mills, Jan Mitchell, Br Elgar Murphy, Rita Myers, Ivy O'Neill, John Skinner,
William Joseph Saunders, Jill Smith, Desmond John Trappel, Henry Wilson

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, Melinda Grainger, Anne & Peter Hardy, Leanne Hardy, Ethan Joseph,
Karen Kenyon, Krystyna Kulcznski, Hughie Laveray, 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 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



Parish Notices

Dear Friends in Christ,
Merry Christmas! On behalf of our Clergy and Parish Office Staff, we hope that the remembrance of Christ's birth brings you much peace and hope, as we celebrate Christmas.

We would like to extend a special welcome if you are joining us for the first time, if you are visiting from any other places or faith traditions, or if you do not worship with us on a regular basis.

We are keeping all of you in our prayers, your loved ones, and your intentions. Thank you for lifting us in prayer as well. May you have the grace to find happiness and joy this Christmas and throughout the New Year.

Fr George, Fr John, Fr Graham.

Louise, Janine, Sandra & Bec

Carols By Candlelight Thank you

On Saturday 17th December 2022, the Catholic Parishes and Schools of the Maitland Region came together to celebrate Christmas with Carols by Candlelight at All Saints College, St Peters Campus. The evening was a huge success, and it was lovely to see the Region come together.

Thankyou to everyone who came along and took part on the night.

A special thanks to the hard workers who contributed to the evening, especially, Brian and Sue Lacey, Andrew, Maryanne and Liam Hacker, Patrick Healey, Bec and Colin Piefke, East Maitland Rotary and the performers. We also thank the Stall holders who provided beautiful Market Stalls for people to browse and do some last-minute Christmas Shopping.

Thank you to all the parents and teachers for their support in ensuring the children of our schools were able to attend the event. A special thank you to Fr George who celebrated Mass before the Carols and for championing such a great community building evening. We look forward to doing it all again next year.

PARISH OFFICE CLOSURE DURING CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR

- The Parish office will re- open Wednesday 4th January 2022
- There will be no anniversaries/notices or articles placed in the bulletin for Sunday 1st January as this bulletin was prepared on Monday 19th December.

Piety Stall

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

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

At Our Lady of Lourdes Beresfield will resume on Friday 27th January 2023

Update on the Sacred Heart Church:

The Engineer inspected the church on Monday 14 December and 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.



"A saviour has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord."

Luke 2:11

WEEKDAY MASS ROSTER

Mon 26th December (St Stephen, the first martyr)

Tues 27th December (St John, apostle, evangelist)

5.30pm Mass, St Joseph's, East Maitland

Wed 28th December (The Holy Innocents, martyrs)

7.00pm Mass, Holy Family, Largs

Thurs 29th December (St Thomas Becket, bishop, martyr)

7.00am Mass, St Joseph's, East Maitland

Fri 30th December (The HOLY FAMILY of Jesus, Mary and Joseph)

7.00am Mass, St Joseph's, East Maitland

Sat 31st December

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

PRIVATE PRAYER / ADORATION

Mon 26th December

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

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

Tues 27th December

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

Wed 28th December

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

Thurs 29th December

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

Fri 30th December

7.30am – 9.00am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, St Joseph's, East Maitland

9.30am Prayer of the Church, OLOL, Beresfield

Sun 1st January

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