



PARISH OFFICE : 302 High St Maitland
Tuesday - Friday 9.30am - 4.30pm
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 8.00am.

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 Camillus Nwahia

Presbytery 4934 5783

Urgent Priest on Duty 0428 017 273

Support Clergy

Fr Maurice Cahill, Fr Greg Arnold,

Fr Brett O'Neill

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

Safeguarding Promoters

Rebecca Piefke & Louise Gilchrist

49338918

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

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 2 Samuel 7:1-5. 8-12. 14. 16

A reading from the second book of Samuel

The kingdom of David will be established for ever in the sight of the Lord.

Once David had settled into his house and the Lord had given him rest from all the enemies surrounding him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'Look, I am living in a house of cedar while the ark of God dwells in a tent'. Nathan said to the king, 'Go and do all that is in your mind, for the Lord is with you.'

But that very night the word of the Lord came to Nathan:

'Go and tell my servant David, "Thus the Lord speaks: Are you the man to build me a house to dwell in? I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be leader of my people Israel; I have been with you on all your expeditions; I have cut off all your enemies before you. I will give you fame as great as the fame of the greatest on earth. I will provide a place for my people Israel; I will plant them there and they shall dwell in that place and never be disturbed again; nor shall the wicked continue to oppress them as they did, in the days when I appointed judges over my people Israel; I will give them rest from all their enemies. The Lord will make you great; the Lord will make you a House. And when your days are ended and you are laid to rest with your ancestors, I will preserve the offspring of your body after you and make his sovereignty secure. I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me and your throne be established for ever."

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm Ps 88:2-5. 27. 29.
R. see v.2

For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord; through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth. Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever,

that your truth is firmly established as the heavens. (R.)

'I have made a covenant with my chosen one; I have sworn to David my servant: I will establish your dynasty for ever and set up your throne through all ages.' (R.)

He will say to me: 'You are my father, my God, the rock who saves me.' I will keep my love for him always; for him my covenant shall endure. (R.)

Second Reading Romans 16:25-27

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

The mystery kept secret for endless ages is now revealed.

Glory to him who is able to give you the strength to live according to the Good News I preach, and in which I proclaim Jesus Christ, the revelation of a mystery kept secret for endless ages, but now so clear that it must be broadcast to pagans everywhere to bring them to the obedience of faith. This is only what scripture has predicted, and it is all part of the way the eternal God wants things to be. He alone is wisdom; give glory therefore to him through Jesus Christ for ever and ever. Amen.

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, alleluia!

Gospel Luke 1:26-38

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

You will conceive and bear a son.

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. He went in and said to her, 'Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.' She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, 'Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?' '

The Holy Spirit will come upon you' the angel answered 'and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God.' 'I am the handmaid of the Lord,' said Mary 'let what you have said be done to me.' And the angel left her.

The Gospel of the Lord Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ

REFLECTION by Greg Sunter Gospel Reflection

We have reached the final Sunday in the season of Advent – a time of preparing ourselves to recognise and celebrate Christ's presence in the world, both historically and in an ongoing, timeless way. This week's gospel account of the Annunciation is an ideal culmination to this season as we recall Mary's emphatic 'Yes' to all that was being asked of her. At the end of the Advent season of reflection and preparation to recognise Christ's presence in the world and in our lives, what better response could there be than to simply say, 'Yes'?

In a world that is driven by selfishness and the drive to push one's self ahead of others, Mary's selfless act stands as a challenge to our modern society. Even in her own time, Mary's decision must have been an enormously difficult one – one that had the potential to bring great shame on herself and Joseph. Yet, her decision is made swiftly and in faith. She trusts God absolutely and gives her life over into God's hands. That is perhaps the supreme act of faith; to say 'Yes' to God so completely that you are prepared to hand over direction and control of your own life.

Few of us tend to be visited by angels who lay out God's plan for us as clearly as Gabriel did for Mary. For most of us, it is a challenge to discern God's desire for us; to realise what it is that we are called to do and then give ourselves fully to that call. In the hustle and bustle of life, it is difficult to hear anything that God may be trying to ask of us. Perhaps the example of Mary's 'Yes' is a reminder to be still enough to hear the question in the first place!

© Greg Sunter

Greg Sunter has worked in Catholic Education (Brisbane) for many years, most recently as a member of the Religious Education team and Mission and Formation team. He has extensive experience of praying with young people and forming others to lead prayer with young people. He is the author of books on adolescent faith, is a regular speaker at youth and evangelisation conferences, and is a retreat and reflection facilitator and presenter. His areas of interest include religious education, theology, scripture, spirituality, Catholic ethos, prayer, and ministry with young people.

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,
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: The Angel said to Mary 'Do not be afraid'. Let us follow Mary's way and trust in the Fathers word as we place our needs before Him.

For Pope Francis, Bishop Michael, our Priests, Deacons and Religious Sisters who share their faith with us. May they be given the graces to continue their mission of love. . . We pray. . . **Lord hear our prayer.**

May the leaders of all countries in the world recognise this special time, as we celebrate the birth of Christ and find solutions to bring peace and love to all nations. . . We pray. . . **Lord hear our prayer.**

As we gather to celebrate our Saviours birth, we pray that our blessed Mother will help each of us to welcome God's plan into our lives and move our hearts with faith and love. . . We pray. . . **Lord hear our prayer.**

We pray for Father John Vo Ven: may he find companionship with the new Community he joins. We give thanks for the joy and friendship we have shared with him. We pray. . . **Lord hear our prayer.**

For those who are suffering from the recent fires and floods in our country: May they find the love of God in their hearts. . . We pray. . . **Lord hear our prayer.**

May the Christ Child give special blessings to those who are not well, helping them to encounter the love that Jesus has for them. . . . We pray. . . **Lord hear our prayer.**

For our loved ones who have return to our Heavenly home including Penelope Heagney, Katherine Kennedy and Maureen West, may they dwell in the loving presence of our King and Saviour Jesus Christ. . . We pray. . . . **Lord hear our prayer.**

Celebrant: Eternal God and Father lead us to seek beyond our reach and give us the courage to stand before Your truth and to walk in the light of Your love. We ask this through Christ 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: Isaiah 7:14

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

We pray those who have died this week

Penelope (Penny) Heagney, Katherine Kennedy, Maureen West

We remember those whose Anniversaries occur around this time including

Robert Carroll, Aidan Creigh, Betram Cringle, Robyn Cringle, Marjorie Donnellan, Edmund Ferry, James Locke, Noel Francis Mills, Ivy O'Neill, James Riordan, Mary Riordan, John Skinner, Edna Small, Jill Smith, Reggie Tobin

We pray for those who are sick at this time

Mari Shivanthi Abeykeon, Ian-Christopher Bajo, Lorraine Bartlett, Patrick Brennan, Judy Mary Carmody, Olga Charlton, Timothy Clifton, Luke Crotty, Oneli Disaaynayake, Alfredo Doctor, James Edwards, John Fielding, Yvonne Mary Fielding, Dianne Fryer, Rev Fr Joseph Selvan Fifarado, Barbara Filas, Annette & Pete Flood, Greg Grainger, Leanne Hardy, Penny Heagney, Graham Huckstadt, Gregory Hurney, Randy Janzen, Jolanta Jenkinson, Karen Kenyon, Michael Lockyer, Jaime Marquez, Simeon (Jaime) Marquez, Nonette Mase, Judy Massey, Marielle Munoz, Carlo Panlilio, Collin Perera, Jen Phillips, Anthony Y Poblador (USA), Mary Pullin, Rohini Rajakaruna, Olga Roberts, Ella Rusak, Olga Rusak, Biyatrise Samaratunga, Steven Small, Anne Standing, Bill Temperley, Nilda Walker, John Williams, Gary Wills, Jo Winkler

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Christmas Vigils Sunday 24th December 2023

- † 6.00pm St Joseph's, East Maitland
- † 6.30pm Our Lady of Lourdes, Beresfield
- † 7.00pm Campbell's Hill community at St Paul's Rutherford



Christmas Day Monday 25th December 2023

- † 7.15am Immaculate Conception, Morpeth
- † 8.00am St Paul's, Rutherford
- † 8.00am Holy Family, Largs
- † 8.30am St Joseph's, East Maitland
- † 9.30am St Patrick, Lochinvar
- † 9.30am St Columba's Paterson

SAVE THE DATE Catholic Women's League
Australia NSW Maitland-Newcastle Diocese, AGM
Saturday, 20th January 2024.

PIETY STALL AT ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH
Currently closed for the Christmas break.

If you or a loved one would like Home Communion please call the parish office on 49338918 or email chisholm@mn.catholic.org.au and we will organise this for you.

Religious Education in State Schools, 2024

There is an urgent need for teachers, or teacher helpers, to take Special Religious Education classes (SRE) in state schools. No prior experience is necessary. Lessons are for only thirty minutes a week, and books, assistance and training are provided. It's a great opportunity for trainee teachers. Without your help many children will receive no religious education. For further information, please phone Jan Healy 0411535882 or Sue O'Donohue 0414890813

Fr George extends an invitation to all of you to join him on a journey to the sacred Marian shrines of Europe in March 2024. Contact the parish office for more information.

We are delighted to announce that Fr. Priyantha will commence his ministry in our region starting from 17th January 2024. We look forward to welcoming him.

Prayer of the Church Beresfield

There will be no Prayer of the Church at Our Lady of Lourdes Beresfield until February 3rd 2023.

If you wish to be added to the parish email distribution list please email chisholm@mn.catholic.org.au. You will then receive the bulletin each week plus other announcements.

WEEKDAY MASS ROSTER

Tues 26th December (*St Stephen, the first martyr*)

5.30pm Mass, St Joseph's, East Maitland

Wed 27th December (*St John, apostle, evangelist*)

7.00pm Mass, Holy Family, Largs

Thurs 28th December (*The Holy Innocents, martyrs*)

7.00am Mass, St Joseph's, East Maitland

6.00pm Syro-Malabar Mass, Immaculate Conception, Morpeth

Fri 29th December (*5th day in the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord, Collect of St Thomas Becket, bishop, martyr*)

7.00am Mass, St Joseph's, East Maitland

Sat 30th December (*6th day in the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord*)

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

Sun 31st December (*The HOLY FAMILY of Jesus, Mary and Joseph*)

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

10.00am Syro-Malabar Mass, Immaculate Conception,

Volunteer Opportunity

ACTiv8 Youth Group are seeking dedicated volunteers for our Youth Group at Largs in 2024. If you have a passion for working with young people and contributing to a positive and engaging environment, we invite you to join us. Your energy and ideas can make a significant impact on our youth community. If interested, please reach out to Bec Piefke 0249338918 or Rebecca.piefke@mn.catholic.org.au

The parish office is closed from end of day Friday 22nd December 2024 and will reopen to the public on Wednesday 3rd January 2024. The bulletin for 31st December 2023 was printed prior to the office closure. Any anniversaries or recently deceased names missed in the time of the office closure will be placed in the bulletin of the 7th January 2024.

The latest Aurora issue is now available, to view online use the link below

[Aurora Magazine December 2023 Issue | Maitland-Newcastle Catholic News \(mnnews.today\)](#)

Farewell for Fr John Vo

As many of you would already be aware we will soon bid farewell to Fr. John Vo, who has been an integral part of the Chisholm region. Fr. John will be embarking on a new chapter, taking up the role of Parish Administrator at Forster - Tuncurry, beginning January 8th 2024. We extend our heartfelt gratitude for his dedicated service and wish him abundant blessings in this new endeavor. Let us join together to express our appreciation and best wishes to Fr. John on Sunday 7th January 11.30am at the Therry Centre. Please bring a plate of food along to share. All Welcome.

There will be no Mass Boxing Day, Tuesday 26th December.

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

PRIVATE PRAYER / ADORATION

Mon 25th December

9.30am-11.00am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

11.00am-12pm Adoration/Holy Hour, St Joseph's, East Maitland

Tues 26th December

9.30am-10.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament,

St Joseph's, East Maitland

Wed 27th December

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

Thurs 28th December

9.30-10.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

7.00pm Marian Movement of Priests Rosary Both at St Joseph's East Maitland

Fri 29th December

7.30am Adoration, St Joseph's, EM

9.30am Prayer of the Church, OLOL, Beresfield