



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

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

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 *Isaiah 40:1-5. 9-11*

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Prepare the way for the Lord.

'Console my people, console them'
says your God.

'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem
and call to her that her time of service is ended,
that her sin is atoned for,
that she has received from the hand of the Lord
double punishment for all her crimes.'

A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness
a way for the Lord.

Make a straight highway for our God
across the desert.

Let every valley be filled in,
every mountain and hill be laid low,
let every cliff become a plain,
and the ridges a valley;

then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed
and all mankind shall see it;
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

Go up on a high mountain, joyful
messenger to Zion.

Shout with a loud voice,
joyful messenger to Jerusalem.

Shout without fear, say to the towns of
Judah, 'Here is your God.'

Here is the Lord coming with power,
his arm subduing all things to him.

The prize of his victory is with him,
his trophies all go before him.

He is like a shepherd feeding his flock,
gathering lambs in his arms,
holding them against his breast
and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 84:9-14. R. v.8

Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

I will hear what the Lord God has to say,
a voice that speaks of peace, peace for his people.
His help is near for those who fear him
and his glory will dwell in our land. (R.)

Mercy and faithfulness have met; justice
and peace have embraced.

Faithfulness shall spring from the earth
and justice look down from heaven. (R.)

The Lord will make us prosper
and our earth shall yield its fruit.
Justice shall march before him and
peace shall follow his steps. (R.)

Second Reading *2 Peter 3:8-14*

A reading from the second letter of St Peter

We wait for new heavens and a new earth.

There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget: that with the Lord, 'a day' can mean a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow to carry out his promises, as anybody else might be called slow; but he is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to be brought to change his ways. The Day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then with a roar the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart, the earth and all that it contains will be burnt up.

Since everything is coming to an end like this, you should be living holy and saintly lives while you wait and long for the Day of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in flames and the elements melt in the heat. What we are waiting for is what he promised: the new heavens and new earth, the place where righteousness will be at home. So then, my friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace.

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, alleluia!

Gospel *Mark 1:1-8*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

Make straight the paths of the Lord.

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way.

A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight, and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way

to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

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

REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate *Two Gospels*

John immersed, baptised, his followers in water, symbolising the washing away of the sins of the *past*. But he could not empower people by drenching them in the dynamic life of God. John anticipates 'Someone' (not named!) who *does* have the power to inundate, baptise, people with the Holy Spirit.

From the heading of St Mark's Gospel, we know that that 'Someone' is 'Jesus Christ, Son of God' who came to flood our lives with that Divine Power which can effect a completely new *future* for humanity.

That is why St Mark took the term 'gospel' (good news) which was used on inscriptions announcing an Emperor's birth or victory, and used it to describe his inspired rendering of the mission of Jesus Christ, which was to inaugurate the 'Kingdom of God', overcoming the pretensions of all Emperors of any kind throughout history.

We could pause for a moment to thank God for the Good News of our being baptised with *water* in the 'Name of the Father and of the Son and of the *Holy Spirit*.'

© 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,
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: On this day of Advent, we come to You our Loving Father with peace in our hearts knowing that our prayers will be answered for all those who are suffering in our world.

Prayer leader

For the leaders of our Church: Pope Francis, our own Bishop Michael, our Priests and Deacons. We ask the Holy Spirit to keep their hearts alive with love of Jesus. . . Prince of Peace. . . **Come to our aid.**

Lord You are our peace and the light of Nations, we pray for an end to the terror and suffering in the Middle East and let the people be safe in Your love. . . Prince of Peace. . . **Come to our aid.**

In this Advent season may we heed the advice of St Peter and make straight our paths to stay awake, by living in the personal holiness and likeness of God. . . Prince of Peace. . . **Come to our aid.**

Strengthen the faith of the RCIA people, giving them the wisdom to continue their journey to be in full Communion with You, and be open to the blessings You have for them in this Advent season. . . Prince of Peace. . . **Come to our aid.**

May the Holy Spirit come to our aid with blessings of further rain to water our country. .. Prince of Peace. . . **Come to our aid.**

For those who are finding life difficult and cannot come in the true presence of Jesus in the Eucharist: we pray that You bring the peace of Christ into their hearts . . . Prince of Peace. . . **Come to our aid.**

For those whose earthly life's journey has come to an end especially Geoffrey Hallas and Sabina Slowik, may they be embraced in the love of Jesus and rest in peace. . . . Prince of Peace. . . **Come to our aid.**

Celebrant: Let us pray that we may all prepare the way for the lord in our world. Where He will be recognised when He comes again. We ask this through Jesus the Son of God.

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 : Baruch 5:5; 4:36

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

Geoffrey Victor Tory Hallas (Geoff), Sabina Slowik

We remember those whose Anniversaries occur around this time including

Faustino Agbada, William Charles Euston, Jack Fogarty, Bernard Gurr, Vincent Gurr, Brian Moran, Catherine (Kay) Mungovan, Douglas Reid, Marie & Kathleen Wurth

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, Nickolee Dennis, 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, 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, Ella Rusak, Olga Rusak, Biyatrise Samaratunga, Steven Small, Anne Standing, Bill Temperley, Nilda Walker, John Williams, Gary Wills, Jo Winkler

We pray for those who will be Baptised

Henry Peter Conway, Sonny Timothy Golledge

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Advent Reconciliation 2023

- ✠ Saturday 16th December after the 8.00am Mass, St Joseph's East Maitland
- ✠ Thursday 21st December 6.00pm, St Joseph's East Maitland
- ✠ Saturday 23rd December after the 8.00am Mass, St Joseph's East Maitland



Christmas Vigils Sunday 24th December 2023

- ✠ 6.00pm St Joseph's, East Maitland
- ✠ 6.30pm Our Lady of Lourdes, Beresfield
- ✠ 7.00pm 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

If you would like an anniversary included in the bulletin on the weekend of 23/24 or 30/31 December please send the name to the parish office by this Wednesday 13th December.

We cordially invite youth, families, and those interested to talk and share about the Scripture - Bible sharing. Held weekly during school term. On Fridays, at 7:00 pm, in the Therry Centre East Maitland. Rsvp. Sr. Paula 0449 656 406

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

PIETY STALL AT ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH

Christmas stock, Nativities, candles, ornaments and great range of books, bibles, and missals available, as well as rosary beads, scapulars etc.

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.

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.

Hungry, anxious and desperate. CHRISTMAS WILL LOOK DIFFERENT THIS YEAR FOR STRUGGLING FAMILIES.

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 the next couple of weekends. Envelopes will be available in parish churches. People can also donate by calling 131812 or visiting vinnies.org.au. This Christmas, more people are experiencing poverty and on the brink of homelessness. After struggling with the cost-of-living crisis for over a year, they barely have anything left to hold on to. As the crisis deepens, so does their desperation. This is an opportunity to think of others who are struggling in our community and make their Christmas a little brighter.

WEEKDAY MASS ROSTER

Mon 11th December (*St Damasus I, pope*)

Tues 12th December (*Our Lady of Guadalupe*)

5.30pm Mass, St Joseph's, East Maitland

Wed 13th December (*St Lucy, virgin, martyr*)

7.00pm Mass, Holy Family, Largs

Thurs 14th December (*St John of the Cross, priest, doctor*)

7.00am Mass, St Joseph's, East Maitland

6.00pm Syro-Malabar Mass, Immaculate Conception, Morpeth

Fri 15th December

10.00am Anointing Mass, St Joseph's, East Maitland

Sat 16th December

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

Sun 17th December

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

Good and sad news. Fr John has been appointed to Forster/Tuncurry as parish administrator. Commencement date to be confirmed.

Regional Anointing Mass

St Joseph's, East Maitland Church (not Therry Centre) this Friday **15th November** at 10am.

Disabled access available from the King St side entrance.

All welcome

NOTE: the 7am Mass time has been changed to 10am

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

ACTiv8 Youth

As the year comes to a close and our youth groups wrap up, I want to extend my gratitude to everyone who has supported the young people in our region, particularly the dedicated youth group volunteers. This past year has been fantastic marked with celebrations of children receiving their sacraments and engaging social events. Witnessing the development of numerous friendships and the growing love for God among the children has been truly wonderful. We look forward to the return of youth group activities in February 2024. If you would like to become a Youth Group volunteer in 2024 contact Bec - rebecca.piefke@mn.catholic.org.au.

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.

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 11th December

9.30am-11.00am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

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

Tues 12th December

9.30am-10.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament,

St Joseph's, East Maitland—**School Mass**

Wed 13th December

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

Thurs 14th 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 15th December

7.30am Adoration, St Joseph's, EM

9.30am Prayer of the Church, OLOL, Beresfield