



THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

YEAR B

SUNDAY 7TH JANUARY, 2024

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 Promotors

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.

Entrance Antiphon

Behold, the Lord, the Mighty One,
has come; and kingship is in his
grasp, and power dominion.

Gloria

Glory 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 Isaiah 60:1-6

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The glory of the Lord shines upon you.

Arise, shine out, Jerusalem, for your
light has come,
the glory of the Lord is rising on you,
though night still covers the earth
and darkness the peoples.
Above you the Lord now rises
and above you his glory appears.
The nations come to your light
and kings to your dawning brightness.
Lift up your eyes and look round: all are
assembling and coming towards you,
your sons from far away
and your daughters being tenderly
carried.

At this sight you will grow radiant, your
heart throbbing and full;
since the riches of the sea will flow to
you; the wealth of the nations come to
you;

camels in throngs will cover you, and
dromedaries of Midian and Ephah;
everyone in Sheba will come,
bringing gold and incense
and singing the praise of the Lord.

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

Resp. Psalm Ps 71:1-2. 7-8. 10-13, R. see
v.11

**(R.) Lord, every nation on earth will
adore you.**

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 earth's bounds.
(R.)

The kings of Tarshish and the sea
coasts shall pay him tribute.

The kings of Sheba and Seba shall
bring him gifts.

Before him all kings shall fall prostrate,
all nations shall serve him. (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.)

Second Reading Ephesians 3:2-3. 5-6

A reading from the letter of St Paul to
the Ephesians

*The revelation means that pagans now share
the same inheritance, that they are parts of the
same body.*

You have probably heard how I have
been entrusted by God with the grace
he meant for you, and that it was by a
revelation that I was given the
knowledge of the mystery. This mystery
that has now been revealed through the
Spirit to his holy apostles and prophets
was unknown to any men in past
generations; it means that pagans now
share the same inheritance, that they
are parts of the same body, and that the
same promise has been made to them,
in Christ Jesus, through the gospel.

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

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! We have seen his
star in the East; and have come to
adore the Lord. **Alleluia!**

Gospel Matthew 2:1-12

A reading from the holy Gospel
according to Matthew

*We have come from the East to worship the
king.*

After Jesus had been born at Bethlehem
in Judaea during the reign of King
Herod, some wise men came to
Jerusalem from the east. 'Where is the
infant king of the Jews?' they asked.
'We saw his star as it rose and have
come to do him homage.' When King
Herod heard this he was perturbed, and
so was the whole of Jerusalem. He
called together all the chief priests and
the scribes of the people, and enquired
of them where the Christ was to be
born. 'At Bethlehem in Judaea,' they told

And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, you are by no means least among the leaders of Judah, for out of you will come a leader who will shepherd my people Israel.'

Then Herod summoned the wise men to see him privately. He asked them the exact date on which the star had appeared, and sent them on to

Bethlehem. 'Go and find out all about the child,' he said 'and when you have found him, let me know, so that I too may go and do him homage.' Having listened to what the king had to say, they set out. And there in front of them was the star they had seen rising; it went forward and halted over the place where the child was. The sight of the star filled them with delight, and going into the house they saw the child with his mother Mary, and falling to their knees they did him homage. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. But they were warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, and returned to their own country by a different way.

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

REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate Stars and Seekers after Truth

Unlike the writers of the horoscope columns in our newspapers, these Wise Men were scholar astrologers, probably from Syria or Iraq. They believed that the stars controlled the destiny of human beings, but they were open enough to the Hebrew scriptures to be led to the amazing discovery of a star-child in Bethlehem.

They knelt before this baby, doing homage, because they realised that the stars did not control *this* infant, but that there was something of this baby which caused the night sky to respond! They preserved the child from the deadly schemes of Herod, and then they returned to their home country, 'by a different way'. They were on a different journey after encountering the Child.

Who can doubt that the Holy Spirit led these wise men from the East to the manger? In fact, the Holy Spirit is at work in every human being, prompting each and every one to become seekers after Truth.

As a person responds to this prompting and tries to lead a good humane life, then the Church teaches that the Holy Spirit can draw them into the saving life of God. Thus, billions in China and India who have never heard the Gospel, can be saved. But, such persons do not savour the fullness of Truth as we do with the privilege of having the scriptures and the sacraments. Where it is possible, we are obliged to offer them the road map to the Truth.

We can take a moment to affirm our faith in the baby in the manger as the One of whom Dante spoke: 'the Love which moves the sun and other stars'. Come, let us adore him.

© 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: God our Father doesn't ask for gifts of gold, incense and myrrh like the wisemen brought. He only asks for our love, and fidelity. With that trust Let us place our prayers before Him.

Prayer Leader:

We ask our heavenly Father to grant the strength and courage to Pope Francis, Bishop Michael, all Bishops and priests, to continue to be our shining light as they spread the Holy Word as Jesus taught. . We Pray . . .

Loving lord hear our prayer.

We pray for Father John, as he moves forward in his Ministry, that he be given the Graces needed to spread God's word and find companionship among the new community he is joining. . . .We pray. . . .

Loving Lord hear our prayer.

Holy Father just as the wisemen saw Your light and travelled together to find the Holy One. We ask for the graces we need, to find Your light as we travel together on our journey. . . .We pray. . . .

Loving Lord hear our prayer.

We ask the Holy Spirit to give strength and courage to the people who have been affected by flood, fires and earthquakes happening in our world. . . .We pray . . . **Loving Lord hear our prayer.**

We pray for People in the Middle Eastern countries, who are living constant fear and hardship: May the light of Christ shine on those responsible and cast out the hatred and bring Peace and Love to their hearts for their fellow neighbours. . . .We pray. . . **Loving Lord hear our prayer.**

May the light of Christ shine on those who are not well giving them the Peace and Joy of the Christ child. . . .We Pray. . . **Loving Lord hear our prayer.**

For those who have been called home to our Heavenly Father, especially Joan Fortune, Patricia Morgan, Caroline Parker and Zdzislaw Slupik, may they now rejoice with Him forever. . . .We pray. . . . **Loving Lord hear our prayer.**

Celebrant: Lord let us be drawn to Your light and be faithful witnesses to all those whom we meet as we place our hope in You, through Your loving Son, Jesus.

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:

We have seen his star in the East, and have come with gifts to adore the Lord.

We pray those who have died this week

Joan Frances Fortune, Patricia Joy Morgan, Caroline Margaret Parker, Zdzislaw (Jo) Slupik

We remember those whose Anniversaries occur around this time including

Gladys Douglas, Cletus Grant, Frances Lantry, Desmond Trappel, Veronica Tuck

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

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

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Farewell message from Fr. John:

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ, as many of you are aware, I have recently been appointed as the Administrator for the Parish of Forster Tuncurry, and I will be transitioning from the Chisholm Pastoral Region on Monday, January 8, 2024, to take up this new ministry. While I am eagerly anticipating the upcoming adventure, it is with a heavy heart that I bid farewell to you all. Saying goodbye is never easy, especially to those we love and have shared meaningful moments with.

The psalmist beautifully expressed the sentiment: "*How good, how delightful it is for all to live together like brothers*" (Psalm 133:1). Over the past 18 months, God has called us to live as a united community, and it has been both a pleasure and an honor to serve as Assistant Priest in this region. However, the time has come for me to embark on a new chapter in my journey.

I want to take this opportunity to extend my sincere gratitude to each one of you – Father George, Father Camillus, Father Maurice, the Sisters, the Parish Council, Finance Council, our office staff, all volunteers, and all the parishioners of the Chisholm Pastoral Region. Thank you for EVERYTHING you have shared with me over the last one and a half years, and for supporting me in numerous ways. Your unwavering support, love, kindness, prayers, and faith have meant the world to me. Let us continue to be instruments of mercy, hope, joy, and peace!

As I move forward, I ask for your continued prayers, just as you can be assured of mine for each of you. The memories we've created together will be deeply missed, and I carry them with me into this new chapter.

Au revoir, I'll see you round like a rissole. Thank you and may God bless you!
Fr. John

Farewell for Fr John Vo Let us join together to express our appreciation and best wishes to Fr. John on Sunday 7 th January 11.30am at the Therry Centre. Please bring a plate of food along to share. All Welcome.	PIETY STALL AT ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH Currently closed and will re open 27/ 28 January 2024
SAVE THE DATE Catholic Women's League Australia NSW Maitland-Newcastle Diocese, AGM Saturday, 20 th January 2024.	If you or a loved one would like Home Communion please call the parish office on 49338918 or email chisholm@mn.catholic.org.au
Prayer of the Church Beresfield There will be no Prayer of the Church at Our Lady of Lourdes Beresfield until February 3rd 2023.	Volunteer Opportunity ACTiv8 Youth Group are seeking dedicated volunteers for our Youth Group on Wednesday's at Largs in 2024. If interested, please reach out to Bec Piefke 0249338918 or rebecca.piefke@mn.catholic.org.au
Fr. Priyantha will commence his ministry in our region starting from 17th January 2024. We look forward to welcoming him.	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

Mon 8th January (*The Baptism of the Lord*)

Tues 9th January

5.30pm Mass, St Joseph's, East Maitland

Wed 10th January

7.00pm Mass, Holy Family, Largs

Thurs 11th January

7.00am Mass, St Joseph's, East Maitland

6.00pm Syro-Malabar Mass, Immaculate Conception, Morpeth

Fri 12th January

7.00am Mass, St Joseph's, East Maitland

Sat 13th January (*St Hilary, bishop, doctor*)

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

Sun 14th January

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

10.00am Syro-Malabar Mass, Immaculate Conception, Morpeth

PRIVATE PRAYER / ADORATION

Mon 8th January

9.30am-10.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

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

Tues 9th January

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

Wed 10th January

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

Thurs 11th January

9.30-10.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

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

Fri 12th January

7.30am

~~**9.30am**~~ Adoration, St Joseph's, EM
Prayer of the Church, OLOL, Beresfield