

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.



THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH YEAR B 31st December, 2023

Entrance Antiphon

The shepherds went in haste, and
found Mary and Joseph and the Infant
lying in a manger.

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 Genesis 15:1-6. 21:1-3

A reading from the book of Genesis

Your own son shall be your heir.

The word of the Lord was spoken to
Abram in a vision, 'Have no fear,
Abram, I am your shield; your reward
will be very great'.

'My Lord', Abram replied, 'what do you
intend to give me? I go childless...'
Then Abram said, 'See, you have given
me no descendants; some man of my
household will be my heir.' And then
this word of the Lord was spoken to
him, 'He shall not be your heir; your
heir shall be one of your own flesh and
blood.' Then taking him outside he
said, 'Look up to heaven and count the
stars if you can. Such will be your
descendants,' he told him. Abram put
his faith in the Lord, who counted this
as making him justified.

The Lord dealt kindly with Sarah as he
had said, and did what he had
promised her. So Sarah conceived and
bore a son to Abraham in his old age,
at the time God had promised.
Abraham named the son born to him
Isaac, the son to whom Sarah had
given birth.

The Word of the Lord Thanks be to God

Resp. Psalm Ps 104:1-6. 8-9. R.vv.7.8

**(R.) The Lord remembers his
covenant for ever.**

Give thanks to the Lord, tell his name,
make known his deeds among the
peoples. O sing to him, sing his praise;
tell all his wonderful works! **(R.)**

Be proud of his holy name, let the
hearts that seek the Lord rejoice.
Consider the Lord and his strength;
constantly seek his face. **(R.)**

Remember the wonders he has done,
his miracles, the judgements he spoke.
O children of Abraham, his servant, O
sons of the Jacob he chose. **(R.)**

He remembers his covenant for ever,
his promise for a thousand
generations, the covenant he made
with Abraham, the oath he swore to
Isaac. **(R.)**

Second Reading Hebrews 11:8. 11-12. 17-19

A reading from the letter to the
Hebrews

The Faith of Abraham, Sarah and Isaac

It was by faith that Abraham obeyed
the call to set out for a country that
was the inheritance given to him and
his descendants, and that he set out
without knowing where he was going.
It was equally by faith that Sarah, in
spite of being past the age, was made
able to conceive, because she believed
that he who had made the promise
would be faithful to it. Because of this,
there came from one man, and one
who was already as good as dead
himself, more descendants than could
be counted, as many as the stars of
heaven or the grains of sand on the
seashore.

It was by faith that Abraham, when put
to the test, offered up Isaac. He
offered to sacrifice his only son even
though the promises had been made to
him and he had been told: It is through
Isaac that your name will be carried
on. He was confident that God had the
power even to raise the dead; and so,
figuratively speaking, he was given
back Isaac from the dead.

The Word of the Lord Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! In the past God
spoke to our fathers through the
prophets; now he speaks to us through
his Son. **Alleluia!**

Gospel Luke 2:22-40 *The child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom.*

When the day came for them to be
purified as laid down by the Law of
Moses, the parents of Jesus took him
up to Jerusalem to present him to the
Lord - observing what stands written
in the Law of the Lord: Every first-born
male must be consecrated to the Lord -
and also to offer in sacrifice, in
accordance with what is said in the
Law of the Lord, a pair of turtledoves
or two young pigeons. Now in
Jerusalem there was a man named
Simeon. He was an upright and devout
man; he looked forward to Israel's
comforting and the Holy Spirit rested
on him. It had been revealed to him by
the Holy Spirit that he would not see
death until he had set eyes on the
Christ of the Lord. Prompted by the
Spirit he came to the Temple; and
when the parents brought in the child
Jesus to do for him what the Law
required, he took him into his arms
and blessed God; and he said: 'Now,
Master, you can let your servant go in
peace, just as you promised; because
my eyes have seen the salvation which
you have prepared for all the nations
to see, a light to enlighten the pagans
and the glory of your people Israel.'

As the child's father and mother stood
there wondering at the things that
were being said about him, Simeon
blessed them and said to Mary his
mother, 'You see this child: he is
destined for the fall and for the rising
of many in Israel, destined to be a sign
that is rejected - and a sword will

pierce your own soul too – so that the secret thoughts of many may be laid bare.’
There was a prophetess also, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was well on in years. Her days of girlhood over, she had been married for seven years before becoming a widow. She was now eighty-four years old and never left the Temple, serving God night and day with fasting and prayer. She came by just at that moment and began to praise God; and she spoke of the child to all who looked forward to the deliverance of Jerusalem.

When they had done everything the Law of the Lord required, they went back to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. Meanwhile the child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom; and God’s favour was with him.

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

Reflection by Michael Tate *The Liberation of Women*

In today’s Gospel, Mary, having given birth, is regarded as ritually unclean. She could not take part in public worship until she was ‘purified’. This involved offering up a couple of pigeons which she and Joseph had to buy.

No wonder that, at the Cleansing of the Temple, Jesus shatters the cages in which the pigeons were kept! He was angry with a Temple system which saw Mary that way, which thought of all women giving birth that way. Indeed, his whole ministry is full of instances when women breach religious and cultural taboos in his presence, because of his presence.

This Feast of the Holy Family gives us the opportunity to thank God for our mothers who, like Mary, helped fulfil God’s plan for humankind by birthing us into the world.

We could pause for a moment to pray that the Church changes rules and structures which confine women in cages built from ideologies foreign to the Gospel, lest those rules become swords which pierce Mary’s soul.

© 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: We all belong to the family: the human family; the family of nations; the family of the Church - and our own families. Let us pray to God for all of these families.

Prayer Leader:

For the Church of God, that its leaders, teachers, and people be witnesses to the love and compassion of Christ Jesus. We pray to the Lord.....

Lord hear our prayer

We pray for all peoples of the world, that they come to know the Fatherhood of our God as they hear the message of his Son, Jesus the Christ. We pray to the Lord.....

Lord hear our prayer

We pray for the family of nations, that there be peace on earth as they work together to free the world of poverty, disease, and injustice. We pray to the Lord.....

Lord hear our prayer

For the families of our parish, that their homes be havens of love and peace and the knowledge of our God. We pray to the Lord.....

Lord hear our prayer

We pray for our country, Australia: May we have rain to water our land that is in desperate need of water. We pray to the Lord.....

Lord hear our prayer

We pray for all in our parish who are ill or grieving the loss of a loved one. May they know the healing touch of our Savior. We pray to the Lord.....

Lord hear our prayer

We pray for the members of God’s family who have gone before us; especially those who died recently, and for our relatives and friends, that all may be gathered into the eternal joy of their heavenly home. We pray to the Lord.....

Lord hear our prayer

Celebrant: Father in heaven, your Child Jesus was loved by his mother Mary and nourished and guided by her husband Joseph. Gathered about him as your adopted sons and daughters, we make our prayers through him - Christ our Lord.

Communion Antiphon

Our God has appeared on the earth, and lived among us.

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.

We Pray For:



All Recently Deceased

Anniversaries occurring at this time including:

Nora Allen, Cliff Allen, Mary & Jim Bonser,
Stan & Catherine Clark, Jessie Carroll, Patrick Carroll,
Merv Clayden, Oswald Davis, Tony Laznik,
David James Martin, Elgar Murphy,
William Joseph Saunders.

We also pray for the sick in our community. May they experience the healing touch of Jesus

Our office will reopen to the public on Wednesday
3rd January 2024.

This bulletin was printed prior to Christmas due to the
Parish Office closure.

Any anniversaries or recently deceased names missed in
those weeks will be placed in the bulletin of the
7th January 2024.

Wishing you all a joyous new year.

Fr George, Fr Camillus, Fr John, Louise, Janine,
Sandra and Bec