



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

Rejoice in the Lord always;
again I say, rejoice.
Indeed, the Lord is near.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading *Isaiah* 61:1-2. 10-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

I exult for joy in the Lord.

The spirit of the Lord has been given
to me,
for the Lord has anointed me.
He has sent me to bring good news to
the poor,
to bind up hearts that are broken;
to proclaim liberty to captives,
freedom to those in prison;
to proclaim a year of favour from the
Lord.

'I exult for joy in the Lord,
my soul rejoices in my God,
for he has clothed me in the garments
of salvation,
he has wrapped me in the cloak of
integrity,
like a bridegroom wearing his wreath,
like a bride adorned in her jewels.

'For as the earth makes fresh things
grow,
as a garden makes seeds spring up,
so will the Lord make both integrity
and praise
spring up in the sight of the nations.'

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm

Lk 1:46-50. 53-54. R. Is 61:10

(R.) My soul rejoices in my God.

My soul glorifies the Lord, my spirit
rejoices in God, my Saviour.
He looks on his servant in her
nothingness; henceforth all ages will
call me blessed. (R.)

The Almighty works marvels for me.
Holy his name!

His mercy is from age to age,
on those who fear him. (R.)

He fills the starving with good things,
sends the rich away empty.
He protects Israel, his servant,
remembering his mercy. (R.)

Second Reading *1 Thessalonians* 5:16-24

A reading from the second letter of St
Paul to the Thessalonians

*May you all be kept blameless, spirit, soul and
body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Be happy at all times; pray constantly;
and for all things give thanks to God,
because this is what God expects you
to do in Christ Jesus.

Never try to suppress the Spirit or
treat the gift of prophecy with
contempt; think before you do
anything – hold on to what is good and
avoid every form of evil.

May the God of peace make you
perfect and holy; and may you all be
kept safe and blameless, spirit, soul
and body, for the coming of our Lord
Jesus Christ. God has called you and
he will not fail you.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
he sent me to bring Good News to the
poor.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Gospel *John* 1:6-8. 19-28

A reading from the holy Gospel
according to John

*There stands among you, unknown to you, the
one who is coming after me.*

A man came, sent by God.

His name was John.

He came as a witness,

as a witness to speak for the light,

so that everyone might believe

through him.

He was not the light,

only a witness to speak for the light.

This is how John appeared as a
witness. When the Jews sent priests
and Levites from Jerusalem to ask
him, 'Who are you?' he not only
declared, but he declared quite
openly, 'I am not the Christ.' 'Well
then,' they asked, 'are you Elijah?' 'I
am not,' he said. 'Are you the
Prophet?' He answered, 'No.' So they
said to him, 'Who are you? We must
take back an answer to those who
sent us. What have you to say about
yourself?' So John said, 'I am, as
Isaiah prophesied:

a voice that cries in the wilderness:
Make a straight way for the Lord.'

Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, 'Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?' John replied, 'I baptise with water; but there stands among you – unknown to you – the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.' This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.

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

REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA

Traditionally, the third Sunday of Advent is called *Gaudete* Sunday, the Sunday of Joy. The joy of this Sunday comes both from the message of the readings and from the anticipation that Christmas is nearing. As described in the Isaian passage, the Messiah is the one imbued with the spirit and with the power of the prophet, the one who will fulfill the promises of God. It becomes obvious in the Gospel that the Messiah is the one proclaimed by the Baptist. John cleared a path for the coming of the anointed one, and from that time on the lives of believers have been the pathway through which the Messiah has entered the world.

© Dianne Bergant CSA

Dianne Bergant CSA was a Professor of Biblical Studies at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago, where she taught from 1978 to 2014. She holds a BS in Elementary Education from Marian College, Fond du Lac, WI; an MA and PhD in Biblical Languages and Literature from St Louis University. Amongst other things, she served as President of Catholic Biblical Association of America (2000-2001) and has been awarded honorary doctorates from several other universities. She was an active member of the Chicago Catholic/Jewish Scholars Dialogue (1988-2017) and sat on the editorial boards of *The Bible Today* (1979-2005), *Biblical Theology Bulletin* (1990-2014), *Catholic Biblical Quarterly* (1992-2001), *New Theology Review* (1997-2003), *Teaching Theology and Religion* (2003-2005), and *Chicago Studies* (2003-2009). She has taught and lectured in many places in the United States and abroad and has written numerous books, articles and chapters in books.

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 Holy one of God showed us the way to the Father, let us prepare to celebrate His birth with Joy and share our faith in Him, as we pray for the needs of our world.

Prayer Leader:

Send Your Holy Spirit upon Pope Francis, all Bishops, Priests and Deacons who have taken Your words to heart, as Your Disciples. Give them the blessings and graces they need to continue in their work of love for You. . . Gracious Lord . . . **Hear our prayers.**

For the people in the middle East: may the Christ Child bring the Peace and Joy that only He can give. . . Gracious Lord . . . **Hear our prayers.**

St Paul encourages us 'To be happy at all times and pray constantly'. We pray that the Spirit of joy and hope, fill our hearts and overflow to all we meet. . . Gracious Lord. . . **Hear our prayers.**

May we be blessed with more rain to water the earth of Your creation, and give strength and hope to the people who work on the land. . . Gracious Lord. . . **Hear our prayers.**

For all family members who are seeking reconciliation in their lives, may they be give graces and blessings to find the Joy of Jesus to forgive those who are in need of healing. . . Gracious Lord . . . **Hear our prayers.**

Lord, we know that you walk with us on this journey of life, may those who are not well feel Your loving presence in their anxious times of ill health. . . Gracious Lord . . . **Hear our prayers**

We lift up those who have left this earthly life recently, especially Scott Cooper, Jillian James and Daphne Way. May they now meet You face to face and enjoy life eternal in the unity of the Holy Spirit . . . Gracious Lord. . . **Hear our prayers.**

Celebrant: Loving Father You sent Your Son Jesus to bring light to this world of Your creation and dispel the darkness. May this new Advent bring new light to all Your people. We ask this through Jesus Your Son for ever and ever.

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: Cf Isaiah 35:4
Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

We pray those who have died this week

Scott Cooper, Jillian Ruth James, Daphne Marjorie Way

We remember those whose Anniversaries occur around this time including

Jack Flynn sss, Mary Gaska, Harry James Martin, Sr. Andrea Myers rsj, Dorothy Sawyer, Malcolm Seamer, Rhys Thomas, Frank Tobin, Aleta Way, Harry Wilson, Ronald William Woodhead

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

We pray for those who will be Baptised

Mallory Paige Lewis, Evelyn Violet Cromie, Nixon Patrick Cromie, Charlotte Eve Reynolds, Ethan Douglas Reynolds, Miles Westley Reynolds, Miles Alexander Turnbull

© The scriptural quotations are taken from the Jerusalem Bible, published and copyright 1966, 1967 and 1968 by Darton Longman and Todd Ltd and Doubleday & Co Inc, and used by permission of the publishers. The English translation of the Psalm Responses, the Alleluia and Gospel Verses, and the Lenten Gospel Acclamations, and the Titles, Summaries, and Conclusion of the Readings, from the Lectionary for Mass © 1997, 1981, 1968, International Committee on English in the Liturgy, Inc. All rights reserved. The prayers are from the English Translation of the Roman Missal © 2010 International Committee on English in the Liturgy Inc. (ICEL). All rights reserved.

 **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



Vinnies Christmas Appeal

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.

Combined Churches of Morpeth
9 Lessons and Carols

St James Anglican Church, Morpeth
Friday 22nd December 2023 at 6.00pm

Fruit Punch & Fruit Cake will be served afterwards in the parish hall. All Welcome

This Christmas we're excited to invite children to participate in a special re-enactment of the Christmas story during the Christmas Eve Mass, 6.00pm at St. Joseph's East Maitland. We are in search of enthusiastic children to take on key roles such as Mary, Joseph, Wise Men, Shepherds, Inn Keeper and Angels. If your child is interested in being part of this festive celebration, please contact rebecca.piefke@mn.catholic.org.au by Monday 18th December 2023.

SAVE THE DATE Catholic Women's League
Australia NSW Maitland-Newcastle Diocese, AGM
Saturday, 20th 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 and we will organise this for you.

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.

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.

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

WEEKDAY MASS ROSTER

Mon 18th December

Tues 19th December

5.30pm Mass, St Joseph's, East Maitland

Wed 20th December

7.00pm Mass, Holy Family, Largs

Thurs 21st December (Collect of St Peter Canisius, priest, doctor)

7.00am Mass, St Joseph's, East Maitland

6.00pm Syro-Malabar Mass, Immaculate Conception, Morpeth

Fri 22nd December

7.00am Mass, St Joseph's, East Maitland

Sat 23rd December (Collect of St John of Kanty, Priest)

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

Sun 24th December

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

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 noon this Tuesday 19th December.

Parish Office Closure

The Parish office will be closed from Friday afternoon 22nd December and will re-open Wednesday 3rd January 2024.

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 18th December

9.30am-11.00am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

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

Tues 19th December

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

Wed 20th December

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

Thurs 21st 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 22nd December

7.30am Adoration, St Joseph's, EM

9.30am Prayer of the Church, OLOL, Beresfield