



Advent Wreath Response

All: Come Lord Jesus

First Reading Isaiah 2:1-5

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The Lord will gather all nations in eternal peace in the kingdom of God.

The vision of Isaiah son of Amoz, concerning Judah and Jerusalem. In the days to come the mountain of the Temple of the Lord shall tower above the mountains and be lifted higher than the hills. All the nations will stream to it, peoples without number will come to it; and they will say: 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the Temple of the God of Jacob that he may teach us his ways so that we may walk in his paths; since the Law will go out from Zion, and the oracle of the Lord from Jerusalem.' He will wield authority over the nations and adjudicate between many peoples; these will hammer their swords into plough-shares, their spears into sickles. Nation will not lift sword against nation, there will be no more training for war. O House of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 121:1-2, 4-5, 6-9. R. see v.1.

(R.) Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

Second Reading Romans 13:11-14

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

The time has come, our salvation is near.

You know 'the time' has come: you must wake up now: our salvation is even nearer than it was when we were converted. The night is almost over, it will be daylight soon – let us give up all the things we prefer to do under the cover of the dark; let us arm ourselves and appear in the light. Let us live decently as people do in the daytime: no drunken orgies, no promiscuity or licentiousness, and no wrangling or jealousy. Let your armour be the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Alleluia!

Lord, show us your mercy and love,
and grant us your salvation.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Gospel Matthew 24:37-44

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Stay awake, you must be ready.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'As it was in Noah's day, so will it be when the Son of Man comes. For in those days before the Flood people were eating, drinking, taking wives, taking husbands, right up to the day Noah went into the ark, and they suspected nothing till the Flood came and swept all away. It will be like this when the Son of Man comes. Then of two men in the fields one is taken, one left; of two women at the millstone grinding, one is taken, one left.

'So stay awake, because you do not know the day when your master is coming. You may be quite sure of this that if the householder had known at what time of the night the burglar would come, he would have stayed awake and would not have allowed anyone to break through the wall of his house. Therefore, you too must stand ready because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.'

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ

The Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, (all bow) and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.

I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.



PARISH OFFICE : 302 High St Maitland
Tuesday - Friday 9.30am - 4.30pm
Closed for lunch 1.00pm - 1.30pm
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**

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 Paul Chackaniakunnel

Fr Priyantha Fernando,

Fr Anil Kuchipudi

Visiting Clergy:

Fr John Tobin, Fr Arthur Cook,

Fr Geoff Mulhearn, Fr Anthony Coloma
Deacon Kevin Gadd

Pastoral Associate: Christopher Voigt
Presbytery 4934 5783

Urgent Priest on Duty 0428 017 273

Regional Office

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

Funeral Ministry:

0428 220 997

Safeguarding Promoters

Rebecca Piefke 49338918

We are in the country of the Worimi, Gamilleri, Wonnarua, Gweagul, Darkinjung, Biripi and Awabakal peoples. We respectfully acknowledge their Elders, celebrate their continuing culture and the living memory of their ancestors.

We pray those who have recently died. Maureen Ekin, Michael Charles Robbins, John William Smith, Mary Tacon
We remember those whose Anniversaries occur around this time including John Bounds, Hazel Brennan, Alfred Bridger, Kareryna Dzus, Les McGregor, Yvonne Mullett, Catherine (Kay) Mungoven, Barry Thomas, Max Thomas, Geoff Unicomb, Teresa Wilson

We pray for those who are sick at this time Cecelia Adapon-Capistrano, Dalisay Almanza, Teresa Almanza, Lorraine Bartlett, Ron Bartlett, Patrick Brennan, Shari Maria Brewster, Wayne Canny, Olga Charlton, Rita Clarin, Richard Cooke, Marnie Cringle, Luke Crotty, Robert Dewsbury, Christine Edwards, Joanna Green, Reg Glover, Randy Janzen, Jolanta Jenkinson, Ellen Jory, Karen Kenyon, Margaret King, Loretta Lamoury (NZ), Peter Levestam (Fiji), Michael Lockyer, Gina Marquez, Margo Nancarrow, Brian Perrin, Jen Phillips, Jennifer Reynolds, Roberts Family, Olga Rusak, Anne Standing, Crystal Towers, Martina Van Den Broek, Arlo John Vandermeer, Pauline Wade, Carla Whiting, Paul Anthony Will, John Williams, Maureen Wilson, Jo Winkler, Elfrieda Zimmerman

We pray for those who will be Baptised Jackson Henry Borg, Nate Leo Borg, Finley Michael Oldham
Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) Catechumens and Candidates: Ashe-Leigh Arrowsmith, Scott Arrowsmith, Daniel Bourne, Brooke Bower, Cooper Browne, Javanna Dawson, John Digby, Elina Finch, Saithong Fafie, Jay France, Brooke Fyfe, Jacquelin Gribble, Scott Jones, Phoenix Katz, Robyn McAllister, Katie Pearson, Michael Roberts Keryn Stirrat, Jennifer Taylor, Gabrielle Tranter

Places of Pilgrimage in Our Region

St. John's Chapel Maitland

The Chapel will not be open for Pilgrimage visits during the day except on the following date between 11am - 3pm., Wednesday, 10th December If you wish to visit outside of these dates, please make an appointment in advance.

St. Joseph's, East Maitland

Monday Private Adoration: 9:30am - 10:30am
Tuesday Private Adoration: 9:30am - 10:30am
 Mass open from: 5:00pm - 7:00pm
Wednesday Private Adoration: 9:30am- 10:30am
Thursday Rosary: 6:30am, Mass: 7:00am,
 Private Adoration: 9:30am - 10:30am
Friday Rosary: 6:30am, Mass and Private Adoration: 7:00am - 9:00am,
 1st Friday: 24-hour Private Adoration from 7:00am Friday to 8:00am Saturday
Saturday Mass, Rosary, Reconciliation: 8:00am - 10:00am,
 Mass (Vigil): 5:00pm,
 2nd Saturday: Mass at 8:00am followed by Eucharistic & Marian Holy Hour,
 Benediction & Reconciliation at 8:30am on 13th December.
Sunday Scheduled Mass Times: 8:30am & 6:00pm

Please pray for the young people and priests from our region who are attending the Australian Catholic Youth Festival this week. May they return filled with the spirit ready to serve our communities with zeal!

Parish/Region Survey

Thankyou to all those parishioners who completed the National Church Life Survey last week-end. We are excited to review the data over the coming months and begin making plans to improve our ministries. If you missed completing the survey and would like to participate, please collect a survey from the church and take the time to fill it out today or return it to the church by next Sunday 14th December.

Your voice, your answers, your time, will help give us the best picture of our parish in more than five years. Your generous participation is valued.

- This is a voluntary, anonymous, and confidential survey
- Most people complete it within 10 -15 minutes
- Choose one response for each question unless it states otherwise
- If you need any assistance there will be parishioners who can help you after Mass. If you are unable to finish in the time we are

allocating, please stay after Mass and give yourself a little more time. The digital link for those wishing to complete the survey online is here: [Attender Survey Introduction](#). (This link may not work on all mobile phones.)

Maitland (Largs)	TAN02506
Maitland (Campbells Hill)	TAN02505
Maitland (Paterson)	TAN02507
Beresfield	TAN00201
Rutherford	TAN03701
Lochinvar	TAN02401
Morpeth	TAN03001
East Maitland	TAN01401

"I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was sick and you visited me." Mat 25:35-36. These words from Matthew remind us of our call to offer compassion, presence, and hope to those in need. Next Sunday, the **7th of December, at the 8:30 am Mass at St Joseph's, East Maitland**, we will celebrate a Visitation Ministry Team Blessing Mass. This ministry brings together parishioners who generously visit and pray with members of our community who are experiencing illness, loneliness, homelessness, grief, or other significant challenges. Their presence helps to share the light of Christ, offering comfort, friendship and love to those who need it most. This special Mass will also be a joyful celebration of the many cultures and traditions that enrich our parish community. All parishioners are warmly invited to take part. We kindly ask you to bring a small item that can be gifted to those we visit throughout the year, such as a prayer card or a thoughtful token of care. These will be presented during the offertory procession as a sign of our shared commitment to this ministry. We encourage everyone to join us after the Mass on the 7th with a cuppa and morning tea. Please join us in a meaningful celebration, united in faith as we pray, give thanks, and support the Visitation Ministry together.

WEEKDAY MASS ROSTER

Monday 1st December

Tuesday 2nd December

5.30pm Mass, St Joseph's, East Maitland

Wednesday 3rd December (*St Francis Xavier, priest*)

6.00pm Mass, Holy Family, Largs

Thursday 4th December (*St John Damascene, priest, doctor—optional*)

7.00am Mass St Joseph's, East Maitland

Friday 5th December

7.00am Mass, St Joseph's, East Maitland

Saturday 6th December (*St. Nicholas, bishop—optional*)

8.00am Mass, St Joseph's, East Maitland

Sunday 7th December

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

9.30am Latin Mass - St John the Baptist Oratory (Cathedral St Maitland. Confessions from 8.45am – 9:25am)

PRIVATE PRAYER / ADORATION / ROSARY/ BIBLE STUDY

Mon 1st December

9.30am-10.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, St Joseph's, East Maitland
5.00pm Rosary, Sacred Heart, Campbell's Hill

Tues 2nd December

9.30am-10.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, St Joseph's, East Maitland
6.00pm Bible Study for families, Prayer Room St Joseph's East Maitland

Wed 3rd December

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

Thurs 4th December

9.30-10.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament St Joseph's East Maitland
7.00pm Apostolate of Prayer to St. Joseph of the Eternal Family, 2 Erin Close, Ashtonfield

Fri 5th December

7.30am Adoration, St Joseph's, East Maitland
9.30am Prayer of the Church, Our Lady of Lourdes, Beresfield

Sat 6th December

5.30pm Rosary, Our Lady of Lourdes, Beresfield

Dear friends,

Over the past three months, I have journeyed with you in a special role of leadership for our region. With Fr George returning on **Tuesday, 2 December 2025**, I will step back into my appointed role as **Assistant Priest**. Before doing so, I would like to offer a brief update on the key developments of the past month, building upon the information I shared in my previous update in **October 2025**.

1. Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (EMHC) Training: One of the unexpected blessings during these months has been the **region-wide training for our Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (EMHCs)**, preparing us to **reintroduce the distribution of the Precious Blood** along with the Consecrated Host. A total of **80 EMHCs** attended the sessions. This weekend, we will distribute **Training Participation Certificates** to all who took part.

Thank you for your participation, engagement, questions, and enthusiasm. Many have shared that the session was informative, encouraging, and easy to understand. It was personally rewarding for me as well, renewing my own practice and devotion.

2. Thanksgiving Mass for Louise Gilchrist: Last Saturday, we celebrated a **Mass of Thanksgiving for Louise Gilchrist** at Sacred Heart Church, Campbell's Hill, joined by representatives from all our Mass Centres. It was a beautiful occasion to offer heartfelt gratitude for her 18 years of dedicated service to our parish life. We thank her once again and pray that the Lord bless her abundantly granting rest after years of faithful ministry, renewed energy, joy after seasons of challenge, and peace in knowing that her work has touched countless lives and strengthened our parish family.

3. Parish Survey – Consultation Phase 1: We completed the first weekend of the Parish Survey last week. The survey will **close on 7 December 2025**, after which all responses will be sent to **NCLS** for analysis. We hope to receive the report **before Christmas**, if possible. However, printed survey sheets will remain available in all churches for the next **two weekends**, and the **online survey** will remain open until the closing date. Please use the code for your specific community (as provided in our newsletters) and complete either the printed or online version.

Thank you to all who have completed the survey already—we look forward with hope to a bright future for our communities.

4. Parish/Mass Centre General Body Gathering – Consultation Phase 2: As we prepare for the Assembly, each **Parish/Mass Centre** will hold a **General Body Gathering**, offering parishioners another opportunity to share their opinions, insights, and creative suggestions. This ensures that **no voice goes unheard**, in keeping with Bishop Michael's invitation for us to follow the **synodal model** of listening, dialogue, and shared discernment.

5. Parish/Regional Assembly – Consultation Phase 3: The **Parish/Regional Assembly** is the highest consultative forum in parish life for matters of **faith, finance, administration, and mission**. We must encourage parishioners to express their ideas openly and constructively so that every voice can be prayerfully heard. Let us avoid fragmented or informal conversations and instead bring our concerns to the **right forum, at the right time, and in the right spirit**.

The **exact dates** for these gatherings—and for the Regional Assembly—will be finalized once **Fr George returns**. These will be set in consultation with parish community team leaders, the Regional/Parish Pastoral Councils, and based on the needs and availability of each parish the outline proposed. Fr George may also **constitute a special steering committee** to assist with the organization and facilitation of the Assembly.

I have shared all these proposals with James Camden (Director, Mission & Evangelisation, Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle), fellow clergy, parish staff, the Regional Finance Council, the Liturgy Committee, and members of the Regional Pastoral Council—except the idea of a dedicated steering committee, which I leave to Fr George's discernment.

6. Proposed Draft Timeline

This is a long journey of discernment, spanning eight months. The ‘**people consultation**’ process began in September 2025 with Regional Pastoral Council and combined meetings held in preparation for the parish survey now underway in November 2025, and the process will continue through to March 2026.

- **By Christmas 2025:** Receive the NCLS survey report.
- **January 2026:** Fr George may appoint a **special committee**, or entrust the existing **Regional Pastoral Council**, to begin logistics (studying the Survey Report, drafting agenda, preparing venue, communicating with parish teams, etc.). This body will prepare a **draft agenda**, to be tabled at the **Regional Pastoral Council meeting on Thursday, 5 February 2026**.
- **February 2026:** General Body gatherings are held across all Mass Centres (second and third week). Parishioners will review and comment on the draft agenda and may add new items. This ensures that each member of our parish community is valued and heard in shaping our future.
- **March 2026:** Regional Assembly takes place in the **first half of the month**, before Easter preparations. All insights, survey findings, and parish feedback will be consolidated into a final report, which will be submitted to **Bishop Michael** for deliberation and final decisions.

This entire journey is a living expression of our call to **walk together**—listening, discerning, and responding to the Holy Spirit as one faith-filled community. This is **our moment, our responsibility, and our opportunity**. Let us shape a future grounded in **faith, love, service, and unity**, leaving a lasting legacy for the building up of God’s Kingdom in our region.

The **urgency** of keeping this timeline is crucial—we must complete this process promptly before the **enthusiasm, energy, and optimism** of our communities begins to fade.

7. Final Thanks

I sincerely thank each one of you for your generous contributions and your support during these last three months of my leadership. I know I have not done everything perfectly within this short time, but I look forward with hope and joy to a vibrant future for our communities and our region.

With many blessings,

Fr Paul Chackanikunnel

Acting Parish Priest, Maitland Catholic Region

We are excited to share that this year’s Christmas Eve Vigil Mass at St Bede’s Chisholm will once again include a live Nativity play that brings the Christmas story alive in a real and meaningful way. The Mass will take place at 5:30pm on Wednesday, 24th December, and the Nativity play will be part of the celebration.

We are seeking young people to participate in the Nativity play, taking on a variety of roles. Actors will need to arrive early on Christmas Eve, and there will be a few rehearsals in the lead-up to the day.

If any young people are interested, or if you would like more information, please contact Bec Piefke rebecca.piefke@mn.catholic.org.au

Piety Stall at St Joseph’s East Maitland be open at all Masses this weekend. The nativity scene raffle will be drawn after the 6pm Mass on 7th December.

Sacraments of Initiation for Children 2026
 If you would like your child to receive their Sacraments next year, please attend one of the following sessions.
Tuesday 6pm on 9th December at St Paul’s Church Rutherford OR Wednesday 6pm on 10th December at St Joseph’s Church, East Maitland, OR Thursday 6pm on 11th December at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Beresfield.
 For further detailed information please take a parent letter from your church foyer, check the school ‘compass’ or email SOLchisholm@mn.catholic.org.au

'Shari Brewster is very grateful for all the prayers that have been offered for her and sends her thanks to everyone.'

The parish office will continue to be short staffed, more so in December and January. Your patience is appreciated.

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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