



PARISH OFFICE : 302 High St Maitland
Tuesday - Friday 9.30am - 3.30pm
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 Priyantha Fernando
Fr Anil Kuchipudi
Fr Anthony Coloma
Deacon: Christopher Voigt

Presbytery 4934 5783

Urgent Priest on Duty 0428 017 273

Regional Office

Jane Wild, Janine Sidoti, Sandra Buck

Spiritual care of sick & aged in care or at home: Phone office 49338918

Funeral Ministry:
0428 220 997

Safeguarding Promotors

Amber Carter, Brian Lacey
0249338918

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 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 Safe-guarding: P 4979 1390

First Reading

Isaiah 56:1.6-7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Thus says the Lord: Have a care for justice, act with integrity, for soon my salvation will come and my integrity be manifest.

Foreigners who have attached themselves to the Lord to serve him and to love his name and be his servants – all who observe the sabbath, not profaning it, and cling to my covenant – these I will bring to my holy mountain. I will make them joyful in my house of prayer. Their holocausts and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar, for my house will be called a house of prayer for all the peoples.

The Word of the Lord, Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 66:2-3 5-6. 8. R. v.4

(R.) O God, let all the nations praise you!

Second Reading

Romans 11:13-15. 29-32

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Let me tell you pagans this: I have been sent to the pagans as their apostle, and I am proud of being sent, but the purpose of it is to make my own people envious of you, and in this way save some of them. Since their rejection meant the reconciliation of the world, do you know what their admission will mean? Nothing less than a resurrection from the dead! God never takes back his gifts or revokes his choice.

Just as you changed from being disobedient to God, and now enjoy mercy because of their disobedience, so those who are disobedient now – and only because of the mercy shown to you – will also enjoy mercy eventually. God has imprisoned all men in their own disobedience only to show mercy to all mankind.

The Word of the Lord, Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom and healed all who were sick.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 15:21-28

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus left Gennesaret and withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. Then out came a Canaanite woman from that district and started shouting, 'Sir, Son of David, take pity on me. My daughter is tormented by a devil.' But he answered her not a word. And his disciples went and pleaded with him. 'Give her what she wants,' they said 'because she is shouting after us.' He said in reply, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the House of Israel.' But the woman had come up and was kneeling at his feet. 'Lord,' she said 'help me.' He replied, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the house-dogs.' She retorted, 'Ah yes, sir; but even house-dogs can eat the scraps that fall from their master's table.' Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, you have great faith. Let your wish be granted.' And from that moment her daughter was well again.

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 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.

UNDERSTANDING THE PROPOSED PARISH CHANGES - Fr George Anthicad PP

Continuing Our Synodal Journey

Over the past two weeks, the outcomes and recommendations of our recent Parish Assemblies have been published in the parish bulletin. Parishioners have also been informed that these recommendations will be submitted to the Bishop for his consideration.

One of the recommendations arising from the Assemblies is to explore possible changes to the way our parishes are structured and how we work together. It is therefore important to understand why we are considering these changes and what the process involves.

Why are we considering change?

Our Parish Assemblies were part of our continuing synodal journey of listening, dialogue and discernment. They provided an opportunity to reflect honestly on the present situation of our communities and on how we can continue the mission of the Church into the future.

There are several realities that need to be considered.

1. Our financial sustainability

Following requests from parishioners during the recent Parish Assemblies, the 2025/26 Profit and Loss Statements for our parishes were published in last week's bulletin.

Taken together, our parish communities recorded a net operating deficit of \$135,776.38 for the financial year.

These figures are not presented simply as a financial argument for restructuring. Rather, they show that the present arrangement is financially difficult to sustain and that we need to consider alternative ways of supporting the mission of our communities into the future.

Parish	Net Result
Beresfield	+\$11,275.86
East Maitland	-\$3,361.42
Lochinvar	-\$5,665.82
Maitland	+\$1,905.39
Morpeth	-\$77,610.45
Rutherford	+\$1,643.21
Chisholm Pastoral Region	-\$63,963.15
Total	-\$135,776.38

2. Maintaining our churches and buildings

Many of our churches, presbyteries and parish buildings are ageing and require ongoing maintenance, repairs and renewal. These buildings are important places for worship, community and ministry, and we have a responsibility to maintain them appropriately. However, our present financial position makes it increasingly difficult to undertake all the necessary maintenance and repair work.

If we continue with our present structures and financial arrangements, we may not have sufficient resources to adequately maintain all our buildings in the way that they require.

This is therefore not simply a question of reducing expenditure. It is also about ensuring that the resources available to us can be used responsibly to maintain the places in which our communities worship and carry out their mission.

3. Administration and staffing

Our parish administration has also become increasingly demanding.

At present, the workload placed on our office staff is greater than the available staffing capacity can reasonably sustain. There is a genuine need for additional administrative support, but our current financial position does not allow us to appoint the additional staff required. We need to find a way of organising our administrative work so that the workload can be managed more effectively and sustainably.

The same concern applies to the demands placed on our clergy. The present structure requires clergy to carry significant pastoral, administrative and organisational responsibilities across a large number of communities and activities.

The current level of demand on both administrative staff and clergy is not sustainable in the long term. We need to take this seriously and look for healthier and more sustainable ways of carrying out our mission.

4. Declining availability of volunteers

Our parish life depends greatly on the generosity of volunteers. However, many ministries are experiencing a shortage of people willing and able to take on ongoing responsibilities.

This is particularly evident in:

Regional Finance Council, Regional Pastoral Council, Parish Pastoral Teams, RCIA, Music Ministry, Youth Ministry, Sacramental Preparation Ministry, Visitation Ministry, Funeral Ministry, Extra Ordinary Ministers of Eucharist, Sacristans, Alter Servers, Readers, Hospitality Ministers, Altar Society, Children's Liturgy, Baptism Preparation Ministry and Communion to the Homebound.

We are deeply grateful to those who continue to serve. At the same time, our volunteer base is ageing, and there are not enough new people coming forward to sustain all our ministries and structures in their present form.

5. Human resources and pastoral capacity

The issue is not simply the number of priests or paid staff. Effective parish ministry requires lay leaders, volunteers, pastoral teams and people willing to take responsibility for the life of the community.

If we continue to operate exactly as we do now, with the same number of separate structures and the same expectations of staff, clergy and volunteers, we risk placing an increasing burden on fewer people.

The important pastoral question is therefore:

How can we use the people, finances and resources available to us more effectively so that we can continue our mission without placing unsustainable demands on our clergy, staff and volunteers?

6. The need for greater collaboration

Our communities already share many ministries, resources and pastoral initiatives. Greater collaboration may allow us to use our available personnel, finances and facilities more effectively.

Rather than each community trying to maintain every ministry and structure independently, we may be able to share resources, strengthen ministries, reduce unnecessary duplication and create greater opportunities for participation.

What does a parish merger mean?

A parish is more than a church building or an administrative structure. It is a community of the faithful gathered to hear the Word of God, celebrate the Sacraments and live the mission of the Gospel.

A merger means that two or more existing parishes are brought together so that they become one parish under Canon Law.

A merger does not automatically mean that a church building or Mass Centre will close. The juridical status of a parish and the use of individual churches are separate matters.

The Vatican's Instruction on the Pastoral Conversion of the Parish Community in the Service of the Evangelising Mission of the Church (2020) reminds us that parish structures exist to serve the Church's mission of evangelisation and pastoral care. Structural changes should therefore help communities to fulfil this mission more effectively.

How does the process work?

1. Parish consultation and recommendation

The recommendations have emerged from our Parish Assemblies as part of our synodal journey of listening, dialogue and discernment.

2. Submission to the Bishop

The recommendations will be submitted to the Bishop. A Parish Assembly recommendation does not itself create or merge a parish.

3. Pastoral and canonical consideration

Bishop needs to consider whether there is a just cause for any proposed change and whether it serves the pastoral good of the people. The reasons must be relevant to the particular parishes concerned (ad rem).

4. Consultation of the Presbyteral Council

Following the receipt of the recommendations from the Parish Assemblies, the Bishop is required to consult the Presbyteral Council before making a canonical decision concerning any proposed parish merger.

5. Relinquishing my appointment as Parish Priest

If the Bishop approves the proposed merger or other parish modifications, I have to relinquish my office as Parish Priest of the six parishes, although my current appointment is due to conclude only next year. This would enable the Bishop to appoint Parish Priests to the newly constituted parishes and establish the appropriate pastoral leadership for the new structure.

6. Decision and decree

After receiving the advice from the Presbyteral Council, if the Bishop decides that a merger or other significant parish modification should proceed, he issues a formal written decree setting out the decision and the reasons for it.

7. Implementation

If approved, practical arrangements will then be made concerning parish boundaries, membership, pastoral leadership, ministries, finances, property, churches and other aspects of parish life.

Where are we now?

At this stage, no merger has been formally decided. We are presenting the recommendations of our Parish Assemblies to the Bishop and continuing the necessary process of consultation and discernment.

The present preferences expressed by the communities are:

Beresfield and Morpeth have expressed a willingness to explore a merger.

Rutherford is open to considering a merger.

Lochinvar is not presently ready for a merger but is willing to explore greater pastoral engagement and collaboration with Rutherford.

East Maitland has expressed a strong desire to have a parish priest of its own, while remaining open to welcoming any Mass Centre that may wish to become part of the East Maitland parish.

Maitland has expressed a strong desire to remain as one parish, including the Largs, Paterson and Campbell Hill Mass Centres.

These preferences, together with the pastoral, financial, building and human-resource realities of our communities, will form part of the information considered as we move forward.

Looking to the future

The purpose of this process is not simply to reduce costs or create larger parishes. Our financial situation, ageing buildings, shortage of volunteers, administrative workload and the demands placed on clergy are real challenges. Together, they require us to consider how our present structures can be made more sustainable.

The question before us is:

How can we organise ourselves differently so that we can continue the mission of the Church with the people and resources available to us?

The present arrangement is becoming increasingly difficult to sustain in its current form. Rather than waiting until our financial and human resources make further ministry impossible, we need to consider proactive and sustainable ways of continuing our mission.

This may mean sharing resources, strengthening collaboration, developing new forms of lay leadership, reducing unnecessary duplication and, where appropriate, changing parish structures.

Our synodal journey therefore continues. We are being invited to listen honestly to our present circumstances, recognise the gifts and limitations of our communities, and discern new ways of proclaiming the Gospel, celebrating our faith, serving our people and reaching out to the wider community.

Any structural change must ultimately serve this purpose: that our parish communities may continue to be living communities of faith, communion and mission.

Please follow the link to read the Vatican document "The pastoral conversion of the Parish community in the service of the evangelising mission of the Church" [Link](#)



We pray those who have recently died

Robyn Campbell, Delia Febrera,
Geoffrey William Hodgins, Edward Leverence,
Colleen Nolan

We remember those whose Anniversaries occur around this time including

Jesus Castro, Bev Crump, Clare Fitzpatrick,
Brad Kedwell, Rita Marquez, Nell Rowan,
Elizabeth (Peta) Saunders, Peggy Turnbull

We pray for those who are sick at this time

Lorraine Bartlett, Ronald Bartlett, Graham Bell,
Patrick Brennan, Pam Brunner, Sharon Dzurmskyj,
Nancy Marion Grogan, Randy Janzen,
Jolanta Jenkinson, Karen Kenyon, Solomon Keys,
Margaret Knapp, Ashley Lavis, Lesley Marshall,
Benedicto Masilungan, Neecia O'Brien,
John O'Reilly, Joan O'Reilly, Jen Phillips,
Margaret Pratt, James (Jim) Smith, Anne Standing,
Lachlan Tonkinson, Amelia Vanhoogstraten,
Pauline Wade, Carla Whiting, Paul Anthony Will,
Jo Winkler, Anthony Zysek

We pray for those who will be Baptised

Elliot William Parker, Oliver John Parker

Calling for Expressions of Interest – Councils and Advisory Boards The Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle warmly invites you to once again journey with us in faith, open dialogue and discernment as we continue to establish and strengthen our new Councils and Advisory Boards. We invite people from across the Diocese who feel called to serve to submit an expression of interest via the Diocesan website and QR code.
<https://mn.catholic.org.au/governance-advisory-group-eoi/>

IMPORTANT —Volunteer Registration

The Clergy and Office Staff value the contributions of all our parishioners across the Region. The type of unpaid parish based roles will determine your status as a volunteer - an unregistered parish helper; registered volunteer; or registered volunteer with checks and training.

Please visit the Diocesan website for information and to access the enquiry form - [Volunteer](#). If you are already registered and your involvement changes, or you have any questions, please call the Parish Office.

Multicultural NSW Safe Places for Faith

Communities Grants 2024-2025. The installation of internal & external security cameras at East Maitland, Lochinvar and Morpeth, plus security fencing at Morpeth provides safeguarding measures for all users.

DIOCESAN EVENTS

For information on all events throughout the Diocese, please visit

[Events - Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle](#).

The Piety stall will not be open this weekend.

Monthly Anointing Mass

We warmly invite everyone to attend this month's regional anointing Mass at

Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Beresfield at 10.00am Morning tea and fellowship to follow.

WEEKDAY MASS ROSTER

Monday 17th August

Tuesday 18th August

5.30pm Mass, St Joseph's, East Maitland

Wednesday 19th August (St John Eudes -optional)

6.00pm Mass, Holy Family, Largs

Thursday 20th August (St Bernard)

7.00am Mass, St Joseph's, East Maitland

Friday 21st August (St Pius X)

7.00am Mass, St Joseph's, East Maitland

10.00am Anointing Mass, Our Lady of Lourdes, Beresfield

Saturday 22nd August (The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary)

8.00am Mass and **reconciliation**, St Joseph's, East Maitland

Sunday 23rd August

9.30am Latin Mass - St John the Baptist Oratory Cathedral St Maitland.

Confessions Saturday 3:30pm - 4:30pm
Sunday 8.45am – 9:25am

First Sunday of Month Polish Mass

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

PRIVATE PRAYER/ ADORATION/ ROSARY

Mon 17th August

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

5.00pm

Rosary, Sacred Heart, Campbell's Hill

Tues 18th August

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

6.00pm

Bible Sharing, St Joseph's, East Maitland

Wed 19th August

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

Thurs 20th August

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

Fri 21st August

7.30am Adoration, St. Joseph's East Maitland
9.00am (This week only) Prayer of the Church, Our Lady of Lourdes, Beresfield

Sat 22nd August

5.30pm Rosary, Our Lady of Lourdes, Beresfield