

**Maitland Parishes of the  
Chisholm Pastoral Region**

**ST JOSEPH'S** (Est 1835)  
Cnr King St & New England Hwy,  
EAST MAITLAND

**ST JOHN'S CHAPEL** (Est 1841)  
Cathedral St, MAITLAND

**SACRED HEART**, New England Hwy,  
CAMPBELL'S HILL

**HOLY FAMILY**, 11 John St, LARGS

**ST COLUMBA'S**, Cnr Prince & Church  
Sts, PATERSON

**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION** (Est 1871)  
Cnr George & James Sts, MORPETH

**ST PATRICK'S** (Est 1905)  
55 New England Hwy, LOCHINVAR

**OUR LADY OF LOURDES** (Est 1947)  
Cnr Anderson Dr & Delprat Ave,  
BERESFIELD

**ST PAUL'S** (Est 1961)  
10 Young St, RUTHERFORD

**Ministers**

All baptised members of the community

**Ministry Team**

**Parish Priest:** Fr Paul O'Neill  
**Asst Priest:** Fr Peter Street  
(Presbytery 4934 5783)

**Weekend Supply:**

Fr Maurie Cahill, Fr Lex Levey,  
Fr Paul Berezniuk

**Co-ordinator, Spiritual care of sick & aged  
in care or at home:** Sr Maureen Rigby OP

**Co-ordinator, Dying, Bereaved & Funeral  
Ministry:** Irene Dixon 0428 220 997

**Children's Ministry Deanery Co-ordinator**  
Jennie Nolan 0408 796 252

**ACTiv8 Youth Co-ordinator**  
Bec Piefke 0422 500 429

**Regional Office**

Louise Gilchrist, Rita King, Janine Sidoti,  
Sandra Buck, Matt Conn

302-304 High St Maitland 2320  
PO Box 215 Maitland 2320

Hrs: Tues - Fri 9.00am-4.30pm  
(closed for lunch 12.30-1.30pm)

**CLOSED MONDAY**

Ph: 4933 8918 / Fax: 4934 1227  
E: chisholm@mn.catholic.org.au



**CHISHOLM CONNECTION**

*Our News from the Pews*

Volume 7, Issue 1

**Message from Fr Peter Street**

On the first of December 2012, I was preparing to arrive in the Chisholm Pastoral Region, to commence my final stages of formation to the Priesthood.

To that end I was getting things out of storage, and in the process I snapped a tendon in my left knee and was taken to hospital. I duly arrived in the region, on crutches and three days late.

From that time I have felt the love and the support of the people of this region. We have together journeyed towards our Saviour. We have supported each other with prayer and love. I am grateful for the love and the prayers and the generosity of the people of our parishes. Together we have seen Churches reopened and dedicated. We have all spread the Word of God to those around us. We have been there for each other in the good times and the bad.

I have learned so much about what it is to be a disciple of Jesus by the example of you the people of God in our parishes. I have learned so much about being a Priest by the example of you the people of God in our parishes.

My ordination to the Diaconate and to the Priesthood will forever be for me life long memories, of all the events of these days, indeed as now I was sustained by your love and prayers. For my ordination to the priesthood I chose a motto to be printed on my ordination card; this motto was taken from Romans 8: 37, "we triumph through the power of Him who loved us". I chose this because for my whole life, I have wanted to make Jesus and His love known to all people.

In her 2016 Christmas Message Her Majesty the Queen quoted St Teresa of Calcutta who spoke in her life of "doing small things with great love. Her Majesty stated, "Jesus Christ lived obscurely for most of his life, and never travelled far. He was maligned by many, though he had done no wrong. And yet, billions of people now follow his teaching and find in him the guiding light for their lives. I am one of them because Christ's example helps me see the value of doing small things with great love". It is in the small things in life that we do with great love that show Jesus to all people.

To each and to all who have supported me throughout my time here in the parishes of our regions, who have shown me the love of Jesus thank you. For all that I have learned from you thank you. For the times I have not done things well and for any hurt I may have caused through my own sinfulness and weakness, I ask for forgiveness and beg your understanding.

I ask everyone to remember me in prayer and please rest assured of my continued prayers for everyone in this region as you show the love of Jesus to all people.

With love and prayers.  
Thank you and Good bye.  
Fr Peter Street.

Jesus Christ lived obscurely for most of his life, and never travelled far. He was maligned and rejected by many, though he had done no wrong. And yet, billions of people now follow his teaching and find in him the guiding light for their lives. I am one of them because Christ's example helps me see the value of doing small things with great love,



**INSIDE YOU WILL FIND**

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## Message from Fr Paul O'Neill

My dear sisters and brothers,

A new year is under way. We have a number of new beginnings this year. On the 1st February 2017, Fr Peter will take up his appointment as Assistant Priest for the parishes of Singleton and Branxton. We are very grateful for his presence and ministry among us over the past four years.

Fr Camillus Nwahia is currently visiting his family in Nigeria and will take up his appointment with us on the weekend of 18/19 February. We are grateful to Fr Greg Arnold and Fr Des Harrigan who will be assisting us in the parish on the first two weekends in February. Fr Camillus was ordained at the Sacred Heart Cathedral in Hamilton in June 2016 and has spent the past six months as Assistant Priest with Fr Gerard Mackey at East Lake Macquarie Parish and we look forward to his ministry among us.

We welcome back to the Catholic schools of our area all the students, staff and families. This year the new principal of St Bede's College at Chisholm will begin his work in helping to prepare for the opening of the new high school for Year 7 students in 2018. Mr Murphy is going to hold a Parish consultation evening with interested parishioners from Our Lady of Lourdes parish and school and Morpeth parish and St Aloysius school on Tuesday 21st Feb at 7.00pm.

I am very excited that this year as the six parishes of our region we will be implementing the Parish Plan to establish Parish Cells of Evangelisation across our parishes (there is further information about this on the next few pages).

ALSO, in April /May of 2017 we will be welcoming Fr Richard Shortall SJ back to our region for a month's visit.

In Holy Week April 9 – 16<sup>th</sup> he will celebrate the Holy Week Ceremonies at St Paul's Parish Rutherford and then after Easter, from April 17 till May 6 he will lead a three week Retreat Experience "Praying in Everyday Life". Parishioners from all the parishes of our Region will be welcome to attend the Retreat at St Paul's Rutherford. During Holy Week and the three weeks of the Retreat, Fr Shortall will be living in a mobile home beside St Paul's Church. We look forward to having Fr Richard among us once more. More details about the retreat will be made available in the near future.

Finally, in early January the parishioners at Lochinvar approved an offer made to St Patrick's parish at Lochinvar by the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle to purchase land from the parish adjacent to the church, to construct an Early Childhood Centre. Also at the end of last year, construction work has begun for a new school administration block alongside the presbytery for St Patrick's School. Our parish school at Lochinvar is rapidly growing towards a three stream primary school.

So we are in a time of change and growth and always the challenge before us is how do we best hand on the good news of Jesus Christ. Every instrumentality of the church has this mission. Let us pray that we will work together in building up the kingdom of God in this part of the Lord's vineyard.

With love  
Fr Paul

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## Parish Invitation for St Bede's Catholic College Chisholm Consultation Meeting

A warm invitation is extended to all parishioners to attend a consultation meeting for St Bede's Catholic College Chisholm which will initially open with Year 7 Co-educational Students in 2018, before expanding one year group for each of the following five years. Separate meetings will occur for students and interested parents. *This meeting is specifically for parishioners and not prospective parents.*

The meeting will take place at 7.00pm Tuesday 21st February at St Aloysius Catholic Primary School, 24 Heritage Drive, Chisholm.

St Bede's Catholic College will offer students a unique opportunity to be part of a faith-filled Catholic community committed to high standards, personal best, and service to others. The three key components that will drive the development of the School will be Faith and Identity, Learning, and Community. The meeting will be an opportunity for parishioners to share their hopes and aspirations for the College as we shape a shared vision for St Bede's Catholic College. It will also be an opportunity for me to share my hopes and dreams for the College as its first Principal.

If you would like to attend this meeting or to speak to me at any time, please email me on [john.murphy@mn.catholic.edu.au](mailto:john.murphy@mn.catholic.edu.au).

John Murphy  
Foundation Principal, St Bede's Catholic College

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## Parish Evangelisation Cells in our region

### AN UPDATE ON THE PARISH EVANGELISATION CELLS IN THE CHISHOLM REGION

We were delighted with the expression of interest that was shown in the Parish Evangelisation Cells system at our 10 Parish assemblies held across the Chisholm region in September and October of 2016. As a region, we have had over 100 people express interest in joining a Parish Evangelisation Cell.

Throughout January the Parish Evangelisation Cells team have been contacting those parishioners that have expressed interest via email and phone to update parishioners on where we are currently up to with planning our Cells. We are providing application forms where parishioners can nominate days and times that they are available to attend a Parish Cell meeting.

From late February to early March, those people that have put their names down to be Parish Evangelisation Cell leaders will be undertaking leader training from 10am-12pm on Saturday mornings in the Dilley Library at St Joseph's Convent Lochinvar. These training sessions will be held on the following dates; February 25<sup>th</sup>, March 4<sup>th</sup>, March 18<sup>th</sup>, March 25<sup>th</sup>, April 1<sup>st</sup> and April 8<sup>th</sup>. We are very grateful that Sr Patricia Egan and Sr Maureen Salmon have agreed to facilitate these training sessions.

At this stage, we are planning to commence the Parish Evangelisation Cell meetings soon after Easter.

This is an exciting and hopeful time for our Parishes of the Chisholm Region and we are delighted about the interest expressed in being a part of this exciting plan.

If you would like any information about the Parish Evangelisation Cells, would like to put your name down to be a part of a Cell or have any questions, please feel free to get in contact with any of us by emailing us on the contacts below or calling the Parish Office.

Please pray for us as we seek to reach out and deepen the process of evangelisation in our Parishes.

Yours sincerely on behalf of our Parish Evangelisation Cells team.

Fr Paul O'Neill - [Paul.ONeill@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:Paul.ONeill@mn.catholic.org.au)

Leanne O'Sullivan - [leanne\\_osullivan@bigpond.com](mailto:leanne_osullivan@bigpond.com)

Samantha Hill - [Sam.Hill@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:Sam.Hill@mn.catholic.org.au)

### Frequently asked...about Parish Evangelisation Cells and the Parish Evangelisation Cell System

#### What...

##### ***What is a Parish Evangelisation Cell?***

A group of six to 14 people, initially made up from parishioners. The cell group meets fortnightly, normally in a member's home.

##### ***What happens at a cell meeting?***

Meetings follow a set format, including praying and praising God together and listening to input from the Parish Priest (on a recording of some kind). The meetings focus on praying for and finding ways to reach out with the Gospel to family, friends, neighbours, school friends, workmates etc -- in other words, evangelisation.

#### Who...

##### ***Who can be in a cell?***

Anybody. Initially, each cell will be made up of parishioners who have put themselves forward to join a cell group. But it is hoped that each cell will then attract new members. The new members may be folk from inside the Parish or people who used to come to Church but have stopped doing so. Or they may be people (family, friends, neighbours, school friends, workmates and so on) without a Church background.

## Parish Evangelisation Cells in our region

### When...

#### ***On what day and at what time will cell group meetings take place?***

Cell group meetings will be held fortnightly, with each cell group meeting in the same (Monday to Saturday) week. We expect that cell groups will meet on different days of the week and at different times of the day. When you ask to join a cell group, you will be asked on the application form to say which days and times would work for you.

### Why...

#### ***Why do the groups focus on evangelisation?***

Because evangelisation -- proclaiming the good news about Jesus Christ -- is central to the Church's mission. But the cell groups also help members to learn more about, and to deepen, their faith. They are small, loving and supportive mini-communities within the wider Parish community.

#### ***Isn't evangelisation Protestant rather than Catholic?***

No. The Catholic Church is quite clear about this -- evangelisation is what the Church is all about; and it is the responsibility of each member of the Church, not just our clergy and those in religious orders.

#### ***Are cells a new idea? And why are the groups called "cells"?***

They're not really new at all – remember that the early Church was formed of small groups meeting in people's homes. They are called "cells" because they are intended to attract new members, grow and eventually divide.

### Joining...

#### ***How can I join a cell group?***

You will be able to apply to join a cell group at any time. You can get an application form by contacting Sam via email at [Sam.Hill@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:Sam.Hill@mn.catholic.org.au) or on 0437 192 603. After Easter, the initial Cell meetings will commence and will be formed from those who have applied. Once the cell system is up and running, a parishioner will be able to ask to join a cell group at any time (and of course parishioners may be asked to join a particular cell group by members of the cell).

#### ***How will the cell group allocations work? Can I choose to be in a cell with my spouse/friend/parent/partner?***

Leanne O'Sullivan and Sam Hill be forming the initial cell groups based on the information provided on participant's application forms. Until the applications come in, it is very difficult to be definitive about how this process will work. But it is likely to involve an age component (for instance, having one or more groups specifically for young people and putting people in their 50s and 60s in a group together rather than with people in their 20s and 30s). We understand that spouses will want to decide whether to be in the same cell or different ones, for example taking into account childcare needs. We will consider carefully any other request which you make to be in the same cell as another person.

### Leadership...

#### ***Who will lead the cells?***

Each cell group will have a leader and a co-leader allocated by the PEC team. These are important roles and great emphasis is being placed on formation of the initial leaders and co-leaders. Going forward, the

## Parish Evangelisation Cells in our region

development and training of new potential leaders will be a key task of each cell group leader.

### Venue...

***Where will the cell groups meet and can my cell group meet in my flat or house if I am not a cell leader or co-leader?***

Generally in the homes of members of the cell. Each cell should have a settled meeting place, normally the home of a cell member (not necessarily the cell group leader or co-leader)

***I am disabled or not as mobile as I used to be. Will cell groups meet in an accessible place -- even in my house or flat?***

See the above answer to the question 'Can my cell group meet in my flat or house...?' Remember to note on your application form if you have a disability or access issues which we need to take into account

### Oversight and teaching...

***Who will exercise oversight over the cell groups?***

In order for the Parish Evangelisation Cell system to work properly, careful and consistent oversight will be necessary. Fr Paul, Sam Hill and Leanne O'Sullivan have formed a small Parish Evangelisation Cells Team for oversight of the cell system. As the system expands, it may become necessary to develop a more layered oversight process.

***Who provides the teaching?***

The teaching input at each cell group meeting will come from the Parish Priest (on a recording of some kind). This is one of the aspects of the evangelisation cell system which helps to maintain unity between each cell group and the Parish. There will be a brief opportunity at the cell group meeting to talk about the teaching input and to raise any questions to which it may give rise.

### Growth...

***How will cells grow?***

By prayerfully reaching out to people known to cell group members (not only other members of the Parish but also family, friends, neighbours, school friends, workmates and so on). This may involve supporting the potential members in a variety of ways, taking advantage of opportunities to talk to them about Jesus. And (perhaps after a long period of support and prayer) inviting them to join the cell group. They may be already Catholic, but no longer practising; they may not have a Church, or a Catholic Church, background.

***What if a cell group gets too big?***

The aim of the cells is to grow -- and then divide. So if a cell is getting too big, it will be necessary for it to divide. Looking forward to that possibility, it will be one of the responsibilities of cell group leaders to identify and develop potential future cell group leaders and co-leaders. Decisions about division of a cell group will be taken by the steering group in consultation with the cell group leader.

### Journey in Faith...

***How will the cells relate to our Journey in Faith process?***

Whilst, for some, joining a cell group will be a step on the way to becoming a Catholic, the cell groups will not →

## Parish Evangelisation Cells in our region

be replacing Journey in Faith. The teaching input provided to cell groups will not be tailored to the needs of those who are ready to explore seriously whether to join the Church. Rather, a cell group member who wishes to explore the possibility of coming into full communion with the Catholic Church will be encouraged to join Journey in Faith. Conversely, people who go through the Journey in Faith process and come into full communion with the Catholic Church will be encouraged to join cell groups.

### What if I want to form my own cell group?

No one will have their own cell group. All of the cell groups will be part of the Parish and subject to the oversight of the PEC Team. This is essential in maintaining the unity of the cell groups with the Parish. If you see yourself as a possible cell group leader or co-leader, you should talk about this with your cell group leader or approach the PEC Team.

### Questions...

#### *I don't like coming out at night -- will I have to if I want to be part of the cell group?*

We hope that we will have some cell groups meeting during the day. When you apply to join a cell group, you will be asked on the application form to say which days and times would work for you.

#### *Will I be able to get a lift home?*

It will be up to each cell group, and particularly the cell group leader, to ensure that each member who needs a lift to and from meetings is looked after.

### I'm worried...

#### *I'm worried that the cell groups are really closet charismatic groups. Do I have to be a charismatic to join one?*

You certainly don't -- anyone in the Parish wanting to join a cell group will be welcome to do so. Some features of the cell group meeting format will be very familiar to those who have experienced charismatic groups or meetings -- for example, the section devoted to prayer and praise. But praising God, praying for members of the group and others and listening to teaching from our Parish Priest are not activities reserved to charismatics -- they are for all of us! If you are worried about whether you will feel at home in a cell group, that's only natural. Why not follow Jesus' advice -- "Come and see!"

### My big worry is...

#### *I'm worried that the cell groups will cause disunity within the Parish, becoming separate mini-churches - dividing the Parish into "us and them"*

The Parish Evangelisation Cell system is, as its name implies, part of the Parish. The system and each cell group will be subject to oversight by the PEC Team.

We hope that membership of a cell group will for some be a stepping stone to a much greater involvement in the life of the Parish. Where a cell group is working well, it will be building its members up as part of the wider body of the Parish and attracting new members to the cell group and to the Parish as a whole.

On the other hand, we expect there will be people in the Parish who are fully involved in the life of the Parish but who will choose not to join a Parish Cell. Their contribution to our Parish life will not be in any way diminished or downgraded in importance because of that

#### *I'm worried that the cell group system will undermine other groups and activities within the Parish*

The cell groups will have a different function and place in our Parish life from those of our existing groups and activities. The cell groups will not interfere with or undermine those other groups and activities. In fact we hope that, by breathing new life into the Parish, they may well provide support and new enthusiasm of many of our groups and activities.

## What's Happening in the Chisholm Region/Diocese

**BAPTISM PROCESS:** PLEASE NOTE anyone wishing to have their child/children baptised within our region is required to attend a Baptism preparation session. Completed Baptism registration forms and donation will be collected on this night. †Parents are urged to attend the Mass as a family.

### NEXT PREPARATION SESSIONS:

Sunday 5th February 2017 (After Youth Mass)

Sunday 5th March 2017 (After Youth Mass)

†**BAPTISMS:** All enquiries for baptisms are to be lodged with the Regional Office; this includes private baptisms in our region.

## Chisholm Connection

### Deadline & Distribution Dates 2016

ISSUE	EDITORIAL DEADLINE	DISTRIBUTION DATE
FEBRUARY	20th February	26th February

For enquiries please contact 4933 8918/email  
chisholm@mn.catholic.org.au  
(Please be aware these dates could change)

THANK YOU to everyone who contributed to the Chisholm Connection this month, it was great to see and read so many articles. PLEASE KEEP THIS UP!

Faith Stories; Parish News; Social Events; Social Justice issues; Volunteers/students visiting nursing homes; Historical News; Photos; More fun - jokes, poetry, quizzes, competitions, recipes etc. Reviews of relevant books and movies. Even stories of loved ones recently deceased (with permission). Letters Page

If anyone in your parish can contribute any of the above, and, if you want to see/read anything else in the Chisholm Connection please let the office know!  
YOUR VIEWS ARE IMPORTANT TO US!

†**CHISHOLM CONNECTION IS ALSO AVAILABLE THROUGH OUR DIOCESAN WEBSITE:** it is linked to the "Chisholm Pastoral Region" page <http://www.mn.catholic.org.au/parishes-priests/pastoral-regions/chisholm>. If you wish to be placed on an EMAIL distribution list please contact the office.

†**DONATIONS/PAYMENTS ONLINE!** To make donations/payments to your parish electronically follow this link <http://mn.catholic.org.au/parishes-priests/parish-payments>

†**Holy Hour of Prayer and Exposition** every Monday at 12noon, ALSO, A Spiritual Library

has been set up in the prayer room at St Joseph's church, East Maitland. Any enquires: Marion Riley 4934 1949.

†**PIETY STALL:** open every weekend after Mass at St Joseph's church, East Maitland. Need casual help when I am away. If you can help please contact me Marion Riley 4934 1949/0412 811 759.

†**Zimmerman Services** the child protection, healing and support agency of the Catholic Diocese of Maitland – Newcastle can be contacted on 4979 1390.

†**ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY.** People seeking more information about the Society and what membership involves, are invited to contact Michael Healy on 4933 1302 or Greg Coates on 4934 1382. The Society offers an opportunity to respond to Christ's call "to feed the hungry, clothe the naked and visit those who are sick or in prison."

†**PLANNED GIVING!** Parishes can't survive without the generous support of parishioners either through donating to the parish electronically or the traditional second collection plate by planned giving envelope or loose collections or by giving of their time and talents. Fr Paul greatly appreciates everyone who supports their parish in any way. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Louise Gilchrist at the regional office.

†**ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT:** First Friday of each month from after 7.00am Mass at till 9.00am Mass Saturday at St Joseph's East Maitland. Next date **Friday 3rd February, 2017.**

†**Legion of Mary "Our Lady of Perpetual Succour"** meet 10.30am Tuesdays, 79 Banks St, East Maitland. Contact 4905 2144 for more information.

†**Before We Say I Do - Marriage Education Program** will be held on Saturday 4th February 9.30am at Diocesan Offices Newcastle. Two Saturday Sessions. Please phone. 4979 1370.

†**ANNUAL CATECHIST MASS.** Our Catechist Mass is a great opportunity for priests, parishioners, families and friends to celebrate the ministry of *Special Religious Education, Sacramental and Children's Liturgy*. Awards will be presented to those who have served as Catechists for over 10 years and to those who have completed training programs. **Friday 17th February, 7.00pm Sacred Heart Cathedral, Hamilton.** Celebrant will be Bishop Bill Wright. This is followed by supper in the Davis Courtyard. RSVP 4979 1346 or olaf@mn.catholic.org.au.

†**TUESDAY 28th February 2017: Participate in Caritas Australia's launch of Project Compassion 2017!** At 10.30am Sacred Heart Cathedral, Hamilton. Parish and School communities are invited to send representatives to

## What's Happening in the Chisholm Region/Diocese

the special Liturgy. Refreshments (Pancakes) will be served afterwards in the Southern Cross Hall.

✠ **WORLD DAY OF PRAY 2017.** Service Booklets written by the Christian Women of the Philippines - **St Joseph's Catholic Church, East Maitland, 10.00am Friday 3rd March 2017.** Julietta Gibbons will be guest speaker. All are invited to attend.

✠ An invitation is extended to the celebration of **International Women's Day 2017 on Sunday 12th March.** The Day will begin with Mass at the Sacred Heart Cathedral, Hamilton commencing at 9:30am. The presentation of the inaugural Magdalene Award will then be held in the Toohey Room and Morning Tea will follow. All are invited. RSVP: Brooke – 4979 1111 .



Palms  
Australia

**Palms Encounters:** An experience to share this Easter and beyond.

A Palms Encounter is an intimate, immersive, inter cultural experience providing insights that challenge

perceptions and deepen understanding. Palms long-term volunteers guide the Encounter with our Catholic Communities in East Timor.

Register now for our **2 – 14 April Encounter** and receive **\$400 off a 2nd ticket.**

Call Roger on **02 9560 5333** or go

to [www.palms.org.au/Encounters](http://www.palms.org.au/Encounters) for more. *Real encounter, real people, real exchange, real life*

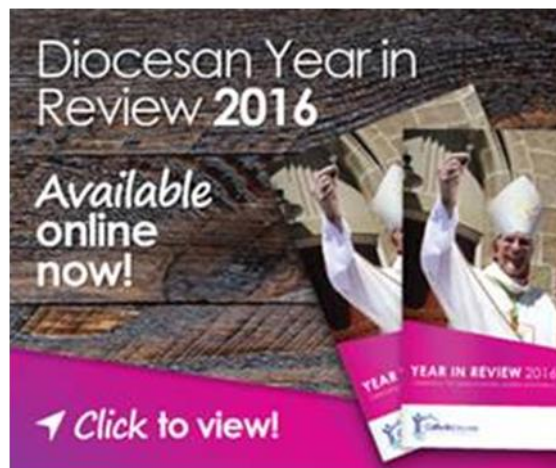
✠ The Catholic Bishops of Australia invite Catholics across the country to join in celebrating a Year of Youth from the beginning of Advent 2017 to the end of 2018. The theme is, '*Open New Horizons for Spreading Joy: Young People, Faith and Vocational Discernment*'. The emphasis is on local discussion and dialogue in parishes, schools, youth groups and dioceses. Information is available at, [www.youth.catholic.org.au](http://www.youth.catholic.org.au)

✠ An excellent Catholic ELibrary providing free online access to nearly 6000 books, articles and discussions, etc. on Catholic faith, living and culture can be found at <http://sharingtheword.intersearch.com.au>. All the texts in this growing ELibrary can be read on desktop or on hand-held devices, be downloaded, be printed, etc. The ELibrary is sponsored by Catholic Mission and is ideal for clergy, pastoral workers, teachers, catechists, adult religious education and many others. For more info, feedback, suggestions or help, contact the [Help desk](#) address provided on the website.

✠ The 3<sup>rd</sup> **Australian Catholic Youth Festival** will be hosted by the Archdiocese of Sydney from 7-9

**December 2017.** Expressions of Interest are now open for young people in year 9 (2017) to 25 years who would like to be a part of the Maitland-Newcastle contingent. Those over the age of 25 are encouraged to register as group leaders. Register your interest now at [www.mn.catholic.org.au/acyf](http://www.mn.catholic.org.au/acyf). For more information, contact us at [youth.festival@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:youth.festival@mn.catholic.org.au) or [www.facebook.com/mncatholicyouth](http://www.facebook.com/mncatholicyouth)

✠ **YEAR IN REVIEW.** Late last year the diocese's second annual Year in Review document became available. The Year in Review features the stories, people and events of the 2016 liturgical year across parishes, schools, religious congregations, diocesan ministries and agencies including CatholicCare Social Services, St Nick's Early Education and the Catholic Development Fund. The document includes stories, images, quotes and information, as well as reports from Bishop Bill and his Executive Team and financial information. We encourage you to read the document online if you haven't already. You can also engage with the stories by liking MNnews today on Facebook. If you would like to read a hard copy of the document please see your parish priest.



the working  
with children  
check 

Anyone new to Children's Ministry is required to have a Working with Children Check Number.

Please follow this link to obtain your number, then contact the parish office 4933 8918 to complete our parish forms.

<https://www.kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au/working-with-children/working-with-children-check>



# What's Happening in the Chisholm Region/Diocese

## SCHOOL BUILDING FUND LEVY REBATE

Parents of children who attend a Catholic School and contribute to their parish planned giving program may be able to obtain a partial or full exemption from paying the Diocesan Family School Building Levy (DFSBL) at their children's school. Please ensure that you only claim the one type of benefit; either a Building Fund levy rebate OR a Tax Receipt.

It is important to clarify the following matters regarding this practice:-

- The payment of the DFSBL is not eligible to be claimed as a tax deduction, as the levy is compulsory and not a voluntary contribution
- A percentage of the parent's contribution to the parish's planned giving program can be claimed as a tax deduction if no material advantage is received by the parents
- Material benefits to the parents would include a partial or full exemption from paying the DFSBL

Therefore, if parents choose to contribute to their parish planned giving program, they will continue to receive an exemption from paying the DFSBL. However, those parents receiving the exemption are unable to claim a tax deduction for their contributions to the parish. If you would like to claim this exemption please contact Louise Gilchrist from the parish office.

**SRE teachers wanted.**  
(scripture teaching.)  
If you have a passion for teaching about the faith to young people.  
**CONTACT :**  
Jennie  
0408 796 252

**Useful Links:** Here are some useful links and resources that may be new to you. (Ctrl + click on link)

[Diocesan Information Directory](#) - important contact information for the various agencies and groups.

[Liturgy page](#) – regularly updated

[Spirituality & Faith page](#) – regularly updated

[mnnews.today](#) – Diocesan News Service

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## Sacraments of Initiation 2017



Dear Parents,

If you have attended the first parent information session of the program, and if you feel as a family that you are ready to commit to the process, you will be invited to attend the second parent only meeting to be held in February 2017. At this second meeting resources needed to support you during the preparation process will be given out. **Baptism certificates will be required to be presented to the SOI team member BEFORE any resources are given out (even if your child was baptised within our region).**

### Session 2 - Process & Book Distribution Session (Parents/Care Givers ONLY)

Tuesday	14 <sup>th</sup> Feb	7.00pm St Paul's Church, Rutherford
Wednesday	15 <sup>th</sup> Feb	7.00pm OLOL Church, Beresfield
Thursday	16 <sup>th</sup> Feb	7.00pm St Joseph's Church, East Maitland

### Commitment Masses for Sacraments of Initiation in your parish church and Presentation of the "Creed"

Saturday/Sunday	18 <sup>th</sup> /19 <sup>th</sup> Feb	At all Churches
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### Sprinkling Rite and Presentation of "chrism oil"

Saturday/Sunday	25 <sup>th</sup> /26 <sup>th</sup> Feb	At all Churches
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We look forward to meeting you and providing support to you and your children in this very special time in their journey of faith.

Yours sincerely,  
Father Paul O'Neill  
and the Sacraments of Initiation Team for the parishes of the Maitland Area



# St Vincent de Paul Society

NSW/ACT

*good works*

## CHRISTMAS APPEAL 2016

### *Thank You*

The St Vincent de Paul Society in the Lower Hunter Region wishes to thank parishioners and members of the local community for their wonderful support for our recent Christmas Appeal.

Funds raised in parishes and schools across the region totaled in the vicinity of \$20,000, a wonderful result and a tribute to the generosity of all. We are also grateful to members of parishes and school communities who also contributed items for Christmas hampers, which were distributed to needy families in the week prior to Christmas. They undoubtedly made a difference to people's lives and their enjoyment of Christmas.

### A Community Christmas Project



Many hands make light work. This was the case when a bevy of helpers gathered for the annual sorting, packing and delivery of the East Maitland Conference Christmas hampers. Local parishioners and school leaders from All Saints, St Mary's Campus helped conference members achieve a record breaking preparation and delivery time. The students even arrived with their own van making the Sunday morning delivery extra efficient.

About eighty families received two large, paper bags, artistically decorated by St Joseph's students. The first bag was filled with food items donated by parishioners and students from the local schools. The second bag contained items purchased by the Conference. Each family also received a \$20 food voucher.

St Vincent de Paul members are grateful for the community help, whether it was your time, food or monetary donation. I wish you could have seen the smiling faces, tears and heard the copious words of thanks when hampers were delivered.

### St Laurence Centre Library

**Opening times:** Tues 11am-3pm, Wed 1pm-6pm  
& Fri 11am-3pm.

**Phone:** 49029100

**Address:** 137 Broadmeadow Rd, Broadmeadow 2292.  
(St Laurence O'Toole Church grounds)

**Membership** is open to everyone. A \$20 fully refundable joining fee applies. I.D. is required. Joining fee will be waived for parishioners or Diocesan staff.



## Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

The current RCIA process commenced last August with an enquiry evening with 14 interested persons attending.

Weekly meetings started in October with 10 people choosing to prepare for their journey in becoming a Catholic.

Of these 10, there are 7 Candidates, those who have already been Baptised into a Christian denomination and 3 Catechumens, being those not yet Baptised.

Topics discussed so far include:

### "WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO" – RITUALS

Apostles Creed

Prayer

Seasons of the Church

Jesus

Mary

### FURTHER DISCUSSIONS ARE PLANNED TO COVER THE FOLLOWING:

The Sacraments

The Mass

Lent

Easter Triduum

Pentecost

During February over 2 weekends, there will be the Rite of Welcoming at the Parishes the participants attend.

On the First Sunday of Lent, there will be the Rite of Sending from the respective parish Mass.

This culminates in the Rite of Election presided by the Bishop at the Cathedral at Hamilton later that day.

Parishioners are most welcome and encouraged to attend the Rite of Election as a sign of their support and acceptance of the Candidates and Catechumens into the parish community.

Any person who feels that they would like to share *their* faith life experience and assist the participants and the members of the RCIA team in the journey, please contact the Chisholm Office for more details.

Chisholm Region @ St Joseph's East Maitland

**FEBRUARY**

**KIDS MASS**





Bring the kids ... Bring the whole family...  
**Come and join in !**

MUSIC, CUSHIONS, SAUSAGES, CAKE, FUN, FRIENDS, JESUS!!

**SUNDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 6PM**

COME EARLIER TO JOIN IN WITH THE MUSIC, DO A READING, OR OTHER MINISTRY

# Chisholm Region Calendar

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
		<b>1 Feb</b> 9:30am OLOL Mass (Tarro) 7:00pm Mass (Largs) 7:00pm Prayer Group (see EM notice)	<b>2</b> 7:00am Mass (EM) 10:00am Cenacle (see EM notice) 10:00am St Joseph's School Mass (Lochinvar) 6:00pm RPC meeting
		<b>6</b> 12:00pm Holy Hour of Prayer & Exposition (EM) 6:00pm Jr. Youth Group (Loch.) 7:30pm LOW (Lochinvar)	<b>7</b> 9:30am 10:00am St Joseph's School Mass (EM) 5:30pm Junior Youth Group (Therry Centre) 7:00pm Youth Mass (EM)
<b>13</b> 12:00pm Holy Hour of Prayer & Exposition (EM) 6:00pm Junior Youth Group (Loch.) 7:30pm LOW (Lochinvar)	<b>14</b> 5:30pm Junior Youth Group (Therry Centre) 7:00pm Parish Team Meeting (OLOL Hall) 7:00pm SOI Parents Mtg (Ruth) 7:00pm Youth Mass (EM)	<b>15</b> 5:30pm Junior Youth Group (Largs) 7:00pm SOI Parents Mtg (OLOL) 7:00pm Youth Mass (Largs) 7:30pm Cenacle (see EM notice)	<b>16</b> 7:00am Mass (EM) 10:00am Cenacle (see EM notice) 10:15am St Peter's School Mass (Maitland) 7:00pm SOI Parents Mtg (E/M)
<b>20</b> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin-bottom: 5px;">CC Deadline</div> 12:00pm Holy Hour of Prayer & Exposition (EM) 6:00pm Jr. Youth Group (Loch.) 7:30pm LOW (Lochinvar)	<b>21</b> 10:30am Anoint Mass (EM - Therry Centre) 5:30pm Junior Youth Group (Therry Centre) 7:00pm Youth Mass (EM)	<b>22</b> 10:00am Anoint. Mass (Benhome) 5:30pm Junior Youth Group (Largs) 7:00pm Youth Mass (Largs) 7:30pm Cenacle (see EM notice)	<b>23</b> 7:00am Mass (EM) 10:00am Cenacle (see EM notice) 10:15am St Mary's School Mass (Maitland)
<b>27</b> 12:00pm Holy Hour of Prayer & Exposition (EM) 6:00pm Jr. Youth Group (Loch.) 7:30pm LOW (Lochinvar)	<b>28</b> 5:30pm Junior Youth Group (Therry Centre) 7:00pm Youth Mass (EM)		

**February 2017**

Friday	Saturday	Sunday		
<b>3 Feb</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>		
7:00am Mass (EM) 8:00am Adoration (E/M 7am-Sat 9am) 9:15am St Aloysius School Mass (Chisholm) 9:30am Prayer of the Church (Beres. Church)	9:00am Mass + First Sat Devotions (EM) 2:30pm Cenacle (see EM notice) 5:00pm Mass (EM) 6:00pm Mass (Beresfield) 6:30pm Mass (C Hill)	7:15am Mass (Morpeth) 8:00am Mass (Rutherford) 8:20am Mass (Largs) 8:30am Mass (EM) 9:30am Mass (Lochinvar, Paterson) 11:00am Regional Baptisms (EM) 6:00pm KID'S Mass (EM) 7:00pm Baptism Preparation (EM)		
<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>		
7:00am Mass (EM) 9:30am Prayer of the Church (Beres. Church) 10:30am Anoint Mass (Greenhills N.H. Lodge)	8:00am Mass/Reconciliation (EM) 2:30pm Cenacle (see EM notice) 5:00pm Mass (EM) 6:00pm Mass OLOL Feast Day (Beresfield) 6:30pm Mass (C Hill)	7:15am Mass (Morpeth) 8:00am Mass (Rutherford) 8:20am Mass (Largs) 8:30am Mass (EM) 9:30am Mass (Lochinvar, Paterson) 11:00am Regional Baptisms (EM) 6:00pm Youth Mass (EM)		
<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>		
7:00am Mass (EM) 9:15am St Patrick's School Mass (Lochinvar) 9:30am Prayer of the Church (Beres. Church)	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">SOI Commitment Masses</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8:00am Mass (EM) 2:30pm Cenacle (see EM notice) 5:00pm Mass (EM) 6:00pm Mass (Beresfield) 6:30pm Mass (C Hill)</td> </tr> </table>	SOI Commitment Masses	8:00am Mass (EM) 2:30pm Cenacle (see EM notice) 5:00pm Mass (EM) 6:00pm Mass (Beresfield) 6:30pm Mass (C Hill)	7:15am Mass (Morpeth) 8:00am Mass (Rutherford) 8:20am Mass (Largs) 8:30am Mass (EM) 9:30am Mass (Lochinvar, Paterson) 11:00am Regional Baptisms (EM) 6:00pm Youth Mass (EM)
SOI Commitment Masses				
8:00am Mass (EM) 2:30pm Cenacle (see EM notice) 5:00pm Mass (EM) 6:00pm Mass (Beresfield) 6:30pm Mass (C Hill)				
<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>		
7:00am Mass (EM) 9:30am Prayer of the Church (Beres. Church) 10:30am Anointing Mass (OLMC NH C/Hill)	8:00am Mass (EM) 2:30pm Cenacle (see EM notice) 5:00pm Mass (EM) 6:00pm Mass (Beresfield) 6:30pm Mass (C Hill) 7:00pm Saints Movie Night (See Regional Notice)	7:15am Mass (Morpeth) 8:00am Mass (Rutherford) 8:00am Polish Mass (OLOL) 8:20am Mass (Largs) 8:30am Mass (EM) 9:30am Mass (Lochinvar, Paterson) 11:00am Regional Baptisms (EM) 6:00pm Youth Mass (EM)		

*Please note, all care and attention is taken to ensure that times, dates and places are correct at time of publication.*

## Saints and Feasts in February 2017



**2/2/17. THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD.** The event is described in the Gospel of Luke (Luke 2:22-40). According to the gospel, Mary and Joseph took the baby Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem forty days (inclusive) after his birth to complete Mary's ritual purification after childbirth, and to perform the redemption of

the firstborn son, in obedience to the Law of Moses (Leviticus 12, Exodus 13:12-15, etc.). Luke explicitly says that Joseph and Mary take the option provided for poor people (those who could not afford a lamb) (Leviticus 12:8), sacrificing "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons." Leviticus 12:1-4 indicates that this event should take place forty days after birth for a male child, hence the Presentation is celebrated forty days after Christmas.

Upon bringing Jesus into the temple, they encountered Simeon. The Gospel records that Simeon had been promised that "he should not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ" (Luke 2:26). Simeon prayed the prayer that would become known as the *Nunc Dimittis*, or Cantic of Simeon, which prophesied the redemption of the world by Jesus:

Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace; according to Thy word: for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people: to be a light to lighten the gentiles and to be the glory of Thy people Israel (Luke 2:29-32).

Simeon then prophesied to Mary: "Behold, this child is set for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and for a sign which is spoken against. Yes, a sword will pierce through your own soul, that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed" (Luke 2:34-35).

The elderly prophetess Anna was also in the Temple, and offered prayers and praise to God for Jesus, and spoke to everyone there about Jesus and his role in the redemption of Israel (Luke 2:36-38). Traditionally the Western term "Candlemas" (or Candle Mass) referred to the practice whereby a priest on 2 February blessed beeswax candles for use throughout the year, some of which were distributed to the faithful for use in the home.



**6/2/17. ST PAUL MIKI AND COMPANION MARTYRS** were a group of Christians who were executed by crucifixion on February 5, 1597, at Nagasaki. Their martyrdom is especially significant in the history of Roman Catholicism in Japan. A promising beginning to Catholic missions in Japan — perhaps as many as 300,000 Christians by the end of the sixteenth century — met complications from competition

between the missionary groups, political difficulty between Spain and Portugal, and factions within the

government of Japan. Christianity was suppressed, and it was during this time that the 26 martyrs were executed. By 1630, Christianity had been driven underground. 250 years later, when Christian missionaries returned to Japan, they found a community of "hidden Christians" that had survived underground

**10/2/17. ST SCHOLASTICA, VIRGIN.** (c. 480 - 10



February 542) is a saint of the Roman Catholic Church and the Eastern Orthodox Churches. Born in Italy, according to a ninth century tradition, she was the twin sister of Benedict of Nursia. Her feast day is 10th February. Benedictine tradition holds that Scholastica lived in a convent at Plumbariola about five miles from Monte Cassino and that this was the first "Benedictine" convent. However, it has been suggested that it is more

likely that she lived in a hermitage with one or two other religious women in a cluster of houses at the base of Mount Cassino where there is an ancient church named after her. The most commonly told story about her is that she would, once a year, go and visit her brother at a place near his abbey, and they would spend the day worshipping together and discussing sacred texts and issues.

One day they had supper and continued their conversation. When Benedict indicated it was time for him to leave, perhaps sensing the time of her death was drawing near, she asked him to stay with her for the evening so they could continue their discussions. Not wishing to break his own Rule, Benedict refused, insisting that he needed to return to his cell. At that point, Scholastica closed her hands in prayer, and after a moment, a wild storm started outside of the guest house in which they were housed. Benedict asked, "What have you done?", to which she replied, "I asked you and you would not listen; so I asked my God and he did listen. So now go off, if you can, leave me and return to your monastery." Benedict was unable to return to his monastery, and they spent the night in discussion. According to Gregory's *Dialogues*, three days later, from his cell, he saw his sister's soul leaving the earth and ascending to heaven in the form of a shining white dove. Scholastica is the foundress of the women's branch of Benedictine Monasticism.



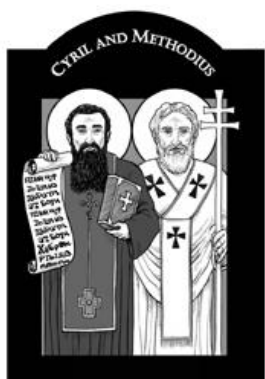
**11/2/17. OUR LADY OF LOURDES**

is a venerated title of the Blessed Virgin Mary invoked by Roman Catholics in honour of the Marian apparitions said to have occurred on numerous occasions in 1858 in the vicinity of Lourdes, France. The first of these is the apparition of 11 February 1858, when Bernadette Soubirous, a 14-year-old peasant girl, admitted to her mother that a "lady" spoke to her in the cave of Massabielle (a mile from the

# Saints and Feasts in February 2017

town) while she was gathering firewood with her sister and a friend. Similar apparitions of the alleged "Lady" were reported on seventeen occasions that year, until the climax revelation of Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception took place. Bernadette Soubirous was later canonized as a Saint, and Roman Catholics and some Protestants believe her apparitions have been validated by the overwhelming popularity and testament of healings claimed to have taken place at the Lourdes water spring.

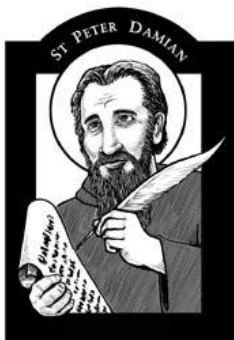
In 1862, Pope Pius IX authorized Bishop Bertrand-Sévère Laurence to permit the veneration of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Lourdes. On 3 July 1876, Pope Pius IX formally granted a Canonical Coronation to the image that used to be in the courtyard of what is now part of the Rosary Basilica. This Marian title, *Our Lady of Lourdes*, has been widely copied and reproduced, often displayed in shrines and homes, most notably in garden landscapes.



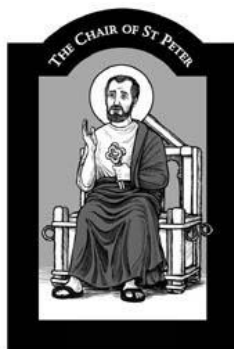
**14/2/17. STS CYRIL AND METHIDIUS** were 9th-century Byzantine Greek brothers born in Thessalonica, Macedonia, in the Byzantine Empire. They were the principal Christian missionaries among the Slavic peoples of the Great Moravia and Pannonia, introducing Orthodox Christianity and writing to the hitherto illiterate, pagan Slav migrants into parts of Macedonia and elsewhere in the Balkans.

Through their work they influenced the cultural development of all Slavs, for which they received the title "*Apostles to the Slavs*". They are credited with devising the Glagolitic alphabet, the first alphabet used to transcribe Old Church Slavonic. After their deaths, their pupils continued their missionary work among other Slavs. Both brothers are venerated in the Orthodox Church as saints with the title of "*equal-to-apostles*". In 1880, Pope Leo XIII introduced their feast into the calendar of the Roman Catholic Church. In 1980, Pope John Paul II declared them co-patron saints of Europe, together with Benedict of Nursia.

**21/1/17. ST PETER DAMIAN** Peter Damian was born to a large but poor Italian family in 1007 AD. He was orphaned at a young age and was mistreated by an older brother. He was eventually cared for and educated by another brother who was an archpriest. He joined a Benedictine monastery where he lived the simple and strict life of a hermit. Peter was



made the cardinal bishop of Ostia in 1057 and began many local reforms. He wrote numerous sermons and biographies, and was a strong supporter of church reforms and discipline.



**22/2/17. THE CHAIR OF ST PETER** The Feast of the Chair of St Peter commemorates St Peter's founding of the Church of Antioch, as well as his role as the first bishop of Rome. The portable chair believed to have been used by St Peter himself is preserved at the Vatican, above the apsidal altar of St Peter's Basilica. In ancient times it was customary for teachers to sit while teaching their students, who would stand around

them. Even in the early church, bishops would give the homily seated, with the congregation standing as they listened. And so it is that the celebration of St Peter's Chair is a remembrance of his role as both teacher and bishop.

**23/2/17. ST POLYCARP** St. Polycarp was converted to Christianity by St. John the Apostle and became an important leader throughout western Asia Minor as the Bishop of Smyrna. Polycarp was eventually betrayed by a servant who had him arrested. He was urged to denounce his religion and to curse Christ, to which he replied, "I have served him for eighty six years and he has done me no wrong." He was ordered to be burnt alive, and it is said that he offered a prayer of praise and glory to God and the flames did not harm him.



## St Valentine | Feb 14

Although not on the universal Church calendar, St Valentine is celebrated throughout the world as the patron of romance and married love. He was a Roman priest who was executed for marrying couples against the orders of the Emperor Claudius II. While in prison, he healed the sight of his jailor's young daughter, and on the eve of his execution, reportedly penned her a note signing it, 'from your Valentine'.



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# Junior Youth Groups 2017

• Lochinvar • East Maitland • Largs



## Lochinvar Junior Youth Group

*every* Monday Night  
during school term

**Where:** St Patrick's Catholic  
School Hall  
113 Gregory Rd, Lochinvar

**Time:** 6.00pm. - 8.00pm

Includes Liturgy of the Word  
7.30pm - 8.00pm

## East Maitland Junior Youth Group

*every* Tuesday Night  
during school term

**Where:** Therry Centre,  
Cnr New England Hwy &  
King Street, East Maitland

**Time:** 5.30p.m. - 7.30pm

Includes MASS  
7.00pm - 7.30pm

## Largs Junior Youth Group

*every* Wednesday Night  
during school term

**Where:** Largs Church Hall  
Cnr John & Church Streets,  
Largs

**Time:** 5.30p.m. - 7.30pm

Includes MASS  
7.00pm - 7.30pm  
*A gold coin donation is appreciated.*

## Junior Youth Groups 2016

Our Junior Youth Groups are focused on providing a fun, positive community environment for Primary School kids in Years 2-6. Each youth group has yummy snacks, fun games, an educational input about the Catholic Faith, and a prayer experience. Junior Youth Groups run during the School Term and have a break in the holidays.

**ALL** children are welcome through the school year!



# Senior Youth Groups

ACTiv8 Chisholm

## TERM 1 2017

### BBQ, DESSERT & GAMES

Sunday 19 FEB : 5.45PM – 8.30PM : GOLD COIN  
 Assisting with the set up for the BBQ at mass, help cook and serve sausages FOLLOWED BY board games and dessert in the Therry Centre. *Bring a board game if you wish !*

### ST PATRICKS DAY TRIVIA NIGHT

Friday 17 MAR : 7.00PM – 9.00PM : \$5.00PP Tables of 10  
 Dress in green and come along for a night of fun at the Therry Centre East Maitland

### YOUTH MASS & ICE CREAM

Tuesday 21 FEB : 7.00PM – 8.15PM : GOLD COIN  
 Join our junior youth group for mass @ St Joseph's East Maitland followed by a casual catch up and ice creams in the Therry Centre.

### YOUTH MASS & ICE CREAM

Tuesday 28 MAR : 7.00PM – 8.15PM : GOLD COIN  
 Join our junior youth group for mass @ St Joseph's East Maitland followed by a casual catch up and ice creams in the Therry Centre.

### A NIGHT AT THE DAY SPA

Sunday 26 FEB : 6PM - 8.300PM : GOLD COIN  
 Join us for the Youth Mass @ St Josephs East Maitland followed by a BBQ after mass then head to the Therry Centre for a night of pampering and relaxation. Bring along a pillow , large plastic bowl, 2 face washers & a friend. Light snacks and drinks provided.

### BBQ

Sunday 2 APR: 5.45PM – 7.15PM  
 Assisting with the set up for the BBQ at mass, help cook and serve sausages.

### YOUTH MASS & ICE CREAM

Tuesday 7 MAR : 7.00PM – 8.15PM : GOLD COIN  
 Join our junior youth group for mass @ St Joseph's East Maitland followed by a casual catch up and ice creams in the Therry Centre.

### YOUTH MASS & ICE CREAM

Tuesday 4 APR : 7.00PM – 8.15PM : GOLD COIN  
 Join our junior youth group for mass @ St Joseph's East Maitland followed by a casual catch up and ice creams in the Therry Centre.

### BBQ ,DESSERT & TRIVIA NIGHT PLANNING

Sunday 12 MAR: 5.45PM – 8.30PM  
 Assisting with the set up for the BBQ at mass, help cook and serve sausages. Followed by dessert and trivia night planning.

For any inquires please contact Bec Piefke  
[rebecca.piefke@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:rebecca.piefke@mn.catholic.org.au)  
 Ph : 0422 500 429

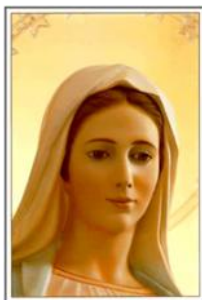
***ACTiv8 Chisholm Youth Ministry 2017*** Are you a young person or someone young at heart who could 'donate' some time each week to assist with our Youth Ministry Programs? We invite you to 'put your hand up' and say YES to engaging with our young people across the region. Even if you can offer us just two (2) hours a week we would love to hear from you. Long Term or Short Term; commitment timeframes are flexible and ALL offers to assist will be welcomed. If you are interested please contact the regional office 4933 8918.

# Parish News - St Joseph's East Maitland

**APOSTOLATE OF PRAYER TO ST JOSEPH OF THE ETERNAL FAMILY** held at the home of Pat McPherson, 65 Brisbane St, East Maitland the first Wednesday of each month at 7.00pm. Next date: 1st February 2017. All welcome. Ph 4933 6635.

**ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT:** First Friday of each month from after Mass at 7.00am till 9.00am Mass on Saturday at St Joseph's East Maitland. Next date: 3rd February 2017. ALL WELCOME!

**FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTIONS** – 3rd December 2016 St Joseph's Church, East Maitland & Therry Centre.



8.30am	Rosary & Confessions
9.00	Mass
9.30	Exposition/Benediction/Confessions
10.30	Morning Tea
11.00	Seminar
11.30	DVD (School Library)
12 Midday	Midday Prayer & Angelus
12.30pm	LUNCH
1.15	Cenacle Rosary & Divine Mercy Chaplet

*Everyone is welcome to come along for all or any part of the devotion. For more information please call Judy 4936 6349 or Marion 4934 1949.*

**CENACLE & DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET PRAYER MEETINGS** at the home of Pat McPherson, 65 Brisbane St, East Maitland, 7.30pm Wednesday evenings (*excl first Wed. of each month*); &10.00am Thursday mornings.

**EAST MAITLAND CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE** The NEXT ANOINTING MASS will be 10.30am Tuesday 21st February, 2017. All welcome.

**ST JOSEPH'S CRAFT GROUP:** Meet every Monday - McAuley Room 9.30am to 1.00pm. For more information please contact 49331744 / 49335840 / 4933 4586; or just come along. ALL WELCOME!

**SOCIAL GROUP - WIDOWS, SINGLES, DIVORCED** - Next outing please contact Barbara 4934 3862.

**PIETY STALL** Open after Mass each Sat/Sun - Rosary beads, Statues, Holy medals & Cards; Christian gifts & Seasonal Celebration items; Children's Mass books etc.

**THE LIBRARY** Spiritual books available for loan to parishioners. Situated in prayer/baby room to right of church.

**ADORATION** Mondays 12 midday for 1 hour in the church.

**Junior Joey's Playgroup Term 1 2017:** Have children between 0 and 5 years and looking for something to do with them on a Monday morning during school terms and an opportunity for you to make new friends too? Why not join us for Junior Joey's Playgroup Monday's 9:30-11:30am in the Therry Centre Foyer, East Maitland?



We pray everyone has had a safe and relaxing holiday and we are looking forward to an exciting year ahead. Please see below for our Term 1 Program. Junior Joey's will return Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February. New families are most welcome and all you need to bring is a piece of fruit to share for morning, \$3 per family donation and of course yourself ready to participate in a range of experiences.

To all our friends from 2016 heading off to kindergarten this year, we wish you all the best and look forward to hearing all about how you are going. We will say some extra prayers for you during the first few weeks of school. Below is our program for term 1, please feel free to join us whenever you can, we are a friendly welcoming

group, providing a relaxed environment for children and families, that includes grandparents, aunts or uncles with children in their care!

Week 2 – February 7 <sup>th</sup> 2017	Getting to Know you – Everyone is special
Week 3 – February 13 <sup>th</sup> 2017	Love is all around – Saint Valentine's Day
Week 4 – February 20 <sup>th</sup> 2017	Sensory Fun (Exploring our senses)
Week 5 – February 27 <sup>th</sup> 2017	Pancakes and Ashes (Preparing for Lent to start)
Week 6 – March 6 <sup>th</sup> 2017	On the Move (Gross motor experiences possible park excursion)
Week 7 – March 13 <sup>th</sup> 2017	Party Time (Time to celebrate those birthday's)
Week 8 – March 20 <sup>th</sup> 2017	Saints Day (St Joseph and St Patrick)
Week 9 – March 27 <sup>th</sup> 2017	Easter is coming

## Parish News - Morpeth

As we start a new year we are faced with many new and exciting challenges as we focus on building our community and in particular our focus on our outreach program which will incorporate the establishment of the evangelisation cells within the Chisholm Region.

Our first parish Team meeting will be held on Wednesday 1st February in the Corcoran Centre at 7.00pm. All parishioners are welcome as we seek new members with fresh and innovative ideas. At this meeting we will set out our community events program for the year.

Additionally we will be discussing how best to address the repairs and maintenance issues relating to the roofing of the church. We have set aside monies received from our insurers to replace the damaged carpets but need to have the roof repairs/slates project completed before the carpet can be re-laid. How do we progress this major project and raise the additional funds required to ensure it is completed for the long term?

We have received a generous donation from one of our regular Sunday out of parish worshippers and will be seeking suggestions on how to raise additional funds.

It is opportune to say farewell and a special thank you to Fr. Peter for his ministry to us during the past four years. We wish him well in his new parish and assure him of our continued prayers.

We are always in need of new members to be part of the various lay ministries which form and support our parish community. One area where some support is needed is in the Ministry of Sacristy which is responsible for the setting up of the altar and church in readiness for our Sunday Mass. This may be as a support role when the persons responsible for a particular Sunday may be unavailable. If you can assist in this regard or would like to be involved in any other ministry then just give your name to Loretto Jordan after Mass on any Sunday.

## Parish News - Lochinvar

### **Representative for Regional Pastoral Council**

*We congratulate Mick Tierney on being elected by the Lochinvar Parish Community as their representative on the Regional Pastoral Council which meets at the regional office on the first Thursday evening of each month. (our next meeting will be in February 2017). In the near future Mick will seek to form a parish pastoral team for St Patrick's Parish Lochinvar. We have two representatives on our regional bodies now, Mick Tierney on the Regional Pastoral Council and Peter Garland on the Regional Finance Council. These two Councils are the main bodies that Fr Paul draws support from for pastoral planning in the parishes of our region.*

**LOCHINVAR JUNIOR YOUTH GROUP - WEEKLY (during school term)** on Mondays commencing from 6.00pm ending with LOW at 7.30pm.

**HOPE - Lenten Program 2017** BOOK & CD SET (Catholic GST Religious Group \$15) Our [Hope Lenten Program book](#) is accompanied by a **Triple CD resource** that includes audio narrations of the readings (by Jude Hennessy from the [Journey Catholic Radio](#)) and audio narrations of the reflections by **Mr Shane Dwyer** and **Sr Hilda Scott OSB**. If you are interest in purchasing the book and CD set you can visit [www.dowshop.org.au](http://www.dowshop.org.au) or call the parish office.



## Parish News - OLOL Beresfield

### Happy New Year!

**CHRISTMAS SERVICES:** A huge thank you to everyone that contributed to our 2016 Christmas services. Many members of all the churches in our area took the opportunity to gather together for the lovely **Ecumenical Christmas Carols** Service at OLOL Church Beresfield and then to enjoy sharing supper and friendship together afterward. Our **Christmas Mass** was celebrated on Christmas Eve at 7.00pm. It was a beautiful celebration!! There was standing room only in the church, with 380 people attending!! We had carol singing from 6.30pm and this set the mood beautifully!! The atmosphere in the church was just wonderful. Everyone joined in the singing of the carols and all the hymns during mass and the church felt full of the peace and love of Christmas.

**OUR LADY OF LOURDES FEAST DAY – SATURDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY:** This year OLOL feast day falls on a Saturday. Join us as we celebrate Mass at OLOL on this day.

**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER:** OLOL Beresfield will be hosting the World Day of Prayer Service in our area on Friday 3rd March 2017 at 10.30am. Morning tea will follow in the meeting room. Please bring a plate to share.



### CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD:

We are very pleased to welcome this program to our parish. We are looking forward to this program commencing at OLOL Beresfield very soon. There are many ways that we can all get involved in helping to set up the Atrium. For example, several leafy indoor plants are needed and help in how to care for them. For more information or to get involved, please contact Siubhan Sadler at [OLOL.Atrium@gmail.com](mailto:OLOL.Atrium@gmail.com) or on 0432 477 181.



**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH:** Each Friday morning we pray together the **Prayer of the Church**, often called the **Liturgy of the Hours**. This is the prayer of the whole People of God, and we invite you to join us on **Fridays at 9.30am in the Church**, as we offer our praise to God, and pray for the needs of our world.

**POLISH MASS:** The next Polish Mass to be celebrated at OLOL Church will be at 8.00am on the 4th Sunday of February (February 26th).

**ROSARY:** The parishioners of OLOL Beresfield pray The Rosary together at the Church each Saturday evening before Mass, commencing at 5.40pm. Everyone is invited to join us.

**LADIES SOCIAL GROUP:** The ladies group meets on an informal basis on the 4th Tuesday of each month from February to November at 10.00am in the Parish meeting room. The next informal get together will be on **Tuesday 28th February at 10.00am**. You are warmly invited to come along and join us.

**PARISH TEAM MEETING:** The next Parish team meeting will be on the second Tuesday in February, **Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> February**, in the Parish Meeting room, **at 7.00pm**. Everyone is invited to join us.

*Dear Fr Peter*

*Wherever the Spirit calls you  
in the Church,  
may you always strive  
to do the will of the Father  
and bring more souls to Christ.*

*God bless you for being our priest.  
We will miss you.*

*With love, Chisholm office staff.*

## Parish News - Maitland / Largs / Paterson

**SACRED HEART, CAMPBELL'S HILL** St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal from the Mass centres of Largs, Paterson and Campbell's Hill generously donated above \$5,821.00. The St Vincent de Paul crew were deeply moved by your generosity and are extremely grateful. There were 173 clients who needed instant help close to closing at Christmas.

Since Christmas there have been a steady stream of clients in need as we all know times are tough and St Vincent de Paul says "Thank You" for caring for your neighbour, May God Bless each of you.

We will miss Fr Peter when he moves on and hope everyone keeps him in their prayers. His courage and example to us will be missed by many.

We will welcome Fr Camillus into our Community and keep him in our prayers. A priests life is not an easy one, but they all make our faith a lot stronger as they spread God's word.

CATHOLIC WEEKLY on sale before and after every Mass and only costs \$2.

**LARGS:** Weekly YOUTH Group Wednesdays 5.30pm ending with Mass at 7.00pm. **(not in school holidays).**

### Paterson

It was with sadness we said goodbye to Maureen Reynolds of Fisher's Hill, Vacy, at her funeral in St Helen's Church Gresford on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January.

An overwhelming number attended this much loved and respected lady's final farewell. Maureen was known throughout our Chisholm and Dungog Region for her generosity to others in need, especially through her long involvement in the Gresford Conference of St Vincent de Paul or the Youth off the Street committees and functions or as a volunteer in the local State Schools SRE and Breakfast Club as well as many Gresford community activities.

Maureen will be remembered lovingly by her children Michele, Sharon, Matthew and James and their families including her beloved grandchildren along with her many Gresford and Paterson area friends.

May she rest in peace.

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## Parish News - Rutherford

GAE FISHLOCK REPORTING FOR ST PAUL'S AT RUTHERFORD

The end of 2016 was a busy time for the Mini Vinnies from St Paul's Primary School Rutherford. As early as the beginning of November 2016, plans were made to launch the St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal and a visit to the new Opal Nursing Home in Aberglasslyn to sing Christmas carols.

It was decided to encourage the Mini Vinnies to team up with the local St Paul's Parish Conference of the St Vincent de Paul Society to help provide gifts for the children of families who were going to be supported at Christmas by the Society. The Mini Vinnies promoted that gifts for these children aged from 0-16 be donated by the students and families. It was requested that the gifts not be wrapped so a safety check could be done. This gave us a wonderful excuse for the Mini Vinnies to have a gift wrapping workshop. The gifts were taken to the St Vincent de Paul Rutherford office and distributed by the conference members to the families.



*Well done to the 2016 Mini Vinnies and to the community of St Paul's Primary School.*

We were also blessed with the help of 2 amazing young ladies Eleanor and Taylor, from St Joseph's High School Lochinvar, who wanted to do some good works in the community. Thanks to Eleanor's mum who steered them in our direction. Their contribution has been greatly appreciated and we look forward to working with them in the future.



Preparation for the visit to the nursing home included the Mini Vinnies making Christmas cards for the 84 residents and our Christmas angels, Eleanor and Taylah made over 100 gingerbread biscuits to hand out to the residents and staff. On the day there was great excitement when the St Paul's Mini Vinnies arrived along with Eleanor and Taylah who were dressed up in Christmas tutus. Doug Garnett- the Principal at St Paul's led the Mini Vinnies in song and Colleen Canny did her bit to encourage the residents to join in. The students then mingled with the residents to chat and hand out cards and biscuits. It was a great day.

A huge THANK YOU from the St Paul's Parish Conference of the St Vincent de Paul Society to St Paul's Primary School, for your support and generosity in 2016. We are looking forward to exciting things to happen in 2017..... We have a plan !!!!!!! stay posted. ☺



CHRISTIAN MEDITATION GROUP AT ST PAUL'S CHURCH RUTHERFORD IS HELD ON WEDNESDAYS 7.00PM

COLUMBARIUM: Ian 4932 8501; HALL BOOKINGS: Adrian 4932 5601;

GARDEN VOLUNTEERS: Peter 4932 8117

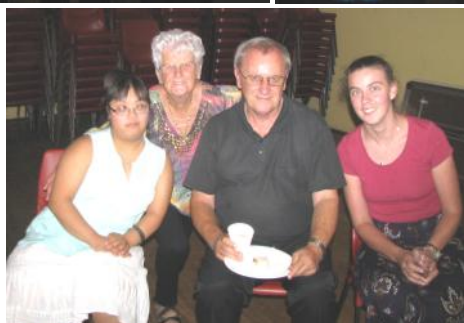
# Volunteers Thanksgiving Mass

Tonight we gathered for Mass at St John's Chapel to celebrate the wonderful people who volunteer their time, talents and treasures to our community. In thanksgiving and gratitude let us take a moment to reflect on the value of volunteers who have helped to enrich the lives of our parishioners, clergy and staff. May God continue to care for them with love and many blessings.



*So thank you for being a volunteer,  
We're privileged to work with you.  
We want you to know how appreciated you are,  
Not just today, but the whole year  
through.*

After Mass we all enjoyed a light supper in St John's Hall and fortunately it wasn't too hot a night!



**Thank you to this month's sponsors**

To help us alleviate paper and printing costs, sponsorship is available at \$50 per issue. If you are interested please contact us through the Regional Office, and we will help to promote your business within our Parish communities.



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