

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 Camillus Nwahia
(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 2

Message from Fr Paul O'Neill

My brothers and sisters

Last weekend we welcomed Fr Camillus Nwahia to the parishes of our region. It is wonderful to have Camillus with us, he has been ordained just over six months and apart from working with us he also will be attending one day a week the Catholic chaplaincy at Newcastle University, where he himself has studied. We look forward to his ministry among us.

On the 1st March we begin the season of Lent. These 40 days are meant to be an opportunity to renew our Christian life, through the practices of prayer, fasting and helping others we grow to be more like Christ. Project Compassion provides us with an opportunity for the financial sacrifices we make to contribute to the needs and support of our brothers and sisters in developing countries, and our indigenous brothers and sisters. I often think that fasting is an opportunity to give up something for someone else so, perhaps, whatever we give up, the cost of that could be donated to Project Compassion. The practice of fasting is not meant to make us feel good about our religious practice, but a reminder of what is really important that we embrace the sacrifice involved in being a loving human being. Happy Lent!

During the season of Lent and the Easter season we'll be walking the journey of faith with 10 adults from across three parishes in our region who are becoming Catholics. The Rite for Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) has a number of rituals that we celebrate with these catechumens (unbaptised adults) and candidates (those already baptised in another Christian tradition) leading up to their Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist at Easter time. Just recently we have celebrated the Rite of Welcome at East Maitland, Lochinvar and Largs for our catechumens and candidates. Let's continue to support and welcome them in our midst.

Also, we have begun the preparation process for children from our parishes who will be receiving Confirmation and First Holy Communion. This year Bishop Bill will be visiting the parishes of our region and will be celebrating 15 Confirmation and First Holy Communion Masses in our region. Our Sacraments of Initiation process in a parish-based, family-centred and school-supported process. We, as a parish, are encouraged to do all we can to make these children and their families very welcome in our midst.

In Holy Week this year Fr Richard Shortall will be celebrating the Holy Week ceremonies at St Paul's church Rutherford. The parish communities of Maitland, Rutherford and Lochinvar are invited to join together especially for the Easter Triduum (Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper; Good Friday Commemoration of the Lord's Passion and the Easter Vigil celebrating Christ's resurrection). After Holy Week Fr Richard will continue to live in a mobile home in the church grounds for three weeks and conduct a retreat in everyday life for all parishioners of our region that would like to attend. Further details of this retreat will be made available in our next edition. We are very grateful for this opportunity for spiritual renewal being offered to us.

During Lent we are conducting a training session for those who volunteered to be leaders of parish cells of evangelisation and after Easter will be inviting those who expressed interest in belonging to a parish cell to join a group. Further details for anyone interested are available in this edition.

So I am very excited about all these opportunities that have been offered to help deepen the faith life of our parish communities. Let's be open to the Holy Spirit and seek to involve ourselves in any way we can.

With love
Fr Paul



INSIDE YOU WILL FIND

1-11	Messages from Frs Paul & Camillus; RCIA; Parish Evangelisation Cells; Regional/Dio News; SOI; SVdP, 'Silence'; 'Fatima'
12-15	March Mass Roster / Saints
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Welcome Fr Camillus Nwahia



Childhood and Vocation

My name is Camillus Chinenye Nwahia. I am from Nigeria (West Africa). I am the 5th son and 6th child of a family of 7. My parents are both dead and most of my siblings are living in different parts of Africa. I belonged to a religious community called the Schoenstatt fathers and completed my academic requirements for the priesthood before I left the community. I left Nigeria towards the end of 2011 and started my masters in educational studies at the University of Newcastle.

At the end of my studies in 2013, I joined the Diocese of Maitland -Newcastle. This decision was never reconsidered and today I am a happy priest of the Diocese. I am so much attached to the Blessed Virgin Mary as she has taken special care of me since the death of my mum to whom I have a very special attachment. I believe strongly that **“the servant of Mary will never perish.”** I was ordained a Deacon on the 21st of November 2015 and a priest on the 4th of June 2016.

My Passion

It gives me great joy to work with people. I am coming with some experiences from Jesus the good shepherd Parish East Lake Macquarie where I have worked as a deacon and assistant priest

for the past year. As a Chaplain at the University of Newcastle, interactions with university students have increased my desire to work and find a way to bring young hearts to embrace the Catholic faith. My experiences at the Australian Youth Festival in Adelaide last year and my first World Youth Day in Poland this year, have awakened the hunger in me to work with and for the young people and to direct them to learn, understand and practise their faith as I see in them great enthusiasm.

My parish appointment/commitment

Being just a priest is not an end for me. It is the beginning of my mission in life. The task of a priest is among other things, celebrating the Holy Eucharist and administering sacraments to the people, visiting the sick, elderly and needy and promoting Catholicism among the young people. These I promised on my day of ordination and pray for the grace to do. I pray for the grace to do more than these. I am here to serve as the bishop reminded me on my day of priestly ordination: “you will always be a deacon” (one who serves). I am so happy to be part of this Catholic community (Chisholm region) and I am looking forward to encountering all of you in different areas of my apostolate. I therefore ask for your patience as it would take me some time to get used to your individual names, Australian accent, food and lifestyle generally. I, on my part am open to corrections and ready to learn new things.

Hobbies

I love playing and watching sports especially football and tennis. I love singing and dancing (though I can't dance very well), I also enjoy travelling, making new friends and listening to people.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) - *To know Jesus and to make Him known!*

Rite of Election Day! On Sunday March 5th at 2.30pm at the Sacred Heart Cathedral, Hamilton, Bishop Bill will preside at the Rite of Election for all those wishing to be baptised during the coming celebration of Easter and the Rite of Presentation for those who will be received into full communion with the Catholic Church. These wonderful people heard Jesus' knock or call and answered YES. Our Church has been humbled, shamed and shaken to its foundation. A now contrite Church celebrates that God's call is still heard and people still answer that call. Let's celebrate with them. All parishioners, family members, parish RCIA teams, sponsors and godparents in the diocese are invited to join with Bishop Bill to celebrate this step in the RCIA journey for these people. At the conclusion of this ceremony, afternoon tea will be served by the Diocesan RCIA team in the Davis Courtyard. All are welcome.

Parish Evangelisation Cell Application Form

Chisholm Pastoral Region Application to Join a Parish Evangelisation Cell



Contact Details (Please Print)

Name: _____

Postal Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____ (Best contact number)

Please Circle one of the following age ranges (only if you want to)

Under 20 20-30 31-40 41-50 51-60 61-70 71-80 81+

Meeting days and times

I could attend a cell group which meets on: (Please Tick)

	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
Mon			
Tues			
Wed			
Thurs			
Fri			
Sat			

It's always tricky to find a day and time to suit all of a group of people, so please be as flexible as you can and tick all of the days and times you might be able to make a cell meeting.

Other Information

Please write in the space below anything you would like to be taken into account in allocating you to a cell and choosing a venue for the cell meetings.

Tell us anything you think might be relevant. For example, would you need a lift, particularly in the evenings, are you able to give someone a lift, would you like to be in the same group as your spouse, etc.

Application

I would like to join a Parish Evangelisation Cell.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Please return application form either via email to Sam.Hill@mn.catholic.org.au or by posting / delivering to Chisholm Pastoral Region Office,
C/o: Parish Cells System
302 High Street, Maitland 2320

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 March 2017 (After Youth Mass)

Sunday 2nd April 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
MARCH	20th March	26th March

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.

†**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.

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

†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.

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



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.

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

[Subscribe to Diocesan Update eNewsletter](#)

[Aurora Magazine articles online](#)

[Full Diocesan Calendar](#) and [Community Noticeboard](#)

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

† **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 March, 2017.**

† **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.

† **WORLD DAY OF PRAY 2017 - OUR LADY OF LOURDES, BERESFIELD, 10.30am.** Will be held on **Friday 3rd March.** Corazon Taylor will be guest speaker. All are invited to attend and then join us

for morning tea in the meeting room following the service.

† 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 .

† **Wednesday 15th March 2017 Full Day Child Protection Training.** This course is offered to anyone volunteering or working with children in our diocese. 9.00am-4.00pm Corcoran Centre, George Street, Morpeth. To register for training please call Brenda at Zimmerman Services 4979 1390 or Brenda.Moloney@mn.catholic.org.au.

† **ST PATRICK'S DAY TRIVIA NIGHT Friday 17th March,** Therry Centre East Maitland at 7.00pm. \$5.00 per person, 10 per table. **DRESS IN GREEN!** Prizes for best dressed. BYO snacks and nibbles, no alcohol. *All funds raised on the night will go towards supporting the youth of our parishes to attend the Australian Catholic Youth Festival in December 2017.* For more information and RSVP contact Bec Piefke on 0422 500 429.

† **Saturday 25th March - Saturday 1st April: Before We Say I Do - Marriage Education Program** Two Saturday Sessions at Morpeth Contact 4979 1370.

† 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

† The 3rd **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. For more information, contact us at youth.festival@mn.catholic.org.au or www.facebook.com/mncatholicyouth

SRE teachers wanted. (scripture teaching.)

If you have a passion for teaching about the faith to young people.

CONTACT : Jennie, 0408 796 252

What's Happening in the Chisholm Region/Diocese

MOVIE NIGHT ON THE SAINTS: we hope to see you on Saturday, 25th March, 2017 at 7.00pm in the Caroline Chisholm Rooms (adjacent to St. Joseph's Primary School Admin) 57 King Street, East Maitland.

MARY'S MIRACULOUS MEDAL

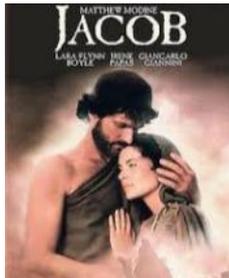
At an early age she entered the community of the Daughters of Charity, in Paris, France. Three times in 1830 the Virgin Mary appeared to St. Catherine Laboure, who then was a twenty-four year old novice.



On July 18, the first apparition occurred in the community's motherhouse. St. Catherine beheld a lady seated on the right side of the sanctuary. When St. Catherine approached her, the heavenly visitor told her how to act in time of trial and pointed to the altar as the source of all consolation. Promising to entrust St. Catherine with a mission which would cause her great suffering, the lady also predicted the anticlerical revolt which occurred at Paris in 1870. On November 27, the lady showed St. Catherine the medal of the Immaculate Conception, now universally known as the "Miraculous Medal." She commissioned St. Catherine to have one made, and to spread devotion to this medal. At that time, only her spiritual director, Father Aladel, knew of the apparitions. Forty-five years later, St. Catherine spoke fully of the apparitions to one of her superiors. She died on December 31, 1876, and was canonized on July 27, 1947.

Our Lady said to St. Catherine - "This ball that you see represents the whole world and each person in particular. These are symbols of the grace I shed upon those who ask for them. Have a medal struck after this model, all who wear it shall receive great graces. They should wear it around the neck. Graces abound for all who wear it with confidence."

JACOB – A STORY OF LOVE - FOR A WOMAN, FOR A BROTHER AND FOR GOD For seven long years, Jacob has laboured to earn the right to marry beautiful Rachel. Now the seven years are up - but Rachel's devious father substitutes his elder daughter on the wedding night.



Matthew Modine (Full Metal Jacket) and Lara Flynn Boyle (Men in Black II) play Jacob and Rachel in one of the greatest love stories from the Bible. Highlights of Jacob's life - how he usurped his brother Esau's birthright and blessing, the pillow of stone, the ladder to heaven, wrestling with God - are set against the heartache and hope of his relationship with the woman he seems destined never to possess. Sustained by his faith in God and his love for Rachel, Jacob perseveres..... and becomes the father of 12 Tribes of Israel.

A little familiarisation with the story of Jacob in Genesis, the first book of the Old Testament will be beneficial when watching this movie.

Books and pious objects for sale. Refreshments provided. Everyone most welcome. Enquiries - Judy Chlebowicz 49 366349

Ordinarate Mass offered at Mayfield

All Catholics are invited to "come and see" *Divine Worship* - the third and newest variant of the Roman Rite - which is offered at 11:30am at St Columban's, Mayfield on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of every month. The Ordinariate of Our Lady of the Southern Cross is a non-geographical diocese created by Pope Benedict XVI as a structure for Anglicans to become fully Catholic, whilst bringing many of their traditions as a "treasure to be shared" with the broader Catholic Church. Father Stephen Hill, assistant Priest at Mayfield, Mayfield West and Stockton, is a priest of the Ordinariate presently working in our diocese.

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 for more. *Real encounter, real people, real exchange, real life*

Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend – relationship enrichment for married couples

19-21 May at Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville, NSW

Bookings online at www.wvme.org.au or

Bill and Ardell Sharpe on 02 4283 3435 or wsharpe@bigpond.net.au



Missionary of Mercy Prayer in Everyday Life

Saturday 08/04/2017 - Saturday 06/05/2017
Rutherford

For more information, contact Fr Richard Shortall SJ on his mobile, 0448 292 523

Sacraments of Initiation Program 2017

MARCH 2017

Session 3 – Family Faith Formation Session - Sacrament of Reconciliation

Parents/Care Givers AND Children to Attend (Please bring your books)

Tuesday	14 th March	7.00pm St Paul's Church, Rutherford
Wednesday	15 th March	7.00pm OLOL Church, Beresfield
Thursday	16 th March	7.00pm St Joseph's Church, East Maitland

PRESENTATION OF THE "OUR FATHER"

Saturday/Sunday	18 th /19 th March	At all Churches
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Children's First Reconciliation - 2ND RITE:

PLEASE NOTE: EACH CHILD NEEDS ONLY ATTEND ONE OF THE FIVE

CELEBRATIONS OF THE SACRAMENT

Wednesday	22 nd March	7.00pm St Paul's Church, Rutherford
Thursday	23 rd March	7.00pm OLOL Church, Beresfield

Tuesday	28 th March	7.00 pm St Patrick's Church Lochinvar
Wednesday	29 th March	7.00pm Sacred Heart Church, Campbell's Hill
Thursday	30 th March	7.00pm St Joseph's Church, East Maitland

PASTORAL NOTES:

- ✠ *Lent begins next Wednesday.*
- ✠ *Lent is a penitential season of prayer, self-denial and helping others. In this way, the whole Church prepares for Easter with those who are to be baptised. Other celebrations in Lent (e.g. Marriage) must take account of the spirit of penance: musical instruments are only used to sustain singing and floral decorations are very simple.*
- ✠ *Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fast and abstinence. The law of fasting binds those who have completed their eighteenth year, until the beginning of their sixtieth year; the law of abstinence binds those who have completed their fourteenth year (CCL 97, 1251-52).*
- ✠ *Catholics are obliged to receive holy communion at least once a year, in Australia and New England between Ash Wednesday and Trinity Sunday.*
- ✠ *In Lent, the Alleluia is omitted at Mass and at the Hours, even in celebrations of solemnities and feasts.*



ASH WEDNESDAY MASS TIMES:

7.00am	St Joseph's East Maitland
9.30am	Our Lady of Lourdes School Mass, this is in the school at Tarro
5.30pm	St Paul's Rutherford
7.00pm	Holy Family, Largs



St Vincent de Paul Society

NSW/ACT

good works

The Faces of Poverty

If being a Vincentian teaches me anything, it is that poverty is not a simple thing. It is not just a lack of money, though of course that comes into it. There are many people who manage very well on a limited income until a crisis occurs: the fridge or the washing machine breaks down, or there is an unexpected expense caused by illness. These people are often embarrassed about asking for help, and never ask again.

However, there are some people who, though they receive Government benefits, still find themselves unable to cope. Governments talk of this being generational, and that people come to expect benefits as their right because their family has always received them. In some ways, this may be right, but trying to punish such people is, in my opinion, not the answer.



Rather than punishment and demonising, people need expert help to assist them manage their resources. Ask yourself about your own spending and management habits. I am sure that, as in my own case, you picked up a lot from your parents. But what if they had never learnt how to budget? This is what often has happened to people who come to us for help. No one has given them any example of thrifty shopping, good housekeeping, and the difference between needs and wants.

The St Vincent de Paul can arrange budget counselling, but people have to accept the offer of help. They cannot be forced. Perhaps, instead of punishing people on welfare, governments could make continuing payments contingent on accepting counselling and make such help freely available.

There are some people, most often single men, who have various mental health issues. These people often "fall through the cracks." All they sometimes need is some supervision to ensure they take their medications, but since the closure of many institutions, this is not available.

On the whole, we experience meeting very few genuine welfare cheats: that is, people who either deliberately give false information, or falsely claim an inability to work. It is sad that so much emphasis is placed on this minority, while ignoring the real handicaps forced daily on many people. We should try to realise they need a 'hand up' more than a "hand-out."

Pam French (East Maitland Conference)



DIVINE RETREAT CENTRE
SOMERSBY-NSW
MARCH 2017

Lets us offer our problems, sorrows and our sinful past to the Lord. Repent and turn back to the Lord, and let the heavens rejoice.

DRC invites you to spend beautiful moments in prayer together with Fr. Rony George- Director and Fr. Joby George- Asst Director, DRC Somersby. Come and see what the Lord has instore for us.

DIVINE MERCY- 1st FRIDAY
3rd March from 5.30pm to 8.30pm
Confession, Divine Mercy Chaplet, Stations of the Cross and Healing Mass
TRANSPORT AVAILABLE FROM GOSFORD STATION BETWEEN 4.30 and 5:00 pm

LENTEN RETREAT
LIVE-IN RETREAT
10th to 12th (Friday 10 am to Sunday 4.30pm)
ADVANCE BOOKING REQUIRED
TRANSPORT AVAILABLE FROM GOSFORD STATION ON FRIDAY BETWEEN 8:45 and 9:00 am

NIGHT VIGIL- 3rd SATURDAY
18th March from 8.00pm to 12.00am
Confession, Adoration and Healing Mass
TRANSPORT AVAILABLE FROM GOSFORD STATION BETWEEN 7:00 pm and 7:30 pm

ONE DAY RETREAT
26th March from 9.00am to 4:30 pm
Preaching the Word of God, Confession, Stations of the Cross
Divine Mercy Chaplet, Adoration and Healing Mass
(Including Bible Nursery & Retreat for Children from ages 3-12)
TRANSPORT AVAILABLE FROM GOSFORD STATION BETWEEN 8:30 am and 8:45 am

DIVINE RETREAT CENTRE, 160 Hensons Road, Somersby, NSW 2250, divineretreatcentre.org.au
Fr. Michael Pappasally - Director of Vincentian Missionaries
For any queries please contact Clary on: 0434098088, DRC Tel: 02 4372 1598 or email: clary.anta@gmail.com; ronyvc@gmail.com; or drcsydney@gmail.com

Silence in Liturgy

FROM THE REGIONAL LITURGY MEETING

At our last meeting, Silence in Liturgy was again raised. The members of the Liturgy group felt it would be good to re-visit an article that was in the May 2016 Chisholm Connection. Below is some points which the group feel would be useful:

Silence has its part to play in an active celebration of the liturgy. It enables us to move from intense moments of personal prayer to parts of the liturgy which 'collect' that personal prayer and make it communal. For example, a time of silent reflection after the Scripture reading would enable each of us to digest and respond to the Word in our hearts. That response would then flow into a communal liturgical response as we pray together the psalm.

Short times of silence have been introduced that can allow a rich interaction between our own personal prayer and the communal prayer of the liturgy, thus ensuring that our whole celebration of the Eucharist is prayerful - indeed, that it is **PRAYER!**

These practices have been introduced during weekday and weekend Masses:

- ✠ At the beginning of the Penitential Rite
- ✠ After the 'Let us pray' of the Opening Prayer
- ✠ After the First and Second readings

LISTEN FOR THE SOUNDS OF SILENCE . . .

In introducing some pauses for silence in the liturgy we are not forgetting the primary reality that liturgy is a time of *communal* prayer, prayer which involves us interacting, being fully aware of each other, praying *with* and *through* each other. But that communal prayer only becomes all it can be when each of us engages in it at a deeply personal level.

THE STRUCTURE OF THE LITURGY OF THE WORD WILL BE AS FOLLOWS:

Opening Hymn

Sign of the Cross

Greeting and response

A few brief remarks (if any from the preside)

Penitential Act begins with the Priest saying; "Brethren (brothers and sisters)..."

A pause of up to a half-minute

The Act

The Gloria (if prescribed)

"Let us Pray"

A pause of up to a half-minute (both here and at the Prayer after Communion)

The Opening Prayer

1st Reading

A pause of up to a half-minute

2nd Reading (if prescribed)

A pause of up to a half-minute

Gospel Acclamation

Gospel

Homily

A pause of up to a half-minute

Creed (if prescribed)

Universal Prayer

The Mass continues as normal with the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

Celebrating 100 years of Fatima

The Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God, appeared six times to three shepherd children ("The Three Seers") near the town of Fatima, Portugal between May 13 and October 13, 1917. Appearing to the children, the Blessed Virgin told them that She had been sent by God with a message for every man, woman and child living in our century. Coming at a time when civilization was torn asunder by war and bloody violence, She promised that Heaven would grant peace to all the world if Her requests for prayer, reparation and consecration were heard and obeyed.

"If My requests are granted ... there will be peace"



Jacinta, Francisco & Lucia in 1917

Our Lady of Fatima explained to the children that war is a punishment for sin and warned that God would further castigate the world for its disobedience to His Will by means of war, hunger and the persecution of the Church, the Holy Father and the Catholic Faithful. God's Mother prophesied that Russia would be God's chosen "instrument of chastisement," spreading the "errors" of atheism and materialism across the earth, fomenting wars, annihilating nations and persecuting the Faithful everywhere.

"If My requests are not granted, Russia will spread its errors throughout the world, raising up wars and persecutions against the Church. The good will be martyred, the Holy Father will suffer much and various nations will be annihilated."

In all Her appearances at Fatima, the Blessed Mother repeatedly emphasized the necessity of praying the Rosary daily, of wearing the Brown Scapular of Mount Carmel and of performing acts of reparation and sacrifice. To prevent the terrible chastisement at the hands of Russia and to convert "that poor nation", Our Lady requested the solemn public Consecration of Russia to Her Immaculate Heart by the Pope and all the Catholic bishops of

the world. She also asked that the Faithful practice a new devotion of reparation on the first Saturday of five consecutive months ("The Five First Saturdays")

The heart of Our Lady's Message to the world is contained in what has come to be called the "Secret" which She confided to the three child seers in July 1917. The Secret actually consists of three parts, the first two of which have been publicly revealed. The first part of the Secret was a horrifying Vision of hell "where the souls of poor sinners go" and contained an urgent plea from Our Lady for acts of prayer and sacrifice to save souls. The second part of the Secret specifically prophesied the outbreak of World War II and contained the Mother of God's solemn request for the Consecration of Russia as a condition for world peace. It also predicted the inevitable triumph of Her Immaculate Heart following Russia's consecration and the conversion "of that poor nation" to the Catholic Faith.

The last part of the Secret (often called the "Third Secret") was written down by Lucy Dos Santos, the last living Fatima seer, in 1944 and has been in the possession of the Holy See since 1957. This portion of the Secret concerns chaos in the Catholic Church, predicting widespread apostasy and a loss of faith.

FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTION

The practice of the First Saturday devotion was requested by **Our Lady of Fatima**, who appeared to three shepherd children in Fatima, Portugal, multiple times starting in 1917.

She said to Lucia, the oldest of the three children:

"I shall come to ask . . . that on the First Saturday of every month, Communions of reparation be made in atonement for the sins of the world."

Years later she repeated her request to Sr. Lucia, the only one still living of the three young Fatima seers, while she was a postulant sister living in a convent in Spain:

"Look, my daughter, at my Heart, surrounded with thorns with which ungrateful men pierce me at very moment by their blasphemies and ingratitude. You at least try to console me, and say that I promise to assist at the hour of death, with the graces necessary for salvation, all those who, on the first Saturday of five consecutive months, shall confess, receive Holy Communion, recite five decades of the rosary, and keep me company for 15 minutes while meditating on the 15 mysteries of

Celebrating 100 years of Fatima

the rosary, with the intention of making reparation to me.”

Conditions to fulfil the First Saturday Devotions

There are five requirements to obtain this promise from the Immaculate Heart of Mary. On five consecutive first Saturdays of the month, one should, with the intention of making amends to , do the following:

1. Have the intention of consoling the Immaculate Heart in a spirit of reparation
2. Go to confession (within eight days before or after the first Saturday)
3. Receive Holy Communion
4. Say five decades of the **Holy Rosary**
5. Meditate for 15 minutes on the **mysteries of the Holy Rosary** with the goal of keeping Our Lady company (for example, while in church or before an image or statue of Our Lady).

WHY FIVE SATURDAYS?

Our Lord appeared to Sr. Lucia on May 29, 1930 and gave her the reason behind the five Saturdays devotion. It is because there are five types of offenses and blasphemies committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary:

1. Blasphemies against the Immaculate Conception
2. Blasphemies against Our Lady's perpetual

virginity

3. Blasphemies against her divine maternity, in refusing at the same time to recognize her as the Mother of men
4. Blasphemies of those who publicly seek to sow in the hearts of children, indifference or scorn or even hatred of their Immaculate Mother
5. Offenses of those who outrage Our Lady directly in her holy images

Never think that Jesus is indifferent to whether or not His mother is honoured!

Greater difficulty, greater reward

While keeping up with these devotions over five months is not easy, the reward for making the effort is eternal. Look again at those promises from Our Lady!

Nothing in this life is more important than holy religion (living according to the will of God as revealed through his Church), offering yourself to God as a self-gift for the benefit of others (Christ-like reparation for the sins of others), and obtaining salvation through Jesus Christ (joining the saints in heaven for all eternity). So, resolve to make the effort to do this devotion and pray for the grace to follow through to the end. Our Lady always gives the grace to those who wish to faithfully accomplish Her requests!

God of all peoples and nations,
You accompany us on our Lenten journey.
Through the life and mission of Your son,
You give us the gift of mercy.
May we learn to walk Your way of mercy
and compassion with all Your people.
In a special way, we keep in mind our neighbours,
the men, women and children around the
world who are most vulnerable to
extreme poverty and injustice.
Bless our prayers, our fasting and our
Lenten gifts to Project Compassion.
Through these actions, may our hearts
be open to receive Your grace to love
our neighbours as ourselves.
We ask this in the name of Jesus.
Amen.

Love Your Neighbour

PROJECT COMPASSION

Caritas AUSTRALIA
The Catholic agency for international aid and development
www.caritas.org.au 1800 024 413

Chisholm Region Calendar

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
<p><i>Please note SOI Reconciliation times need to be confirmed so has not been placed on this calendar, but will appear in the weekly bulletin closer to the dates.</i></p>		<p>1 Mar</p> <p>ASH WEDNESDAY</p> <p>7:00am Mass (St Joseph's EM) 9:30am OLOL School Mass (Tarro) 5:30pm Junior Youth Group (Largs) 5:30pm Mass (St Paul's Rutherford) 7:00pm Youth Mass (Largs)</p>	<p>2</p> <p>7:00am Mass (EM) 10:00am Cenacle (see EM notice) 10:00am St Joseph's School Mass (Lochinvar) 6:00pm RPC meeting</p>
<p>6</p> <p>12:00pm Holy Hour of Prayer & Exposition (EM) 6:00pm Jr. Youth Group (Loch.) 7:30pm LOW (Lochinvar)</p>	<p>7</p> <p>9:30am St Joseph's School Mass (EM) 5:30pm Junior Youth Group (Therry Centre) 7:00pm Youth Mass (EM)</p>	<p>8</p> <p>10:00am Anoint Mass (OPAL NH Anambah Rd Ruth) 5:30pm Junior Youth Group (Largs) 7:00pm Youth Mass (Largs) 7:30pm Cenacle (see EM notice)</p>	<p>9</p> <p>7:00am Mass (EM) 10:00am Cenacle (see EM notice) 10:30am St John's School Mass (Maitland) 6:00pm RFC meeting</p>
<p>13</p> <p>12:00pm Holy Hour of Prayer & Exposition (EM) 6:00pm Jr. Youth Group (Loch.) 7:30pm LOW (Lochinvar)</p>	<p>14</p> <p>5:30pm Junior Youth Group (Therry Centre) 7:00pm Parish Team Meeting (OLOL Hall) 7:00pm SOI Mtg (St Paul's Church Ruth.) 7:00pm Youth Mass (EM)</p>	<p>15</p> <p>5:30pm Junior Youth Group (Largs) 7:00pm SOI Mtg (OLOL Church Beres.) 7:00pm Youth Mass (Largs) 7:30pm Cenacle (see EM notice)</p>	<p>16</p> <p>7:00am Mass (EM) 10:00am Cenacle (see EM notice) 10:15am St Peter's School Mass (Maitland) 7:00pm SOI Mtg (St Joseph's church EM)</p>
<p>20 ST JOSEPH, spouse of Blessed Virgin Mary</p> <p>Chisholm Connection Deadline</p> <p>12:00pm Holy Hour of Prayer & Exposition (EM) 6:00pm Jr. Youth Group (Loch.) 7:30pm LOW (Lochinvar)</p>	<p>21</p> <p>10:30am Anoint Mass (EM - Therry Centre) 5:30pm Junior Youth Group (Therry Centre) 7:00pm Youth Mass (EM)</p>	<p>22</p> <p>10:00am Anoint. Mass (Benhome) 5:30pm Junior Youth Group (Largs) 7:00pm Youth Mass (Largs) 7:30pm Cenacle (see EM notice)</p>	<p>23</p> <p>7:00am Mass (EM) 10:00am Cenacle (see EM notice) 10:15am St Mary's School Mass (Maitland)</p>
<p>27</p> <p>12:00pm Holy Hour of Prayer & Exposition (EM) 6:00pm Jr. Youth Group (Loch.) 7:30pm LOW (Lochinvar)</p>	<p>28</p> <p>9:30am St Paul's School Mass (Rutherford) 5:30pm Junior Youth Group (Therry Centre) 7:00pm Youth Mass (EM)</p>	<p>29</p> <p>5:30pm Junior Youth Group (Largs) 7:00pm Youth Mass (Largs)</p>	<p>30</p> <p>7:00am Mass (EM) 10:00am Cenacle (see EM notice)</p>

March 2017

Friday	Saturday	Sunday
3 Mar World Day of Prayer (Therry Centre East Maitland) 7:00am Mass (EM) 8:00am Adoration (E/M 7am-Sat 9am) 9:30am Prayer of the Church (Beres. Church) 9:30am St Aloysius School Mass (Chisholm)	4 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)	5 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) 7:00pm Baptism Preparation (EM)
10 7:00am Mass (EM) 9:30am Prayer of the Church (Beres. Church) 11:00am Anoint Mass (Greenhills N.H.)	11 8:00am Mass/Reconciliation (EM) 2:30pm Cenacle (see EM notice) 5:00pm Mass (EM) 6:00pm Mass (Beresfield) 6:30pm Mass (C Hill)	12 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)
17 ST PATRICK'S DAY 7:00am Mass (EM) 9:15am St Patrick's School Mass (Lochinvar) 9:30am Prayer of the Church (Beres. Church)	18 SOI Presentation of the "Our Father" (ALL CHURCHES) 8:00am Mass (EM) 2:30pm Cenacle (see EM notice) 5:00pm Mass (EM) 6:00pm Mass (Beresfield) 6:30pm Mass (C Hill)	19 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)
24 7:00am Mass (EM) 9:30am Prayer of the Church (Beres. Church) 10:30am Anoint Mass (OPAL NH Broughton St Ruth.)	25 The ANNUNCIATION of the LORD 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)	26 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)
31 7:00am Mass (EM) 9:30am Prayer of the Church (Beres. Church)	<p><i>Please note, all care and attention is taken to ensure that times, dates and places are correct at time of publication.</i></p>	

Saints and Feasts in March 2017

ASH WEDNESDAY 1/3/2017 is the first day of Lent. Occurring 46 days before Easter, it is a moveable feast that can fall as early as February 4 and as late as March 10. According to the synoptic gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke; Jesus spent 40 days fasting in the desert, where he endured temptation by Satan. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of this 40-day liturgical period of prayer and fasting or abstinence. Of the 46 days until Easter, six are Sundays. As the Christian Sabbath, Sundays are not included in the fasting period and are instead "feast" days during Lent. Ash Wednesday derives its name from the practice of placing ashes on the foreheads of adherents as a celebration and reminder of human mortality, and as a sign of mourning and repentance to God.



4/3/2017 ST CASIMIR was a Polish prince; the third son of King Casimir IV. As a young man he refused to take up arms against any Christian country and also refused to marry the daughter of Emperor Frederick III. Instead he preferred a life of celibacy and devotion to God. In 1484 he died of tuberculosis - he was only 26 years of age. Soon after his death, miracles were reported at his tomb. He is the patron saint of Poland and Lithuania.

7/3/2017 STS PERPETUA AND FELICITY were martyrs of Roman Carthage, c.204. Perpetua was a young married woman with a newly born son. She was arrested for refusing to offer sacrifice to the Emperor and during this time was allowed to keep her son with her in prison. She received many visions, including that of a ladder extending to Heaven and a battle

whereby she defeated Satan. Also arrested was a slave-girl called Felicity, who was advanced in pregnancy and gave birth to a girl while in prison. Perpetua and Felicity and several men were all found guilty of treason and were taken to the arena to be killed by wild beasts. Perpetua and Felicity showed great bravery and survived their encounter with a mad heifer, but at the request of the jeering crowd were eventually put to the sword.



8/3/2017 ST JOHN OF GOD was originally a soldier who fought for Spain against the French and the Turks. Around the age of forty, he repented his former life and converted to a life of service to God. In 1539 he bought a house and gave shelter and care to the sick and needy. After his death, John's followers formed a Religious Order of hospitalers, the Brothers of St John of God. He is the patron saint of nurses, hospitals and the sick.



SAINT PATRICK 17/3/2017 was a 5th-century Romano-British Christian missionary and bishop in Ireland. Known as the "Apostle of Ireland", he is the primary patron saint of the island along with Saints Brigit and Columba.

The dates of Patrick's life cannot be fixed with certainty but, on a widespread interpretation, he was active as a missionary in Ireland



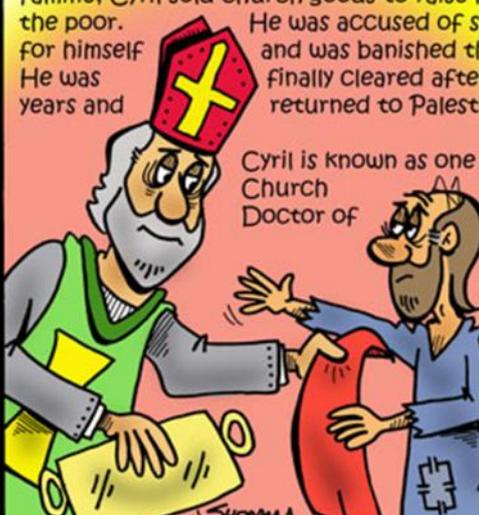
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SAINTS FUN FACTS

by John Sheppard

St. Cyril was a deacon, a priest and then became bishop of Jerusalem after Maximus died. During a famine, Cyril sold church goods to raise money for the poor. He was accused of stealing for himself and was banished three times. He was finally cleared after eleven years and returned to Palestine.

Cyril is known as one of the Early Church Fathers, a Doctor of the Catholic Church and for his defense of the Catholic Faith.



Born: 315
Died: 387

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Saints and Feasts in March 2017

during the second half of the fifth century. He is generally credited with being the first bishop of Armagh, Primate of All Ireland. When he was about 16, he was captured from his home and taken as a slave to Ireland, where he lived for six years before escaping and returning to his family. After becoming a cleric, he returned to northern and western Ireland. In later life, he served as an ordained bishop, but little is known about the places where he worked. By the seventh century, he had already come to be revered as the patron saint of Ireland.

19/3/2017 ST JOSEPH, HUSBAND OF MARY is a figure in the Gospels, the step father of Jesus. The Pauline epistles, generally considered the earliest extant Christian records, make no reference to Jesus' father; nor does the Gospel of Mark, generally considered the first of the gospels. The first appearance of Joseph is therefore in the gospels of Matthew and Luke.



Matthew and Luke are also the only gospels to include the infancy narratives. In Luke, Joseph lives in Nazareth and travels to Bethlehem in compliance with the requirements of a Roman census. Subsequently, Jesus was born there. In Matthew, Joseph was in Bethlehem, the city of David, where Jesus is born, and then moves to Nazareth with his family after the death of Herod. Matthew is the only Gospel to include the narrative of the Massacre of the Innocents and the Flight into Egypt: following the nativity, Joseph stays in Bethlehem for an unspecified period (perhaps two years) until forced by Herod to take refuge in Egypt; on the death of Herod he brings his family back to Judea, and settles in Nazareth.

After this point there is no further mention of Joseph by name, although the story of Jesus in the Temple, in Jesus' 12th year, includes a reference to "both his parents". The gospels describe Joseph as a "tekton"; traditionally the word has been taken to mean "carpenter".

Joseph is the patron saint of workers and has several feast days. He was also declared to be the patron saint and protector of the Catholic Church by Pope Pius IX in 1870, and is the patron of several countries and regions. With the growth of Mariology, the theological field of *Josephology* has also grown and since the 1950s centres for studying it have been formed.

Pope John XXIII added the name of Joseph to the Canon of the Mass in the late fifties. Pope Francis had his name added to the three other Eucharistic Prayers, not just the Roman Canon (Eucharistic Prayer I) in 2013. **This feast is marked as a Solemnity.**

25/3/2017 ANNUNCIATION is the Christian celebration of the announcement by the angel Gabriel to the Virgin Mary that she would conceive and become the mother of Jesus, the Son of God, marking his Incarnation. Gabriel told Mary to name her son Jesus, meaning "Saviour". Many Christians observe this event with the Feast of the Annunciation on 25 March, nine full months before Christmas, the ceremonial birthday of Jesus. According to Luke 1:26, the Annunciation occurred "in the



sixth month" of Elizabeth's pregnancy with John the Baptist.

SAINTS FUN FACTS by John Sheppard

One of the world's most popular saints. Enslaved as a young teen by pagans and Druids, he turned to God while in captivity. Escaping at age 20, he returned to his family and began studying for the priesthood. He preached throughout Ireland converting many for 40 years. He died at Saul, site of the first church he built.

SHEPPARD

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St. Patrick

ACTiv8 Chisholm

TERM 1 2017

<p>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. <i>Bring a board game if you wish !</i></p>	<p>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</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>BBQ Sunday 2 APR: 5.45PM – 7.15PM Assisting with the set up for the BBQ at mass, help cook and serve sausages.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>For any inquires please contact Bec Piefke rebecca.piefke@mn.catholic.org.au Ph : 0422 500 429</p>

WELCOME BACK! What a great start to the year we have had. We are very excited for this terms junior and senior youth group programs which are already underway. I would also like to share some important information with you.

At the end of the year some young people from our Chisholm region will be attending the Australian Catholic Youth Festival. (ACYF) It is a national gathering of Catholic young people. It provides them with opportunities to deepen their relationship with Jesus, be empowered to be disciples of the world today and celebrate the vitality of the church in Australia.

To help support the young people of our parishes financially we will be holding a St Patricks Day themed trivia night. Please come along, bring the family. It will be a fantastic night out. Don't forget to dress in GREEN for a chance to win the best dressed prize.

The Trivia Event will be held on FRIDAY 17TH MARCH at the Therry Centre in East Maitland. To RSVP or for more information feel free to contact myself, Bec on 0422 500 429. We hope to see you all there.

Each week we do our best to keep our facebook page up-to-date with youth group activities, photos and discussion on upcoming events. If you're a member of Facebook, we invite you to like our page. ACTiv8 Chisholm Youth Ministry.

I would like to thank all those who come along to our youth groups and support us. Myself and the leaders all look forward to continuing to have fun filled nights at youth group with you all this term.

Bec Piefke
 ACTiv8 Youth Co-ordinator

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!

MARCH
REGIONAL
KIDS MASS
Celebrate
THE 1ST SUNDAY OF LENT
CHECK IT OUT
JESUS is here
GET INVOLVED

SUNDAY 5th MARCH 6pm
St Joseph's East Maitland
...join in the practice beforehand at 5pm ...
More info? Call Sue 0414890813

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.

THE MOLECULE MENTOR

Science tutoring and writing services

Tutoring for senior high school and university students in
Chemistry, Biology, Agriculture, Food
Chemistry/Technology

Bridging tuition for high school to university

Proofreading, editing and writing assistance for science
reports, academic papers and research theses

Dr Meredith Wilkes

PhD, BSc (Hons), Grad Cert (Education)
MRACI, CChem, ATA member
30 Queen St, Lorn, NSW, 2320
0414 220 422 / themoleculementor@gmail.com



Find us on 



ACTiv8 Youth Initiative

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND RSVP CONTACT : BEC PIEFKE ON 0422 500 429

ST PATRICK'S DAY TRIVIA NIGHT

FRIDAY 17TH MARCH
TERRY CENTRE EAST MAITLAND
7PM

\$5.00 PER PERSON
10 PER TABLE

DRESS IN GREEN - PRIZES FOR BEST DRESSED
BYO SNACKS AND NIBBLES, NO ALCOHOL

ALL FUNDS RAISED ON THE NIGHT WILL GO TOWARDS SUPPORTING THE YOUTH OF OUR PARISHES TO ATTEND THE AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC YOUTH FESTIVAL IN DECEMBER 2017.



Quick Tip:

Prayer can be thought of according to the acronym ACTS:

A-Adoration

C-Contrition (sorrow for sins)

T-Thanksgiving

S-Supplication (special intentions)

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. Please note there will be no prayers in MARCH as it is ASH WEDNESDAY! Next date: 5th April 2017. All welcome. Ph 4933 6635.

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

FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTIONS – 4th March 2017, 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 March, 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 have been excited to welcome some new families, along with our returning families this year. Remember, new families are most welcome. Please check out our Term 1 Program below for more information on what we will be up to and join us when you can. 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.

We are a friendly welcoming group, providing a relaxed environment for children and families, including grandparents, aunts or uncles with children in their care!

Week 4 – February 20 th 2017	Sensory Fun (Exploring our senses)
Week 5 – February 27 th 2017	Pancakes and Ashes (Preparing for Lent to start)
Week 6 – March 6 th 2017	On the Move (Gross motor experiences possible park excursion)
Week 7 – March 13 th 2017	Party Time (Time to celebrate those birthday's)
Week 8 – March 20 th 2017	Saints Day (St Joseph and St Patrick)
Week 9 – March 27 th 2017	Easter is coming

Parish News - Morpeth

We kicked off our 2017 Community activities with a visit to view the movie "Hidden Figures" which was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended. Some attendees were spotted taking in the special goodies package, "Large popcorn, drink and chocolate coated ice cream"; maybe not the most nutritional evening meal but nonetheless enjoyable.

All are invited to join the Christian communities in Morpeth as we celebrate the World Day of Prayer. This year the Uniting Church will be hosting the service which will commence at 10.00am. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Our first Community breakfast will be held on Sunday 5th March. This is an opportunity to meet and welcome new arrivals to our parish and to catch up with many regulars who have many stories to share.

At our first Pastoral meeting for the year a sub-committee was established to investigate and plan for major repairs to the Church, starting with the roof. Many worthwhile fund-raising ideas were put to the meeting for consideration. Much needed funds will be required to if we are to embark on any major restoration project.

Unfortunately, the Church sound system needs replacing as it has been assessed as being beyond repair. We are seeking a quote from a contractor who has been used to complete similar work for many other churches within the diocese. Hopefully this work can be completed shortly.

We had the opportunity to welcome John Murphy, Foundation Principal of St. Bede's High School when he spoke to us at Mass on Sunday 12th February. It is early days yet as the ground-works on the building site have just begun. Nevertheless, it is an exciting time to experience the growth of Catholic education commencing with St. Aloysius Primary and progressing onto St. Bede's High School. We, as a church community look forward to building a strong relationship with the school, its teachers, pupils and parents, as the years proceed.

Parish News - Maitland / Largs / Paterson

SACRED HEART, CAMPBELL'S HILL We congratulate the ladies who received recognition for their contribution they have made to bring the love and word of God to the children. Pat Allen has been a SRE person for 40yrs. Dianne Sanger has given Children Liturgy of The Word to the children who come to Mass at Sacred Heart Campbell's Hill for 25yrs. Marian Campbell has given Liturgy of The Word for 15yrs. We thank these people for their generosity.

We had a "Garden Party" at the Sacred Heart on Monday morning. Plants were planted along the front fence line and special 'thanks' to those who came along to help. Many thanks to Michael who prepared the plants and his expertise in the gardening part. Weavres till working on the outdoor area.



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).

Parish News - OLOL Beresfield

OLOL LENTEN PROGRAM: You are invited to attend our Lenten program to be held 9.30am Tuesdays (during Lent). The program will commence on Tuesday 28th February. Meetings will be in the church/meeting room. For information please see St Angela.

ASH WEDNESDAY MASS - OLOL SCHOOL TARRO: The children and teachers invite the community to join with them to celebrate Ash Wednesday Mass at OLOL School Tarro on Wednesday 1st March at 9.30am.

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. Guest speaker will be Corazon Taylor. 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 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 March (26th March).

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 March 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 March, Tuesday 14th March, in the Parish Meeting room, at 7.00pm. Everyone is invited to join us.

Parish News - Lochinvar

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

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Parish News - Rutherford

COLLEEN CANNY REPORTING FOR ST PAUL'S AT RUTHERFORD

I often consider each year, if we will run out of information within our Parish to report. However there is always something happening within the Rutherford Parish.

On *Sunday the 12-02-17* our teachers from Saint Paul's were commissioned at the 8.00am Mass at Saint Paul's, by Father Paul O'Neil. The ceremony was very beautiful and shared with the parishioners. This was a wonderful way to commence the school year, and after Mass the Parish joined with the teachers to share a Sunday breakfast allowing the Parish to become familiar with our Teachers. There was a wonderful response from our teachers, as you can see below, photos sent by Sue Lacey. Our two spiritual leaders Renee and Karli from the school were in attendance, and they will both be a wonderful asset, to the school and the students.

Gabby and I will meet Mr Garnett the school principal and our two spiritual leaders to form our *Mini Vinnie's* for 2017, on 22-02-2017. Pleasing to see the enthusiasm of the grade 6 students to become members of the Vinnie's, and very excited and keen to commence their Vinnie's work for 2017.

Our *Saint Vincent de Paul conference* met to plan and arrange the very busy agenda for 2017, always much to do, and always appealing for new members.

On Sunday the *19-02-17 the Parish held the Commitment Mass* for the Sacrament of Initiation for 2017, with the Presentation of the Creed. We had some very excited young people looking forward to receiving the sacraments of Confirmation, Eucharist and Reconciliation. We are always very grateful for the support and hard work from Therese and Graeme Harris given to the Sacramental Team.

On the *28-02-2017 Saint Paul's will celebrate the School Year with an Opening Mass, at the school*. Family and parish members are all welcome to share this ceremony with the school.

On the *03-03-2017 is the World Day of Prayer*. The service books were written by Christian women of the Philippines. Theme: Am I being Unfair to You. The REHEARSAL for the World Day of Prayer is the 27-02-2017 at 7.00pm at the Wesley Methodist Church in Dunkley Street, Rutherford. We will have three representatives from Saint Paul's participating. AND, on the 03-03-2017 the World Day of Prayer will be celebrated at the Wesley Methodist Church at Dunkley Street Rutherford at 7.30pm THE WORLD DAY OF PRAYER IS CELEBRATED AROUND THE WORLD ON THIS Date. *The evening will be shared with all the local Christian Churches, within the Rutherford Telarah area. At the end of the evening supper will follow. This will be a wonderful Ecumenical shared time spent together. All parishioners are most welcome.*

Last Sunday (12/02) the Staff of St Paul's Primary School Rutherford gathered with the Parishioners of St Paul's Parish for Mass, where they were blessed and commissioned to carry out their roles in Catholic Education. The staff accepted their call to be Christ-like, to be a sign, a sower and to be seed as they minister to the students of St Paul's Primary. The Staff and Parishioners gathered together after Mass to brave the heat and share a barbecue breakfast in the school grounds.



Father Paul and Parishioners Blessing the Staff



Staff reciting their pledge



Mandy Shipard,
Pat Banister and
Robyn Barlin



Keeping cool in the hot weather

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

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