



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

Asst Priest: Fr Joyce Sebastian
(Presbytery 4934 5783)

Weekend Supply:

Fr Maurie Cahill, Fr Lex Levey

**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

ACTiv8 Youth Co-ordinator
Bec Piefke 0422 500 429

Regional Office

Louise Gilchrist, Rita King,
Janine Sidoti, Sandra Buck

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

Volume 7, Issue 11

November 2017

Message from Fr Paul O'Neill

My dear sisters and brothers,

Our Liturgical year draws to a close with the celebration of the Feast of Christ the King on Sunday 26th November. The Feast always reminds me that Christ invites me to place him first in my life! That is the invitation, but I don't always accept it. Yet Jesus continually reminds me that He loves me and wants to help me to love my fellow human beings. Last Sunday November 19th, Pope Francis invited us to celebrate the first World Day of the Poor. He invites us to "encounter" the poor, to look them in the eyes as our fellow human beings to whom we can reach out and from whom we can receive. The Pope reminds us that our actions speak louder than our words. I think the many challenges that arise in our society and our world call on each of us to nourish a living friendship with the Jesus who loves us and calls us to be his instruments of love in our world.

Advent gives us four weeks to prepare to celebrate the Birth of Christ. He is our hope and our joy. This year we are transferring our Regional outdoor Vigil Mass for Christmas from the grounds of St Joseph's School East Maitland to the grounds of St Mary's School Campus where there is a large hall if the weather requires us to move indoors. Our Christmas Masses will be:

CHRISTMAS VIGIL: *5.30pm St Mary's Campus Grounds, Maitland (Bent St, just off Grant St); 6.00pm Our Lady of Lourdes, Beresfield; *6.30pm St Paul's, Rutherford

***Outdoors**

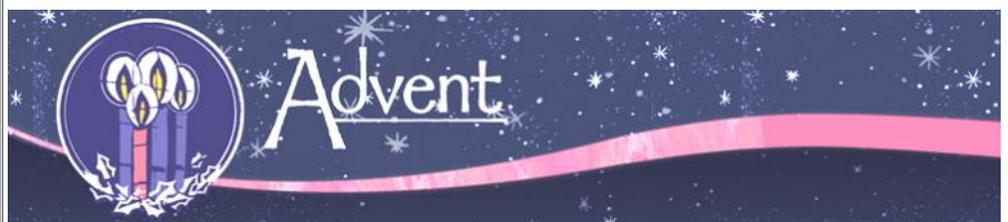
CHRISTMAS DAY: 7.30am Immaculate Conception Morpeth; 8.00am Sacred Heart, Campbell's Hill; 8.20am Holy Family Largs; 8.30am St Joseph's East Maitland; 9.30am St Patrick's Lochinvar; St Columba's Paterson

Also we invite all our volunteers who support us so generously in our parish to our Mass and supper at 6.30pm St John's Hall, Maitland (cnr High & Cathedral Sts) on Thursday 30th November 2017. Thanks to all who work to build up our parish communities.

We are farewelling Irene Dixon from her caring ministry. Irene has been the Regional Coordinator of our Ministry to the Seriously ill, the dying and the bereaved for 17 years. She has been a wonderful leader and support to our Parish Teams who minister to the seriously ill, the dying and bereaved as they support family preparing and celebrating our funeral liturgies.

During Advent there will be opportunities to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. There will be two Second Rites of Reconciliation both at 7.00pm Wednesday 13th Dec at Sacred Heart Campbell's Hill and Thursday 14th Dec at St Joseph's East Maitland. As well as the usual Reconciliation every Saturday morning at 8.30am at St Joseph's Church East Maitland.

May the Season of Advent and Christmas renew our friendship with the God who loves us so much! *With love, Fr Paul*



INSIDE YOU WILL FIND

1-11	Message from Fr Paul; 2017 Christmas Services; Sacraments of Initiation; SRE; Regional/Parish/Dio News; SVdP, The Saints
12-13	DECEMBER Mass Calendar
14-19	News from Parishes
20-23	ACTiv8 Youth
23-24	Sponsors Advertisements

Christmas Services 2017

2017 Christmas Services

Maitland Area Parishes Chisholm Pastoral Region

Advent Reconciliation (2nd Rite)

- 13th Dec 7.00pm Sacred Heart, Campbell's Hill
New England Highway, Campbell's Hill
- 14th Dec 7.00pm St Joseph's, East Maitland
Cnr King Street & New England Highway, East Maitland

Christmas Vigil Mass

- 5.30pm St Mary's Campus Grounds, Maitland (outdoors)
Bent Street (just off Grant Street), Maitland
- 6.00pm Our Lady Of Lourdes, Beresfield
Cnr Anderson Drive & Delprat Avenue, Beresfield
- 6.30pm St Paul's, Rutherford (outdoors)
10 Young Street, Rutherford

Christmas Day Mass

- 7.30am Immaculate Conception, Morpeth
Cnr George & James Streets, Morpeth
- 8.00am Sacred Heart, Campbell's Hill
New England Hwy, Campbell's Hill
- 8.20am Holy Family, Largs
11 John Street, Largs
- 8.30am St Joseph's, East Maitland
Cnr King St & New England Hwy, East Maitland
- 9.30am St Patrick's, Lochinvar
55 New England Hwy, Lochinvar
- 9.30am St Columba's, Paterson
Cnr Prince & Church Streets, Paterson



Wishing you and your family the Gift of Faith, the Blessing of Hope and the Peace of His Love at Christmas and always. May the joys of Christmas fill your hearts this season and throughout 2018, with love from the Chisholm Regional Office

Sacraments of Initiation 2018

For parents who have enrolled their children in the Sacramental Programme, here are dates for next meeting

RECONCILIATION

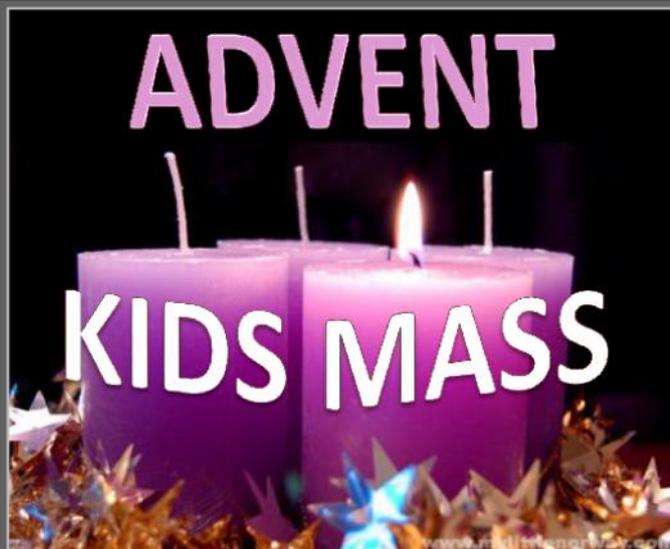
Parents & Children Preparation @ 7.00pm

Please bring preparation books

Rutherford - Tuesday 6th February 2018

Beresfield - Wednesday 7th February 2018

East Maitland - Thursday 8th February



ADVENT
KIDS MASS

6pm Sunday 3rd December
at St Joseph's East Maitland

A special invitation to Kinder 2018 Families



JESUS IS COMING - PREPARE A WAY

ATTENTION!

If you are interested in becoming an extraordinary minister of the Eucharist; taking Communion to the sick at homes or hospitals, or helping out with Holy Communion during Masses. Please ring the Chisholm office and indicate your interest before 02/12/17 as there would be a general training for this ministry in our Region.



THE BISHOP'S AWARD INFORMATION AND APPLICATION PACK is available from Catholic Secondary schools administration office or your parish priest. Categories include:

***CATHOLIC SCHOOLS STUDENT'S BISHOP'S AWARD**

open to students, Years 7-11, currently enrolled in our Catholic secondary schools;

***CATHOLIC STUDENT'S BISHOP'S AWARD**

open to Catholic students residing within the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle and belonging to a parish within the diocese;

***CATHOLIC YOUNG PEOPLE BISHOP'S AWARD**

open to young Catholic people from Year 12 to age 25 residing in the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle and belonging to a parish within the diocese.

Applications to be forwarded to Catholic Schools Office bishopsaward@mn.catholic.edu.au and be received no later than 9th February 2018. For further information contact Cath Garrett-Jones, bishopsaward@mn.catholic.edu.au or go to www.mn.catholic/bishops-award.

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 3rd December 2017 (After Youth Mass)

Sunday 7th January 2018 (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 2018

ISSUE	EDITORIAL DEADLINE	DISTRIBUTION DATE
JANUARY	19th January	28th January

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/places/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/places/parish-payments>

†**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.

†**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.

†**Zimmerman Services** the child protection, healing and support agency of the Catholic Diocese of Maitland – Newcastle can be contacted on 4979 1383.

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

†**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. 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."

What's Happening in the Chisholm Region/Diocese

† **ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT** First Friday of each month - from after Mass at 7am till 9am Mass on Saturday at St Joseph's East Maitland. Next date: **Friday 1st December**. All welcome.

† **ST VINCENT de PAUL CHRISTMAS APPEAL** An invitation is extended to all parishioners throughout the Region to contribute towards the St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal. This is an opportunity to think of others who are struggling in our community and to include them in our celebration of Christmas. Appeal envelopes will be available at Masses on the weekends of **27th November, 4th December and 11th December**.

Sydney Youth Orchestras present:

Sydney Youth Orchestra Philharmonic Sunday 3rd December at 12.30 pm

A lunchtime concert with a 50 piece orchestra conducted by Mr Brian Buggy, OAM, performing orchestral works including Holst's 'Jupiter' and Dvorak's 'New World Symphony'

in the Sisters' Chapel at Sacred Spaces at the Sisters of Mercy Convent, 30 Queen St, Singleton, Hunter Valley



Tickets: Adult \$25; Child & Concession \$15

Online bookings & further info via

SYO: www.syo.com.au

Tickets will also be available at the door from 12pm on the day of the concert.

The concert will be for approximately 1 hour, and afternoon tea is not being served.

Enquiries to Sydney Youth Orchestras ph 02 9251 2422

Please note that the Sacred Spaces office cannot take seat reservations for this event.

† **PINTS WITH A PURPOSE** Monday 4th December at 6.30pm, Northern Star Hotel, Beaumont St, Hamilton.

You are invited to attend St Paul's Parish/School and St. Christopher's Parish Carols by Candlelight



Sunday 10th December 2017

at

St Paul's Primary School COLLA

5.00pm

BBQ and drinks will be available for purchase

St. Paul's will be selling LED candles as a fundraiser for the school. They are \$3 each or 2 for \$5.

All students may wear casual clothes (Christmas themed of course!!). This is a family event; students are not to come unattended. You are also reminded that St. Paul's is an alcohol and smoke free area and is prohibited anywhere on school grounds

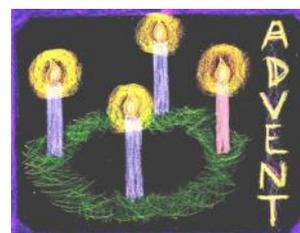
We are looking forward to seeing everyone there for a great night

† **PRAYER FOR DECEASED BISHOPS AND PRIESTS** Tuesday 12th December, 6.00pm-7.00pm, Sandgate Cemetery.

† **SIMBANG GABI at Sacred Heart Cathedral** In preparation for the Solemnity of the Lord's birth, novena Masses will be celebrated at the Sacred Heart Cathedral Hamilton in the evenings of 15th December to 23rd December 2017. This novena is a long tradition brought by the Spanish Friars in the Philippines in 1669. The novena Masses are in honour of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Expectant Mother of God, and serve as a preparation for the commemoration of the Birth of our Lord and Saviour. All are welcome and the Eucharistic celebration begins promptly at 7.00pm.

† **CAROLS IN THE CLOISTER** You are invited to a Christmas festival of music and song **Sunday 17th December 6.30pm** St Joseph's Convent Chapel, New England Highway, Lochinvar.

† **MOVIE NIGHT ON THE SAINTS** We hope to see you on Saturday 27th January 2018. Notice will be in the **WEEKLY BULLETIN!**



Celebration of Special Religious Education

Annual Mass for Children in State Schools



State school children were well represented at Mass at St Joseph’s East Maitland on Tuesday evening, 21st November. The children served on the altar, participated in the readings, took part in the offertory procession, and sang up heartily. Afterwards supper was served. Two tables were laden with party food. Remarkably within a short time not a skerrick of food was left. The children were justly rewarded for all their hard work.



Jarrod from East Maitland School and Veronica from Metford learnt the trade of altar serving.



Elizabeth from East Maitland School made sure nothing was left on her plate.

St Vincent de Paul Annual Festival Mass

This Mass was celebrated in the newly refurbished St John’s Cathedral and concelebrated by Bishop Bill Wright, Fr Paul O’Neill and Fr Dom Carrigan. Also at this Mass the Bishop commissioned newly appointed Central Council President - John McKendry and newly appointed Vineyard Regional President - Terry Wynne.



First World Day of the Poor

Sunday, 19 November

Extracts from the message of Pope Francis and a reflection by Fr Sean Healy SMA

**'Let us love, not with words,
but with deeds.'**

*Extracts from the message of Pope Francis
for the First World Day of the Poor.
Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time,
19 November 2017*

'This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him' (Ps 34:6). The Church has always understood the importance of this cry. We possess an outstanding testimony to this in the very first pages of the Acts of the Apostles, where Peter asks that seven men, 'full of the Spirit and of wisdom' (6:3), be chosen for the ministry of caring for the poor. This is certainly one of the first signs of the entrance of the Christian community upon the world's stage: the service of the poor.

We may think of the poor simply as the beneficiaries of our occasional volunteer work, or of impromptu acts of generosity that appease our conscience. However good and useful such acts may be for making us sensitive to people's needs and the injustices that are often their cause, they ought to lead to a true *encounter* with the poor and a *sharing* that becomes a way of life.

Saint John Chrysostom's admonition remains ever timely: 'do not honour the Eucharistic Christ with silk vestments, and then, leaving the church, neglect the other Christ suffering from cold and nakedness.'

This *Day* is meant, above all, to encourage believers to react against a culture of discard and waste, and to embrace the culture of encounter. At the same time, everyone, independent of religious affiliation, is invited to openness and sharing with the poor through concrete signs of solidarity and fraternity.

This Sunday, if there are poor people where we live who seek protection and assistance, let us draw close to them: it will be a favourable moment to encounter the God we seek. Following the teaching of scripture (cf. Gen 18:3-5; Heb 13:2), let us welcome them as honoured guests at our table; they can be teachers who help us live the faith more consistently.



This new *World Day*, therefore, should become a powerful appeal to our consciences as believers, allowing us to grow in the conviction that sharing with the poor enables us to understand the deepest truth of the gospel. The poor are not a problem: they are a resource from which to draw as we strive to accept and practise in our lives the essence of the gospel.

*Fr Sean Healy, director of Social Justice
Ireland, reflects on the challenges of
poverty in Ireland today*

Ireland's economy is growing and there are improvements on many fronts. Employment is rising, unemployment is falling and the population is growing, with the likelihood that the country will have more than five million people within a decade.

However, a quarter of Ireland's population (1.2 million people) are experiencing poverty or social exclusion. Of these, 308,000 are children under 16. Ireland also faces other major challenges; the most significant being the serious deficits in infrastructure and services, and the urgent need to address climate change on the scale required. These challenges are exacerbated by threats associated with Brexit.

There is an urgent need for increased investment in social housing, affordable childcare, rural broadband, climate change mitigation, education and healthcare services, regional development, and employment, among many other areas.

These challenges are of such a scale that they cannot be resolved during a single term of office of Government. They highlight the need for Government to set out a long-range plan on what is to be achieved in these areas over the coming ten-year period and to get agreement on sequencing these developments, as they cannot all be delivered in the short-term.

It would be very important to engage with civil society in this process as societal acceptance of decisions on issues such as the prioritising and sequencing of developments is critical if they are to be implemented successfully.

The key fact that needs to be noted here is that Ireland is not a poor country. We are among the richest nations in the world. All the challenges facing Irish society could be addressed effectively. World Day of the Poor provides an opportunity for all Irish people to reflect on the kind of society that is emerging and of what needs to be done to provide a fairer future for all.

Social Justice Ireland sets out viable solutions to all of these challenges on its website: www.socialjustice.ie.

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St Vincent de Paul Society

NSW/ACT

good works

ALL ABOARD



creams on sale at the terminal.

The next couple of hours were spent on the Manly ferry, sailing along in the company of yachts and other craft, and enjoying all the sights the harbour has to offer. As we approached Circular Quay, we gained spectacular views of Sydney's icons, among them the Opera House and Sydney Harbour Bridge. We thought the Manly ferry was a large vessel, until we pulled up at the terminal alongside a cruise ship, which can accommodate more than two thousand passengers.



On a brisk early morning towards the end of last month, 57 people boarded a bus at Morpeth, anticipating an exciting trip to the Big Smoke. The trip was organized by Morpeth parishioner, Brian Murphy. When it comes to arranging tours, Brian's organizational skills are without parallel.

First stop was by the river at Brooklyn, where we were treated to one of Brian's famous morning teas. Diets were put on hold as people showed their appreciation of the cream tarts on offer.

At around midday, the bus pulled in to the ferry terminal at Manly, in readiness for a cruise on Sydney Harbour. Prior to departing, some thought it best to sample the delicious ice-

Next stop was Manly Leagues Club. Appetites having been sharpened by the sea air, we enjoyed a hearty lunch before boarding the bus for the return trip home, arriving back at Morpeth at 5.30 pm. Brian arranged good weather for the day – it was only after alighting from the bus that the heavens opened – but too late to dampen the enthusiasm clearly evident throughout the day.

Many thanks are due to Brian not only for what was a very enjoyable day, but also for the funds raised from the trip for the *St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal*.

For those wishing to get on board, Brian has arranged two more trips in 2018:

Thursday 18th January 2018. Trip to Swaines Rose Gardens, Dural. Morning Tea at Ourimbah. Lunch at Parramatta Leagues Club. Cost \$60 all inclusive.

Tuesday 20th March 2018: Trip to Lake Glenbawn Dam. Morning Tea at Singleton. Picnic Lunch at Glenbawn Dam. Cost \$55 all inclusive.

For further information or bookings, phone Brian on 4936 6688.

Michael Healy
Regional President

St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal

The St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal will be held in parishes in the Lower Hunter Region on the weekends of December 3rd and 10th. The theme for this year's Appeal is "***You Can Make Christmas Wishes Come True.***" The work undertaken by our members makes a real difference to the lives of people who turn to us. Over past years we have received wonderful support for the Appeal from our local parishioners, and we thank you again in anticipation of your continuing generosity.

St Vincent de Paul East Maitland

St Vincent De Paul members, who volunteer their services freely in various conferences, are continually faced with those whose lives are shattered through circumstances that are out of their control. We encounter many cases of what it means to be living in the streets with nowhere to go. We, as Vincentian's, tackle this ever growing crisis in today's society. Here are some of their stories.

Angelina's Story.

I am a hard worker and always earned and paid taxes. Occasionally I have had to rely on a Centrelink payment when work has been inconsistent.

My story began when I went from my home in Queensland to Darwin to visit my son and his pregnant and very ill wife. I informed Centrelink of the temporary change of address and that I would only stay for a few weeks. Because I was in Darwin for five and not four weeks, Centrelink put me onto the income management scheme. What happened

next was the worst nightmare of my life!

The day before I was returning to Queensland, I went to Centrelink and asked for money to be put in my bank account to cover petrol. It took two hours and I was only given half what I needed. I told them I was driving to Queensland alone and wanted emergency money in case of breakdown or other repairs. The response was 'just wave down a Grey Nomad, they will help you'.

When I returned back to the Sunshine Coast, I continued to appeal to Centrelink to release me from income management as it was badly hindering my life. I was informed I would remain on it for 13 weeks. I had no choice but to live in a tent in a caravan park, which cost \$275 per week. This was a terrible situation and not sustainable. It was very hot,

with the temperature around 37 degrees. I couldn't believe my life had become this.

Employers looked twice when I said I lived in a caravan park. I couldn't get a rental property when agents saw I was income managed, so it was a Catch-22. Being income managed made it appear that I couldn't look after myself and must be so irresponsible that the government had to do it for me. After daily stressful arguments with the income management department and the turn that my life had taken now, my doctor prescribed me anti-depressants. I had begun thinking about suicide as I felt so low, and my car was about to become my home. I was jobless and homeless.



ATTENTION!

All special ministers, church and office volunteers

You are invited to a special

Volunteers Thanksgiving Mass

(followed by supper)

6.30pm, Thursday 30th November

ST JOHN'S HALL, MAITLAND

For catering purposes please RSVP 4933 8918

ALL WELCOME

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

Saints and Feasts in December 2017



3/12/17 St Francis Xavier (7th April 1506 – 3rd December 1552), was a Roman Catholic missionary born in Xavier, Kingdom of Navarre (now part of Spain), and co-founder of the Society of Jesus. He was a study companion of St Ignatius of Loyola and one of the first seven Jesuits who took vows of poverty and chastity at Montmartre, (Paris) in 1534. He led an extensive mission into Asia, mainly in the Portuguese Empire of the time. He was influential in

evangelization work most notably in India. He also ventured into Japan, Borneo, the Maluku Islands, and other areas which had, until then, not been visited by Christian missionaries. In these areas, being a pioneer and struggling to learn the local languages in the face of opposition, he had less success than he had enjoyed in India. It was a goal of Xavier to extend his missionary preaching to China but he died in Shangchuan Island shortly before doing so. St. Francis Xavier was beatified by Paul V on 25 October 1619, and was canonized by Gregory XV on 12 March 1622. In 1624 he was made co-patron of Navarre alongside Santiago. He is considered to be one of the greatest missionaries since St. Paul. He is known as the "Apostle of the Indies," and the "Apostle of Japan". In 1927, Pope Pius XI published the decree "Apostolicorum in Missionibus" naming St. Francis Xavier, along with St. Thérèse of Lisieux, co-patron of all foreign missions. The Church marks the anniversary of Saint Francis Xavier's death on December 3, 1552.

6/12/17 St Nicholas was a 4th century bishop of Myra in Turkey and little is known about his life other than myths and legends. One such story tells of St Nicholas giving three young women a bag of gold each for their marriage dowries, in order to save them from prostitution. And in another, he is said to have brought back to life three boys who had been murdered. In the low countries of Europe, his popularity as a patron of children led to the custom of giving children presents on his feast day. Then later, Dutch Protestants living in North America combined this custom with the Nordic legend of a magician who rewarded good children with presents and punished those who were naughty. This new super-legend gave rise to the much beloved Santa Clause.



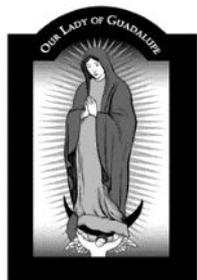
7/12/17 St Ambrose was born at Trier in 334 AD. While practising law he was appointed governor of the province of Aemilia and Liguria. Four years later when the see of Milan became vacant, St Ambrose was chosen as the new bishop, despite the fact that he was not even baptised. He reluctantly accepted the position, was baptised, ordained a priest and then installed as bishop. In 390 AD, after Emperor Theodosius

ordered the savage massacre of many people, St Ambrose impressed upon the Emperor to perform a public penance for this act of cruelty. St Ambrose is listed as one of the four great Latin doctors of the church. He was a great orator who gave sermons that offered practical teachings for his people. He was also the first teacher in the West to make significant use of hymns as a popular means of praise.

8/12/17 Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Immaculate Conception, according to the teaching of the Catholic Church, was the conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary in her mother's womb free from original sin. The Immaculate Conception is commonly confused with the doctrine of the Incarnation and the virgin birth of Jesus, though the two deal with separate subjects. The Catholic Church teaches Mary was conceived by normal biological means, but her soul was acted upon by God (kept "immaculate") at the time of her conception. Although the belief that Mary was sinless and conceived immaculate has been widely held since Late Antiquity, the doctrine was not dogmatically defined until 1854, by Pope Pius IX in his papal bull *Ineffabilis Deus*. The Catholic Church celebrates the Feast of the Immaculate Conception on December 8; in many Catholic countries, it is a holy day of obligation or patronal feast, and in some a national public holiday. The proclaimed Roman Catholic dogma states "that the most Blessed Virgin Mary, in the first instance of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege granted by Almighty God, in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, the Saviour of the human race, was preserved free from all stain of original sin." Therefore, being always free from original sin, the doctrine teaches that from her conception Mary received the sanctifying grace that would normally come with baptism after birth.



12/12/17 Our Lady of Guadalupe is a title of the Virgin Mary associated with a celebrated pictorial image housed in the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in México City. Mexican national identity is entwined with that of Guadalupe. Official Catholic accounts state that on the morning of 9th December, 1531, Juan Diego saw an apparition of a young girl at the Hill of Tepeyac, near Mexico City. The girl asked that a church be built in her honour and from her apparition Juan Diego recognised her as the Virgin Mary. After recounting his story the Archbishop of Mexico City instructed him to ask the lady for a miraculous sign. The first was to heal Juan's uncle. The virgin told Diego to gather flowers and, although December was very late in the growing season Diego found Castilian roses, not native to Mexico on the hilltop. The Virgin arranged these in his peasant cloak (tilma). When Juan Diego opened his cloak before the Bishop the flowers fell to the floor, and on the fabric was the image of the Virgin of Guadalupe. Juan Diego was canonised in 2002, and his tilma is displayed in the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe, the most visited Marian shrine in the World.



13/12/17 St Lucy was a young woman from a wealthy Sicilian family who lived during the early fourth century. It is believed that her mother arranged for her to be married, but Lucy refused as she wanted to devote her life to serving Christ. She offered prayers at the tomb of St Agatha and her mother's illness was miraculously cured. She was eventually martyred during the persecution of Emperor Diocletian, but

even in the face of death she showed great courage and faith in God. The name Lucy means 'light' and St Lucy is

Saints and Feasts in December 2017

called upon as the patron saint of the blind.

14/12/17 St John of the Cross was born into a poor Spanish family in 1542. After attending a Jesuit college, he joined the Carmelite Order, studied theology and was the ordained a priest at the age of 25. St Teresa of Avila encouraged him to join the Discalced Carmelite Reform, which provided two houses for friars. But after several years he was seized and imprisoned by the Calced Carmelite friars, who rejected the reform. St John of the Cross was a mystic and poet, and it was during his captivity that he wrote some of his finest work. He eventually escaped and founded a college at Baeza. St John's is regarded as a Doctor of Mystical Theology, and was officially declared a Doctor of the Church in 1926.



21/12/17 St Peter Canisius was born in Holland in 1521. He studied canon law at Louvain, but later came to the conclusion that a legal career and marriage, as arranged by his father, were not to his liking. He joined the Jesuits and spent his time in prayer, study, teaching and care of the sick. St Peter was a prominent preacher and he attended the Council of Trent, then later taught at the first Jesuit

school at Messina. He was later called to Rome to work with St Ignatius; the founder of the Jesuit order. After posts as rector and vice-chancellor of the University of Ingolstadt, he was sent to Vienna, which was in need of reform. In 1555, his famous Catechism was published and eventually translated into 15 languages during his lifetime. Considered one of the most influential theologians and writers of his time, St Peter Canisius was declared a Doctor of the Church in 1925.

26/12/17 St Stephen traditionally regarded as the first martyr of Christianity, was, according to the Acts of the Apostles, a deacon in the early church at Jerusalem who aroused the enmity of members of various synagogues by his teachings. Accused of blasphemy, at his trial he made a long speech fiercely denouncing the Jewish authorities who were sitting in judgement on him and was stoned to death.

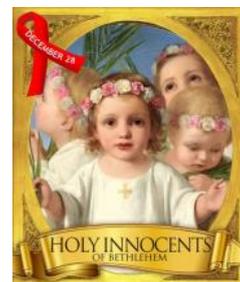


27/12/17 St John the Evangelist was a son of Zebedee and brother of James. John and James (the Greater) were apostles of Jesus, who referred to them as the 'sons of thunder'. He was a witness to many events including the Transfiguration, the raising of Jairus' daughter and the Agony in the Garden of Gethsemane. As he stood at the foot of the cross, John was told by Jesus to accept Mary as his adopted mother. John was the first to reach the tomb

when told of the resurrection and the first to recognise the Risen Lord when he appeared to them at Lake Tiberias. Towards the end of his life, John wrote the fourth Gospel as a witness to the Divinity of Christ. He also wrote three epistles contained in the New Testament, and is traditionally, though perhaps not

correctly, identified as the author of the Book of Revelation.

28/12/17 The Holy Innocents, martyrs. It is easy for us to overlook the martyrdom, the murder, of these innocent infant boys. As we look to the Scriptures, we do not see a lot of information about them. Yet, had the Holy Spirit deemed the details to be important, He would have inspired St. Matthew or someone else to give us more information. We don't know who these babes or their parents were. We know nothing of the social standings of their respective families. We do not know even how they were killed or how many of them in number perished. We can be certain that, in that little town of Bethlehem, the number of babies slaughtered would be relatively low. However, that low number by no means diminishes the treachery of Herod's decree or the murders committed by his Roman soldiers. This martyrdom of the Holy Innocents is indeed the forgotten Christmas story. Also easily lost is why these baby boys are called martyrs. Their blood was shed—poured out—on account of Jesus. That is why the liturgical colour for this day is red. They had not done or said anything to anger anyone, but Herod, out of his paranoia over this infant King and his fury over being tricked by the Wise Men and their going home by a different route after receiving a divine vision to do so, demanded that blood be shed at the expense of these infant boys. It is a most gruesome account in our text, and for that reason many of us choose to make this the forgotten Christmas story. However, theirs is a story that must be told.



30/12/17 The Holy Family. The Gospels speak little of the life of the Holy Family in the years before Jesus' public ministry. All that is known are the sojourn in Egypt, the return to Nazareth, and the incident that occurred when the twelve-year-old boy accompanied his parents to Jerusalem. The parents were apparently observant Jews,

making the pilgrimage to Jerusalem every year with other Jewish families (Luke. 2:41). The Feast of the Holy Family is a liturgical celebration in the Catholic Church in honour of Jesus of Nazareth, his mother, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and his foster father, Saint Joseph, as a family. The primary purpose of this feast is to present the Holy Family as a model for Christian families. Since the 1969 revision of the General Roman Calendar, the feast is celebrated on the Sunday within the Octave of Christmas, the Sunday between Christmas and New Year's Day (both exclusive), or when there is no Sunday within the Octave (if both Christmas Day and the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God are Sundays), it is held on 30 December, a Friday in such years. It is a holy day of obligation only if it falls on a Sunday. The feast was instituted by Pope Leo XIII in 1893 and set on the Sunday within the Octave of the Epiphany; that is to say, on the Sunday between January 7 through January 13, all inclusive (see General Roman Calendar of 1960). The 1962 Roman Missal, whose use is still authorized, incorporates the General Roman Calendar of 1960, which has the celebration on that date.

December 2017

FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
1 Dec 7:00am Mass + Adoration (E/M 7am-Sat 9am) 9:30am Prayer of the Church (Beres. Church) 10:00am St Aloysius School Mass (Chisholm)	2 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)	3 SVdP Appeal 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)
8 7:00am Mass (EM) 9:30am Prayer of the Church (Beres. Church)	9 8:00am Mass/Reconciliation (EM) 2:30pm Cenacle (see EM notice) 5:00pm Mass (EM) 6:00pm Mass (Beresfield) 6:30pm Mass (C Hill)	10 SVdP Appeal 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)
15 7:00am Mass (EM) 9:30am Prayer of the Church (Beres. Church) 10:30am Anoint Mass (Greenhills Lodge)	16 8:00am Mass (EM) 2:30pm Cenacle (see EM notice) 5:00pm Mass (EM) 6:00pm Mass (Beresfield) 6:30pm Mass (C Hill)	17 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)
22 7:00am Mass (EM) 9:30am Prayer of the Church (Beres. Church) 10:30am Anoint Mass (OLMC NH Mait.)	23 8:00am Mass (EM) 2:30pm Cenacle (see EM notice) 5:00pm Mass (EM) 6:00pm Mass (Beresfield) 6:30pm Mass (C Hill)	24 7:15am Mass (Morpeth) 8:00am Mass (Rutherford) 8:00am Polish Mass (Beresfield) 8:20am Mass (Largs) 8:30am Mass (EM) 9:30am Mass (Lochinvar, Paterson) 5:30pm Regional Christmas Vigil (St Mary's Campus, See Notices) 6:00pm OLOL Christmas Vigil Mass (Beres.) 6:30pm St Paul's Christmas Vigil Mass (Ruth.)
29 7:00am Mass (EM) 9:30am Prayer of the Church (Beres. Church)	30 2:30pm Cenacle (see EM notice) 5:00pm Mass (EM) 6:00pm Mass (Beresfield) 6:30pm Mass (C Hill)	31 7:15am Mass (Morpeth) 8:00am Mass (Rutherford) 8:20am Mass (Largs) 8:30am Mass (EM) 9:30am Mass (Lochinvar, Paterson) 6:00pm Youth Mass (EM)

Parish News - Rutherford

COLLEEN CANNY REPORTING FOR ST PAUL'S AT RUTHERFORD

We are now approaching Christmas as we go into the month of November, can I say nearing the end of November.

What is the Mini Vinnie's?

The Mini Vinnie's in our Saint Paul's Primary School at Rutherford is a group of Year Six students who unite to help and meet the needs within their school and community. This year we have 32 Year Six students who are part of the Saint Vincent de Paul Mini Vinnie's Society. The students are introduced to Social Justice and Living their Faith through their actions.

On the 30-10-17 the Mini Vinnie's visited Rutherford Nursing Home and were involved with the residents in a craft afternoon. It was very much enjoyed by the residents and the students.

Already the Mini Vinnie's are preparing for their Christmas visitation to the two Rutherford Nursing Homes. They are preparing individual Christmas Ornaments, in the form of Christmas Reindeers and Christmas Snowman, in total 120 will be prepared with each resident receiving one . This has been under the watchful eye of Sharon and Helen. A wonderful example of attempting to bring Jesus in their Everyday Life at school and within the community.

On the 12-12-2017 the Mini Vinnie's will return to the Nursing Homes and take their Christmas gifts, and present a Nativity scene with Christmas Carols. The students have taken leadership arranging their costumes and Music. Copies of the carols will be distributed to the residents to join in the singing.

A Spring Fair has been organised for the 24-11-2017, at Saint Paul's Primary School. Sadly this will happen before the Chisholm Connection is distributed.

Congratulations to Genevieve Blair year six student who was nominated for a Fred Hollow's Humanity Award. Genevieve received the award from Gabby Hollows and the Education Minister Rob Stokes on the 23-11-17. This Award is significant in the fact of following of Fred Hollows Footsteps showing Compassion, Kindness and Integrity within the school and the community . Genevieve has contributed constantly during 2017 in her role as a Mini Vinnie.

Well done Genevieve we are proud of you.



PAULA WEST
SCHOOL OFFICER



Parish News - Rutherford (from St Paul's School Newsletter)

"SEEING THE GOOD" MAKING JESUS REAL IN ACTION AT ST PAUL'S

In late September Peter Mitchell (Mitch) visited St Paul's Primary and worked with the staff as well as visiting teachers from other local Catholic schools on the practicalities of implementing Making Jesus Real. Mitch wrote the Making Jesus Real program (way of life) that we use here at St Paul's. Listening to Mitch made us ponder – why do we do what we do? Why is MJR so important to our school? What difference does it make in the lives of our students?

Why do we do what we do?

As a Catholic school all that we do is based on our lived experience and knowledge of Jesus. What we experience during our liturgies and Religion lessons must be taken out into the world. We are asked to remember Jesus. MJR asks us to go one step further and to make Jesus REAL in our lives.

How do we do this?

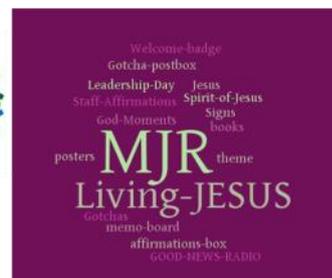
We are asked to bring the Good news to all. The good news that we are loved and we must love others in return. The good news that we are all special and uniquely made in the image of God. This is why we have The Good News Gang here at St Paul's, to help us to spread this Good News. The Good News Gang is a group of students who nominated for and were elected to their roles as part of our leadership process for Year 6. They received badges and were inducted during our opening Mass. They are tasked with spreading the good news about MJR. They pledged to strive to be the image of Jesus to those around them. To be Jesus' representatives and to model how to treat other people and strive for the values of: care and compassion, respect, honesty, understanding and acceptance. The Good News Gang regularly run their radio show "Good News Radio" during lunchbreaks and help promote and spread the Spirit of Jesus by looking for God moments and handing out "Gotcha" awards.

As a school we are called to emulate Jesus who preaches and practices a hospitality that makes room for the poor and the needy. This call is a call to live with integrity, doing what is right even when it is difficult. We are asked to go out into the world and to care for others. This is why we have our Mini Vinnies group who support the Winter and Christmas appeals and Catholic Mission. We make Jesus real when we live the Spirit of Jesus by caring for others, especially those who most need our help. This is MJR in action.

We are also asked to be stewards of creation, to see God in the world around us, to care for living things, to be responsible in our use of resources, but also once more the challenge is to go beyond this and ask how we can share this with all and teach all about stewardship of the earth. This is why we have our Stewards of Creation group working in our gardens, with the chickens and in St Christopher's. Setting an example to other students to care for creation. This is MJR in action.



We must remember to see God in our sisters and brothers and in the world around us, this is how we Make Jesus Real. It is simple – a thank you, a smile, a helping hand, a compliment, these are how we spread the Spirit of Jesus. We also need to be open to seeing this in others. To acknowledge the love of others, to be aware of the myriad of Good News moments that are going on around us at ST Paul's every day. To be tuned in.



Have you ever considered how many Good News moments you experience each day? Are you tuned in to see Jesus in those around you, to be Jesus to others? Count the God moments – maybe you will be surprised. It can change our thinking when we look for the good and stay tuned into MJR.



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: 6th December, 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: 1st December 2017.** ALL WELCOME!

FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTIONS – 2nd December 2017, St Joseph's Church, East Maitland & Therry Centre. Please note that Bishop Bill will be joining us for the day.



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 held **10.30am Tuesday 12th December, 2017.** All welcome.

ST JOSEPH'S CRAFT GROUP: Meet every Monday - McAuley Room 9.30am to 1.00pm. For more information please contact 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. In prayer/baby room to right of church.

ADORATION Mondays 12 midday for 1 hour in the church.

Junior Joey's Playgroup: With the end of the years fast approach we are in full swing for our Christmas Party at the Therry Centre Monday 4th December.



2018 - URGENT Help required Due to changing circumstances Christine is currently looking for someone else to help out with playgroup. If you are interested in helping out with this ministry in 2017 or 2018 please contact Christine ASAP possible. Please keep an eye out in the Chisholm Connection for details regarding changes in 2018. At this stage Christine is hoping to be able to continue to run Junior Joey's on a Friday morning 9:30-11:30am during school terms. If you will be able to participate help out on a Friday morning or have children or grandchildren you'll be bringing along, please make contact with Christine on 0407536452 or chrisdkam@gmail.com

Just a reminder!

Junior Joey's Playgroup is for children from birth to 5 years and new parents and grandparents are always most welcome. If you are looking for something to do with your child on a Friday morning during school terms in 2018, and an opportunity for you to make new friends, why not join us for Junior Joey's Playgroup, cost is \$3 and a piece of fruit per family per week. If you'd like any further details please contact Christine on 0407536452 or chrisdkam@gmail.com. There are some occasions where we need to change venue at short notice, so please contact Christine if you have trouble finding us on day we are programmed to be at the Therry Centre, she will be able to let you know where to find us.

Wishing everyone a safe and bless Christmas and a new year full of good health and even more blessing. Christine and the current team at Junior Joey's Playgroup.

Parish News - Morpeth

By the time you read this issue the major part of the works to the Church will be complete. If all goes according to plan then we will be celebrating the first Sunday of Advent back in the Church after three Sunday Masses in the Corcoran Centre. Many thanks to all who have contributed to ensuring the relocation did not lessen the enthusiastic and prayerful response from all in attendance. This has been a major exercise and the dedication of those involved is to be commended.

On Thursday 30th November all those involved in the many forms of lay ministry within the Region are invited to join in a Mass of Thanksgiving in St John's Hall, Cnr Cathedral & High Sts, Maitland. Mass will be followed by a supper in the hall. Our parish is blessed with so many involved in lay ministry and this is an invitation on behalf of Fr Paul and his assistant priests to say thanks.

Our next big Parish event will be our Christmas breakfast which will take place on Sunday 10th December, immediately following the 7.15 am Mass. All are welcome to this Community celebration which will be packed with goodies and some additional surprises.

Yes, a special congratulations must go to Vicki Grogan-Griffin, Head of Science and her team of aspiring Technology Whiz- kids from St Peter's College for once again winning the Australian Science and Technology challenge. This group of young students first had to win the Regional challenge, followed by the State challenge before tackling the best in Australia to take the Championship. The hard work and dedication of all involved is to be commended. Well Done!

Parish News - Maitland / Largs / Paterson

SACRED HEART, CAMPBELL'S HILL

Br. Ed Collins OH, 11/1/1933 – 22/10/2017 Br. Ed was born in Cessnock and his sister, Marea and his brothers Kevin, Gerald and Michael returned last week to Mass at Sacred Heart Church where Bro. Ed had been a parishioner. Ed moved into Mt Carmel Nursing Home 12 years ago as his macula degeneration developed. He always sat in Our Lady's chapel for our Saturday night Mass. As a St John of God Brother, Ed had trained in psychiatric and general nursing and had worked in many places across Australia, including 9 years of pastoral care in the Toowoomba Diocese and some years in New Zealand nursing quadriplegic patients. Bro Ed had been buried in Rookwood Cemetery so it was a privilege to meet his family back here in Maitland. **RIP**

The Dominican Sisters of Australia and the Solomon Islands:

History was made this year when the young Dominicans in Formation visited Maitland and attended the Kairos days in Sydney preceding the Eighth General Chapter. The Finally Professed Solomon Sisters were also delegates at the Chapter held at Baulkham Hills and two of them are now on the new Leadership Team.

"Two countries, one Congregation". After 150 years something new has emerged in our Dominican History!



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 LENDING LIBRARY OF SPIRITUAL BOOKS: The Pastoral Team of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish at Beresfield is pleased to advise that our lending library of spiritual books is now in operation. Books of this kind are not always readily available, so this is an opportunity for any parishioners who enjoy reading to have easy access to material which can satisfy our curiosity, and enrich our understanding and appreciation of our shared faith. The books are available at the front of the Church each Saturday night before and after Mass.

BERESFIELD PARISH MID-WEEK MASS: Beresfield Parish mid-week Mass is celebrated **at OLOL School Tarro on the first Wednesday of each month during school term.** The parish community is invited to join with the children and teachers of OLOL Tarro to worship at this parish Mass. **Please note that the December parish mid-week Mass will be on Wednesday 6th December at 6.00pm. Carols will follow the Mass.**

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT VIGIL MASS – SPECIAL NIGHT FOR THE CHILDREN: In preparation for Christmas, during the Vigil Mass on the 16th December, the children will be invited to gather together in the meeting room for some special Advent activities.

CHRISTMAS CHOIR PRACTICE: We will have two choir practices in preparation for our Christmas Mass. These will be at 7.00pm in the church on Wednesday 13th December and Wednesday 20th December.

CHRISTMAS VIGIL MASS: Beresfield Parish Christmas Vigil Mass will be celebrated **at Our Lady Of Lourdes Church on Sunday 24th December at 6.00pm. Christmas Carols will commence at 5.30pm.**

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.

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 participate.

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. Usually we meet in the Parish meeting room, sometimes we gather elsewhere for lunch together. The next informal get together will be on **Tuesday 27th February at 10.00am in the Parish meeting room**. You are warmly invited to come along.

PARISH TEAM MEETING: The next Parish team meeting will be on the second Tuesday in December, **Tuesday 12th December**, in the Parish Meeting room, **at 6.00pm**. All parishioners are invited.

Wishing everyone the love, peace & joy of Christmas and a blessed 2018

Parish News - Lochinvar

MONDAY 27th NOVEMBER, 6.30pm St Patricks Lochinvar Parish, will be holding a **PRAYER SERVICE** in remembrance of all those who have died. Will be held in the church as access to the cemetery difficult due to construction works on the St Nicholas Centre.

Construction has experienced several delays impacting our program of the construction of the St Nicholas Early Child Care Centre Lochinvar this is mostly to do with the wet weather during the commencement of the project and the high winds experienced last month which delayed the sheeting of the roof. The original contract completion date was set for 20/11/2017 and has now been pushed back until the 12/12/2017.

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

Merry Christmas

Wishing everyone peace and joy this Christmas and a safe and happy holiday. Thank you for your contributions and support throughout the year. We look forward to a happy and newsworthy 2018. Regards from the Team at the Chisholm Connection.



RE MATTERS



Have you ever asked yourself 'I wonder why they do that?'

Titled 'Conversations about Catholics,' these nonthreatening meetings will help you answer the children's questions or possibly some questions of your own. It will also give you confidence when preparing you child for the sacraments.

ONE SESSION LEFT!

Tuesday 28th November - 9:30am Conversations about Catholics in Chapel at school.

If you intend to come along please email me your name to help with catering and photocopying. Many thanks.

Have a great week.

David Treloar
Religious Education Coordinator.
David.treloar@mn.catholic.edu.au



RE MATTERS



Altar Serving Training



It has been a long term goal of mine to provide altar serving training for those who wish to serve in our school/ parish Masses. Becoming an Altar Server, is not just a commitment and a duty, but it is a great honour, a genuine Holy Service.

"The altar server occupies a privileged place in the liturgical celebration. The Altar Server presents himself to a community and experiences firsthand that Jesus Christ is present and active in every liturgical act." Pope John Paul II.

Nothing is more important than the Mass. It is the heart and soul of our worship of God. To be an Altar Server at Mass is to serve God himself.

With the Help of Sam Hill from the Chisholm Region, we will be running 4 training sessions at school. Our aim is to prepare the children in readiness for our End of Year School Mass on the 6th December 2017. All children who train will have specific roles on the altar at this mass and masses in the future.

There are only two restrictions on becoming an Altar Server.

- 1) The boys and girls need to be baptised Catholic.
- 2) The boys and girls need to have received their First Eucharist.

If you have any questions, you can email me on the address below. Please fill in the form below if your child/ren would like become an Altar Server.

David Treloar Religious Education Coordinator.
David.treloar@mn.catholic.edu.au

Tuesday 28th November - 2:00pm to 3:00pm Altar serving training. School Chapel.

Tuesday 5th December - 2:00pm to 3:00pm Altar serving training. School Chapel.

Wednesday 6th December - End of Year Parish School Mass. 5pm followed by carols.

My child _____ in class
_____ would like to become an Altar Server.

I understand there are 4 training sessions to be held at the school.

Signed: _____

★ **If you look for Me at Christmas**

you won't need a special star -
I'm no longer just in Bethlehem,
I'm right there where you are.
You may not be aware of Me amid
the celebrations -
You'll have to look beyond the
stores and all the decorations.
But if you take a moment from
your list of things to do
And listen to your heart, you'll
find I'm waiting there for you.
You're the one I want to be with,
you're the reason that I came,
And you'll find Me in the stillness
as I'm whispering your name.

Love,
Jesus ★

ACTiv8 Chisholm

As we move towards the end of the year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the selflessness of the youth group volunteers. They give up their weeknights to be at youth group, without their help it would not be possible to do this valuable work. Their various talents are well utilised within the group and, I feel, this is what makes our youth groups truly wonderful for the kids.



We have had a wonderful year filled with loads of laughter and fun: from Zumba to trivia nights, disco's and our winter Pyjama party, craft nights and prayerful liturgies.

Over the next 2 weeks we will be putting together care packages with hand made cards and gifts to send to our Australian troops in the Middle East. We hope it will bring joy to the troops and give the kids an understanding of how truly lucky they are.

Thank you to our youth group families who come along each week and willingly participate in the activities we offer.



Christmas Party Week will run on the last week of Youth Groups for the year - 11th, 12th and 13th December. Please bring a plate to share!

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas & a happy and safe new year.

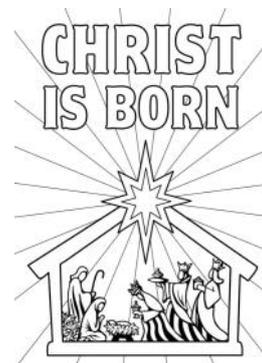
Rebecca Pfielke



The Australian Catholic Youth Festival exists to

- ✠ provide the opportunity for our young people to encounter Jesus in the context of the Catholic Church of Australia;
- ✠ Listen to and discuss the issues and challenges in the lives of young Catholics in Australia;
- ✠ Evangelise young people and empower them to be evangelisers;
- ✠ and provide them with local examples and connections of vocations, social action, liturgy and prayer, catholic music and catechesis.

ALSO, the Bishops of Australia invite Catholics to celebrate a Year of Youth, from the beginning of Advent 2017 (Sunday 3rd December 2017) to the end of Ordinary Time in 2018 (Sunday 25th November 2018). Here we will seek to open new horizons for spreading joy for the young Church and our communities. As we prepare with joy for this Year of Youth, we invite all the People of God to join us on this journey. The Year of Youth is a journey for the entire Body of Christ.



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ACTiv8 Chisholm



ACTiv8 CHISHOLM YOUTH MINISTRY

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.



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 2017

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!



A Christmas Story - Word Search

S	G	B	A	U	G	I	I	S	T	F	O	E	H	C
E	H	R	S	I	K	N	T	I	C	B	U	R	F	K
M	B	E	F	L	C	A	R	H	S	U	S	E	J	Z
M	A	T	P	E	R	I	A	Y	N	L	G	O	L	D
A	S	N	N	G	P	B	E	T	H	L	E	H	E	M
N	G	S	G	S	E	K	W	D	Z	A	A	M	M	D
U	E	U	Y	E	N	R	X	S	I	Y	N	P	A	R
E	M	L	Y	O	R	F	D	T	T	D	G	E	R	C
L	O	A	D	N	E	M	E	S	I	W	E	E	Y	A
H	W	O	G	Q	L	Y	A	X	B	H	L	H	K	D
B	T	F	I	I	T	E	U	R	G	B	R	S	M	J
G	C	O	A	Y	T	J	O	S	E	P	H	R	H	C
Y	R	W	P	I	A	F	J	W	D	A	Q	N	Y	I
N	I	F	G	V	C	D	Q	N	Q	E	L	T	H	M
J	M	X	G	M	J	R	R	B	G	H	I	W	U	I

- | | |
|-----------|-------------|
| ANGEL | SHEPHERDS |
| BETHLEHEM | STAR |
| CAMELS | WISEMEN |
| CATTLE | GOLD |
| DONKEY | HOLY SPIRIT |
| EAST | EMMANUEL |
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Have fun colouring in!



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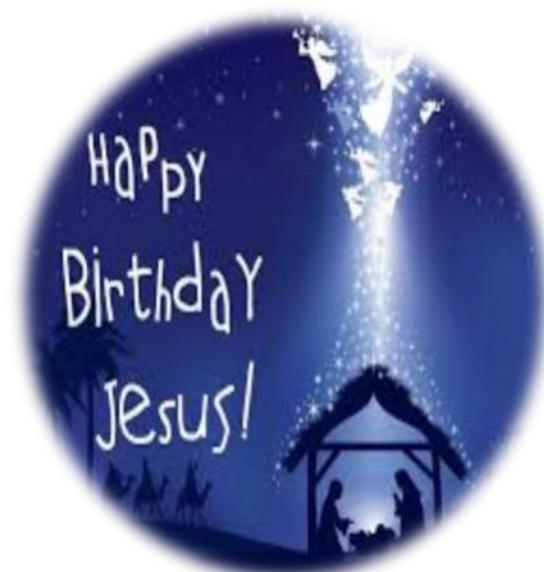
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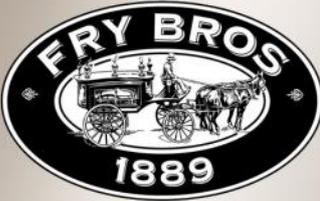
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