

**Maitland Parishes of the
Chisholm Pastoral Region**



CHISHOLM CONNECTION

Our News from the Pews

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:** 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 8, Issue 1

January 2018

Message from Fr Paul O'Neill

My dear sisters and brothers,

Happy New Year! And already the new year is flying by! Thank you to all who helped make our Regional Christmas Vigil Mass at St Mary's Campus a wonderful success. We needed to revert to Plan B and moved from the grounds into St Mary's Hall because of a hail storm that occurred an hour before the Mass. It was great that we were able to have the Mass in air-conditioned comfort and sheltered from the elements. Well done to all.

At the end of January we welcome back our school staff and children to the Catholic schools of our region. On February 22nd Bishop Bill will be celebrating the opening School Mass for Year 7 who are attending the new St Bede's College at Chisholm. This Mass will be held at 10.00am at the Immaculate Conception Church Morpeth. We pray God's blessing on this new Catholic Secondary School in our region.

In September of last year our Diocese hosted Lina's Project at the Town Hall in Newcastle. This event was conceived by Lina who was a victim of clergy sexual abuse in the diocese. It was a way of acknowledging publicly the harm done to victims and their families by the perpetrators, and also the harm done by the mishandling of allegations by church leadership. As a community we are searching for ways of healing. The report of the Royal Commission at the end of last year places many challenges before the Catholic church in responding to the reality of abuse in our church. After Lina's Project in Newcastle for a week the PowerPoint presentation given at the Town Hall was projected on the outside wall at the back of the Sacred Heart Cathedral in Hamilton. From Sunday night the 18th February till Thursday evening the 22nd February this same visual presentation will be projected on the front of St Joseph's church East Maitland and will be visible from the highway. Again, this is an attempt to acknowledge in our own region the pain and distress of many who have been victims and survivors of abuse.

Finally, on January 25th I completed my six-year term as Parish Priest of the six parishes of this region. Bishop Bill has reappointed for a further six-year term. This year I plan to take long-service leave and study/renewal time in the second half of this year. I will begin my leave on June 25th 2018, part of my study leave will be spent at St Mary's Monastery Kinnoull, Perth, Scotland. I will return to the parish for Christmas. I am looking forward to this opportunity for some rest and recharging the batteries.

Wishing you every blessing for the new year.

With love, Fr Paul



INSIDE YOU WILL FIND

1-11	Message from Fr Paul; Sacraments of Initiation; SRE; Regional/Parish/Dio News; SVdP, Parish Cells of Evangelisation; Lina's Project
12-13	FEBRUARY Mass Calendar
14-20	The Saints; News from Parishes
21-23	ACTiv8 Youth/ACYF
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Sacraments of Initiation 2018

For parents and children who attended meetings in November 2017 and have registered their intention to receive their Sacraments in 2018, please ensure you attend our

RECONCILIATION PREPARATION MEETING @ 7.00pm at either

Rutherford - Tuesday 6th February 2018

Beresfield - Wednesday 7th February 2018

East Maitland - Thursday 8th February

Please bring preparation books

OTHER IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER ARE:

COMMITMENT SUNDAY with RITUAL of the SPRINKLING RITE

10th/11th February 2018

It is important to bring the Commitment to this Mass!

PRESENTATION OF THE CREED

24th/25th February

PRESENTATION OF THE 'OUR FATHER'

10th/11th March

2nd RITE of RECONCILIATION will be @ 7.00pm at either

Rutherford - Wednesday 14th March

Beresfield - Thursday 15th March

Campbell's Hill - Wednesday 21st March


East Maitland - Thursday 22nd March

1st RITE of RECONCILIATION is always held after 8.00am Mass on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Saturday of each month and before 9.00am Mass on the 1st Saturday of the month at East Maitland. (Please inform the priest your child is attending Reconciliation for the first time!)

Chisholm Region @ St Joseph's East Maitland

FEBRUARY

KIDS MASS



Come and join in!

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

SUNDAY 4TH FEBRUARY 6PM

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

State Religious Education (SRE)

Special Religious Education (SRE) is an important ministry that supports parents, students, clergy and parishes in the religious education of Catholic students attending government schools.

SRE is often referred to as 'Scripture' and SRE volunteers may be referred to as Catechists or Scripture Teachers.

In a few weeks, school lessons will commence. SRE lessons are usually 30 minutes once a week in government primary schools. Lessons are presented by authorised, trained and dedicated volunteers who are from our Catholic parishes and other churches. Student text books, instructions and help is made available to the student and teacher. Families have the choice to send their children to these lessons or an alternative activity.

How do I become an SRE volunteer?

Special Religious Education (SRE) teachers are volunteers who are authorised and commissioned by the parish priest to go into the classroom to teach religious education using an approved curriculum.

Successful SRE volunteers have a love for children and communicate well with them. They are comfortable with being on a faith journey with the children and are willing to learn more about themselves and their faith. They will commit to attend classes punctually and regularly.

Volunteers are required by law to have a Working with Children Check clearance and declare they have not committed offenses against children. There is regular child protection training including adherence to the Diocesan Code of Conduct.

SRE is a great opportunity for university students and others. If you are interested in knowing more about becoming an SRE volunteer contact our Parish Office 49338918

ATTENTION!

Children's Liturgy re-starts on 4th February at
8.30am at St Joseph's East Maitland
Are you interested in becoming a leader or helper?
Please contact Sandra Buck for
more information. M:0425 281 674.

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;

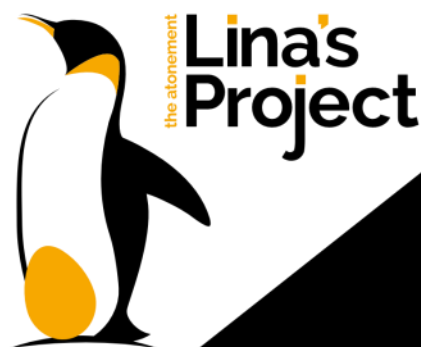
***CATHOLIC YOUNG PEOPLE BISHOP'S AWARD**

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.

Lina's Project Regional Event in East Maitland

As you would remember, last September the diocese facilitated a launch event for Lina's Project at Newcastle City Hall. Over 500 people, including victims and survivors, their families and friends, clergy, religious, parishioners, principals, teachers, diocesan staff and members of the wider community were in attendance.



Lina's Project was conceived by Lina, herself a victim of child

sexual abuse at the hands of a member of clergy in our diocese. Lina, a practicing Catholic, wanted to bring healing to the whole community. Lina felt that by acknowledging the devastation caused to victims and survivors, naming the perpetrators of these crimes and those who concealed the abuse and begging forgiveness would be a positive step forward in seeking atonement.

To build on the work of Lina's Project, the diocese will be facilitating a regional event in Chisholm in February and another in Taree in March.

The regional event taking place in Chisholm will involve a shortened version of the Lina's Project presentation being projected onto the façade of St Joseph's Church in East Maitland every evening between 8pm to 9pm from Sunday 18 February until Thursday 22 February.

As part of this, there will be a barbecue from 6.30pm on Wednesday 21 February. The whole community is invited to attend the barbecue to support victims and survivors and gather in a spirit of recognition, healing and hope. The barbecue will be held on the grassed area near the Therry Centre. After the barbecue people can choose to stay to watch the projection onto the church if they wish.

As you may know, as part of the launch event last September, the diocese projected the presentation onto the façade of Sacred Heart Cathedral for a week. This was a powerful statement to victims and survivors and the entire community that the Church in our region was acknowledging the criminal history and concealment that has led to ongoing devastation in so many lives. As Bishop Bill said in the apology that was printed in the launch event program:

"What we can do is come together in acknowledging what has happened and what it has done to us. If we can share the story and own the story, perhaps we can speak of our feelings with each other more, listen to each other better and support each other with greater understanding."

He went on to make further commitments such as permanent memorials and a perpetual day of remembrance each September so that "the story is not forgotten and our determination that it not be repeated never fades".

When the presentation was projected onto the Cathedral many gathered, some on the grounds, some in cars across the street, to watch the presentation. Some people came each evening to watch. Feedback received by the diocese was that while distressing for some victims and survivors who were there, the projection was a welcome step. Those gathered came together in a spirit of support and care.

As parish priest I fully support the diocese in facilitating this regional event and hope that we can come together as a community in solidarity with those affected by child sexual abuse by clergy and other church personnel.

I believe that the projection and the barbecue will be a very positive thing for our whole region. Before we can move forward we must humbly accept and acknowledge the criminal history of our diocese and reach out to those so irreparably affected by these crimes. By doing this we can bring some measure of healing to our whole community.

It would be wonderful to see many of you come along to the barbecue. If you would like to assist in any way

Lina’s Project Regional Event in East Maitland

on the evening please let Louise Gilchrist know on 4933 8918. The diocese will be organising the barbecue, but will be grateful for any support our parishioners can give.

If you would like to attend the barbecue please rsvp on 4979 1188 for catering purposes. You do not need to leave your name, just the number who will be attending.

You can watch the full version of the audio-visual presentation on the Lina’s Project website – www.linasproject.com.au The version that will be projected onto St Joseph’s is a shortened version of this without any sound.

If you would like to speak to someone about the event you can contact the Event Project Manager, Jo Isaac on 4979 1188. If you need any support in relation to this event please contact Zimmerman Services’ Healing and Support Team on 4979 1390.

Christmas Charity Donations

Once again, the parishioners of our Region have generously donated to the Christmas collections. In total, we raised \$4668.75. Below is a listing of where each Community donated their funds.

PARISH	CHARITY	AMOUNT
Maitland	Christmas Bowl Appeal	\$1117.21
	St Vincent De Paul	\$411.47
	Doctors Without Borders	\$705.82
East Maitland	Christmas Bowl Appeal	\$303.17
	St Vincent De Paul	\$303.18
Morpeth	Christmas Bowl Appeal	\$360.15
	Palliative Care	\$360.15
Lochinvar	Christmas Bowl Appeal	\$77.50
	St Vincent De Paul	\$77.50
Beresfield	Christmas Bowl Appeal	\$267.55
	St Vincent De Paul	\$267.55
Rutherford	Christmas Bowl Appeal	\$208.75
	St Vincent De Paul	\$208.75

The Diocesan Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) team advises that this year’s Rite of Election at Sacred Heart Cathedral, Newcastle West will be held on Sunday 18th February 2018 at 2.00pm. All Clergy, RCIA participants and their families, Parish RCIA ministers, Parishioners and other interested persons are welcome to attend. Further details available from Daphne Peterson RCIA Diocesan Coordinator Mobile 0402 318 074

DISCLAIMER: Unless otherwise stated, the advertisements placed in this Newsletter are placed by independent third parties who have no legal relationship with the Diocese. The activities or services of the advertisers are not supervised or controlled in any way by the Diocese. The Diocese is not in a position to endorse the advertisers or the services provided and makes no representation about those matters. Accordingly, the Diocese cannot accept any responsibility for the advertisers or the activities or services that are the subject of these advertisements.

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 4th February 2018 (After Youth Mass)

Sunday 4th March 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
FEBRUARY	16th February	25th February

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

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

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

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

†**CHISHOLM CONNECTION IS ALSO AVAILABLE THROUGH OUR DIOCESAN WEBSITE:** it is linked to the "Chisholm Pastoral Region" page <http://www.mn.catholic.org.au/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.

DIOCESAN FAMILY SCHOOL BUILDING LEVY

Families who participate in Planned Giving and who wish to claim the Diocesan Family School Building Levy rebate from their school fees please contact the Parish Office as soon as possible.

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 and have claimed a tax deduction in their tax return, they are not eligible to receive an exemption from paying the DFSBL.

Please ensure that you only claim the one type of benefit; either a Building Fund Levy Rebate OR a Tax Receipt.

Louise Gilchrist 4933 8918 or louise.gilchrist@mn.catholic.org.au

†**Zimmerman Services** the child protection, healing and support agency of the Catholic Diocese of Maitland–Newcastle can be contacted 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. Re-opening 4th February 2018!

†**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 2nd February 2018.** All welcome.

Please join me in congratulating some of our parishioners whose contribution to the evangelizing mission of the church has been wonderful. These parishioners have spread the gospel through working on the Parish Sacraments of Initiation Team for preparing children for Confirmation and Holy Communion; supporting religious education of children in State Schools through Special Religious Education; and supporting adults who want to become Catholics through the Rite for Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA). We congratulate them and pray God's blessing on them.

We hope you can come along to this year's Annual Catechist Mass when awards will be presented to these special parishioners. Fr Paul.

Trish Bowe	East Maitland	20 YRS	SOI
Anne Marie Arkell	East Maitland	25 YRS	SOI
Zofia Slupik	Lochinvar	30 YRS	SRE
Judy Crittenden	Maitland	15 YRS	RCIA
Ann Hogan	Morpeth	25 YRS	RCIA
Margo Nancarrow	Rutherford	10 YRS	SRE



2018 Annual Catechist Mass

Goodness...Living by faith

Our Catechist Mass is a great opportunity for priests, parishioners, families and friends to celebrate the ministry of Special Religious Education, Sacraments of Initiation, RCIA and Children's Liturgy. Awards will be presented to those who have served as Catechists for over 10 years and to those who have completed training programs.

INVITATION

Friday 9 February 2018

Where: Sacred Heart Cathedral, Newcastle West

Time: 7.00pm - Followed by supper in the Davis Courtyard



To register your attendance, contact Zoë Marr
E Zoe.Marr@mn.catholic.org.au or P 02 4979 1328

Saturday 17th February 2018 at 8 pm

SINGLETON
SACRED SPACES * SISTERS OF MERCY CHAPEL

VIVALDI
CONCERTI VIRTUOSI
Concerto in F Minor for Violon, Strings and basso continuo »Winter«
Concerto for Flute, Strings and basso continuo »Il Gardellino«

J.S. BACH
Suite in B Minor for Flute, Strings and basso continuo BWV 1067

TCHAIKOVSKY
»Andante cantabile« for Violoncello and Orchestra

PAGANINI
»Rondo concertante« in D Major for Violin and Orchestra op. 6

CHAMBER PHILHARMONIA COLOGNE
(Germany)

Sergey Didorenko * Violin Michal Rosiak * Flute Christoph Jahn * Violoncello

www.kpk-info.de

Tickets available at
Bookings at www.trybooking.com/SQZ or www.trybooking.com/327365
and at Sisters of Mercy Convent one hour prior to the concert from 7 pm



The Ageing Process: Understanding its Spiritual Dimension

Ageing affects all of us – either personally or in our engaging with family and friends.

Rev Dr Elizabeth MacKinlay, an Australian expert in the field, will conduct three seminars in February, offering an opportunity to be more insightful about this phase in our lives.

Feb 20: Calvary Mater Newcastle, from 9am-4pm. Especially for people engaged in pastoral ministry to be aware of the latest research into the spiritual dimension of the ageing process. All welcome. \$60pp for pastoral care & healthcare professionals, lunch provided. Bookings to April MacNeill 4921 1211 or April.Macneill@calvarymater.org.au.

Feb 21: Calvary Mater Muswellbrook, from 1-4pm. Open to everyone.

Feb 22: Forster Parish Hall. 6-9pm. Open to everyone.

Everyone is welcome but pastoral care teams, ministry teams and aged care professionals are strongly encouraged to participate.

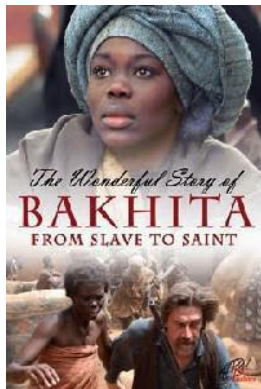
See flyer in church porches for information.

What's Happening in the Chisholm Region/Diocese

†**MOVIE NIGHT ON THE SAINTS** We hope to see you Saturday 24th February 2018 at 7.00pm in the Caroline Chisholm Rooms (adjacent to St Joseph's Primary School Admin) 57 King St, East Maitland.

"BAKHITA - From Slave to Saint"

the story of Josephine Bakhita, patron saint of Sudan. Born in a village in Sudan, kidnapped and abused and later sold to Frederico Marin, a Venetian merchant. Bakhita then came to Haly and became the nanny servant of Frederico's daughter Aurora who had lost her mother at birth. She is treated as an outcast by the peasants and other servants due to her black skin and African background, but Bakhita is kind and generous to others. Bakhita gradually comes closer to God with the help of the kind village priest, embracing the Catholic faith. She requests to join the order of Canossian Sisters but encounters opposition from Marin who thinks he owns her. This leads to a moving court case which impacts on Bakhita's freedom and ultimate decision to become a nun. Pope John Paul II declared her a saint in 2000.



"A very beautiful film....." Pope Benedict XVI. Bring a box of tissues!

Books and pious objects for sale. Refreshments provided. Bring a friend and enjoy a great night out! Enquiries Judy Chlebowicz 4936 6349.

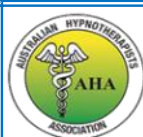
ONE LICENSE - Music copyright Webinar – 1 March 2018

One License, music copyright provider, is running a training Webinar on Thu March 1 that will assist users to:

- ◆ Use the website platform faster and more efficiently
- ◆ Answer questions in your community about copyright law
- ◆ Speak with your organization staff about the coverage your organization has and what other licenses would be beneficial
- ◆ Help guide new staff members that have joined your team since our last webinar series in early 2017

The diocesan Liturgy Office encourages all those involved in liturgical music to take advantage of this flexible learning opportunity. All registered users of One License can participate by clicking on the 'Australia/New Zealand Webinar' link in the message below.

One License recommends that each person has their own user login so that they don't miss out on important updates and training opportunities. To register as a One License user, please contact your parish office.



asqh Australian Society of Clinical Hypnotherapists

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Assisting and guiding you in issues of :-

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Weight Loss
Health Recovery
Stop Smoking
PTSD
Panic Attacks

Phone 0417 949060
Email admin@canchangetherapy.com.au
Web www.canchangetherapy.com.au

Parish Cells of Evangelisation

On 25th November 2017 around 35 people from four Parish Cells of Evangelisation gathered for a morning of prayer and reflection at the Corcoran Centre at Morpeth. This was the first time since the parish cells started in May that all participants from the separate cells had joined together. We were blessed to have some live musicians to lead us in worship and begin our prayer time together. The morning ran in the format of a normal cell meeting with praise and worship, sharing, a teaching from Fr Paul, discussion questions, prayers of intercessions, cell business and concluding prayers. Participants had the opportunity to share what they were enjoying about the Cells, what they find challenging about the cells, what could be improved, and how they think the cells are going.

If you are interested in finding out more about the Parish Cells of Evangelisation or joining a Parish Cell, please feel free to talk to the below Cell leaders at a parish near you or contact Sam Hill on 0437 192 603 for leaders contact details.



Back L to R: Andrew Hacker - Largs, Leanne & Dermot O’Sullivan – East Maitland, David Redgrove - Largs, Yvonne Rohr – Largs , Paul Cuskelly – East Maitland.

Front: Colleen Keppie - Paterson, Mary Tupou - Beresfield

Absent: Elizabeth Thomas – East Maitland

PARISH CELL MEETING’S

Day & Time	Location	Leaders
Monday 10am	Campbell’s Hill	Elizabeth Thomas, Colleen Keppie
Monday 7pm	East Maitland	Leanne & Dermot O’Sullivan, David Redgrove
Wednesday 7pm	Metford	Paul Cuskelly, Mary Tupou, Andrew Hacker
Thursday 1:30pm	Metford	Yvonne Rohr



St Vincent de Paul Society

NSW/ACT

good works



We wish to thank the local community for their wonderful support of the St Vincent de Paul Society Christmas Appeal. Parishioners throughout the region, together with staff and students from our local schools, have contributed very generously. Funds raised enable the Society to provide much needed assistance to the disadvantaged in the local community.

While Christmas is a busy time for all, it was certainly busy for many of our conferences who arranged to put together Christmas hampers and gifts and distribute them to needy families.

Year 11 students from each tutor group and staff from ASC St Mary's Campus very generously prepared baskets of food and gifts for needy families nominated by the Maitland Conference. I have no doubt they brought many smiles to local families, some of whom approach Christmas with some anxiety about their capacity to provide for their children.

Students and staff from St Patrick's Lochinvar, St Joseph's East Maitland and St Aloysius Chisholm were among other schools who contributed items for Christmas hampers. At East Maitland, local conference members arranged for the sorting, packing and delivery of more than 60 hampers on the weekend preceding Christmas.



Thanks are extended to the many helpers who assisted with the delivery – including local parishioners and senior students from St Mary's Campus. As one conference member commented, it was a wonderful community exercise – as well as an opportunity to do something for those less fortunate in our community.

The heartfelt thanks express by those who received hampers is reward enough for those who helped in any way.

Many thanks to all throughout the region for your wonderful support.

Michael Healy
Regional President

A BIG THANK YOU

The East Maitland St Vincent de Paul Society would like to thank the parishioners of East Maitland and Morpeth for their very generous response to the St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal. An amount of \$10,614.25 was raised, which is a wonderful testimony to the generosity of the local community. The money so generously donated will be of great benefit in the continuing work of the St Vincent de Paul Society.

St Vincent de Paul East Maitland

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.

I am Caroline, and I have been assisted by St Vincent de Paul for six years. I grew up in England in a family where there was physical and mental abuse. This triggered severe mental illness: I talked to people who weren't there and I was self-harming - cutting myself and taking overdoses. I was removed from my family and lived in children's homes until I was discharged at 16 and was immediately homeless. I couch-surfed, but it was really hard. Three years later, I married Richard and we settled down together and started a family. Although I had a home, I found it really hard to care for the children. Richard was working away and I was really struggling with my mental health. At 23, we packed up the children and moved to Perth to start again. I joined the army - such a happy time for me. I enrolled in tertiary study, but my mental health really deteriorated and I had a total breakdown. My marriage ended, I was admitted to hospital, and my 15-year-old daughter became carer to her younger brother and sister.

I spent the next five years moving between psychiatric hospitals and homelessness. At 40, I was diagnosed with paranoid schizophrenia, Schizoaffective disorder, depression and borderline personality disorder.

My psychologist told me about Vinnies, and in 2007 I moved into a house with five other girls. My house coordinator has been wonderful. She has cared about me and for me, and she has kept me safe. I will always have a mental illness, but am managing well and enjoying life. I became a grandmother recently and I have a very good relationship with all my children. I volunteered at Vincent Care in the kitchen, and earlier this year my support workers helped me to plan a trip back to England to see my family - something I could only have dreamt of six years ago. I can truly say that without the help of Vinnies, I wouldn't be around to share my story.



**Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend –
relationship enrichment for married couples**
27th – 29th April at Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville, NSW
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Chisholm Region Calendar

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
<p>29 Jan</p> <p>12:00pm Holy Hour of Prayer & Exposition (EM)</p>	<p>30</p> <p>7:00pm Mass (EM)</p>	<p>31</p> <p>12:00pm Mass (St John's Chapel, Maitland)</p> <p>7:00pm Mass (Largs)</p>	<p>1 Feb</p> <p>7:00am Mass (EM)</p> <p>10:00am Cenacle (see EM notice)</p> <p>6:00pm RPC meeting</p>
<p>5</p> <p>12:00pm Holy Hour of Prayer & Exposition (EM)</p> <p>6:00pm Jr. Youth Group (Loch.)</p> <p>7:30pm LOW (Lochinvar)</p>	<p>6</p> <p>9:30am St Paul's School Mass (Rutherford)</p> <p>5:30pm Junior Youth Group (Therry Centre)</p> <p>7:00pm SOI Reconciliation Meeting (Rutherford)</p> <p>7:00pm Youth Mass (EM)</p>	<p>7</p> <p>9:30am OLOL School Mass (Tarro)</p> <p>12:00pm Mass (St John's Chapel, Maitland)</p> <p>5:30pm Junior Youth Group (Largs)</p> <p>7:00pm Prayer Group (see EM notice)</p> <p>7:00pm SOI Reconciliation Meeting (Beresfield)</p> <p>7:00pm Youth Mass (Largs)</p>	<p>8</p> <p>7:00am Mass (EM)</p> <p>9:30am Opening Liturgy ASC (Maitland)</p> <p>10:00am Cenacle (see EM notice)</p> <p>10:00am St John the Baptist Primary School Opening Mass (Sacred Heart Church, Campbell's Hill)</p> <p>7:00pm SOI Reconciliation Meeting (EM)</p>
<p>12</p> <p>12:00pm Holy Hour of Prayer & Exposition (EM)</p> <p>6:00pm Jr. Youth Group (Loch.)</p> <p>7:30pm LOW (Lochinvar)</p>	<p>13</p> <p>9:30am St Joseph's School Mass (EM)</p> <p>5:30pm Junior Youth Group (Therry Centre)</p> <p>7:00pm Parish Team Meeting (OLOL Hall)</p> <p>7:00pm Youth Mass (EM)</p>	<p>14</p> <p>ASH WEDNESDAY</p> <p>7:00am Mass (EM)</p> <p>9:30am Mass (Morpeth)</p> <p>9:30am OLOL School Ash Wednesday Liturgy (Tarro)</p> <p>5:30pm Junior Youth Group (Largs)</p> <p>5:30pm Mass (Rutherford)</p> <p>7:00pm Youth Mass (Largs)</p> <p>7:30pm Cenacle (see EM notice)</p>	<p>15</p> <p>7:00am Mass (EM)</p> <p>10:00am Cenacle (see EM notice)</p> <p>10:15am St Peter's School Mass (Maitland)</p> <p>6:30pm RFC meeting</p>
<p>19</p> <p>← From 18 Feb</p> <p>12:00pm Holy Hour of Prayer & Exposition (EM)</p> <p>6:00pm Jr. Youth Group (Loch.)</p> <p>7:30pm LOW (Lochinvar)</p>	<p>20</p> <p>10:30am Anoint Mass (EM - Therry Centre)</p> <p>5:30pm Junior Youth Group (Therry Centre)</p> <p>7:00pm Youth Mass (EM)</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Lina's Project Video 8-9pm (EM Church)</p> <p>9:30am Anointing Mass (Largs N.H.)</p> <p>12:00pm Mass (St John's Chapel, Maitland)</p> <p>5:30pm Junior Youth Group (Largs)</p> <p>6:30pm Lina's Project BBQ (EM church)</p> <p>7:00pm Youth Mass (Largs)</p> <p>7:30pm Cenacle (see EM notice)</p>	<p>22</p> <p>ORDINATION OF BISHOP-ELECT FR BRIAN MASCORD</p> <p>7:00am Mass (EM)</p> <p>10:00am Cenacle (see EM notice)</p> <p>10:00am St Bede's Opening School Mass (Morpeth)</p> <p>10:00am St Mary's School Mass (Maitland)</p>
<p>26</p> <p>12:00pm Holy Hour of Prayer & Exposition (EM)</p> <p>6:00pm Jr. Youth Group (Loch.)</p> <p>7:30pm LOW (Lochinvar)</p>	<p>27</p> <p>5:30pm Junior Youth Group (Therry Centre)</p> <p>7:00pm Youth Mass (EM)</p>	<p>28</p> <p>10:00am Anoint. Mass (Benhome)</p> <p>5:30pm Junior Youth Group (Largs)</p> <p>7:00pm Youth Mass (Largs)</p> <p>7:30pm Cenacle (see EM notice)</p>	

February 2018

FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
<p>2 Feb</p> <p>7:00am Mass (EM)</p> <p>8:00am Mass + Adoration (E/M 7am-Sat 9am)</p> <p>9:30am Prayer of the Church (Beres. Church)</p>	<p>3</p> <p>9:00am Mass + First Sat Devotions (EM)</p> <p>2:30pm Cenacle (see EM notice)</p> <p>5:00pm Mass (EM)</p> <p>6:00pm Mass (Beresfield)</p> <p>6:30pm Mass (C Hill)</p>	<p>4</p> <p>7:15am Mass (Morpeth)</p> <p>8:00am Mass (Rutherford)</p> <p>8:20am Mass (Largs)</p> <p>8:30am Mass (EM)</p> <p>9:30am Mass (Lochinvar, Paterson)</p> <p>11:00am Regional Baptisms (EM)</p> <p>6:00pm Kids' Mass (EM)</p> <p>7:00pm Baptism Preparation (EM)</p>
<p>9</p> <p>7:00am Mass (EM)</p> <p>9:30am Prayer of the Church (Beres. Church)</p> <p>9:30am St Patrick's School Mass (Lochinvar)</p> <p>10:30am Anoint Mass (Greenhills Lodge)</p>	<p>10</p> <p>SOI COMMITMENT SUNDAY</p> <p>8:00am Mass/Reconciliation (EM)</p> <p>2:30pm Cenacle (see EM notice)</p> <p>5:00pm Mass (EM)</p> <p>6:00pm Mass (Beresfield)</p> <p>6:30pm Mass (C Hill)</p>	<p>11</p> <p>7:15am Mass (Morpeth)</p> <p>8:00am Mass (Rutherford)</p> <p>8:20am Mass (Largs)</p> <p>8:30am Mass (EM)</p> <p>9:30am Mass (Lochinvar, Paterson)</p> <p>11:00am Regional Baptisms (EM)</p> <p>3:30pm Launch of Year of Youth in Chisholm (EM)</p> <p>6:00pm Youth Mass (EM)</p>
<p>16</p> <p>CC Deadline</p> <p>7:00am Mass (EM)</p> <p>9:30am Prayer of the Church (Beres. Church)</p>	<p>17</p> <p>8:00am Mass (EM)</p> <p>2:30pm Cenacle (see EM notice)</p> <p>5:00pm Mass (EM)</p> <p>6:00pm Mass (Beresfield)</p> <p>6:30pm Mass (C Hill)</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Lina's Project Video 8-9pm (EM Church)</p> <p>7:15am Mass (Morpeth)</p> <p>8:00am Mass (Rutherford)</p> <p>8:20am Mass (Largs)</p> <p>8:30am Mass (EM)</p> <p>9:30am Mass (Lochinvar, Paterson)</p> <p>11:00am Regional Baptisms (EM)</p> <p>6:00pm Youth Mass (EM)</p>
<p>23</p> <p>7:00am Mass (EM)</p> <p>9:30am Prayer of the Church (Beres. Church)</p> <p>10:30am Anointing Mass (OLOMC N.H. Maitland)</p>	<p>24</p> <p>SOI Presentation of the "Creed"</p> <p>8:00am Mass (EM)</p> <p>2:30pm Cenacle (see EM notice)</p> <p>5:00pm Mass (EM)</p> <p>6:00pm Mass (Beresfield)</p> <p>6:30pm Mass (C Hill)</p> <p>7:00pm Saints Movie Night (See Regional Notice)</p>	<p>25</p> <p>7:15am Mass (Morpeth)</p> <p>8:00am Mass (Rutherford)</p> <p>8:00am Polish Mass (Beresfield)</p> <p>8:20am Mass (Largs)</p> <p>8:30am Mass (EM)</p> <p>9:30am Mass (Lochinvar, Paterson)</p> <p>11:00am Regional Baptisms (EM)</p> <p>6:00pm Youth Mass (EM)</p>

Please note, all care and attention is taken to ensure that times, dates and places are correct at time of publication. If you have any queries please contact the parish office.

Saints and Feasts in February 2018

2/2/18. THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD.



The event is described in the Gospel of Luke (Luke 2:22–40). When the day came for them to be purified as laid down by the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus took him up to [Jerusalem](#) to present him to the Lord – observing what stands written in the Law of the Lord: Every first-born male must be consecrated to the Lord – and also to offer in sacrifice, in accordance with

what is said in the Law of the Lord, a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons. Now in [Jerusalem](#) there was a man named Simeon. He was an upright and devout man; he looked forward to [Israel's](#) comforting and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until he had set eyes on the Christ of the Lord. Prompted by the Spirit he came to the Temple: and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the Law required, he took him into his arms and blessed God; and he said:

‘Now, Master, you can let your servant go in peace,
just as you promised;
because my eyes have seen the salvation
which you have prepared for all the nations to see,
a light to enlighten the pagans and the glory of your
people [Israel](#).’

5/2/18. ST AGATHA, VIRGIN AND MARTYR (born: 231 AD -

died: 251 AD) is a Christian saint and virgin martyress. Her memorial is on 5 February. Agatha was born at Catania, Sicily, and she was martyred in approximately 251. She is one of seven women, who, along with the Blessed Virgin Mary, are commemorated by name in the Canon of the Mass.

She is the patron saint of Catania, Molise, Malta, San Marino and Zamarramala, a municipality of the Province of Segovia in Spain. She is also the patron saint of breast cancer patients, martyrs, wet nurses, bell-founders, bakers, fire, earthquakes, and eruptions of Mount Etna



6/2/18. ST PAUL MIKI AND COMPANION MARTYRS



were a group of Christians who were executed by crucifixion on February 5, 1597, at Nagasaki. Their martyrdom is especially significant in the history of Roman Catholicism in Japan. A promising beginning to Catholic missions in Japan — perhaps as many as 300,000 Christians by the end of the sixteenth century — met complications from competition between the missionary groups, political difficulty between Spain and Portugal, and factions

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

8/2/18. ST JOSEPHINE BAKHITA 1869-1947 Born into a well-to-do family of the Daju tribe of south-western Sudan. Bakhita was later kidnapped by slave traders and endured many years of physical, emotional and spiritual deprivation. She was sold and re-sold four times in a ten-year period and

during this time she was tortured with many cuts to her body and salt was poured into the wounds to make the pattern of scars stand out. The name "Bakhita" means "the lucky one" in Arabic and was given to her by slave traders since, in the trauma of abduction, she had forgotten her own name. It wasn't until with the last family who "owned" her that they treated her well and on a trip to Italy Bakhita came to know the Catholic faith through the Canossian Daughters of Charity. She decided to be baptised and held firm against return to the Sudan with her "owners". After a court case it was declared she wasn't a slave any longer and was free to stay to join the sisters. Bakhita died in Schio and was declared "Blessed" on 17th May 1992, and proclaimed "Saint" on 1st October 2000 in Rome.



10/2/18. ST SCHOLASTICA, VIRGIN.



(c. 480 – 10 February 542) is a saint of the Roman Catholic Church and the Eastern Orthodox Churches. Born in Italy, according to a ninth century tradition, she was the twin sister of Benedict of Nursia. Her life was dedicated to God from an early age and she later founded the order of Benedictine nuns. Scholastica met her brother once a year at a house near his monastery. According to the writings of Gregory the Great, on their last visit she asked Benedict

to stay longer but he refused. She began to pray for rain and a fierce storm erupted which prevented him from leaving the house. She died three days later and tradition says that Benedict saw his sister's soul leave her body in the form of a dove.

11/2/18. OUR LADY OF LOURDES

is a venerated title of the Blessed Virgin Mary invoked by Roman Catholics in honour of the Marian apparitions said to have occurred on numerous occasions in 1858 in the vicinity of Lourdes, France. The first of these is the apparition of 11 February 1858, when Bernadette Soubirous, a 14-year-old peasant girl, admitted to her mother that a "lady" spoke to her in the cave of Massabielle (a mile from the town) while she was gathering firewood with her sister and a friend. Similar apparitions of the alleged "Lady" were reported on seventeen occasions that year, until the climax revelation of Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception took place. Bernadette Soubirous was later canonized as a Saint, and Roman Catholics and some Protestants believe her apparitions have been validated by the overwhelming popularity and testament of healings claimed to have taken place at the Lourdes water spring. In 1862, Pope Pius IX authorized Bishop Bertrand-Sévère Laurence to permit the veneration of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Lourdes. On 3 July 1876, Pope Pius IX formally granted a Canonical Coronation to the image that used to be in the courtyard of what is now part of the Rosary Basilica. This Marian title, *Our Lady of Lourdes*, has been widely copied and reproduced, often displayed in shrines and homes, most notably in garden landscapes.



Saints and Feasts in February 2018

14/2/18. ASH WEDNESDAY a day of fasting, is the first day of Lent in Western Christianity. It occurs 46 days (40 weekdays plus 6 Sundays) before Easter and can fall as early as 4 February or as late as 10 March. Ash Wednesday is observed by many Western Christians, including Catholics, Lutherans, Methodists, Anglicans, and Presbyterians. Lent is a time for prayer, fasting and almsgiving. In the gospel reading of the day Jesus tells us to do these things with humility and dignity: 'go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret'. Ash Wednesday is the start of our long and contemplative journey to Easter.



Ash Wednesday derives its name from the practice of blessing ashes made from palm branches blessed on the previous year Palm Sunday, and placing them on the heads of participants to the accompaniment of the words "Repent, and believe in the Gospel" or "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return".

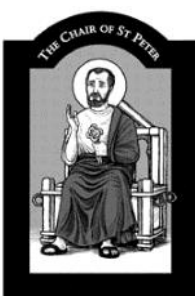
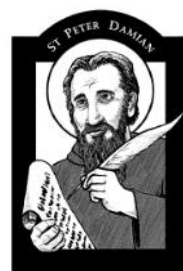
17/2/18. SEVEN FOUNDERS OF THE ORDER OF SERVITES



Our seven Fathers were born and grew up in the city of Florence. Drawn together by friendship and devotion to the Blessed Virgin, they gave themselves to common prayer and works of charity. Their desire to serve God eventually led them to leave their homes and their businesses, and to form a community outside the city walls. About the year 1245 they moved to Monte Senario where, for a time, they followed a life of prayerful seclusion. As others came to join them, they laid the foundations for

the Servite Order, whose members would be committed to the service of the Lord and others. They promised to follow Christ and witness his gospel; they took the Blessed Virgin as their Lady; and they lived communal life according to the Rule of St. Augustine. Pope Leo XIII canonized them as the Seven Founders of the Servite Order in 1888.

21/2/18. ST PETER DAMIAN. Peter Damian was born to a large but poor Italian family in 1007 AD. He was orphaned at a young age and was mistreated by an older brother. He was eventually cared for and educated by another brother who was an archpriest. He joined a Benedictine monastery where he lived the simple and strict life of a hermit. Peter was made the cardinal bishop of Ostia in 1057 and began many local reforms. He wrote numerous sermons and biographies, and was a strong supporter of church reforms and discipline.



22/2/18. THE CHAIR OF ST PETER. The Chair of St Peter. The feast of the Chair of St Peter commemorates St Peter's founding of the Church of Antioch, as well as his role as the first bishop of Rome. The portable chair believed to have been used by St Peter himself is preserved at the Vatican, above the apsidal altar of St Peter's Basilica. In ancient times it was customary for teachers to sit while teaching their students, who would stand

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

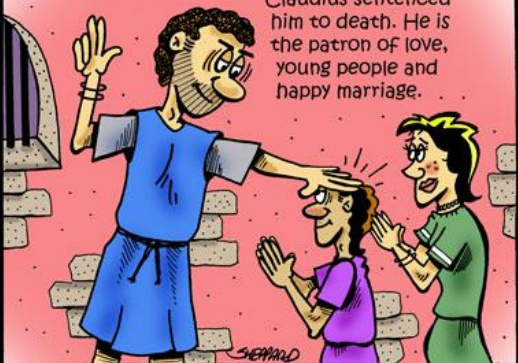
23/2/18. ST POLYCARP. St. Polycarp was converted to Christianity by St. John the Apostle and became an important leader throughout western Asia Minor as the Bishop of Smyrna. Polycarp was eventually betrayed by a servant who had him arrested. He was urged to denounce his religion and to curse Christ, to which he replied, "I have served him for eighty six years and he has done me no wrong." He was ordered to be burnt alive, and it is said that he offered a prayer of praise and glory to God and the flames did not harm him.



SAINTS FUN FACTS

by John Sheppard

A kind hearted Roman priest, he aided young Christians being persecuted by Claudius II and was imprisoned. While in custody, he converted 46 members of a guards family to Christianity! Upon discovering this, Claudius sentenced him to death. He is the patron of love, young people and happy marriage.



St. Valentine

14/2/18 St VALENTINE is a third-century Roman saint widely celebrated on 14th February and commonly associated with "courtly love." Although not much of St Valentine's life is reliably known, and whether or not the stories involve two different saints by the same name is also not officially decided, it is highly agreed that St Valentine was martyred and then buried on the Via Flaminia to the north of Rome. In 1969, the Roman Catholic Church removed St Valentine from the General Roman Calendar, because so little is known about him. However, the church still recognizes him as a saint, listing him in the 14th February spot of Roman Martyrology.

St Valentine was arrested again and again for continuing to try to convert people to Christianity and marrying Christian couples. He was then sent to Rome under the emperor Claudius Gothicus and according to the Nuremburg Chronicle, St Valentine was a Roman priest martyred during Claudius' reign. He refused to renounce his faith and Christianity and was executed outside the Flaminian Gate on 14th February, 269.

St Valentine is the Patron Saint of affianced couples, bee keepers, engaged couples, epilepsy, fainting, greetings, happy marriages, love, lovers, plague, travellers, and young people. The romantic nature of Valentine's Day may have derived from the Middle Ages, when it was believed that birds paired couples in mid-February. He is represented in pictures with birds and roses.

Whoever he was, Valentine did really exist, because archaeologists have unearthed a Roman catacomb and an ancient church dedicated to St Valentine. In 496 AD Pope Gelasius marked 14th February as a celebration in honour of his martyrdom.

Parish News - Rutherford

COLLEEN CANNY REPORTING FOR ST PAUL'S AT RUTHERFORD

Well we are now in the New year 2018. This past year 2017 has disappeared so quickly.

The Mini Vinnie's showed their love for the community, with visitation to the two nursing homes. They came very well prepared, dressed in the Nativity costumes, Mary and Joseph proudly carrying the baby Jesus. **They recited their story about the nativity and the true meaning of Christmas.**

They distributed music sheets for the residents, to join with them in singing the Christmas Carols, much to the delight of the residents. The students then gave out handmade Christmas ornaments they had prepared, which seemed to bring much joy.

The Saint Paul's school song is always requested and is much enjoyed. However after the two Nursing Home visits, most of the students, Bradley (school teacher) and the support helpers were fairly exhausted, but all very worthwhile.

One of our Minnie Vinnie's Anaiya produced a very beautiful CD titled **Irreplaceable**, a really very nice collection of meaningful songs. She very generously donated all of her funds to the homeless within our community. Well done Anaiya. A really wonderful act of kindness.

This year we were able to visit some of our parishioners who no longer able to attend Mass. Michelle and I were able to do a little Christmas visit. Our Eucharistic ministers led by Deidre, do this on a regular basis, and this is an amazing contribution to ongoing care and love.

Sadly I was not at home to witness some of the Christmas activities, as Wayne and I spent two weeks in China, experiencing some of the Wonders of the world, including the Great China Wall, Terracotta Warriors, the Forbidden City. Finally entering Japan, and visiting Nagasaki, and viewing the Museum, where so much devastation occurred after the Atomic Bomb was dropped. We finally visited the Park and saw the memorials from many countries acknowledging the pure sadness that occurred.

I would like to acknowledge Peter Fishlock, from our Rutherford Parish, who has recently retired from the prestigious position he has held for three years as president of the Saint Vincent de Paul in the Hunter Region. Well done Peter certainly a very demanding position, but certainly well achieved.



The parish of St Paul's Rutherford is blessed to have a very active, dedicated and organised conference of the St Vincent de Paul Society. Every member is dedicated to helping those in need. The Rutherford conference has a long history and in 2006 Peter Fishlock became a member and assisted in making home visits to those in need with Mick Kirkman, a previous Diocesan president as well as Mike Stanwell. During these early days for Peter there was simplicity to the procedures, visits and recordkeeping – like most things then. As time progressed society in general became more complex and the needs of the poor, not so much increased, but rather diversified. During this period Peter became Central Council Twinning Officer and committee member of the Overseas Partnership and Development Committee.

On 29th October, 2013, Peter became the Rutherford conference president bringing with him a wealth of experience from a lifetime of having a background in managing director of his own small business, an engineering and sales background to the mining industry as well as being on different committees and managing a catholic book shop for the Port Macquarie parish where he worked with volunteers. With this experience he was able to guide the conference through many changes. The St Vincent de Paul Society itself was also making many changes to move with the shift in the needs of the poor. Peter held this position for the required term of three years with great dedication, patience and efficiency. During this term he was required to attend monthly meeting both in Newcastle and

regionally. During this time Peter encouraged and fostered with the support of the conference, a great community atmosphere with the parish. He did this by communicating the conferences activities at the Christmas and Winter appeals as well as the Festival masses on the feast of St Vincent de Paul.

Once the 3 year term was up a new conference president was elected- Laurie Nolan-Neylan. Peter settled back into home visits and being vice president as well as his Twinning commitment. After a short period he was asked if he would accept being nominated for Central Council President- it became clear that his ability to negotiate and work under the

Parish News - Rutherford

Ethos of the St Vincent de Paul Society did not go unnoticed.

On the 29th October Peter was commissioned as Central Council president for the Maitland Newcastle region by Bishop Bill at the Sacred Heart Cathedral. This role was a huge four year full time voluntary commitment. Once again Peter met and overcame the challenges that came his way and once again the St Vincent de Paul Society was undergoing big changes. Many of these changes affected every conference in NSW and at times were not easy for the conferences and/or volunteers. With the support of the staff in Newcastle and Sydney and communicating with other conferences Peter proved to be a good negotiator. Peter was not all that long into the role when he was required to have open heart surgery for a pre-existing condition. This was a very difficult time but he took one hurdle at a time and after a leave of absence got back into the rhythm of his role as president.

Being Central Council president took him far and wide around the state for meetings, commissioning and festival masses. He attended meetings every two months in Sydney as well as many training courses along with the mountains of paperwork that had to be read and processed along with emails and phone calls. Throughout all negotiations Peter used the St Vincent de Paul's publication of "The Rule" to guide him through the most difficult decisions...keeping the spirit of the Society as his guiding light. In all the position of Central Council president requires 100% dedication and Peter most certainly did the parish and diocese proud.

COLUMBARIUM: Parish Office 4933 8918; HALL BOOKINGS: Adrian 4932 5601

Parish News - Maitland / Largs / Paterson

SACRED HEART, CAMPBELL'S HILL

Dominican Jubilee celebrations last December "topped off" a year of remembering the valiant Dominican pioneers who came to Maitland in 1867. Fr Brian Mascord offered a Mass of Thanksgiving in St Mary's chapel for the sisters who took their first vows sixty and seventy years ago, Diamond and Platinum Jubilarians . About fifty Dominican sisters gathered to rejoice and remember. One Jubilarian absent on the day was Sr Patricia Cregan OP who was unwell at the time. Sr Patricia has since died and was buried on 29th December. RIP

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).



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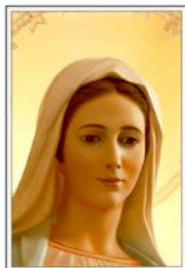


Parish News - St Joseph's East Maitland

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: 7th February 2018.** 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: 2nd February 2018.** ALL WELCOME!

FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTIONS – 3rd February 2018, 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)
12pm	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 the held **10.30am Tuesday 20th February 2018.** 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:

2018 - URGENT Help required Unfortunately, due to changing circumstances Christine will no longer be able to continue with Junior Joey's playgroup in 2018.

Given the importance of this ministry for our young families, I would really like to find someone or some people who would be willing and able to take this ministry on. I am happy to chat with anyone interested and do what I can to support you in the role. Over the past few years Junior Joey's Playgroup has been running on a Monday morning between 9:30-11:30am during school terms. However, if there is another morning that would suit you better Christine is happy to work with you to sort this out with the Office. Please contact Christine ASAP possible if you can help on 0407536452 or chriskam@gmail.com



Some background information on Junior Joey's: 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 one morning during school terms in 2018, and an opportunity for you to make new friends, why not help out with this ministry and join 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 chriskam@gmail.com or the Regional Office. Thank you!

Parish News - Morpeth

On the first Sunday of Advent we returned to celebrate Mass in the Church, signalling the conclusion of the extensive renovations to both its exterior and interior.

These major works included replacement of the sound system, installing a new loop for those with hearing impairment, repairs to the roofing, pigeon spiking, repairing water damaged walls before repainting, re-carpeting and providing some statues with a fresh coat. The local artist in residence, following a fall and contrary to doctor's orders, was seen finishing off the last of the touch-ups with one hand in a sling; that's real dedication!

Finally the dark and damaged tiles in the foyer were removed and replaced with a welcoming mosaic of small tiles. The tiler spent many days and hours on his knees ensuring the tessellating project was completed to exacting patterns. The result speaks for itself and the professionalism of the (retired) tiler. Many parishioners, too many to mention just in case one is overlooked, gave tirelessly of their time and expertise to bring this magnificent restoration project to conclusion in readiness for the dedication on 4 February 2018. We are hopeful that the restored Baptismal Font, the cost of which is being funded by a generous parishioner donation will be in place prior to the dedication of the Church. Congratulations and THANKS to all involved.

On Sunday 10th December we celebrated our Parish feast-day (The feast of the Immaculate Conception) with a special breakfast. To add to the celebrations we were able to recognise the tireless contribution made to the parish by Eileen Bourke as she celebrated her 90th birthday. Seating at the Corcoran Centre was at a premium, filled to capacity. The tables festooned with Christmas decorations and a variety of delicious foods fitting for such an occasion. Eileen was fortunate to be able to share this milestone in her life with family members and the many parishioners whom she has supported over so many years. While we all sang "Happy Birthday" the birthday cake, made and decorated by Edith was enjoyed by all in attendance. Just the right thing to top off a wonderful Community celebration.



Congratulations and thanks to Eileen for your many years of dedicated service to our parish Community,

Activities for 2018 kicked off with a bus trip to Swane's nursery in Dural. All aboard at 8 am and down the M1 for a morning tea and comfort stop at the Hawkesbury River bridge. Out came the containers of delicacies (home baked goodies by Brian) complimented by pots of hot coffee and tea. If only I had known of such an upcoming feast I could have given breakfast a miss! Although many of the roses had been given a summertime prune there were sufficient on display to entice some in purchases and for others to take the names of varieties to be purchased during the 2018 planting season. Lunch at the Viking Club was well worth the wait and the ice cream stop on the return journey was a temptation many couldn't refuse. Congratulations to Brian for his interesting talks (?????) along the way, keeping us entertained. I understand another trip is in the offing so if you enjoy a day out with jovial friends, delicious food (especially morning tea) and interesting places to visit then get your name on the list ASAP.

Two special dates to remember are Sunday 4th February for the dedication of our Church followed by a community breakfast in the Corcoran centre. Secondly is the ordination of Fr. Brian Mascord as Bishop of Wollongong on 22nd February. If you would like to join the bus trip from Morpeth to the Ordination then just give John Saunders a call on 0414254230 to secure your seat.

Parish News - OLOL Beresfield

Happy New Year!

CHRISTMAS SERVICES: A huge thank you to everyone that contributed to our 2017 Christmas services. Our **Christmas Mass** was celebrated on Christmas Eve at 6.00pm. It was a beautiful celebration!! The church was overflowing, with 450 people attending!! We had carol singing from 5.30pm and this set the mood beautifully!! The atmosphere in the church was just wonderful. Everyone joined in the singing of the carols and all the hymns during mass and the church felt full of the peace and love of Christmas.

OUR LADY OF LOURDES FEAST DAY – SUNDAY 11TH FEBRUARY: This year OLOL feast day falls on a Sunday. **We invite you to celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes at our Vigil Mass on Saturday 10th February followed by a ‘Sausage Sizzle’.**

SATURDAY 10TH FEBRUARY - SAUSAGE SIZZLE FUNDRAISER: Everyone is warmly invited to join us for fellowship and a bar-b-que feast at our first ‘after Mass get together’ for 2018. Following all the very expensive building works last year we need to do some fund-raising and are planning some fundraising events, and this will be the first.

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 will reopen in February after a short break over the holidays. 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. **The February parish mid-week Mass will be on Wednesday 7th February at 9.30am.**

BERESFIELD PARISH ASH WEDNESDAY LITURGY: Beresfield Parish Ash Wednesday Liturgy will be **at OLOL School Tarro on Wednesday 14th February at 9.30am.** The parish community is invited to join with the children and teachers of OLOL Tarro to worship at this parish Liturgy.

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. 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.

POLISH MASS: Fourth Sunday of February (25th) at 8.00am at OLOL.

PARISH TEAM MEETING: The next Parish team meeting will be on the second Tuesday in February, **Tuesday 13th February**, in the Parish Meeting room, **at 7.00pm**. All parishioners are invited.

Parish News - Lochinvar

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



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 2018

• 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 2018

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!



The Australian Bishops have identified the liturgical year of 2018, beginning on the first Sunday of Advent 2017 as a national Year of Youth.

The Year of Youth invites the Church of Australia into prayerful discernment about the importance and life-giving presence of young people in the local Church and society. The Year of youth aims to do the following;

- ✦ Prayerfully discern the Australian Bishops vision for ministry with young people, Anointed and Sent – a document provided by the ACBC as a guide vision and guide for ministry within the Australian context.
- ✦ authentic and personal engagement by Church leaders in the challenges and success in young people's lives
- ✦ acknowledging the Holy Spirit at work in the lives of young people, and young people acting upon the Holy Spirit in the life of the Church;
- ✦ upholding the dignity of young people, ensuring a safe environment from physical, emotional and spiritual harm

The year of youth challenges us to explore new horizons as we accompany young people into maturity. The theme for the 2018 Year of Youth is;

Open New Horizons for Spreading Joy:

Young People, Faith and Vocational Discernment

The Year of Youth was officially launched in December at the 3rd Australian Catholic Youth Festival (ACYF) in Sydney which gathered over 19,000 young people from across the nation. From the Diocese of Maitland -Newcastle a contingent of 220 young people attended the 3 day festival. Roughly 80 of the participants were from schools and parishes of the Chisholm Pastoral Region.

Participants joined in 4 Plenary sessions held at Qudos Bank Arena in Sydney Olympic Park where they listened to keynote speakers and addresses; enjoyed dancing and listening to international and Australian Christian artists including American singer Matt Maher and Steve Angrisano; participated in adoration of the blessed sacrament with 19,000 others; prayed the rosary and enjoyed the buzz and exhilarating atmosphere that sharing your faith with so many gives. Between plenary sessions, participants moved to Sydney showground to attend workshops that fitted into three categories. **Listening** – facilitated forums where young people discuss and voice opinions with leaders of Church communities; **Formation** – opportunities for young people to learn more about their own faith journey, Church teaching, or stories of faith in large workshop spaces; **Discernment** – aimed at helping young people reflect on “where to from here” (vocations, mission, etc.) and how to live out their lives as disciples of Jesus. Participants also enjoyed mega concerts, leadership workshops, breakout and game spaces, and an expo hall filled with opportunities to talk to religious, explore different ministries, engage with speakers and presenters and pick up some great merchandise.

On the final day of the festival, participants undertook a pilgrimage from Sydney Olympic Park to the domain in Sydney. Our group travelled by train to Milsons Point and proceeded to walk over the harbour bridge, through the Rocks and Circular Quay where we stopped for dinner, to the Domain where we gathered for the largest Catholic Mass in Australia since WYD 2008. The ACYF experience was different for everyone. For some it was nourishing, for others unexpectedly inspiring, and for some it was an experience that will open new horizons hopefully bringing them into a closer relationship with Christ.

At World Youth Day in 2016, Pope Francis called young people and the Church to **‘open new horizons for spreading joy’**.

‘My friends, Jesus is the Lord of risk, he is the Lord of the eternal “more”. Jesus is not the Lord of comfort, security and ease. Following Jesus demands a good dose of courage, a readiness to trade in the sofa for a pair of walking shoes and to set out on new and uncharted paths. To blaze trails that open up new horizons capable of spreading joy, born of God's love and wells up in your hearts with every act of mercy. To take the path of the “craziness” of our God, who teaches us to encounter him in the hungry, the thirsty, the naked, the sick, the friend in trouble, the prisoner, the refugee and the migrant, and our neighbours who feel abandoned. To take the path of our God, who encourages us to be politicians, thinkers, social activists.’ - **Pope Francis, World Youth Day Vigil, 30 July 2016**



The year of youth invites **ALL** of us, not just those under 30, to go out to the peripheries and be authentic listeners and disciples. It calls for dialogue and active engagement focused on the reconnection and renewal of a new generation of young people in our parishes. This is one of our greatest challenges so I present you with these questions;

1. *When was the last time I engaged with a young person or young family in my parish?*
2. *Can I simply encourage and affirm a young person in their faith?*
3. *Have I prayed for our youth?*

On Sunday 11th February 2018, we will be officially launching the Year of Youth here in the Chisholm region. We invite all parishioners, family and friends to join us from 3:30pm at St Joseph’s East Maitland for activities and live music before the launch at 5:30 followed by our regional Youth Mass at 6pm.

In this Year of Youth, we ask you to listen to the deep questions in your life. Do not be afraid to question and to seek understanding. By doing so humbly and prayerfully, you equip yourself to fulfil your baptismal call to become missionary disciples in today’s world. – ACBC Pastoral Announcement – Archbishop Denis Hart, President, Australian Catholic Bishops Conference

Samantha Hill – Family Ministry Coordinator



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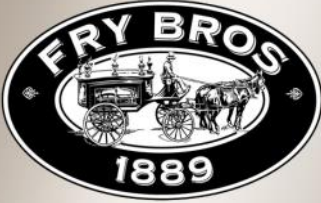
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