



**Maitland Parishes of the
Chisholm Pastoral Region**
*Communities Gathering
in Prayer and Worship*

ST JOSEPH'S (Est 1835)
Cnr King St & New England Hwy
EAST MAITLAND
Sunday Masses: 5pm Saturday Vigil
8.30am; 6pm Regional Youth

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST (Est 1841) Maitland
SACRED HEART, New England Hwy,
CAMPBELL'S HILL
Sunday Mass: 6.30pm Saturday Vigil
HOLY FAMILY, 11 John St, LARGS
Sunday Mass: 8.20am
ST COLUMBA'S, Cnr Prince & Church
Sts, PATERSON Sunday Mass: 9.30am

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION (Est 1871)
Cnr George & James Sts, MORPETH
Sunday Mass: 7.15am

ST PATRICK'S (Est 1905)
55 New England Hwy, LOCHINVAR
Sunday Mass: 9.30am

OUR LADY OF LOURDES (Est 1947)
Cnr Anderson Dr & Delprat Ave,
BERESFIELD
Sunday Mass: 6pm Saturday Vigil

ST PAUL'S (Est 1961)
10 Young St, RUTHERFORD
Sunday Mass: 8am

**We are in the country of the Worimi, Gamilleroi,
Wanarua, Gweagul, Darkinjung, Biripi and
Awabakal peoples. We respectfully acknowledge
their Elders, celebrate their continuing culture
and the living memory of their ancestors.**

Ministers

All baptised members of the community

Ministry Team

Parish Priest: Fr Paul O'Neill
Asst Priests: Fr John Lovell,
(Presbytery 4934 5783)

Weekend Supply:

Fr Lex Levey, Fr Maurie Cahill,
Bishop Bill Wright, Fr Greg Arnold

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

Dying, Bereaved & Funeral Ministry:
0428 220 997

ACTiv8 Youth Co-ordinator
Bec Piefke 0422 500 299

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

CHISHOLM CONNECTION

News from the Pews

Message from Fr Paul O'Neill

Volume 10, Issue 1
JAN / FEB 2020

My dear sisters and brothers,

In the words of Dorothea Mackellar's poem

*I love a sunburnt country,
A land of sweeping plains,
Of ragged mountain ranges,
Of droughts and flooding rains.
I love her far horizons,
I love her jewel-sea,
Her beauty and her terror -
the wide brown land for me!*

We all have been saddened by the loss of life, properties and wildlife in our Australian bush caused by the bushfires across our land. Many who live off the land are also struggling with the effects of the long drought. So we are praying for drought-breaking rain and relief for those who are suffering the effects of the bushfires. This Sunday (Australia Day) on behalf of the Australian Catholic Bishops of Australia the St Vincent de Paul Society is conducting an appeal for bushfire victims at all our parish Masses. Please give generously.

We thank all our parishioners across the parishes of our region for their generosity to the Christmas Appeal that was conducted at our Christmas Masses.

At the end of January our RCIA team will resume their meetings with those Catechumens and Candidates from our region who wish to become Catholic. There are 13 adults on this journey, let us continue to support and pray for them in our parish communities (a further report about the RCIA can be found in this edition).

On the 26th February we will begin the season of Lent with the celebration of Ash Wednesday. Our parish Masses that day will be 7.00am at St Joseph's East Maitland and 7.00pm at Holy Family Largs. These 40 days are seen as an opportunity for repentance and renewal of our commitment in following Christ. Also, it involves the final rituals for those preparing to become Catholic at Easter. (We would ask the school communities of our region who will be holding Ash Wednesday Liturgies to contact our parish office about collecting ashes for that day).

Also in February we will be resuming our preparation process for the children preparing for Confirmation and Holy Communion this year. As you know our Sacraments of Initiation process is parish based, family centred and school supported. I am grateful to our regional Sacraments of Initiation Team and our Catholic schools and catechists for the support they offer our parents and children.

As schools return and a new year in our parish cranks up I wish all of you every blessing for our pastoral mission of spreading the good news of Jesus Christ.

With love
Fr Paul



JAN/FEB 2020

INSIDE YOU WILL FIND

1-11	Fr Paul's Message; SOI; SVdP; RCIA; History Catholic Church in Maitland; Regional /Parish /Dio News; Saints & Feasts; CWLA
12-13	FEBRUARY CALENDAR
14-23	Christmas Charity/Regional Christmas Vigil; News from Parishes; ACTiv8 Youth
14,17, 23,24	Sponsors Advertisements

Sacraments of Initiation 2020

SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION - RECONCILIATION



It is with joy that I tell you we have approximately 130 children registered to receive their Sacraments of Initiation this year. This process commenced in November 2019 where we conducted information meetings for parents and caregivers. In these meetings the parents and caregivers were informed of their commitment required if they wish their children receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Confirmation and Eucharist.

Fr Paul & Fr John are thankful to have a great group of people who are members of the SOI team (Sacraments of Initiation) who will be supporting the children and their families through this beautiful Sacramental process.

Some of these members are teachers from our schools and others are parents who love to give their time to their parish in this way. So please have our team, family and children in your prayers this year as we take this beautiful journey.

COMMITMENT SUNDAY with RITUAL OF THE SPRINKLING RITE will be at all Masses on **Saturday 8th & Sunday 9th February**. This is where the children bring with them their Form of Commitment and hand it to the Priest during Mass. The community will be able to welcome the children who are participating in the Sacraments of Initiation within their Community.

RECONCILIATION Dates to remember:

The next meetings for parents, caregivers and children will be held in the following churches.

NOTE The family and children only need attend **ONE** of these meetings.

TIME 7PM

St Paul's Rutherford on the 11th February
St Joseph's East Maitland on 12th February
Our Lady of Lourdes Beresfield on 13th February

PRESENTATION OF THE CREED will be at all Masses on **Saturday 22nd and Sunday 23rd February**. This is where the children will be handed a copy of "the Creed".

PRESENTATION OF OUR FATHER will be held at ALL Masses **Saturday 7th and Sunday 8th March**. The children will then be given a copy of "Our Father" so they also can become familiar with this beautiful prayer.

Fr Paul, Fr John and the Sacramental Team would encourage each community to make these families welcome.

The Children will then receive Reconciliation on the following dates (*please note that these are also **Community Reconciliations in preparation for Easter***)

2nd RITE OF RECONCILIATION WILL BE HELD AT 7PM on

Wednesday 18th March at St Pauls Rutherford
Thursday 19th March at Our Lady of Lourdes Beresfield
Wednesday 25th March at Sacred Heart Campbell's Hill
Thursday 26th March at St Joseph's East Maitland

1st Rite of RECONCILIATION

The children are also able to attend the regular 1st Rite after 8.00am Mass on the 2nd, 3rd & 4th Saturday of each month and before 9.00am Mass on the 1st Saturday of the month at St Joseph's Church, East Maitland.

If you have any questions regarding the Sacramental programme please email:
SOlchisholm@mn.catholic.org.au or call our office on 49338918

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THANK YOU



Our **Christmas Appeal** has been very successful, so we wish to thank all members of our local community for their generosity. In particular we thank members of our local parishes for their generous donations to the Appeal.

In addition, we had wonderful support not only from our parishes but also our local schools, both primary and secondary, in donating items for Christmas hampers. The hampers were delivered in the week before Christmas and brought joy to many local families in need, making their celebration of Christmas a brighter one.

We also thank those students from St Josephs and St Aloysius schools for decorating the hamper bags with Christmas themes. We have many budding artists in our midst!

We are also grateful to other people in the community who assisted our members in delivering the hampers. In particular a group of graduating students from St Mary's Campus gave up their time to help with deliveries.

Many thanks to all.

At the time of writing, the Australian Bishops have announced a National **Bushfire Appeal**, to be conducted in parishes throughout Australia on the weekend of Australia Day, January 26. Funds raised will go to the Vinnies Bushfire Appeal. The Appeal is an opportunity for us to support those suffering from the devastating effects of the Bushfires.

Many thanks
Michael Healy
Regional President



CHISHOLM FEBRUARY
KIDS MASS
THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

6pm Sunday 2nd February
at St Joseph's East Maitland

Bring the kids Bring the family
ALL WELCOME TO JOIN IN
Want to help out? Call or text Sue - 0414890813

Happy Australia Day!

Grant, we pray, O Lord our God, that as the Cross shines in our southern skies, so may Christ bring light to our nation, to its peoples old and new, and by saving grace, transform our lives.

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RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)



The group of people that commenced their “*Journey in Faith*” last year have had a break during the school holidays.

The weekly meetings at the Therry Centre will recommence at 7pm on Wednesday 29th January 2020.

These meetings will continue through to their full initiation into the Catholic Faith and then continue on to Pentecost Sunday on 31st May 2020.

Some of these people have been introduced to the parish communities in the Rite of Acceptance and Welcome.

Further participants will also be formally introduced via the Rite of Acceptance and Welcome in due course.

The following parishes have these Catechumens (unbaptised) and Candidates (baptised in another Christian denomination or baptised Catholic without completing the other Rites of Initiation)

ST JOSEPH’S East Maitland

Brooke Boughton	Candidate	Tomara Brown	Catechumen
Troy McWha	Catechumen	Nicole Murphy	Candidate
Ron Perkins	Catechumen	Meg Martin	Catechumen
Belinda Pearson	Catechumen	Drew Reid	Candidate

SACRED HEART Campbell’s Hill

Richelle Lloyd Candidate

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION Morpeth

Elliott Plank Catechumen

OUR LADY OF LOURDES Beresfield

Nigel Richardson Candidate Sharleen Fitzgerald Catechumen
Jasmin Edwards Catechumen

During the break in meetings, a further three people have made enquiries about “becoming a Catholic”. Contact has been made with them regarding the steps involved.

If you or someone you know have any enquiries about RCIA, please contact Margaret Smith on 0419 335 878, the Chisholm Office 4933 8918 or myself on 0448 924 771

Wayne Smith
on behalf of the Maitland Parishes of the
Chisholm Pastoral Region RCIA Team.
20 Jan. 2020

Rite of Election

1 MARCH 2020

2.30pm, Sacred Heart Cathedral, Newcastle.
Afternoon tea with Catechumens, their Sponsors and families follows the Rite. RSVP for catering purposes to E Sharon.murphy@mn.catholic.org.au P 4979 1134

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

Humans are seekers of purpose and meaning. This search brings many to faith, to Christianity and to the Catholic Church.

As a Church community we welcome these people through the celebration of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA). In this process we accompany them as their relationship with Jesus grows and they learn from us how to live as disciples of Jesus.

It is important that the whole Church gathers to support and pray for our catechumens.

We invite you to do this by attending the Rite of Election with them on the first Sunday of Lent.

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)

What is RCIA?

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is a process where adults and older children who are interested in the Catholic faith may develop their relationship with God as they spend time with a Catholic community in prayer and dialogue; where they learn about the teachings of the Catholic faith and may decide to become members of the Catholic Community.

Parish RCIA Teams are the companions who share this faith journey.

The Process

To begin: there are evenings of enquiry, where you can discover what RCIA is all about, have some of your questions answered and hear a little about what Catholics believe as we share our faith stories.

Then: for those who decide to continue the faith journey, there will be weekly evenings of prayer, scripture discussion and teaching about the Catholic faith. You will experience the life of the Catholic community and come to know the presence of God in our lives.

Easter: is usually the time when those who are ready to become Catholics are baptised and fully initiated into our Catholic faith community. We continue to meet until Pentecost Sunday, exploring the mystery of their initiation.

Official Stages of the Rites of Christian Initiation

There are 4 Stages in the Rites of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA), with a special Rite taking the person from one stage to the next. These Rites or "ceremonies" are celebrated in the presence of the faith community.

Adults making this journey will either be a:

- Catechumen** - an unbaptised person, or
- Candidate** - a baptised Christian from another faith tradition.

The aspirant is given a companion - a committed Catholic - referred to as a Sponsor.

Stage 1 Pre - Catechumenate

Is a time to:

- enquire about the Catholic faith
- spend some time sharing with other Catholics
- meet Jesus in the Scriptures
- listen, reflect and decide.

Stage 1 is concluded by a Rite of Acceptance and Welcome.

Stage 2 Catechumenate

Is a time to:

- grow in faith and conversion to God
- change in thinking, feelings and values
- gain knowledge about the teachings of the Catholic church
- weekly Mass
- meet weekly with other Catechumens, Candidates, Sponsors and parish team.

Stage 2 is completed with a Rite of Election, where the Church formally acknowledges the readiness of Catechumens and Candidates. This ceremony is presided over by the Bishop, and takes place on the 1st Sunday in Lent, at Sacred Heart Cathedral, Hamilton.

Catechumens then select a Godparent, and become known as the Elect.

Stage 3 Pre - Purification and Enlightenment

- Lent - a time for reflection and prayer
- A time of change - conversion for all of us
- At the Easter Vigil, Catechumens and Candidates undergo the Rite of Initiation, where they may receive the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and First Eucharist.

Stage 4 Mystagogia

Our newly baptised are now called **Neophytes** (newly planted).

- We share the experience of initiation at the Easter Vigil
- Reflect more deeply on the mysteries of our faith and the Sacraments
- experience parish life as a Catholic
- continue to participate in the work of the parish.

The History of the Catholic Church in the Maitland Area Part 7

Bishop James Murray, the son of James Murray and Catherine Doyle, was born on 25th March 1828 in County Wicklow, Ireland. He studied in Dublin and later in Rome. He was ordained to the Priesthood on 28th March 1852. After ordination he returned to his native Diocese of Dublin and was later appointed as private secretary to Cardinal Cullen of Dublin, a role he retained until his appointment to the Diocese of Maitland.

After his consecration as bishop, he travelled to Rome where he met with the Archbishop of Sydney in order to work out the boundaries of the new Maitland Diocese. After much discussion and only after Bishop Murray and Archbishop Polding had both made separate submissions to the Holy See, were the boundaries defined.

Bishop Polding wished to retain Newcastle in the Archdiocese of Sydney, whereas Bishop Murray believed that because of the close proximity of Newcastle to Maitland, the seat of the new Diocese, it should be part of Maitland Diocese. Part of Bishop Polding's arguments of retaining Newcastle was the fact that he had guaranteed the cost of the new church that was being erected as well as the parish house and school.

The Papal Brief defining the boundaries of the Diocese of Maitland was issued on 14th April 1866 and was in accordance with Bishop Murray's recommendations. However, it was stipulated that Newcastle, although it was included in the Diocese of Maitland, should remain under the administration of the Sydney Archdiocese until the death of Archbishop Polding. So it was not until 1873 that Bishop Murray took over the administration of Newcastle.

Bishop Murray arrived in East Maitland on 29th October 1866 and lived at the old presbytery of St Joseph's which had stood from the time of Fr Mahony (1838-1845). In about 1871 he moved to Victoria Street, Maitland, then to Campbell's Hill to a house that later became the Sacred Heart College. His next residence was in Elgin Street and in 1883 the present Bishop's House in Cathedral Street was built at a cost of 4,000 pounds and became the Bishop's permanent and official residence. St John the Baptist Church, built by Fr Lynch in 1846, became the Cathedral of the Maitland Diocese on 1st November, 1866.



The first church in the diocese blessed by Bishop Murray was St Patrick's Church, Lochinvar on 27th November 1866.

Within three weeks of his arrival, Bishop Murray wrote to his friend Dr Moran (later Cardinal) in Dublin: *"I am quite delighted with the people of Maitland. They are all Irish and as warm-hearted as our people at home and solidly attached to the religion and the Holy See"*.

Again in a letter to Cardinal Moran, dated 19th February 1867, Bishop Murray describes how the district of Maitland was managed.

"There is a Church at West Maitland, one at East Maitland and one at Morpeth, one at Lochinvar, one at Branxton, one in the Paterson district 30 miles off, and a Church at Clarence Town 20 miles off....Now how many are we to attend to all these places? Three: Dr Murray, Fr Phelan and Fr Michael Doyle. Fr Doyle says 9 o'clock Mass in East Maitland and 11 o'clock at Morpeth 4 miles off. Dr Murray says 8 o'clock Mass at West Maitland and 11 o'clock Mass in same place. Fr Phelan goes on one Sunday to Lochinvar and on the other Sunday to Branxton....."

Although St Bede's Church at Morpeth was probably in regular use from its completion in 1862 it was not officially blessed and opened by Bishop Murray until 13th November 1870. In 1875 Morpeth was separated from East Maitland Parish and was established as a parish in its own right with Fr Patrick Corcoran, who had arrived in East Maitland in 1871, as the first Parish priest.

to be continued.....

What's Happening in the Chisholm Region/Diocese

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

NEXT BAPTISM PREPARATION SESSION:
Sunday 2nd February 2020 (After Youth Mass)
Sunday 1st March 2020 (After Youth Mass)

† **BAPTISMS:** All enquiries for baptisms are to be lodged with the Regional Office; this includes private baptisms in our region. **4933 8918 / chisholm@mn.catholic.org.au.**

Chisholm Connection

Deadline & Distribution Dates 2020

ISSUE	EDITORIAL DEADLINE	DISTRIBUTION DATE
FEBRUARY	17th February	29th Feb 2020

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/School 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).

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.

† **Office of Safeguarding** 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 **ALL** Masses, at St Joseph's church, East Maitland. Marion Riley 0412 811 759.

† **CHILDREN'S LITURGY** helpers needed for the 8.30am Mass at St Joseph's East Maitland. If you are interested in assisting our leaders, please contact Sandra Buck 0425 281 674. Thank you.

† **ST JOSEPH'S EAST MAITLAND SPIRITUAL LIBRARY** is set up in the prayer room at the side of the church 24 hours a day. Books are available for you to borrow and is run on an honour basis. Please note the date, your name and contact details in the book provided. This is a wonderful resource made available to you at no cost. **ADORATION** is held every Monday 12-1pm.

† **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 Warren Clarke on 4966 3683. 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.

† **PARISH CELLS OF EVANGELISATION** 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 Cell leaders at a parish near you. Monday 7pm East Maitland; Wednesday 7pm Metford; Thursday 1:30pm Metford.

† **ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT** First Friday of each month - from after Mass at 7am till 9am Saturday Mass at St Joseph's East Maitland. Next date: **Friday 7th February 2020.** All welcome.

What's Happening in the Chisholm Region/Diocese

FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTIONS – 1st FEBRUARY 2020

St Joseph's East Maitland



8.30am	Reconciliation & Holy Rosary
9.00am	Mass
9.45am approx.	Adoration & Reconciliation
10.00am approx.	Benediction
Morning Tea served in the Therry Centre	
The presider will be Fr Paul O'Neill. Morning tea will be served in the Therry Centre. Fr Paul will give a presentation in the Therry Centre following morning tea.	

First Saturday Devotions are a response to the request made by Our Lady of Fatima that "On the First Saturday of every month, Communions of Reparation are to be made in atonement for the sins of the world" and blasphemies and offenses against Our Lady's Immaculate Heart.

Everyone is welcome to attend.

2020 Catechist Mass Saturday 22 February 2020

Bishop Bill invites you to our annual celebration of the wonderful work our

catechists achieve at 2.00pm on Saturday 22nd February, Sacred Heart Cathedral, Newcastle. This event 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 SRE training. Followed by refreshments in the Toohey room.



PROJECT COMPASSION SUNDAY 23RD FEBRUARY 2020

Please take home a Project Compassion box and/or a set of donation envelopes and support Caritas Australia this Lenten season themed "Go Further Together". You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, or by visiting



[www.caritas.org.au/
projectcompassion](http://www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion) or phoning 1800 024 413.

RITE OF ELECTION: 2.30pm, Saturday 1st March 2020, Sacred Heart Cathedral, Newcastle. Afternoon tea with Catechumens, their Sponsors and families follows the Rite. RSVP for catering purposes to E Sharon.murphy@mn.catholic.org.au P 4979 1134

EAST MAITLAND LENTEN PROGRAMME

You are invited to attend a five week "Life In The Spirit" seminar that will be held during March 2020. Philip and Margaret Maloney, Lay Catholic Missionaries, will be the facilitators. The seminar will be held in the Therry Centre on Tuesdays following the Evening Mass - 8.00pm til 9.30pm.

Programme:

- 3rd March** God, the Father's unconditional love.
- 10th March** Jesus, our Saviour and Lord.
- 17th March** The Holy Spirit gives new life.
- 24th March** Praying for a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit.
- 31st March** Being renewed by Christ's Passion, Death and Resurrection.

The seminar will help you prepare for the Easter Triduum; give new awareness of Christ's presence in our lives; benefit you with the great value of prayer, fasting and almsgiving; provide a new attraction for the Scriptures; give you confidence in using the Gifts of the Holy Spirit and being filled with the Holy Spirit will help us to evangelise.

Fr Paul has given his approval for this Lenten Programme and we ask for your prayers and for the Holy Spirit to bless this programme as we begin our preparation for a grace filled Easter.

SAVE THE DATE! Bishop Bill takes great pleasure in announcing he has called Reverend Deacon Graham Fullick to priestly ordination. His ordination will take place on Saturday 22nd February in Sacred Heart Cathedral at 10.00am. *Please keep Graham in your prayers as he prepares for the next stage of his vocational journey.* On Sunday 23rd February Fr Graham will be celebrating a Mass of Thanksgiving in his home parish of St Joseph's East Maitland at 8.30am. **ALL WELCOME.**

What's Happening in the Chisholm Region/Diocese

INVITATION TO MAGDALENE AWARD PRESENTATION

Please accept this invitation to join Bishop Bill in the announcement of the recipient of the 2020 Magdalene Award.

This award recognises a woman living in, and committed to, the Diocese of Maitland Newcastle. This is a public affirmation of a life lived in ways that echo the spirit of Mary Magdalene.

Date: Sunday March 8 2020

**Time: 9.30 am Mass at Sacred Heart Cathedral,
Hunter St Newcastle West**

Followed by light refreshments of Tea and Scones in the Davis Courtyard

RSVP: Friday February 28 for catering purposes to helene.oneill@mn.catholic.org.au

If multiple parish members are attending, an email with numbers is sufficient.

The organising committee is looking forward to welcoming you on this special occasion.

Thank you

COUNCIL FOR AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC WOMEN CONTACT
GROUP IN THE DIOCESE OF MAITLAND-NEWCASTLE

ACTIV8 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.

PLEASE NOTE any ANNIVERSARIES TO APPEAR IN BULLETINS will need to be received at the office by WEDNESDAY no later than 12pm. AND please ensure NAMES (AND DATE OF BULLETIN APPEARANCE) are PRINTED in BLOCK LETTERS on the FRONT of the envelope. This can be either sent, emailed, faxed to the office or placed on the second collection plate at Mass. Thank you.

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. **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.

Scripture classes begin again in March. If you are interested in becoming an SRE teacher and have half an hour to spare each week, please contact the parish office 4933 8918 or Jan Healy 4933 1302.

Many hands make light work!

Some Useful Diocesan Links

Just Ctrl-click on link below:

[Liturgy page](#) – regularly updated
[Spirituality & Faith page](#) – regularly updated
[MNnews.today](#) – Diocesan News Service
[Subscribe to Diocesan Update eNewsletter](#)
[Aurora Magazine articles online](#)
[Full Diocesan Calendar and Community Noticeboard](#)

Diocesan Social Media Links

[MNnews.today on Facebook](#)
[MNnews.today on Twitter](#)
[CatholicCare on Facebook](#)
[CatholicCare on Twitter](#)

FIRST COLLECTION provides for priests of the Region & Diocese: their monthly stipend, household food, cooking & cleaning. **SECOND COLLECTION** provides for all the running expenses of your parish, buildings, staff, insurance, clergy motor vehicles, regional groups. **Thank you for the support** of our weekly collections but would like to impress on you the importance of the second collection.



Marriage Enrichment Weekend :

Take the time to step back from everyday distractions and rediscover your relationship! 17th – 19th April, 2020 at Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville,

NSW. Book online at www.wvme.org.au. Alternatively contact Adrian and Janet Sullivan: on 0490 774 419 or adrian.janet1@bigpond.com

Saints and Feasts in February 2020



2/2/20. The presentation of the Lord. The Gospel of Luke says when the time came for their purification, according to the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord. The feast of the presentation helps us realise three important points: 1. Christ Jesus, although Son of God, makes himself humble enough to obey what the law prescribed. His solidarity with humankind was total in all respects. He also identifies himself with the lowly in choosing to make the offerings of a pair of turtle doves or two young pigeons. 2. His purification ceremony and offering in the temple foreshadows his self-offering on the cross for the salvation of humankind. Simeon recognises him as “a light of revelation for the gentiles and glory for your people Israel”. The babe who was offered in the temple is the Saviour of the world. 3. Like Simeon and Anna we need to recognise the Saviour in our midst and receive him into our lives. This is possible only if we long for him through prayer and meditation on the word of God.

5/2/20. St Agatha, virgin and Martyr (born: 231 AD - died: 251 AD) is a Christian saint and virgin martyr. Her memorial is on 5th 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



6/2/20. St Paul Miki and companion martyrs were a group of Christians who were executed by crucifixion on February 5, 1597, at Nagasaki. Their martyrdom is especially significant in the history of Roman Catholicism in Japan. A promising beginning to Catholic missions in Japan — perhaps as many as 300,000 Christians by the end of the sixteenth century — met complications from competition

between the missionary groups, political difficulty between Spain and Portugal, and factions within the government of Japan. Christianity was suppressed, and it was during this time that the 26 martyrs were executed. By 1630, Christianity had been driven underground. 250 years later, when Christian missionaries returned to Japan, they found a community of “hidden Christians” that had survived underground

10/2/20. 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

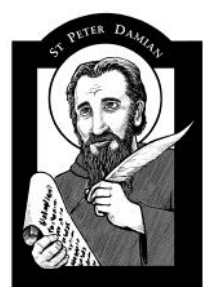
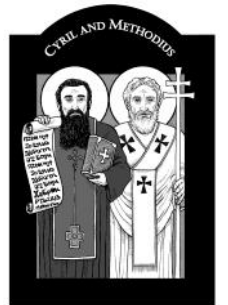
Benedict of Nursia. Her life was dedicated to God from an early age and she later founded the order of Benedictine nuns. Scholastica met her brother once a year at a house near his monastery. According to the writings of Gregory the Great, on their last visit she asked Benedict to stay longer but he 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.



11/2/20. OUR LADY OF LOURDES. The Blessed Virgin Mary first appeared to Bernadette Soubirous, on the 11th of February 1858, at a cave near the river Gave in France. She showed Bernadette a hidden spring and told her to drink and wash from it. Over the next few months she appeared to her on seventeen occasions; sometimes in the presence of others, although only Bernadette could see her. She

told Bernadette to tell priests to build a chapel at the spring, and that she should pray for the conversion of sinners. As a result of these visions, Lourdes has become one of the greatest pilgrim shrines in Christian history, with many people claiming the water has miraculous healing powers.

14/2/20. Sts Cyril and Methodius were brothers, born in Thessalonika. In their later lives they became priests and in 863 were sent to Moravia as missionaries, where they taught the gospels in the native tongue of the people. At that time, the old Slavonic language had no written form, so Cyril invented an alphabet and translated the liturgy and much of the bible. At the request of the pope they returned to Rome, but Cyril died soon after. Methodius was consecrated archbishop of Sirmium and returned to Moravia, where he was imprisoned for two years by German bishops for his continued use of the vernacular liturgy. Alongside St Benedict, Sts Cyril and Methodius were declared patrons of Europe by Pope John Paul II. some a national public holiday.



21/2/20. St 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.

Saints and Feasts in February 2020

22/2/20. 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.



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Other Saint Days: 3/2 t Blaise, Bishop & Martyr; St Ansgar, Bishop; 8/2 St Jerome Emiliani, St Josephine Bakhita Virgin; 17/2 Seven Founders of Servites

26/2/20. Ash Wednesday ushers us into the season of Lent - the spring time of the Church, a time of growth and spiritual revitalisation for Christians. Christians are reminded of the most important practices to follow Christ - prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Prayer connects us with God, helps us remain in His love, listen to Him speaking to us, pour out to Him our hearts' desires and offer Him our praise and thanksgiving. Fasting and almsgiving connect us to ourselves and others; curtail our desires and needs in order to reach out to the needy. The formulae, "Remember man you are dust and unto dust you shall return" and "Turn away from sin and believe the gospel" invite us to take the path of repentance and renewal, basing our lives on the foundation of the word of God and knowing that our life in this world is but transitory.



Catholic Women's League Australia Inc.

Catholic Women's League Australia Inc Member Organisation of the World Union of Catholic Women's Organisations (WUCWO) NGO Consultant (roster) status with the Economics and Social Council of the United Nations

Catholic Women's League in the Chisholm Pastoral Region meets on the first Thursday of the month at the Therry Centre commencing at 2:00pm. The first meeting for 2020 is at 2:00pm on Thursday, 6 February.

All welcome!

WUCWO (World Union of Catholic Women's Organisations) Asia Pacific Regional Conference 18 – 22 MAY, 2020

The planning and preparation for the WUCWO Asia Pacific Regional Conference are well underway. Catholic Women's League Australia, organizers of the Conference have settled on a great venue, central location, fantastic speakers together with activities and an opportunity for a pilgrimage.

The WUCWO Asia Pacific Regional Conference will be held in Sydney from 18-22 May 2020.

Venue: Rydges World Square Hotel, 389 Pitt Street, SYDNEY

Registration Costs: \$430 Australian Dollars

The Conference begins on the morning of Monday, 19 May and concludes on Thursday 21 May in the afternoon. You will need to book into the hotel on Monday, 18 May 2020 and check out on the morning of Friday 22 May 2020.

Accommodation is an additional cost.

Maria Lia Zervino, President General of WUCWO, will be attending the Conference.

Bookings must be received by 27th April 2020. Registration forms will be on CWLA Website.

It is a wonderful opportunity for members of CWLA and all women to network with Catholic women from many countries in the Asia Pacific region. Friendships are nurtured and a deeper understanding of the pressing needs of women and families of our regional neighbours and how they are tackled will inspire us to continue to strengthen CWLA.

For further information about CWLA in the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle please contact cwlamn214@gmail.com or phone 0409 300 192.

Chisholm Region Calendar

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

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 regional office.

3

- 12:00pm Holy Hour of Prayer & Exposition (EM)
- 6:00pm Jr. Youth Group (Ruth.)
- 7:30pm LOW (Rutherford)

4

- 5:30pm Jnr Youth Group (Therry Centre)
- 7:00pm SOI Session 2 (Ruth Church)
- 7:00pm Youth Mass (EM)

5

- 12:00pm Mass (St John's Chapel, Mait)
- 5:30pm Jnr Youth Group (Largs)
- 6:30pm RCIA (Therry Centre)
- 7:00pm SOI Session 2 (EM church)
- 7:00pm Youth Mass (Largs)
- 7:30pm Prayer Group (see EM notice)

6

- 7:00am Mass (EM)
- 9:30am ASC Opening School Mass (Mait)
- 6:30pm SOI Session 2 (OLOL Church Beres.)

10

- 12:00pm Holy Hour of Prayer & Exposition (EM)
- 6:00pm Jr. Youth Group (Ruth.)
- 7:30pm LOW (Rutherford)

11

- 9:30am OLOL Opening School Mass - Feast Day (Tarro)
- 5:30pm Jnr Youth Group (Therry Centre)
- 7:00pm Parent & Children Reconc. Mtg (Ruth Church)
- 7:00pm Parish Team Mtg (OLOL Hall)
- 7:00pm Youth Mass (EM)

12

- 9:30am Anoint Mass (Largs NH)
- 10:00am St Bede's Opening School Mass (OLOL Beres)
- 12:00pm Mass (St John's Chapel, Mait)
- 5:30pm Jnr Youth Group (Largs)
- 6:30pm RCIA (Therry Centre)
- 7:00pm Parent & Children Reconc.
- 7:00pm Youth Mass (Largs)
- 7:30pm Cenacle (see EM notice)

13

- 7:00am Mass (EM)
- 9:30am St John's Opening School Mass (Mait)
- 7:00pm Parent & Children Reconc. Mtg (OLOL Church)

17

- 12:00pm Holy Hour of Prayer & Exposition (EM)
- 6:00pm Jr. Youth Group (Ruth.)
- 7:30pm LOW (Rutherford)

18

- 9:30am St Joseph's Opening School Mass (EM)
- 10:30am Anoint Mass (EM - Therry Centre)
- 5:30pm Jnr Youth Group (Therry Centre)
- 7:00pm Youth Mass (EM)

19

- 12:00pm Mass (St John's Chapel, Mait)
- 5:30pm Jnr Youth Group (Largs)
- 6:30pm RCIA (Therry Centre)
- 7:00pm Youth Mass (Largs)
- 7:30pm Cenacle (see EM notice)

20

- 7:00am Mass (EM)
- 10:10am St Peter's Opening School Mass (Mait)

24

- 12:00pm Holy Hour of Prayer & Exposition (EM)
- 6:00pm Jr. Youth Group (Ruth.)
- 7:30pm LOW (Rutherford)

25

- 9:30am St Paul's Opening School Mass (Ruth.)
- 5:30pm Jnr Youth Group (Therry Centre)
- 7:00pm Youth Mass (EM)

26

- ASH WEDNESDAY
- 7:00am Mass (St Joseph's EM)
- 10:00am Anoint. Mass (Benhome)
- 12:00pm Mass (St John's Chapel, Mait)
- 5:30pm Jnr Youth Group (Largs)
- 6:30pm RCIA (Therry Centre)
- 7:00pm Mass (Largs)
- 7:30pm Cenacle (see EM notice)

27

- 7:00am Mass (EM)
- 10:00am St Mary's Opening School Mass (Mait)

FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
	1 Feb 9:00am Mass + First Sat Devotions (EM) 10:00am SOI Team Meeting (St Joseph's School) 2:30pm Cenacle (see EM notice) 5:00pm Mass (EM) 6:00pm Mass (Beresfield) 6:30pm Mass (C Hill)	2 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 KIDS Mass (EM) 7:00pm Baptism Preparation (EM)
7 7:00am Mass (EM) 8:00am Adoration (E/M 7am-Sat 9am) 9:30am Prayer of the Church (Beres. Church) 10:00am St Aloysius Opening School Mass (Chisholm)	8 Commitment Weekend Sprinkling Rite 8:00am Mass/Reconciliation (EM) 2:30pm Cenacle (see EM notice) 5:00pm Mass (EM) 6:00pm Mass (Beresfield) 6:30pm Mass (C Hill)	9 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 Regional Youth Mass (EM)
14 7:00am Mass (EM) 9:30am Prayer of the Church (Beres. Church) 10:30am ANOINT Mass (Greenhill's NH)	15 8:00am Mass/Reconciliation (EM) 2:30pm Cenacle (see EM notice) 5:00pm Mass (EM) 6:00pm Mass (Beresfield) 6:30pm Mass (C Hill)	16 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 Regional Youth Mass (EM)
21 7:00am Mass (EM) 9:30am Prayer of the Church (Beres. Church) 9:30am St Patrick's Opening School Mass (LOCH.)	22 Presentation of the Creed; Priestly Ordination Rev Deacon Graham Fullick 7:30am Reconciliation (EM) 8:00am Mass (EM) 2:00pm Catechist Mass (S.H. Cathedral) 2:30pm Cenacle (see EM notice) 5:00pm Mass (EM) 6:00pm Mass (Beresfield) 6:30pm Mass (C Hill)	23 Project Compassion Sunday 7:15am Mass (Morpeth) 8:00am Mass (Rutherford) 8:20am Mass (Largs) 8:30am Mass with Fr Graham Fullick (EM) 9:30am Mass (Lochinvar, Paterson) 11:00am Regional Baptisms (EM) 6:00pm Regional Youth Mass (EM)
28 7:00am Mass (EM) 9:30am Prayer of the Church (Beres. Church) 10:30am Anointing Mass (OLOMC)	29 8:00am Mass/Reconciliation (EM) 2:30pm Cenacle (see EM notice) 5:00pm Mass (EM) 6:00pm Mass (Beresfield) 6:30pm Mass (C Hill)	

Christmas Charity Collection

People donating to our Christmas Charity collections this year were once again extremely generous. We collected in total \$5388.35 which is nearly \$600 more than last year. The funds will be distributed to the following Charities.

ACT for Peace – Christmas Bowl Appeal	\$2,694.10
St Vincent de Paul – Bush Fire Appeal	\$102.10
CWA Drought Appeal	\$102.15
St Vincent de Paul – Paterson via Gresford	\$126.05
Doctors Without Borders	\$688.90
St Vincent de Paul – Rutherford	\$367.30
St Vincent de Paul – Lochinvar via Greta	\$62.75
St Vincent de Paul – Drought Appeal	\$413.05
St Vincent de Paul - Bush fire & Drought Appeal	\$311
St Vincent de Paul – Beresfield	\$520.95

As in the past, Fr Paul requested that half of the funds from all communities be directed to the Act for Peace Christmas Bowl Appeal and the remaining half to be distributed to charities decided upon by your Pastoral Parish Team. Here is a small extract from the Act for Peace information booklet. More details can be obtained from their website: www.actforpeace.org.au/christmasbowl

Who are Act for Peace?

Act for Peace is the international aid agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia and a member of the global ACT Alliance, which helps communities affected by conflict and disaster in more than 130 countries. Act for Peace's work began in 1948 with the sending of food and other provisions to help refugees who had suffered during World War II. This important work was carried on when, on Christmas Day in 1949, the Reverend Frank Byatt of Victoria placed an empty bowl on the dinner table and asked all present to give what they considered to be the value of the meal.

Since the first Christmas Bowl began 70 years ago, humble yet committed people like you have followed in Reverend Byatt's footsteps, and have helped to provide

food, shelter, education, healthcare and training to some of the world's most vulnerable people, giving them the ability to prepare for, cope with and recover from conflict and disaster.

Act for Peace supports partners on the ground to respond to emergencies and implement long-term humanitarian and development programs, as well as advocacy initiatives responding to the needs of communities in protracted conflicts or disaster-affected regions.

Together, we will continue Reverend Byatt's legacy to build the foundations for real and lasting peace, and make a growing difference to communities where it's needed most.



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Regional Christmas Vigil Mass

Everyone knows how busy we all can be leading up to Christmas with the preparation of family feasts, shopping and trying to catch up with all our loved ones. We are so lucky to have volunteers happy to come together, with the support of Janine Sidoti from our parish office, and work with joy to setup and celebrate our Regional Christmas Vigil Mass which was held within the St Mary's school grounds Maitland. Fr Paul advises that there was over 750 in attendance this year! The weather was kind to us and so we were able to hold our Mass in the beautiful outdoors.

It really is a credit to these volunteers, who, I know would not want their names mentioned in this article as they do their ministry for the love of their faith.

Fr Paul's celebration of Mass is always a beautiful event but this Vigil was special. I have had feedback from many who attended saying that it was 'special' and 'memorable'. I think that we can say that we are lucky to have Fr Paul as our Parish Priest.



Parish News - St Joseph's East Maitland

2020! Can you believe it? Recently I have been reflecting on all the hype that surrounded the approaching new millennium in the year 2000 and that is now 20 years ago! Where has that time gone!!!

On behalf of East Maitland Parish I would like to express our deep sorrow to all who have been affected in anyway by the recent bushfires. We also express our heartfelt thanks to the heroic fire fighters, the volunteers and all those who have reached out with hearts and hands for all those in need. Our prayers are with you.

Excerpt from **My Country** by **Dorothea Mackellar**:

Core of my heart, my country!
Land of the Rainbow Gold,
For flood and fire and famine,
She pays us back threefold-
Over the thirsty paddocks,
Watch, after many days,
The filmy veil of greenness
That thickens as we gaze.

Our first 'cuppa' (or cold drink) for the New Year will be served after Masses on the weekend of **1st/2nd February**. If anyone is able to bring a plate to share it would be greatly appreciated. Please join us.



MARKET/CAR BOOT DAY – This was a first attempt at this type of fundraising event and with the help of many people I think the day was a great success. Unfortunately there was not a great attendance of customers through which was disappointing but there certainly was a friendly and welcoming vibe. Thank you to all who helped by booking a stall space or donated cakes, plants, raffle prizes, goods for sale and cash donations. A very special thank you to all those that gave of their time to help on the day. Events such as this cannot be undertaken without the support of our parishioners. The amount of \$2,325 was raised on the day and was made up as follows:

Stall hire/cash donations	\$863
Raffle	\$464
Tea/Coffee stall	\$190
Plant stall	\$116
Parish stall (miscellaneous items)	\$197
Cake stall	\$495



First Saturday Devotions 1st February – Begins at 8.30am with Rosary and Reconciliation with Mass at 9am followed by Adoration before the Blessed Sacrament and then Benediction. The presider will be Fr Paul O'Neill. Morning tea will be served in the Therry Centre. Fr Paul will give a presentation in the Therry Centre following morning tea.

PARISH TEAM – The first Parish Team meeting for 2020 will be held on Thursday 20th February at 7.00pm

Parish News - St Joseph's East Maitland

in the Therry Centre. Parishioners are welcome to attend. Please contact Judy 4934 8232 for more information.


LENTEN PROGRAMME – During the month of March a five week “*Life In The Spirit*” seminar will be held in the Therry Centre on Tuesday evenings from 8.00pm until 9.30pm, following the 7pm Mass. The facilitators will be lay missionaries, Philip and Margaret Maloney. **Programme:** **3rd March** – God, the Father’s unconditional love; **10th March** – Jesus, our Saviour and Lord; **17th March** – The Holy Spirit gives new life; **24th March** – Praying for a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit; and **31st March** – Being renewed by Christ’s Passion, Death and Resurrection. All are invited to attend.

Worship & Prayer opportunities to which everyone is welcome to attend.

- ✠ **First Friday Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 7th February** – following 7am Mass.
- ✠ **Anointing Mass** – will be held on the third Tuesday of the month – 18th February at 10.30am in the Therry Centre.
- ✠ **Adoration** – Mondays 12 midday for 1 hour in the church.
- ✠ **Apostolate of Prayer to St Joseph of the Eternal Family** – First Wednesday of each month, 7.30pm, 65 Brisbane St, East Maitland. 4933 6635
- ✠ **Cenacle & Divine Mercy Chaplet Prayer Meeting** – Wednesday’s 7.30pm (excluding first Wednesday) 65 Brisbane St, East Maitland.
- ✠ **Legion of Mary** “Our Lady of Perpetual Succour” – Tuesday mornings, 10.30am, 79 Banks St, East Maitland. 4905 2144

Community activities are also available to which everyone is welcome.

- ✿ **St Joseph’s Craft Group** – Monday’s during school term, McAuley Room, 9.30am to 1.00pm. For more information please contact 4933 5840/ 4933 4586 or just come along.
- ✿ **Seniors Social Group for widows singles or divorced** – next outing please contact Barbara 4934 3862.
- ✿ **East Maitland Catholic Women’s League** – meet first Thursday of the month at 2pm in the Therry Centre. **PLEASE NOTE NEW TIME/VENUE**. Enquires: Mary Kearney 4930 0863.
- ✿ **The Library** – Spiritual books available for loan to parishioners – located in prayer/baby room at right of church.
- ✿ **St Vincent de Paul Society- Day Conference** meets fortnightly on Wednesday mornings (9.30-11am) in the Catherine McAuley Room. **Night Conference** meets weekly on Wednesdays at 6pm in the Catherine McAuley room. The Society is always in need of new members.



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Sacred Heart, Campbell's Hill - We give thanks to God for the generosity of a Parishioner who granted us enough money in their 'Last Will', to purchase some new carpet. The carpet has brought new light to our Church.

We also have purchased 2 x Garden seats for the side of the Church donated by another parishioner.

We are feeling so blessed that people are so generous.

For the people who attend our Mass centre we ask that you please pray for all our benefactors and may they rest in the arms of our God. May they look down on us and be pleased with what we have done with their donations.

We also give thanks for those who cleaned the palm fronds in the yard and made it look beautiful.

In the coming weeks we will be giving out a document for the 'Proclaimers of the Word and Extraordinary Ministers of Communion'. As directed by Father Paul. Those people in these Ministries are asked to please read this. We will discuss it for a short time after Mass in another 2 weeks.

Holy Family, Largs -

Holy Family Largs hope everyone across the Region has had a peace-filled Christmas Season. Also taking time to rest and share this special time with family and friends. Whilst it can be a really busy and hectic time, it is good also, to remember that it is the reason Christmas is such a blessed time is because it is when Jesus became fully human as an example of how we should live and as an example to each of us how to love each other.

There is not a lot to report, except to say that the Christmas celebrations at Largs went off very well. Some of the events were held for the first time. We mentioned in the December edition that there was a gathering on 15th December to install the Nativity into the Church and then later in the day a Community gathering that included a sausage sizzle, Carol singing and the turning on of the lights in and around the Church. Fr John also attended and gave a blessing to those gathered.



7pm Wednesday evenings - Holy Family Youth Mass
Parish Team meets on the fourth Tuesday of the month. All welcome.
(Please note there is no Meeting in December or January)

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

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

Quick Tip:

Prayer can be thought of according to the acronym ACTS:

A-Adoration

C-Contrition (sorrow for sins)

T-Thanksgiving

S-Supplication (special intentions)

Parish News - OLOL Beresfield

CIRCLE DANCING: Would you like to join a Circle Dancing Group? Circle dancing is probably the oldest known dance formation and was part of community life from when people first started to dance. Dancing in a circle is an ancient tradition common to many cultures for marking special occasions, rituals, strengthening community and encouraging togetherness.



Please join us in the Parish meeting room on the **1st Saturday of each month from March to October from 11.00am-1.00pm.**

NOTE: Circle Dancing will be on again in 2020!! Save the dates!!

A member of our Parish will lead us in a very gentle circle dance. To best enjoy this spiritual and meditative activity wear loose and comfortable clothing. Donation \$10.00 /person / session. Funds raised from this Parish Activity will go to our Special Purpose Account. We will also enjoy some morning tea together. Tea and coffee will be provided.

Please bring a plate to share. Everyone welcome.

Save the dates:

March 2020	April 2020	May 2020	June 2020	July 2020	August 2020	Sept 2020	Oct 2020
7th	4th	2nd	6th	4th	1st	5th	3rd

REFUNDABLE CANS / BOTTLES. Two wheelie bins are located outside the entrance of the church - at Mass times only. **Refundable type cans or bottles ONLY** (rinsed out first please) should be placed in the appropriately labelled bin, one bin for cans and one for bottles. The collected cans and bottles will be taken to the recycle refund collection station and the refund deposited into our Special Purpose Account.

OLOL LENDING LIBRARY OF SPIRITUAL BOOKS: Books of this kind are not always readily available, so this is an opportunity for any parishioners to have easy access to material which can satisfy curiosity and enrich understanding and appreciation of our shared faith. The books are available at the front of the Church on Saturday nights before and after Mass.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES: A huge thank you to everyone who contributed to our 2019 Christmas services. Our Christmas Mass was celebrated on Christmas Eve at 6.00pm. It was a beautiful celebration!! The church was overflowing, with over 500 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.

THE 2020 OLOL SCHOOL TARRO OPENING SCHOOL MASS WILL BE HELD ON OUR LADY OF LOURDES FEAST DAY – TUESDAY 11TH FEBRUARY AT 9.30AM AT THE SCHOOL:



This year the [OLOL School Tarro opening school Mass](#) will be celebrated on Tuesday 11th February, the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. The parish community is invited to join with the children and teachers of OLOL Tarro to worship at this parish Mass.



THE 2020 ST BEDE'S OPENING SCHOOL MASS WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 12TH FEBRUARY AT 10.00AM AT THE OLOL CHURCH BERESFIELD:

The parish community is invited to join with the children and teachers of St Bede's to worship at this parish Mass.

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 meet on an informal basis on the 4th Tuesday of each month from February to November. The next meeting will be on **Tuesday 25th February 2020 at 10.00am** in the Parish meeting room. You are warmly invited to join us.

PARISH PASTORAL TEAM MEETING: Next meeting - **Tuesday 11th February, in the Parish Meeting room, at 7.00pm**. All parishioners welcome.

Parish News - St Paul's Rutherford

COLLEEN CANNY REPORTING JANUARY 2020

December was very busy like most of our adjoining parishes during this time of the year. WE ARE NOW IN 2020!



The St Vincent de Paul conference met for their annual Christmas luncheon, which is always enjoyable and nice to catch up at this time in a social and relaxed space. The conference continues to work really hard to support the less fortunate within our community.



St Paul's primary school always very busy at this time, with graduation, presentation and final Farewell to our year six students. This year was particularly sad for me, as my grandson was leaving St Paul's to commence secondary schooling at St Joseph's College at Lochinvar.



Sadly the school will also see the departure of Mr Garnett, the school Principal, for extended leave, and Karli Chenery, the Spiritual Leader, they will be very sadly missed.



Stacey Mullen will be the Acting Principal until the return of Mr Garnett. The school is extremely fortunate to have Stacey as she certainly has given much to the school during the past year.



The Mini Vinnies were amazing in their visitation to the nursing homes, I can't tell you how much joy they gave the residents.

Recently I, with Sharon and Bradley, shared a pizza lunch with the Mini Vinnies and they spoke about their experience of being a Mini Vinnie. They said they had learnt to care and show respect for their fellow students. Their favourite thing was nursing home visitations. One of the Mini Vinnies said she would continue to wear her Vinnies badge when she entered high school.

They left as a legacy, a prayer book with many prayers for specific feast days and occasions, for each class room. Well done Mini Vinnies. St Paul's Primary School donated a large collection of groceries to support our people in need, can I say always needed.



This year the conference has reached out and visited some of our parishioners who are no longer able to attend Mass. One of our very kind parishioners donated Christmas cake and pudding and we were able to share this on our visitation. Deidre Watson, has, over the years continued this visitation, which is so needed for some of the people who are isolated.



Parish News - St Paul's Rutherford



We were saddened to hear that Ian Searston was retiring from his position of **Leader of the St Paul's Committee**. I thought I would do a small interview with Ian. He was born in 1947, his parents were John and Eileen Searston from Branxton. Ian attended St Brigid's Primary School and completed his education at Maitland Marist Brothers in 1963. He followed on at Newcastle University, where he completed a science degree, then attended Newcastle teachers college for a Diploma in Education as a Maths teacher. Appointments followed at Enmore Boys, Corrimal and Forbes High Schools. In 1975 he was appointed Maths Head teacher, Macintyre High School at Inverell, remaining there for 27 years until his retirement in 200.

Ian returned to Maitland and continued to work at Newcastle University, teaching a first year class Mathematics for seven years. In his retirement era he completed a doctorate in Mathematics (PHD). **I really don't think that retirement came in 2001!!!**

In his spare time he and his wife Lynn attend classical music concerts in Newcastle and Sydney. They also have had several trips overseas. The Parish has been very grateful for the time and effort he has contributed to St Paul's He always kept us updated on our seasons and weather. Tony Seamer will inherit the position, Tony -so lucky to have obtained this role, as it was highly sought after.!!!

I am not sure if I am grateful, for the request Ian offered me to commence our Rutherford News each month in the Chisholm Connection. No I can't say that is true it is interesting catching up with all of the news, within our church community.

Wishing everyone a very Happy New Year, for 2020

Parish News - Immaculate Conception Morpeth

The year 2019 concluded with the celebration of our Parish Feast Day and Christmas Community breakfast on Sunday 8th December. A special thanks to all those who contributed in any way to making this such a joyful celebration. The Corcoran Centre was a buzz with the one hundred plus attendees enjoying the festive delights, hopefully anticipating to be a winner of the lucky door prizes and of course the rowdy conversation which echoed throughout the Centre. On Monday the 9th December we were privileged to have Fr Velerian celebrate Mass for us on Feast of The Immaculate Conception.

"From little things big things grow". How true is this statement when we reflect on how our stamp collecting efforts assist the missionary works of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Peru . The following letter was received from Sr Helen Saunders who is the co-ordinator of this project.

"On behalf of Mary MacKillop Today", I thank you for your generous support in supplying and assisting with used stamps.

We've had another wonderful year, raising approximately \$65,000; such a great effort from many, many people!

From 2001 up until 2019 the total raised was \$378,000.

It is through your efforts in collecting your stamps that the legacy of "St. Mary MacKillop Today" continues to support our charity in Peru.

Don't forget to continue to keep your stamps and drop them off in the box as you enter the Church .We realise that there is a decline in the use of stamps with the take-up of email etc. but each one saved adds to the bundle from which big things grow.

Your parish team is busy working up the Spiritual and Social Calendar for 2020 which should be available early in February. Once again we will be holding our first Community breakfast in February so keep your ear to the ground and listen intently to the Sunday notices for the date which is yet to be confirmed.

ACTiv8 Youth

What is ACTiv8?

The Chisholm Region is blessed to have a youth ministry team that connects our young people with the Church. Throughout the Maitland-Newcastle diocese, ACTiv8 is certainly unique and an initiative that we, as a parish, need to preserve and support. The ACTiv8 Youth Ministry aims to provide a space for young people between the ages of 7 to 18. By participating in ACTiv8 youth groups and youth events, the young people in our parishes can develop lasting friendships and learn more about their Catholic faith in a fun and engaging environment. ACTiv8 comes directly from scripture where Jesus is about to ascend into heaven and promises his disciples that: *You will receive the power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witness in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8)*. Volunteers generously give their time and dedication to make ACTiv8 youth groups run smoothly.



Why is a youth ministry important?

But why is youth ministry important to our young people and, to us, as members of the Chisholm Region? Although parents are the primary spiritual influence for their children, a strong youth ministry plays also plays a vital role in the faith formation of young people. The connection to the Church that young people build through participation in youth group help to create parishes that are contemporary and vibrant places.



Volunteers in ACTiv8 Youth Ministry are well positioned to act as mentors and role models to young people. It is the volunteers that not only minister to the youth but also to their parents as they support the faith formation of young people within our parishes. Our young people also need community, particularly in the backdrop of our current society which is punctuated by uncertainty and disharmony. Volunteers in ACTiv8 Youth Ministries can lift our young people up, encourage them and show them how their uniqueness can be used to bring about positive change in themselves and in others. Youth groups and the volunteers involved are important because it is a place where young people can discover their gifts and begin to use these gifts to serve others.

So, what is in it for you?

Volunteering in youth ministry has many benefits, answering the mission of the Church is the most significant. Jesus calls us: *so you must go and make disciples of all nations. Baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Teach them to obey everything I have commanded you (Matthew 28.19-20)*. The many young people who attend youth group



are from a wide spectrum of backgrounds and stages in faith formation. Volunteers are well positioned to fulfil Jesus' call and to also use their unique gifts to support the young people in our parishes and also the wider community to be witnesses and to evangelise.

In our diocese, Bishop Bill Wright also calls us to be one body made of many parts. For the body to work effectively all parts are important and all must work together. St Paul would put it in different words: ... suppose the foot says, "I am not a hand. So I don't belong to the body." By saying this, it cannot stop being part of the body. And suppose the ear says, "I am not an eye. So I don't belong to the body." By saying this, it cannot stop being part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, how could it hear? ... (1 Corinthians 12:12-27).



ACTiv8 needs you!

ACTiv8 is currently seeking new volunteers to support this important mission of the Chisholm Region. If you are interested in being a part of the ACTiv8 team, we would love to hear from you! Every volunteer has something to offer and the gifts and talents of volunteers brought together to support the Chisholm Parishes makes ACTiv8 Youth Ministries wonderfully unique.

As an ACTiv8 volunteer you are able to positively influence the lives of young people. The vision for youth ministry in the Chisholm Region is to build a community of young disciples who encounter God, receive the power of the Holy Spirit, and go to be a witness of their faith in their daily lives. We can achieve this vision through engaging in and encouraging active participation.

By volunteering you have just given the most priceless gift anyone could have ever given – kindness, your valuable time and unconditional love. If you are interested please email Bec at rebecca.piefke@mn.catholic.org.au.

2020 Youth Groups recommence from Monday 3rd February

Mondays Rutherford – 6pm Junior Youth Group, 7.30pm LOW

Tuesdays East Maitland – 5.30pm Junior Youth Group, 7pm Youth Mass

Wednesdays Largs – 5.30pm Junior Youth Group, 7pm Youth Mass

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