



**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,

Fr Velerian D'Souza (Presbytery 4934 5783)

**Weekend Supply:**

Fr Lex Levey, Fr Maurie Cahill,

Deacon Gerard McCarthy

**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 500 429

**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

# CHISHOLM CONNECTION

## News from the Pews

### Message from Fr Paul O'Neill

Volume 9, Issue 11  
NOV/DEC 2019

My dear sisters and brothers,

Last Saturday over 400 of our diocesan community gathered at Hamilton for the 1st Session of the Maitland-Newcastle Diocesan Synod. Session 2 and Session 3 will be in November



2020 and November 2021. Our Diocesan Synod is wrapped around the National Plenary Council which will be held in 2 sessions, one in 2020 and one 2021. Synod means 'walking the journey together'. All of us who attended the Synod last Saturday were encouraged in our Catholic faith as we reflected together on the SIX themes of all the submissions that were made to the National Plenary Council. These themes were a response to the question, "What is the Holy Spirit saying to the Church in Australia at this time?" At the 5pm Mass at Sacred Heart Cathedral, Bishop Bill reminded us as a diocesan community that the centre of our faith is Jesus Christ. All baptised Christians are called to deepen their relationship with Christ and at the end of the Synod Mass, every church community in the Diocese was given a small bottle of holy water to take back to their church community as a reminder of the call of our baptism.

Bishop Bill has appointed Fr Velerian D'Souza to take charge of the parishes of Scone and Murrurundi. He will take up his appointment on 17th December. We thank Fr Velerian for his generous ministry among us over these past three months. We wish him every blessing as he goes to minister in the north-west of our diocese. He is really fulfilling his call as a missionary priest.

As we begin the season of Advent we recall what joy the coming of Christ into our world brings us. The lighting of the Advent candles over the four Sundays of Advent remind us that as we celebrate the birth of Christ that He is our light. As the end of the year approaches I know it is a hectic time for everybody, but during this season I hope we will find some time to be still and reflect on the beauty on the coming of Christ.

With love  
Fr Paul



**NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2019  
INSIDE YOU WILL FIND**

1-11	Message from Fr Paul; SVdP; Christmas in the Chisholm region; SOI 2020; History of Catholic Church in Maitland; SRE; RCIA; CWLA; Regional /Parish /Dio News;
12-15	DECEMBER SAINTS, FEASTS and CALENDAR
16-27	PARISH NEWS; ACTiv8 Youth
7, 10, 22, 28	Sponsors Advertisements



## CHRISTMAS APPEAL 2019



Thousands of parents across Australia are wondering how they'll afford to feed their children on Christmas Day, let alone put presents under the tree, Vinnies has launched its annual Christmas Appeal to support the one in five Australian children who go hungry each day, as well as their families.

The majority of people who came to us this year needed help just to afford food – not just the trappings but basic food to ensure they are not going hungry. This can often become worse at Christmas as other costs and expectations mount.

A recent report from the National Council of Social Services found that children under 15 years experience the highest rate of poverty of all age groups in NSW. Foodbank research has found a large number of children go hungry on any given day, and 11% of children go to bed without dinner at least once a week.

Parishioners of the Lower Hunter have been extremely generous in past years in donating to the **St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal**, which this year will be conducted in parish Churches during the weeks of Advent. Envelopes will be available in Churches for receiving donations. Donations can also be left at Vinnies Centres.

Parishioners of the East Maitland and Morpeth parishes are invited to contribute items for Christmas hampers, which will be distributed to needy families in the week leading up to Christmas.

We thank you in anticipation for your generous support.

Michael Healy  
Regional President

### Christmas 2019 in the Chisholm Pastoral Region

#### Regional Advent Reconciliation

Thursday 19th December - 7.00pm - Sacred Heart, New England Hwy, Campbell's Hill

#### Vigil Masses

- 6.00pm - Outdoor Regional Vigil - St Mary's Grounds, Maitland (Bent St, just off Grant St)
- 6.00pm - Our Lady of Lourdes, Cnr Anderson Dr & Delprat Ave, Beresfield (inside the church)
- 6.30pm - St Paul's, 10 Young St, Rutherford (inside the church)

#### Christmas Day Masses

- 7.15am - Immaculate Conception, Cnr George & James Sts, Morpeth
- 8.00am - Sacred Heart, New England Hwy, Campbell's Hill
- 8.20am - Holy Family, 11 John St, Largs
- 8.30am - St Joseph's, Cnr King St & New England Hwy, East Maitland
- 9.30am - St Patrick, 55 New England Hwy, Lochinvar
- 9.30am - St Columba's, Cnr Prince & Church Sts, Paterson

# Sacraments of Initiation 2020

## SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION INFORMATION

At our first parent meetings, which were held 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> November, 125 families attended to hear of our Sacraments of Initiation process for 2020.

Our preparation is parish based, family centered and school supported so it is important to have our families fully informed. Parents heard what is involved and they were asked to think and pray about whether their child is ready to proceed with receiving Reconciliation, Confirmation and First Communion in 2020. Children are to be in Year 3 in 2020.

In February 2020 we will be holding Session 2 where the parents will be enrolling their children to the 2020 Sacramental programme. The families who attended Session 1 will be contacted via email with a reminder and enrolment details two weeks prior to the below dates.

**7pm Tuesday on 4<sup>th</sup> February at St Paul's Church Rutherford - OR**

**7pm Wednesday on 5<sup>th</sup> February at St Joseph's Church East Maitland - OR**

**7pm Thursday on 6<sup>th</sup> February at Our Lady of Lourdes Beresfield.**

**It will be necessary for at least one parent to attend this Parent information session for their child to receive the sacraments next year**

**In Session 2 parents will be required to produce a copy of their child's Catholic baptism certificate for the child to be registered in the preparation process.**

Please contact the parish office on 49338918 or [SOlchisholm@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:SOlchisholm@mn.catholic.org.au) if you require more information

These meetings are for any parents from the eight churches of our region:

**Our Lady of Lourdes**, Cnr Delprat Avenue & Anderson Drive, Beresfield

**St Joseph's**, Cnr King Street & Newcastle Road, East Maitland

**Immaculate Conception**, Cnr George & James Streets, Morpeth

**Holy Family**, 11 John Street, Largs

**St Columba's**, Cnr Church & Prince Streets, Paterson

**Sacred Heart**, New England Highway, Campbell's Hill

**St Paul's**, 10 Young Street, Rutherford

**St Patrick's**, 55 New England Highway, Lochinvar



### HOLY FAMILY PRAYER

FATHER, help us to live as the Holy Family, united in respect and love. Bring us to the joy and peace of Your eternal home.

Grant this through our Lord JESUS CHRIST, Your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, ONE GOD, forever and ever. Amen.

**JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH**

**save us, protect us.**



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

The establishment of the Catholic Church in the Maitland area was achieved by a dedicated band of pioneer priests who had the courage to leave their homelands and answer God's call to minister to the faithful who by their own means, or by others, came to call Australia, home.

We will now look at the general expansion of the Church in the Maitland area.

When Fr Mahony died in 1845, St Joseph's, East Maitland parish came under the care of newly ordained Fr Patrick Magennis, a native of Kilkenny Ireland. Fr Lynch of Maitland became the senior priest in the area and was given the title of Dean.

Fr Magennis remained at East Maitland until 1849, when Fr John Kenny became priest in charge.

Fr John Kenny was born in Fife, Scotland in 1816 and was educated by the Benedictines. He came to Australia with Bishop John Bede Polding in 1835. He began his work in Hobart as a catechist to organize and teach in a Catholic School and in March 1836 he came to Sydney where he was ordained in 1843 becoming assistant priest at Queanbeyan. Before coming to East Maitland in 1848, he worked in parishes at Penrith, McDonald River and Geelong.

Fr Kenny remained at East Maitland until 1866 when Dr James Murray arrived. Dr Murray took up residence at St Joseph's and Dean Lynch continued serving his area in the west and north of Maitland. Fr Doyle arrived at Singleton in 1846 to lend assistance to Dean Lynch. Fr Rigney replaced Fr Doyle in 1848.

The Titular See of Maitland, consisting of the Borough of East Maitland only, was created by Apostolic Brief in 1847 at the same time as the Dioceses of Melbourne, Adelaide and Perth were also established. In the Apostolic Brief are inserted the words: "We do not wish the See of Maitland, set up in the city of that same name, to have any other territory." Dr Charles Henry Davis was appointed as Bishop of Maitland and Co-adjutor Bishop of Sydney. Bishop Davis never visited his Titular See.

When Archbishop Polding visited Rome in 1854, it was proposed to expand the Titular See of Maitland into a full Diocese, but while this proposal was still under consideration, word was received from Australia of the death of Bishop Davis, whereupon the Archbishop advised that no further steps should be taken in the matter *for the present* and that Maitland, with its territory, should continue to be administered from Sydney.



*Charles Henry Davis OSB was Bishop of Maitland and Co-adjutor to Archbishop Polding from 1848 until his death in 1854. He was renowned for his sanctity, scholarship and capability. He was a talented musician, who took charge of the Saint Mary's Cathedral choir and played the organ during High Mass.*

By 1854, Fr Dowling in Newcastle had an assistant priest and other priests in the area included Fr C Quinn at Raymond Terrace, Fr Rigney at Singleton, Fr Tim McCarthy at Armidale, Fr H. Woolfrey and Fr W. X. Johnson at McDonald River and Brisbane Water, Fr Kenny at East Maitland and the Dean of the whole territory was Fr John T Lynch.

East Maitland had grown to include 1,000 Catholics by 1855 with a further 600 residing in the area of Raymond Terrace, Hexham, Stroud and the Manning River. Catholic schools were located at West Maitland, East Maitland, Morpeth, Singleton, Raymond Terrace, Newcastle, Miller's Forest, Black Creek and Rosebrook.

The 1862 Catholic Directory listed new churches at Singleton, Page, Muswellbrook, Scone, Merriwa and Jerry's Plains. It was also at this time that Dean Lynch was completing St John's at Maitland with the addition of the tower. The description read "*St John's Church is now completed; the ceiling is of highly polished cedar, the gallery is handsome and commodious and the chapel is at once ornamental and graceful in its proportions.*"

It was not until 14<sup>th</sup> November 1865 that a new Bishop, the most Rev. James Murray, was appointed to the Diocese of Maitland. The Papal Brief defining the boundaries of the Diocese was issued on 14<sup>th</sup> April 1866. Bishop Murray, who was born in County Wicklow, Ireland in 1828, was now free to proceed to his Episcopal city of Maitland, but before doing so he returned to Ireland in the hope of obtaining some more priests for his new Diocese. He also arranged for a community of Dominican Sisters to follow him to Australia.

Bishop Murray set sail for Australia from the port of Cork on the ship "Empress" on 21<sup>st</sup> July 1866. He was accompanied by Fr Doyle, who was coming to the Diocese of Maitland with the Bishop, eight other priests and sixteen nuns, as well as the Bishop of Bathurst. The voyage took 91 days, arriving in Sydney on 22<sup>nd</sup> October and the group was given a tremendous Irish welcome.



**The most Rev James Murray D.D.**

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

The new Bishop of Maitland arrived in East Maitland on 29<sup>th</sup> October 1866 and took possession of St John's Church as his Cathedral on 1<sup>st</sup> November.

Bishop Murray said his first Mass in Maitland in St Joseph's Church, East Maitland and administered the fledgling Maitland Diocese from St Joseph's Presbytery until 1871 when he moved to Victoria St, West Maitland.

Bishop Murray made an immediate impact on his diocese which stretched from the coast near Newcastle to beyond the Darling and north almost to Brisbane and was served by only six priests and a tiny community of nuns. By 1878 he had built up his staff of priests to twenty-five; established convents at Maitland, Newcastle, Singleton, Tamworth and Gunnedah; founded an orphanage; an institution for deaf girls; a boys' college; and many denominational schools. Bishop Murray's charitable works made him popular with his people.

By 1887 the Maitland diocese was reduced to cover only the Hunter, Manning and Hastings valleys.

By the mid 1890's Bishop Murray's health was deteriorating and in 1897 he chose Fr Patrick Vincent Dwyer as coadjutor bishop, thereby ensuring that his pastoral policies would survive him. He died at West Maitland on 9<sup>th</sup> July 1909 and was buried in the Catholic cemetery at Campbell's Hill.

*to be continued.....*

*Resources used: Centenary-The Diocese of Maitland 1866-1966 by Rev Harold Campbell  
Australian Dictionary of Biography, Volume 2, (MUP), 1967  
Australian Dictionary of Biography, Volume 5, (MUP), 1974*

## State School Religious Education

### End of Year Mass



On Tuesday night, 12 November, children from the local state schools gathered to celebrate Mass and the end of the school year. Millicent, a grade 4 student from East Maitland Public School, was the first reader. "I had not been a reader before," said Millicent, "so I was nervous. I stood in the pulpit and noticed everyone was listening, and then I felt fine.

I learnt new things at the Mass. Father Paul explained that his white robe stands for his Baptism, and his red robe for a martyr who was killed because he believed in Jesus. After the reading I

sat next to Marcus (he is in my grade.) Margaret Johnson, his grandmother, his brother Jack and I, carried up the offertory gifts. After the Mass we had a party, and I met lots of new people. The food was delicious. I'd like to attend next year's Mass."



### Classroom Teaching

Melissa Fielding has just finished her first year as an SRE teacher. She taught a small kindergarten class at East Maitland Public School. Melissa enjoys craft. Earlier in the year you would have seen pictures of the cardboard Noah's Ark that the children made. Melissa has been busy again. The children took home Nativity scenes, complete with magnets – decorations for the family fridge.

**Scripture classes begin again next March.** If you have half an hour to spare each week please contact the parish office or Jan Healy (49331302.)  
Many hands make light work!



# Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA)



Another person has recently joined the twelve "enquirers" that have commenced their initiation journeys thus far. One person previously baptised Anglican took part in the Rite of Welcome at Beresfield Parish on 16th November.

Four more previously baptised people were Welcomed on Sunday 24th November. One at Campbell's Hill and three at East Maitland.

Also on the 24<sup>th</sup>, two people who have not been baptised were "Accepted into the Catechumenate", another Rite, meaning they have reached a certain point in their faith journey into joining the Catholic Church. There was one person at Morpeth and the other one at East Maitland. Likewise those people Welcomed to the parish communities are fulfilling steps on their journeys.

As faithful communities, please welcome, pray, and support them for the rest of their journey to full communion into the Catholic Faith.

**At the 6pm Sunday Mass at East Maitland, Emellia Sexton, one of our previously baptised Candidates was fully initiated into the Catholic Church by being Confirmed and receiving her First Holy Communion.**



Further Rites of Acceptance and Welcome are being planned for December for the remaining people. The final meeting night for the year is on 11th December where we will have our Christmas Liturgy.

The weekly meetings resume after the end of the school holidays on 29th January, 2020. May Christmas bring you Joy, grant you Hope and give you Love to share.

*Wayne Smith  
On behalf of the Chisholm Region RCIA Team*



# Catholic Women's League Australia

**Catholic Women's League Australia is a member of the World Union of Catholic Women's Organisation**

**The World Union of Catholic Women's Organisations (WUCWO)** was founded in 1910 and now represents almost 100 Catholic women's organisations worldwide, active in around 60 countries including all continents and some island states, counting on more than eight (8) million Catholic women of every walk of life. **WUCWO's** aim is to promote the presence, participation and co-responsibility of Catholic women in society and the Church, in order to enable them to fulfil their mission of evangelisation and to work for human development, particularly in increasing educational opportunities, poverty reduction and the advancement of human rights beginning with the fundamental right to life.

In 2006, **WUCWO** was erected by the Holy See as a Public International Association of the Faithful. This canonical status honours the efforts of Catholic women active in our Union at the parish, diocesan, national and international levels.

**WUCWO** unites Catholic women in the world to give them a voice on the international platform. Since their inception, **WUCWO** has held Consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), the Human Rights Council (Geneva), the FAO (Rome), participatory status at the Council of Europe (Strasbourg) and is an official partner of UNESCO (Paris).

**WUCWO** examines the critical issues that have an impact on the lives of women internationally and promotes the dignity of every human being.

**WUCWO** coordinates the activities of Catholic women's organisations worldwide, serving as a necessary link between them and the network of international organizations and faith communities.

Through them, **WUCWO** helps train those who are without resources or opportunities, provides victims of violence and poverty a means of subsistence for them and their children and helps enable them to fulfill their mission of evangelisation and to work for human development.

**WUCWO's** principal areas of activity are:

- Promote the formation of women in order for them to face contemporary challenges
- Foster awareness and respect of cultural diversity
- Promote and coordinate the activities of Member Organisations at the international level and represent them in international bodies
- Network with other international organisations and faith communities for the respect of human rights, especially those of women
- Encourage ecumenical and interreligious dialogue.

Visit [wucwo.org](http://wucwo.org)

Further information [cwlamn214@gmail.com](mailto:cwlamn214@gmail.com) or 0409 300 192





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# 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 5th January 2020 (After Youth Mass)  
Sunday 2nd February 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.**

<b>Chisholm Connection</b>		
<b>Deadline &amp; Distribution Dates 2019</b>		
<b>ISSUE</b>	<b>EDITORIAL DEADLINE</b>	<b>DISTRIBUTION DATE</b>
<b>JANUARY</b>	<b>17th January</b>	<b>25th/26th Jan 2020</b>
<b>For enquiries please contact 4933 8918/email chisholm@mn.catholic.org.au (Please be aware these dates could change)</b>		

*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. Christmas stock, Advent candles and a great range of Christmas books-Christmas stories, colouring books and Christmas activity books for all ages of children.

†**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.

†**EAST MAITLAND, MORPETH & BERESFIELD** all have on sale Columban Calendars (\$7) and Christmas Cards (\$6 pk 10).

†**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.



# What's Happening in the Chisholm Region/Diocese

## † **NEWCASTLE AND HUNTER MULTICULTURAL CHORAL SOCIETY CHRISTMAS CONCERT.**

The 42nd Annual Christmas concert from around the world will be held on **Sunday 1st December at 7pm at Sacred Heart Cathedral, Hunter Street Newcastle West.** Many renowned choirs and individuals take part in this annual event including communal singing. Free admission, a collection plate to go around to cover the nights expenses. All are welcome to attend. The concert finishes at around 9.45pm. To learn more, contact the PR officer Joop de Wit: [multiculturalchoralsociety@gmail.com](mailto:multiculturalchoralsociety@gmail.com) or P 4954 5227.

## † **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 6th December 2019.** All welcome.



On Friday night 6th December all are invited to the grounds of beautiful Closebourne to celebrate the annual Combined Churches Christmas Carols. The evening begins at 6pm with a free sausage sizzle, lollies for the kids with a visit from Santa. Just bring along your picnic and chair as you join in the Ecumenical spirit so evident in Morpeth. Make it a night for the whole family!

## **Volunteers Thanksgiving Mass and Supper**

**Date:** Thursday 5th December 2019  
**Time:** 6.00pm  
**Location:** St John's Chapel Maitland followed by supper in St John's Hall

*We hope to see you all there, so we can say a big Thank You!*

4933 8918 Chisholm Pastoral Region

## **VINNIES CHRISTMAS APPEAL.** St Vincent de

Paul will conduct their Christmas Appeal over two weekends – **8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> December.**

**EAST MAITLAND AND MORPETH** parishioners are invited to donate items for Christmas hampers to be donated the week before Christmas.

## **JESUS LIGHT OF THE WORLD** CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS



at  
**HOLY FAMILY CHURCH LARGS**



## **COMMUNITY GATHERING**

**WHEN** 5pm, Sunday 15th December, 2019  
**WHERE** Church Hall, Cnr Church & John Sts, Largs  
**WHAT'S ON** Sausage sizzle; tea & coffee provided  
Music and entertainment provided  
Friendship and fun  
Turning on the lights at 7.30pm  
Donation \$5 per head - \$10 per family

## **EVERYONE WELCOME**

**WHAT TO BRING!** *Your Family*  
*Your Friends*  
*A share salad, cake or slice*  
*Your esky fully stocked*  
*Christmas spirit*

All enquiries contact Mick Daffy 40508120 / [mickdaffy@bigpond.com](mailto:mickdaffy@bigpond.com)

*Carols in the Cloister return this year to St Joseph's Chapel New England Highway Lochinvar on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December starting at 6:30pm.*

*All are welcome to come and be immersed in the music and spirit of Christmas. Celebrate the reason for the season. Stay and enjoy light refreshments and good company.*

**CHRISTIAN FORMATION COURSE (CFC) 2020** will run again in the Diocese. A flyer has been placed in church porches and contains information about the course and the Expression of Interest Form. In a world of online learning the CFC offers face-to-face formation in the context of community and via a process of reflective dialogue. If you are interested please take one of the flyers.

# What's Happening in the Chisholm Region/Diocese

## MARKET/CAR BOOT SALE - Saturday 14th December 8.30am-1.30pm

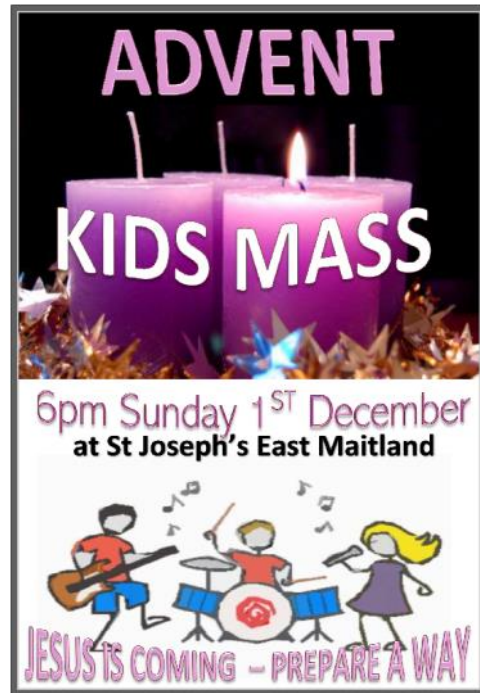
Therry Centre Hall and lower driveway. East Maitland Rotary Club sausage sizzle, parish cake stall, plant sale etc. Join us to pick up a bargain and help raise funds to repair the Therry Centre. If you are interested in being a stall holder - \$20 per space - please contact Judy 4934 8232 or the regional office 4933 8918.

**St Paul's Catholic & St Christopher's Anglican parish communities** - invite you to their combined Christmas Carols evening 7pm, Sunday **15th December** at St Christopher's church, Gillies St, Rutherford. **ALL WELCOME.**

**Simbang Gabi** - In preparation for the Solemnity of the Lord's birth, novena Masses will be celebrated at 7.15pm from **15th to 23rd December, Sacred Heart Cathedral, 841 Hunter St, Newcastle West.** The Christmas novena Masses, also known as Simbang Gabi to Filipinos, is a long tradition brought by the Spanish Friars in the Philippines in 1669. They are in honour of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Expectant Mother of God, and serve as a preparation for the commemoration of the Birth of Our Lord and Saviour. All are welcome. Supper follows each Mass.

†**Walk the Camino 2020.** Two Catholic Mission Pilgrimages: Portuguese Camino (May 2020) and Camino Francés (September-October 2020). Small group. Places limited. Phone Sr Veronica Rosier, OP (0451 387 906). [www.catholicmission.org.au/camino2020](http://www.catholicmission.org.au/camino2020)

†**A Profoundly Rewarding Mission** - Working in Education, Health and Trades? Assist to reduce poverty in overseas communities by sharing your skills. Mutual development assured! There are FIVE places left on Palms Australia's January 4th - 12th Orientation Course. **You must apply for a position beginning any time in 2020.** Call or text 0422 4PALMS (M-F). [palms.org.au](http://palms.org.au).



**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.



## Merry Christmas

Wishing everyone peace and joy this Christmas and a safe and happy holiday. Thank you for your contributions and support throughout the year. We look forward to a happy and newsworthy 2020. Regards from the Team at the Chisholm Connection.



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The Future You've Earned!

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Phone: 4932 1901 Email: [sales@walkagrangec.com.au](mailto:sales@walkagrangec.com.au)

# What's Happening in the Chisholm Region/Diocese



The Catholic Bishops of Australia have announced a National Prayer Campaign for the Drought. People across the country are encouraged to pray for the gift of rain, for people affected by the drought and to provide practical support, where possible. The Bishops note that large parts of the country are directly affected by the drought, but the impact is national –

and so should the response be national. Access resources and find out more at: [www.catholic.org.au/drought](http://www.catholic.org.au/drought) or you can donate online at [www.donate.vinnies.org.au/appeals-nsw-vinnies-drought-appeal-nsw](http://www.donate.vinnies.org.au/appeals-nsw-vinnies-drought-appeal-nsw)

## 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](#)

**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.



## Sydney Summer School of Evangelisation 2020

What?

A week long summer camp/retreat for young Catholics 16-35.

When?

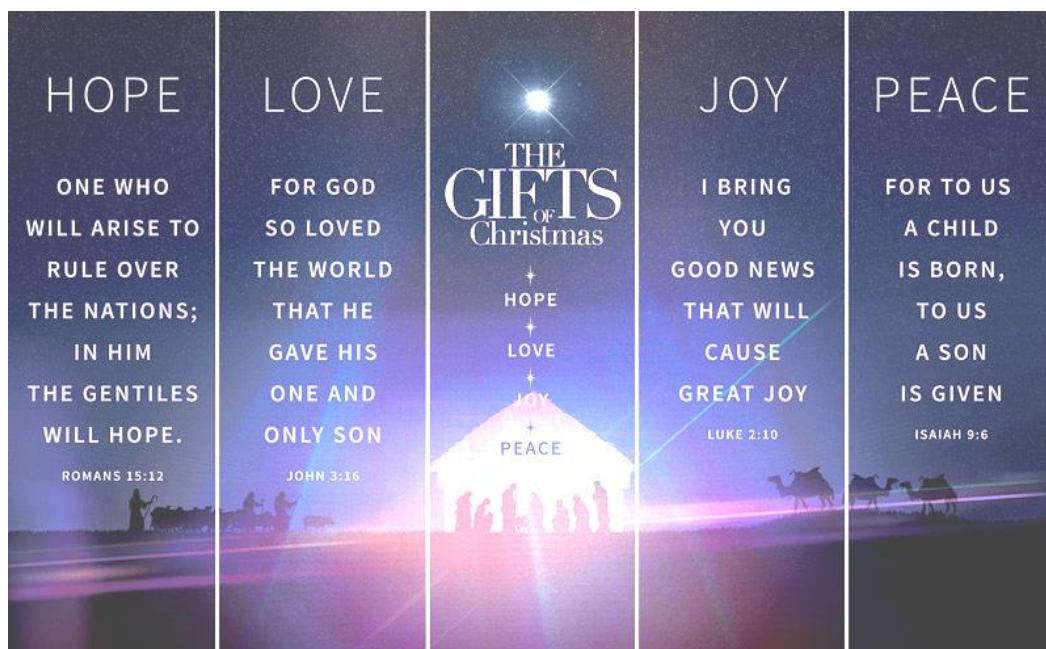
13th-19th January 2020

Where?

NEW LOCATION of Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville.

**DON'T MISS OUT!**

[www.summerschool.org.au](http://www.summerschool.org.au)

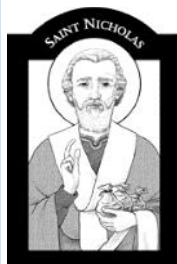
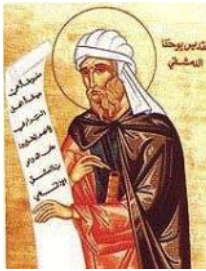


# Saints and Feasts in December 2019



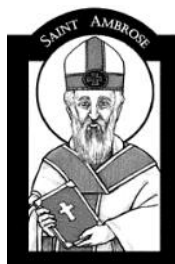
**3/12/19 ST FRANCIS XAVIER, priest**, born in Spain in 1506 and studied at the University of Paris. He met St Ignatius of Loyola and joined his group of disciples who found a new religious order; the Jesuits. Preaching in foreign missions became a fundamental aim of the Jesuits and in 1541, he sailed to Goa in India. He worked and lived with the poor people in every place he visited; from India and Ceylon to Japan and the Malay peninsula. During his ten years as a missionary, he is believed to have converted many thousands to Christianity. He is recognised as the patron saint of foreign missions.

**4/12/19 ST JOHN DAMASCENE, priest and doctor of the church**, was a learned theologian who carefully gathered together and transmitted to us the teaching of the Greek Fathers, and is thus one of the most trustworthy witnesses to oriental tradition. He also wrote many liturgical hymns still in use today. St. John Damascene died in 749. Leo XIII proclaimed him a Doctor of the universal Church in 1890.



**6/12/19 ST NICHOLAS** was a 4th century bishop of Myra in Turkey and little is known about his life other than myths and legends. One such story tells of St Nicholas giving three young women a bag of gold each for their marriage dowries, in order to save them from prostitution. And in another, he is said to have brought back to life three boys who had been murdered. In the low countries of Europe, his popularity as a patron of children led to the custom of giving children presents on his feast day. Then later, Dutch Protestants living in North America combined this custom with the Nordic legend of a magician who rewarded good children with presents and punished those who were naughty. This new super-legend gave rise to the much beloved Santa Clause.

**7/12/19 ST AMBROSE** was born at Trier in 334 AD. While practising law he was appointed governor of the province of Aemilia and Liguria. Four years later when the see of Milan became vacant, St Ambrose was chosen as the new bishop, despite the fact that he was not even baptised. He reluctantly accepted the position, was baptised, ordained a priest and then installed as bishop. In 390 AD, after Emperor Theodosius ordered the savage massacre of many people, St Ambrose impressed upon the Emperor to perform a public penance for this act of cruelty. St Ambrose is listed as one of the four great Latin doctors of the church. He was a great orator who gave sermons that offered practical teachings for his people. He was also the first teacher in the West to make significant use of hymns as a popular means of praise.



**8/12/19 IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY.** Immaculate Conception, according to the teaching of the Catholic Church, was the conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary in her mother's womb free from original sin. The Immaculate Conception is commonly confused with the doctrine of the Incarnation and the virgin birth of Jesus, though the two deal with separate



subjects. The Catholic Church teaches Mary was conceived by normal biological means, but her soul was acted upon by God (kept "immaculate") at the time of her conception. Although the belief that Mary was sinless and conceived immaculate has been widely held since Late Antiquity, the doctrine was not dogmatically defined until 1854, by Pope Pius IX in his papal bull *Ineffabilis Deus*. The Catholic Church celebrates the Feast of the Immaculate Conception on December 8; in many Catholic countries, it is a holy day of obligation or patronal feast, and in some a national public holiday.

**11/12/19 POPE ST DAMASUS I 306-384.**

All lovers of Scripture have reason to celebrate this day. Damasus was the pope who commissioned Saint Jerome to translate the Scriptures into Latin, the Vulgate version of the Bible. Damasus was a sixty-year-old deacon when he was elected bishop of Rome in 366. His reign was marked by violence from the start when another group decided to elect a different pope. Both sides tried to enforce their selections through violence. Though the physical fighting stopped, Damasus had to struggle with these opponents throughout his years as pope. Damasus may not have won this battle directly, but he won the war by initiating works that outlasted all his opponents. Not only did he commission the Vulgate translation but he also changed the liturgical language of the Church from Greek to Latin. He worked hard to preserve and restore the catacombs, the graves of the martyrs, and relics.



**12/12/19 OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE** is a title of the Virgin Mary associated with a celebrated pictorial image housed in the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City. Mexican national identity is entwined with that of Guadalupe. Official Catholic accounts state that on the morning of 9th December, 1531, Juan Diego saw an apparition of a young girl at the Hill of Tepeyac, near Mexico City. The girl asked that a church be built in her honour and from her apparition Juan Diego recognised her as the Virgin Mary. After recounting his story the Archbishop of Mexico City instructed him to ask the lady for a miraculous sign. The first was to heal Juan's uncle. The virgin told Diego to gather flowers and, although December was very late in the growing season Diego found Castilian roses, not native to Mexico on the hilltop. The Virgin arranged these in his peasant cloak (tilma). When Juan Diego opened his cloak before the Bishop the flowers fell to the floor, and on the fabric was the image of the Virgin of Guadalupe. Juan Diego was canonised in 2002.

**13/12/19 ST LUCY** was a young woman from a wealthy Sicilian family who lived during the early fourth century. It is believed that her mother arranged for her to be married, but Lucy refused as she wanted to devote her life to serving Christ. She offered prayers at the tomb of St Agatha and her mother's illness was miraculously cured. She was eventually martyred during the persecution of Emperor Diocletian, but even in the face of death she showed great courage and faith in God. The name Lucy means 'light' and St Lucy is called upon as the



# Saints and Feasts in December 2019

patron saint of the blind.



**14/12/19 ST JOHN OF THE CROSS** was born into a poor Spanish family in 1542. After attending a Jesuit college, he joined the Carmelite Order, studied theology and was the ordained a priest at the age of 25. St Teresa of Avila encouraged him to join the Discalced Carmelite Reform, which provided two houses for friars. But after several years he was seized and imprisoned by the Calced Carmelite friars, who rejected the reform. St John of the

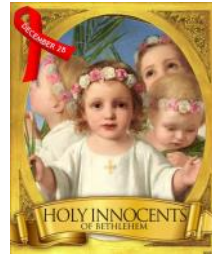
Cross was a mystic and poet, and it was during his captivity that he wrote some of his finest work. He eventually escaped and founded a college at Baeza. St John's is regarded as a Doctor of Mystical Theology, and was officially declared a Doctor of the Church in 1926.

**21/12/19 ST PETER CANISIUS** was born in Holland in 1521. He studied canon law, but later came to the conclusion that a legal career and marriage, as arranged by his father, were not to his liking. He joined the Jesuits and spent his time in prayer, study, teaching and care of the sick. St Peter was a prominent preacher and he attended the Council of Trent, then later taught at the first Jesuit school at Messina. He was later called to Rome to work with St Ignatius; the founder of the Jesuit order. After posts as rector and vice-chancellor of the University of Ingolstadt, he was sent to Vienna, which was in need of reform. In 1555, his famous Catechism was published and eventually translated into 15 languages during his lifetime. Considered one of the most influential theologians and writers of his time, he was declared a Doctor of the Church in 1925.



**26/12/19 ST STEPHEN** traditionally regarded as the first martyr of Christianity, was, according to the Acts of the Apostles, a deacon in the early church at Jerusalem who aroused the enmity of members of various synagogues by his teachings. Accused of blasphemy, at his trial he made a long speech fiercely denouncing the Jewish authorities who were sitting in judgement on him and was stoned to death.

**27/12/19 ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST** was a son of Zebedee and brother of James. John and James (the Greater) were apostles of Jesus, who referred to them as the 'sons of thunder'. He was a witness to many events including the Transfiguration, the raising of Jairus' daughter and the Agony in the Garden of Gethsemane. As he stood at the foot of the cross, John was told by Jesus to accept Mary as his adopted mother. John was the first to reach the tomb when told of the resurrection and the first to recognise the Risen Lord when he appeared to them at Lake Tiberias. Towards the end of his life, John wrote the fourth Gospel as a witness to the Divinity of Christ. He also wrote three epistles contained in the New Testament, and is traditionally, though perhaps not correctly, identified as the author of the Book of Revelation.



**28/12/19 THE HOLY INNOCENTS**, martyrs. It is easy for us to overlook the martyrdom, the murder, of these innocent infant boys. We can be certain that, in that little town of Bethlehem, the number of babies slaughtered would be relatively low. However, that low number by no means diminishes the treachery of Herod's decree or the murders committed by his Roman soldiers. This martyrdom of the Holy Innocents is indeed the forgotten Christmas story. Also easily lost is why these baby boys are called martyrs. Their blood was shed-poured out-on account of Jesus. That is why the liturgical colour for this day is red. They had not done or said anything to anger anyone, but Herod, out of his paranoia over this infant King and his fury over being tricked by the Wise Men and their going home by a different route after receiving a divine vision to do so, demanded that blood be shed at the expense of these infant boys. It is a most gruesome account in our text, and for that reason many of us choose to make this the forgotten Christmas story. However, theirs is a story that must be told.

**29/12/19 THE HOLY FAMILY.** The Gospels speak little of the life of the Holy Family in the years before Jesus' public ministry. All that is known are the sojourn in Egypt, the return to Nazareth, and the incident that occurred when the twelve-year-old boy accompanied his parents to Jerusalem. The parents were apparently observant Jews, making the pilgrimage to Jerusalem every year with other Jewish families (Luke. 2:41). The Feast of the Holy Family is a liturgical celebration in the Catholic Church in honour of Jesus of Nazareth, his mother, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and his foster father, Saint Joseph, as a family. The primary purpose of this feast is to present the Holy Family as a model for Christian families. It is a holy day of obligation only if it falls on a Sunday.



**31/12/19 ST SYLVESTER** was ordained by Pope St. Marcellinus during the peace that preceded the persecutions of Diocletian. He passed through those days of terror, witnessed the abdication of Diocletian and Maximian, and saw the triumph of Constantine in the year 312. Two years later he succeeded St. Melchiades as Bishop of Rome. He then sent four legates to represent him at the great Council of the Western Church, held at Aries. He confirmed its decision and imparted them to the Church. The Council of Nice was assembled during his reign, in the year 325, but not being able to assist at it in person, on account of his great age, he sent his legates, who headed the list of subscribers to its decrees, preceding the Patriarchs of Alexandria and Antioch. He was Pope for 24 years and eleven months. He died in the year 335.



©LiturgyHelp; Catholics Online

23/12 St John Kanty, priest; 29/12 St Thomas Beckett

# Chisholm Region Calendar

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
30	31		
SCHOOL HOLIDAYS			
12:00pm Holy Hour of Prayer & Exposition (EM)	7:00pm Mass (EM)		
2	3	4	5
12:00pm Holy Hour of Prayer & Exposition (EM)	9:30am St Joseph's Yr 6 Farewell/Advent Mass (EM)	9:30am Anointing Mass (Largs)	7:00am Mass (EM)
6:00pm Jr. Youth Group (Rutherford)	5:30pm Junior Youth Group (Therry Centre)	9:30am OLOL End of Year	10:00am St Joseph's School Mass (Lochinvar)
7:30pm LOW (Rutherford)	7:00pm Youth Mass (EM)	12:00pm Mass (St John's)	11:00am St Patrick's - End of Year Liturgy/Year 6
		5:30pm Junior Youth Group	6:00pm Volunteer's Mass/Supper (Maitland)
		6:30pm RCIA (Therry Centre)	
		7:00pm Youth Mass (Largs)	
		7:30pm Prayer Group (see EM)	
9	10	11	12
9:30am Feast Mass of the Immaculate Conception	9:30am Anointing Mass (OLOL - Beresfield)	10:30am St Peter's End of Year School Mass (Maitland)	7:00am Mass (EM)
12:00pm Holy Hour of Prayer & Exposition (EM)	10:30am Anointing Mass (East)	12:00pm Mass (St John's)	9:30am St John's Mass of Thanksgiving/Year 6 Graduation (Maitland)
6:00pm Jr. Youth Group (Rutherford)	10:30am Re-dedication of St	5:30pm Junior Youth Group	12:00pm St Paul's Year 6 Graduation/End of Year
7:30pm LOW (Rutherford)	5:30pm Junior Youth Group	6:30pm RCIA (Therry Centre)	6:00pm RFC meeting
	7:00pm Parish Team Meeting	7:00pm Youth Mass (Largs)	
	7:00pm Youth Mass (EM)	7:30pm Cenacle (see EM notice)	
16	17	18	19
12:00pm Holy Hour of Prayer & Exposition (EM)	5:30pm St Aloysius Year 6 Graduation Mass (St Joseph's, East Maitland)	10:00am Anointing Mass (Benhome)	SCHOOL HOLIDAYS →
6:00pm Jr. Youth Group (Rutherford)	7:00pm Mass (EM)	12:00pm Mass (St John's Chapel, Maitland)	7:00am Mass (EM)
7:30pm LOW (Rutherford)		6:30pm RCIA (Therry Centre)	9:00am St Mary's Staff Mass (St Mary's Chapel, Maitland)
		7:00pm Mass (Largs)	7:00pm 2nd Rite of Reconciliation for Advent (Sacred Heart, Campbell's)
		7:30pm Cenacle (see EM notice)	
23	24	25	26
SCHOOL HOLIDAYS			
12:00pm Holy Hour of Prayer & Exposition (EM)	6:00pm Christmas Vigil - OLOL (Beresfield)	7:15am Christmas Mass -	To 29 Jan →
	6:30pm Christmas Vigil St Paul's (Rutherford)	8:00am Christmas Mass - St	7:00am Mass (EM)
	6:30pm Regional Christmas Vigil (St Mary's School Grounds)	8:20am Christmas Mass - Holy	
		8:30am Christmas Mass - St	
		9:30am Christmas Mass - St	
		9:30am Christmas Mass - St	

FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
<p><i>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.</i></p>		<b>1 Dec</b> 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) <b>7.00pm Regional Baptism Talk</b>
<b>6</b> 7:00am Mass (EM) 8:00am Adoration (E/M 7am-Sat 9am) 9:30am Prayer of the Church (Beres. Church) 10:00am St Aloysius End of Year School Mass (Chisholm)	<b>7</b> 9:00am Mass + First Sat Devotions (EM) 2:30pm Cenacle (see EM notice) 5:00pm Mass (EM) 6:00pm Mass (Beresfield) 6:30pm Mass (C Hill)	<b>8</b> VINNIES CHRISTMAS APPEAL 7:15am Mass (Morpeth) 8:00am Mass (Rutherford) 8:20am Mass (Largs) 8:30am Mass (EM) 9:30am Mass (Lochinvar, Paterson) 11:00am Regional Baptisms (EM) 6:00pm Youth Mass (EM)
<b>13</b> 7:00am Mass (EM) 9:30am Prayer of the Church (Beres. Church) 11:00am Anointing Mass (Greenhill's Nursing Home)	<b>14</b> 8:00am Mass/Reconciliation (EM) 2:30pm Cenacle (see EM notice) 5:00pm Mass (EM) 6:00pm Mass (Beresfield) 6:30pm Mass (C Hill)	<b>15</b> VINNIES CHRISTMAS APPEAL 7:15am Mass (Morpeth) 8:00am Mass (Rutherford) 8:20am Mass (Largs) 8:30am Mass (EM) 9:30am Mass (Lochinvar, Paterson) 11:00am Regional Baptisms (EM) 6:00pm Youth Mass (EM)
<b>20</b> ← From 19 Dec 7:00am Mass (EM) 9:30am Prayer of the Church (Beres. Church) 10:30am Anointing Mass (OLMC)	<b>SCHOOL HOLIDAYS</b>	
	8:00am Mass (EM) 2:30pm Cenacle (see EM notice) 5:00pm Mass (EM) 6:00pm Mass (Beresfield) 6:30pm Mass (C Hill)	<b>22</b> 7:15am Mass (Morpeth) 8:00am Mass (Rutherford) 8:20am Mass (Largs) 8:30am Mass (EM) 9:30am Mass (Lochinvar, Paterson) 11:00am Regional Baptisms (EM) 6:00pm Youth Mass (EM)
<b>27</b> ← From 19 Dec 7:00am Mass (EM) 9:30am Prayer of the Church (Beres. Church)	<b>SCHOOL HOLIDAYS</b>	
	8:00am Mass (EM) 2:30pm Cenacle (see EM notice) 5:00pm Mass (EM) 6:00pm Mass (Beresfield) 6:30pm Mass (C Hill)	<b>29</b> 7:15am Mass (Morpeth) 8:00am Mass (Rutherford) 8:20am Mass (Largs) 8:30am Mass (EM) 9:30am Mass (Lochinvar, Paterson) 6:00pm Youth Mass (EM)

# Parish News - St Joseph's East Maitland

Our Christmas 'cuppa' will be served after Masses on the weekend of 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> December. If anyone is able to bring a plate to share it would be greatly appreciated. Please join us to help spread some Christmas cheer!

**MANGO FUNDRAISER** – Thank you to all who purchased mangoes. We wish especially to thank Patrick and Sally Markham for suggesting and organizing this fundraiser.

## MARKET/ CAR BOOT SALE



**SATURDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER**  
**8.30AM - 1.30PM**  
(SET UP FROM 7.30AM)

**THERY CENTRE HALL & LOWER DRIVEWAY**  
Cnr King St & New England Highway,  
East Maitland

East Maitland Rotary Club sausage sizzle,  
Parish cake stall, plant sale, etc.

Join us to pick up a bargain and help East Maitland Parish raise funds to repair the Therry Centre.

Register as a stallholder to sell your loved but no longer needed items- \$20 PER SPACE

More information phone 4933 8918  
or email [chisholm@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:chisholm@mn.catholic.org.au)



**THERY CENTRE REPAIR UPDATE** – The roof of the Therry Centre has been inspected and several issues have been identified. In the past some repairs have been carried out that may be causing issues within themselves. The lead flashing along the lower roof at the base of the windows is poorly installed and inadequate. Some roof battens are decaying/rotted. Some tiles are cracked below the tile that is overlapped concealing fault-recommendation is to lift each tile and inspect for cracks and batten condition. The tile valleys are full of debris and could be causing water leaks in heavy rain. Tiles are covered in Lichen concealing some cracked tiles and also eats into glazing on tiles, they need to be treated and pressure cleaned and damaged tiles replaced. The full ridge and gables require re bedding and re pointing. Some tiles have been replaced with smaller non matching tiles and several cracked tiles have been glued back together. The spreaders from the top roof allow water to run directly down the blocked tile valleys (especially over the kitchen) and may be contributing to the leaks in the kitchen. The estimated cost of these repairs is in excess of **\$30,000**. Priority repairs are the replacement of the already identified decaying/rotted battens and the pressure clean of the tiles above the kitchen area.

### **THE THERY CENTRE- 40 years old.**

Prior to the building of the Therry Centre many parish functions in the old days were held in what is now the old school building, others in the Literary Institute In Banks Street or in the school grounds which always depended on the weather. The possibility of having a Parish Centre was discussed at a General Parish Meeting held on 23 April 1978. The following notice appeared in the parish bulletin of 30 April – “About fifty parishioners attended the General Parish Meeting held last Sunday evening in the church. The Parish

*The Therry Centre, a monument to the Pioneer Priest*





# Parish News - St Joseph's East Maitland

Balance Sheet was discussed and many points of interest raised. The future needs of the parish, together with urgent maintenance projects were the subject of a great part of the meeting. After rather lengthy but fruitful debate it was resolved that the following motion be put to the meeting and the motion was carried – This meeting of parishioners of St Joseph's East Maitland agrees to the proposals for a new School/Parish Hall provided that the Parish Priest and Finance Committee and Parish Council are satisfied that the parish has the capacity to finance it.”

Thus began the parish gifting scheme renewal called 'On the Move'. The response of the parishioners set the wheels in motion for the new hall project.

The cost of construction was quoted at \$273,906 subject to rise and fall in accordance with the current building agreements and construction commenced in May of 1979. After a very wet couple of weeks when trucks were bogged in the school grounds, the drought of 1979 set in and work progressed quickly. The hall to be called the Therry Centre was officially blessed and opened by the Bishop of Maitland, the Most Rev Leo Clarke on 2 December, 1979.



*Voluntary workers contributed greatly to the successful completion of the Therry Centre*



The Therry Centre has proved to be an invaluable asset to the Parish and the Community of Maitland.

*Source: St Joseph's Parish, East Maitland 150 years*

**PARISH TEAM** – The Parish Team meet on the third Thursday evening of each month at 7.00pm in the Therry Centre. The next meeting will be held on 20<sup>th</sup> February, 2019. Due to study commitments our Finance Council Representative has stepped down. New team members are needed and nominations are open for Finance Council Representative. Please contact Judy 4934 8232 for more information.

**First Saturday Devotions 7th December** – 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 John Lovell. Morning tea will be served in the Therry Centre. Philip and Margaret Maloney just back from evangelizing in Ireland will give a presentation and healing ministry in the Therry Centre. Please come and experience the healing touch of Jesus who came that we may have life and have it in abundance.

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

- ✠ **First Friday Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 6<sup>th</sup> December** – following 7am Mass.
- ✠ **Anointing Mass** – The December Anointing Mass will be held on the second Tuesday of the month, **10<sup>th</sup> December** 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 morning, 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.

# Parish News - St Joseph's East Maitland

- \* **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, 7.30pm, Catherine McAuley Rooms, King St, East Maitland. 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.



Good news from heaven the angels bring,  
 Glad tidings to the earth they sing:  
 To us this day a child is given,  
 To crown us with the joy of heaven.  
 - Martin Luther

## FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTIONS – 7th DECEMBER - St Joseph's East Maitland



8.30am	Reconciliation & Holy Rosary
9.00am	Mass
9.45am approx.	Adoration & Reconciliation
10.00am approx.	Benediction
<b>Morning Tea served in the Therry Centre</b>	
<p>The presider will be Fr John Lovell. Morning tea will be served in the Therry Centre.</p> <p>Philip and Margaret Maloney, just back from evangelising in Ireland will give a presentation and healing ministry in the Therry Centre. Please come and experience the healing touch of Jesus who came that we may have life and have it in abundance.</p>	

There will be no formal First Saturday Devotions in January however personal devotions can be obtained by:  
 1. Confess and receive Communion; 2. Recite five decades of the Rosary; 3. Keep Our Lady company for 15 minutes while meditating on the fifteen Mysteries of the Rosary.

Philip and Margaret Maloney will again be part of our First Saturday Devotions in February as they continue their healing ministry. Thank you to all those who have been part of our Devotions this year.

Best wishes to you and your families for the Christmas Season.

**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. If you are interested in knowing more about becoming an SRE volunteer contact our Parish Office 49338918.

**Sacred Heart, Campbell's Hill** - As we look back on the last year there has been some good times and some not so good. It has been a sad time when some of our parishioners have returned to our Loving Father and their journey on this earth is over. We live with the Joyous Hope and Knowledge that there is a Glorious Resurrection awaiting us all.

We have welcomed new parishioners into our midst during this year, and we hope that they feel comfortable and very welcomed.

Thank you to all our Volunteers that have been vigilant in their Ministries over the last twelve months especially filling in when someone cannot do their ministry. It is great to know we have good back stops.

May Jesus send an abundance of 'Christmas Blessings' down upon everyone who have used their 'Time, Talent and Treasures' to keep our Church operating.

We are looking forward to the arrival of the new carpet in the Church and pray 'Thanks to our God' for the generosity of a Parishioner who made this possible.

We are Blessed to have our Priests who have come to celebrate Mass with us and we give 'Thanks' for their continued dedication and support.

Lastly but not the least we 'Thank' the Office staff who keep things going, and everyone on the right track. May they be rewarded one day in a big way!

*May the Blessings of the Christmas Season be with you all and everyone keeps safe and well.*

## Holy Family, Largs -



We are very happy at Holy Family to be able to contribute to the Chisholm Connection. This allows others in the Region to keep up to date with what might be happening within our Community.

There is always much joy in the Church when we are privileged to witness a Baptism during the Sunday Liturgy. On 25th August Baby Theo McCormack was welcomed into the Community and received the initial step in the Sacraments of Initiation. Mum Ali, Dad Ryan and Big Brother Hugh were joined by Godparents Luke and Tegan Cunningham and many family and friends for this special occasion. It was wonderful to have many young families present and they certainly brought life and vibrancy to the Liturgy.



We are also aware that children across our Region will begin their preparation for the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Eucharist later this month and we keep them and their families in our Prayers. As the preparation gets underway we might request that members of our Largs' Community actually pray for and 'adopt' individual children and their family to walk this journey with them.



Our Parish Assembly was the last for the Region and held on 29th September. Given the size of our Community there was a very good attendance. Working through the agenda, Fr Paul responded to a number of wide-ranging questions and comments on the current and future direction of our region. The Assembly was followed by a sausage sizzle lunch.

Towards the end of September, a "bring and share" lunch was held at Terry and Catherine O'Brien's home. There were about 25 people who were able to make it and there was lots of yummy food and good fellowship enjoyed by all. Thanks again to the O'Brien's for their wonderful hospitality.



## Parish News - Maitland: (Sacred Heart Campbell's Hill - Holy Family Largs - St Columba's)

In an attempt to further build Community, there have been several initiatives put forward to help the celebration of Christmas this year become a more Community-focused event. Some ideas are decorating of the Church, finding ways to engage with the kids, extra lighting in and around the Church, while having an eye to helping those less fortunate at this significant time of year. Some events and dates are now proposed as follows:

**SUNDAY 15th DECEMBER 8.20am Mass** will include the installation of the Nativity Scene. That afternoon, there will be a gathering in the Hall with a sausage sizzle, music and entertainment. This will conclude at 7.30pm with turning on the lights that will illuminate the Church/surrounds for the Christmas period.

**WEDNESDAY 25th DECEMBER 8.20am Christmas Day Mass** will be followed by a Cuppa and cake.



A small band of (merry) men have been working hard installing a new (second hand and FREE) kitchen into the Parish Hall. They have done a great job and it will be a wonderful asset when the Community comes together to celebrate events. Out of this has grown an opportunity for the men to establish a Maintenance Group, who will plan to meet monthly to discuss maintenance requirements etc.

Another commitment the Community has made is to support the charity that collects plastic bottle top lids. These are processed into a filament that passes through a 3D printer and produces prosthetic hands for children overseas who otherwise wouldn't have access to these medical advancements. This is a simple way for our Community to outreach to the wider community and at the same time to contribute to a real change in children's quality of life and reduce waste to landfill.

Our drought-stricken farmers have been uppermost in our Prayers over the past weeks and months. We have also thanked and prayed for our amazing Emergency Services personnel whose faithful, generous and courageous service has saved many lives and homes in this horrific bushfire season.

So you can see it has been a busy time at Holy Family with a real focus on strengthening ties within our faith community and beyond.

*As this is the last Chisholm Connection for 2019 we wish all those across the Community/Region/Diocese and beyond a happy, holy and peace-filled Christmas. We hope 2020 will be a prosperous and rewarding time heading into the follow up sessions for the Synod and also the Plenary Council - both opportunities to come together and dream a future that will strengthen and guide us in the coming years.*

### DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR:

- |                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| 15th December          | Installation of Nativity at 8.20am Mass<br>5pm - Gathering in the Hall and turning on the lights             |
| 25th December          | Christmas Liturgy at 8.20am, followed by cuppa   |
| 7pm Wednesday evenings | Holy Family Youth Mass   |
| Parish Team meets      | on the fourth Tuesday of the month. All welcome.<br>(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.

# Parish News - Immaculate Conception Morpeth

On Monday 11th November a large crowd gathered in the grounds of the Morpeth Cemetery for our annual Mass remembering family members and friends who lay buried in these sacred grounds. A special thanks must go to Bishop Brian Mascord for once again celebrating Mass for us on the twenty fifth anniversary of this remembrance Mass. Bishop Brian con-celebrated with Fr Valerian. As the afternoon sun dipped in the West, and the Mass ended on a high note, many took the opportunity to catch up with old friends and family members, many no longer living in the parish of Morpeth. Bishop Brian asked us to remember those of our forebears, who, through their dedication to their faith and love of the Morpeth Community sacrificed much in their journey to eternal life, knowing full well that the foundations of a truly Catholic Community will continue long after their passing.

In mid November, two interested groups of parishioners gathered to listen and discern on how God is calling us to be a Christ Centred Church focusing on the theme "A JOYFUL FAITH-FILLED AND SERVANT COMMUNITY" The purpose of these gatherings was to identify practical suggestions for our Parish, our Diocese in readiness for the Diocesan Synod and the National Church as it prepares for the 2020 Plenary Council. Outcomes from these gatherings were sent to our Diocesan Office prior to the Synod and will be forwarded to the Plenary Council preparation team for their consideration.

Maybe we can all reflect on the suggestions put forward for our parish:-

- That all parishioners make the effort to know each other as well as possible by continuing to reach out to each other at liturgical and social celebrations. In this way parishioners will choose to share their gifts to make for a more Joyful, Faith-filled and Servant Community.
- That the parish reach out and be inclusive of their schools and our invitation for them to play an active role in parish life.
  - That we as a community concentrate more on lay-led devotions in addition to our social gatherings
  - More ecumenical faith education sessions offered to the Christian Community.

As we gather in early in 2020 to plan our activities calendar, the parish pastoral team welcome your suggestions in bringing to fruition those suggestions flowing from the listening and discerning process.

**December is upon us once again and with it comes many activities as we prepare for the birth of Christ on 25th December. Before then, we have a number of special events to place in our busy calendar:**

Firstly, on **Sunday 8th December** we will be celebrating our Parish Feast day and Christmas breakfast following the 7.15am Mass. This is an opportunity to gather as a community to give thanks to all those who assist in any way in support of our Church and welcome those who may have joined our community for the first time during 2019. As we gather together for this special community gathering let's make sure **ALL ARE WELCOME** in the spirit of a Joyful, Faith-Filled and Servant Community.

On **Monday 9th December** commencing at 9.30am Fr Valerian will celebrate a Mass for our parish feast day of the Immaculate Conception. The actual feast day is 8th December but because it falls on the second Sunday of Advent we cannot celebrate it on that day.



On Friday night 6th December all are invited to the grounds of beautiful Closebourne to celebrate the annual Combined Churches Christmas Carols. The evening begins at 6pm with a free sausage sizzle, lollies for the kids with a visit from Santa. Just bring along your picnic and chair as you join in the Ecumenical spirit so evident in Morpeth. Make it a night for the whole family.

**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.**

# Parish News - Lochinvar

## St Patrick's Presbytery Lochinvar:

St Patrick's presbytery house in Lochinvar has been empty for over 8 years. In this time part of the house was damaged by vandals and part of the house has fallen into disrepair.

Early this year a fence was installed around the presbytery to protect the building from further damage by vandals.

St Patrick's parish council made the decision to renovate the presbytery and to lease the house and generate some funds for the church.

A scope of work and an estimate was produced by the parish council and this was submitted to Fr Paul O'Neill for his approval to proceed with the renovations. Fr Paul in turn sought the approval of the Bishop to spend the money needed to do this work.

The funds for the renovation are from the sale of part of St Patrick's land to build St Nicholas early children centre.

Just recently Bishop Bill has given his approval for the renovation and work will commence early in the New Year and is expected to take 4-5 months.

The project will be managed by members of the parish council.

## Family Mass

On 3<sup>rd</sup> November the parishioners of St Patricks and the children and staff from St Patricks Primary School joined together for a Family Mass. The Mass was celebrated by Fr Paul and the programme was put together by Maryanne Hacker, the school Religious Education Coordinator and Tony Towers, St Patrick's parish leader.

The children read the prayers of the faithful and Maryanne chose the hymns, with the teachers reading the scriptures. The music was provided by Andrew Hacker and added much to the celebration.

The school principal Jacqui Wilkinson gave an update on the new pod classrooms being built and expected to be completed in early 2020.

After Mass the parishioners enjoyed a cup of tea and cake.

This was the third Family Mass this year and the plan is to continue them in the New Year.

***St. Patrick's parish council meet on the third Monday of the month at 6.15pm. Any parishioner is welcomed to attend and join in the discussions. Please contact the Parish Leader Tony Towers on 0437 280 147.***



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# 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 **1<sup>st</sup> 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.

**POLISH MASS:** For the last 50 years Mass was celebrated in Polish at OLOL on the 4th Sunday of each month. Earlier this year we sadly learned that this wonderful tradition would be coming to an end. To thank the parishioners of Beresfield for their support over many years, the Polish community has given OLOL church a beautiful gift from their homeland. The gift box contains an embroidered corporal, 2 purifiers and a pall.



**ADVENT ANOINTING MASS** will be celebrated at OLOL church on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December at 9.30am. This will be followed with morning tea in the meeting room.

**CHRISTMAS CHOIR PRACTICE:** We will have two choir practices in preparation for our Christmas Mass. These will be at 4.45pm in the church, before Mass on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> December.

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

**BERESFIELD ECUMENICAL CHRISTMAS CAROLS NIGHT:** The Combined Churches Carols Night will be hosted by Tarro Uniting Church, in the Church hall, Cnr Central and Northern Avenues, Tarro, on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December at 7.00pm. Supper, provided by the Church, will be served in the hall after the service.

**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.

**BERESFIELD PARISH MID-WEEK MASS** is celebrated at OLOL Tarro on the first Wednesday of each month during school term. The parish community is invited to join the children and teachers of OLOL Tarro to worship at this mass. **The next mid-week Mass will be at 9.30am on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December.**

**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 10th December, in the Parish Meeting room, at 6.00pm. Please note the earlier starting time.** As this will be our last meeting for the year, after a brief meeting we will have our Christmas party. All parishioners welcome.

*WISHING EVERYONE THE LOVE, PEACE & JOY OF CHRISTMAS AND A BLESSED 2020*

# Parish News - St Paul's Rutherford

COLLEEN CANNY REPORTING NOVEMBER 2019

## I really can't believe it, is almost Christmas 2019

One of the Rutherford parishioners recently asked me where does all the continued news come from, I really can't answer that, I think we can only say the Rutherford Parish continues to be very active, along with St Paul's Primary School.

**We recently celebrated the 70th birthday of Gabby Fishlock, her daughters hosted a high morning tea, with her family and some of the Saint Paul's parish friends. A beautiful occasion was enjoyed by all. I can add Gabby doesn't look to be in that that age bracket !!!!!**



A seasons Gathering was held at the Morpeth Common, with good numbers attending, very much enjoyed by all. The Seasonal Gatherings will continue into 2020, as the event has become very popular and enjoyed by all.

St Paul's Mini Vinnies supported a Mercy Day celebration at the school. Activities included a crazy sock day, with the students arriving with some really unusual socks. The morning continued with socks being decorated in some very artistic designs. Sr Joseph had a competition to guess how many lollies were in a jar. Colleen and Vicki Canny and Mack Gillett supported the biscuit decoration table all very popular on the day. There was an amazing result of \$944 00 raised - a very generous result, from the families of the children attending the school.



The Mini Vinnies requested a visit to the Vinnie's shop at Maitland, they wished to look at the retail side of St Vincent de Paul. June Punch conducted the visitation and they very much enjoyed the visit. The main complaint was that the visit wasn't long enough. They felt there were many treasures in the shop. The volunteers at the shop, do an amazing job, certainly raising an enormous amount of funds for the disadvantaged.

The St Paul's Spring Fair was held on the 15-11-2019, it certainly was an amazing Fair with lots and lots of amusement rides, chocolate wheels, and various stalls, even a rock band, including students and teachers, all extremely talented. Sharon and myself were on the craft stall Sharon handmade Christmas decoration, reindeer food, and Christmas lollies. Gabby Fishlock donating homemade badges. We had a Christmas basket full of goodies, for our raffle. I am led to believe we made \$200 on our Vinnie's stall.



Mrs Mullen Assistant Principal organised a banner, for the Saint Vincent de Paul Vinnie's, promoting our wonderful group.



# Parish News - St Paul's Rutherford



A big thank you to Bradley, and the teachers for promoting a really wonderful, event, probably a Spring Fair is an old world activity, however the joy it gave our children was especially wonderful to see.

Christmas visitation with our Mini Vinnie's underway, this year to visit our nursing homes. The Mini Vinnies love this occasion, bringing much joy to our residents.

Year Six graduation is quickly approaching. The students very excited to be taking the next step of their education.

I believe this is our last Chisholm Connection for 2019, until we commence in 2020.

*I want to wish everyone a very Happy and Holy Christmas, and much joy for you all and your families.*

## TUESDAYS WITH TERESA:

### Thy Kingdom come

***Building the Kingdom of God Together***, the theme of our Diocesan Synod which commenced on Saturday when about 400 people gathered to pray, dialogue, listen, celebrate, and share food, drink and fellowship as well as Eucharist.



Bishop Bill broke open the image of Christ as King beautifully, by describing the undertaking of more ancient kings, with each greeting his subjects, holding the subjects' two hands

and promising to care for them, while the subjects in turn promised their allegiance to him. It was a mutual relationship, a covenant of love, care, loyalty

[TERESA BRIERLEY](#) PUBLISHED NOVEMBER 26, 2019

and service. Our covenant with our God is summed up in the following powerful words;

*I will be your God and you shall be my people.*

That is what it means to be Christ-centred.

You can read more of this article at [mnnews.today](http://mnnews.today)

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CHISHOLM January  
**KIDS MASS**

6pm Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> January  
at St Joseph's East Maitland

WISE MEN SEARCH FOR JESUS- WE DO TOO

Happy  
Birthday  
Jesus

# ACTiv8 Youth



From Sunday to Wednesday evenings, a group of volunteers gather with children from our parish to take part in ACTiv8 Youth Groups. During the day ACTiv8 run games during school lunch breaks at our parish primary schools and have been attending sport at All Saints College this term and providing the music for the College Masses as well as Altar Server Training at St Joseph's East Maitland during term 4. Young people are engaged in activities which include games, creative pursuits, but most importantly, activities which encourage them to explore and develop their faith. Young people build connections within the groups they are involved in but also, they are connecting with the parish community. Through the activities run by ACTiv8 Youth Ministries we see the young people of our parish and the events run by the ACTiv8 team are building our parish community. As this work often happens away from our regular Mass times, the impact of this group can sometimes be missed, however, the number of children that are involved in ACTiv8 activities is significant.



The work of ACTiv8 Youth Ministries is an important part of our parish and an outreach that is unique for the Diocese and certainly something that should be celebrated. ACTiv8 is an example of evangelisation at work in

our parish and a movement that has a positive impact for families and children both within the parish and the wider community. As Catholics, we are called to proclaim the Good News at the end of Mass and, through Evangelii Gaudium, Pope Francis places evangelisation above doctrine. ACTiv8 is an example of how we recognise and value the impact of our everyday witness as faith-filled disciples of Jesus.



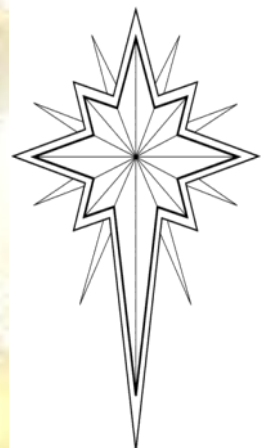
## Joy to the world! The Saviour is born

Lk 2:1-14

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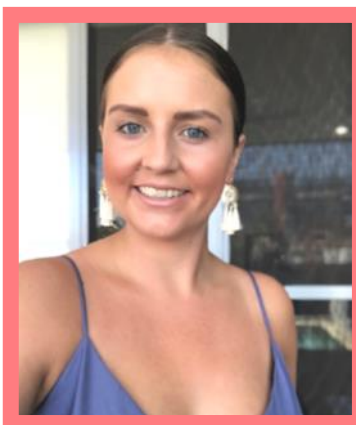
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## Meet Our New Volunteers!



I would like to introduce myself, I'm Naomi Rodwell. I have just completed my Primary Teaching degree at the University of Newcastle and I'm currently a casual teacher at a few local Maitland-Newcastle Diocese Catholic Schools. I have had the pleasure of recently becoming an ACTiv8 volunteer and have been volunteering at East Maitland's (my local parish), youth group. Not only do I have a passion for educating our youth, but I have a strong interest in enhancing the catholic faith of our youth and giving back to our community through a fun, engaging and relevant way. I have really enjoyed being able to give back to the youth group I once had the opportunity to attend as a primary student at St Joseph's. Volunteering at ACTiv8 allows me to draw upon my teaching experiences and combine my passions, interests and faith to hopefully inspire our local youth. I love the atmosphere at ACTiv8's youth groups and being a part of such a welcoming and vibrant community. I look forward to meeting more ACTiv8 youth group members and having more enjoyable times.



My name is Mackenzie Gageler and have recently finished my bachelor's degree of Primary Teaching at Newcastle University. Since finishing I have been working casually at St Joseph's Primary East Maitland, St. John the Baptist Maitland, St Aloysius Chisholm and Rosary Park Branxton. I have recently become an ACTiv8 volunteer and have been volunteering at East Maitland, my local parish youth group on a Tuesday night. I have a strong passion for educating our youth and enhancing their knowledge of our catholic faith. Volunteering at ACTiv8 allows me to be a part of a welcoming, enjoyable community where we can share our passion and interests of our catholic faith. Throughout all my schooling years I attended catholic schools and will continue to teach in a catholic school in our Newcastle/ Maitland dioceses. I look forward to meeting more ACTiv8 youth members.

A big Thank you to DJ Chris from Majestic Music for providing ACTiv8 with a fantastic family disco. Everyone had a wonderful evening dancing and playing disco games.



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